PHILADELPHIA CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2018

PRESENT:

Anne Fadullon, Commission Chair
Joseph Syrnick, Vice Chair
Patrick Eiding (Called-in)
Cheryl L. Gaston (Called-in)
Maria Gonzalez (Called-in)
Ariel Vazquez (Called-in)
Garlen Capita
Nancy Rogo Trainer
Duane Bumb, Representing Harold T. Epps
Peilin Chen, Representing Rob Dubow
Christopher Rupe, Representing Michael DiBerardinis
Eleanor L. Sharpe, Executive Director

NOT PRESENT:
Commission Chair, Anne Fadullon convened the Philadelphia City Planning Commission special meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.


The Capital Program is the City of Philadelphia’s six-year plan for investing in its physical and technology infrastructure, community facilities, and public buildings. The Capital Program enables the Mayor’s goals for bettering our neighborhoods, improving economic opportunities, and operating an efficient and effective government, and reflects the City’s and partners’ long-term commitments and plans, through efforts such as the Philadelphia2035 comprehensive plan to maintain and improve public facilities throughout Philadelphia.

The first year of this plan is known as the Capital Budget. As mandated by the City Charter, a Recommended Capital Program and Budget must be submitted to the Mayor by the City Planning Commission. The Recommended Capital Program and Budget are then presented by the Administration to City Council (on March 1st this year). City Council subsequently conducts public hearings. Once finalized and enacted by City Council, and signed into law by the Mayor, the Capital Budget serves as the legal authority to spend City funds to implement capital projects during the budget year.

The Recommended FY2019-2024 Capital Program allocates $10.2 billion over the six-year period from all sources to advance City goals and address critically needed public improvements. Included in the FY2019 budget year are new or carryforward projects totaling nearly $3.0 billion. Excluding ‘off-budget’ amounts that are not appropriated by City Council, the Recommended Capital Budget ordinance totals 2,738.5 billion.

Of the FY2019 total, $171.7 million is recommended to be funded by new general-obligation bonds issued by the City of Philadelphia (see ‘CN’ funding on the accompanying chart). These bonds are tax-supported (i.e. repaid from the City’s general tax revenues).

The recommended $171.7 million in CN funding for the FY2019 Capital Budget is higher than the $165.2 million of CN funding approved by City Council for the FY2018 Capital Budget. However, the FY2019 amount is approximately $14 million lower than the CN amount recommended for FY2019 in the FY2018-2023 Capital Program. The lower amount in FY2019 reflects the needs to prioritize the use of existing funds to implement projects already in the pipeline as well as to manage the City’s tax-supported debt. The FY2019 Capital Budget shows $444.5 million in carryforward, City tax-supported loan funds available from FY2018 and prior years.

Other City tax-supported funds recommended for authorization in FY2019 total $67.2 million, including general-obligation loan funds reprogrammed from prior years, loan funds available from PICA, operating revenues, and revolving funds.

City self-sustaining operating funds and revenue bonds that support Aviation and Water account for more than $1.2 billion of total FY2019 budget year funds.
Recommended appropriations of FY2019 funding from other levels of government, including Federal, Commonwealth, and regional sources, total $857.2 million in the budget year, including 'off-budget' amounts. Finally, $183.3 million of FY2019 funding is anticipated from private, new and carryforward funds.

The availability of new general-obligation funding for capital projects is principally constrained by the City's financial capacity to support debt-service payments. Despite this constraint, the City Administration is committed to investing in the City's infrastructure to the greatest extent possible.

Staff recommendation is for approval.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Capita, seconded by Commissioner Bumb, the Philadelphia City Planning Commission voted to approve both, the program and the Capital Budget.

The Philadelphia City Planning Commission meeting was adjourned by the Commission Chair at 1:17 p.m.

The next City Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVED