

PHILADELPHIA CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 25, 2020

PRESENT:

Duane Bumb, Representing Harold T. Epps, Acting Chair

Garlen Capita

Peilin Chen, Representing Rob Dubow

Patrick Eiding

Cheryl L. Gaston

Christopher Rupe, Representing Brian Abernathy

Nancy Rogo Trainer (via telephone)

Martine DeCamp, Deputy Planning Director

NOT PRESENT:

Anne Fadullon, Commission Chair

Joseph Syrnick, Vice Chair

Maria Gonzalez

Ariel Vazquez

SUMMARY

1. Action Item: Recommended FY2021-2026 Capital Program and FY2021 Capital Budget.
(Presented by John Haak)

APPROVED

Acting Commission Chair, Duane Bumb, convened the Philadelphia City Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 1:03 p.m.

1. Action Item: Recommended FY2021-2026 Capital Program and FY2021 Capital Budget. (Presented by John Haak)

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 aligns with the Mayor's priorities 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. 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 FY2021-2026 Capital Program proposes investing \$11.412 billion over the six-year period to advance City goals and address needed public improvements. Included in the Recommended FY2021 Capital Budget are new and carryforward projects totaling \$3.466 billion. Excluding 'off-budget' amounts that are not appropriated by City Council, the Recommended FY2021 Capital Budget ordinance will total \$3,223.4 billion.

Of the FY2021 total, \$170.8 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 \$170.8 million CN for FY2021 is lower than the \$177.1 million CN approved for the current FY2020. It is also lower than the \$198.4 million CN recommended for FY2021 in last year's FY2020-2025 Capital Program. The recommended amount of CN funding reflects:

- A focus on using previously appropriated funds to implement ongoing projects. The FY2021 Capital Program shows \$394.2 million in carryforward, City tax-supported loan funds (CT) available from FY2020 and prior years
- The \$46.8 million CR (Operating Revenue) that was already advanced to capital projects in last fall's amendments to the FY2020-2025 Capital Program and FY2020 Capital Budget (Bill Nos 190854 and 190855).
- The need to manage the City's tax-supported debt.

Other City tax-supported funds recommended for authorization in FY2021 total \$156.0 million, including operating revenues, general-obligation loan funds reprogrammed from prior years, loans available from PICA, and revolving funds.

Self-sustaining operating funds and revenue bonds that support Aviation and Water account for \$1.523 billion of the total FY2021 Capital Budget. Recommended FY2021 funding from other levels of government, including Federal, Commonwealth, and regional sources, total \$1.040 billion, including 'off-budget' amounts. Finally, \$182.1 million of FY2021 funding is anticipated from new and carryforward private 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.

Comments from the Commission:

Commissioner Rupe thanked the staff of the City Planning Commission and the staff of the Finance Director on behalf of the City's operating departments.

Commissioner Gaston asked about funds for REBUILD. Staff responded that the REBUILD program still has enough funds from prior years to work from.

Commissioner Eiding asked if that meant that prior funds for REBUILD remained committed to the program. Staff confirmed that they do.

Upon the Motion made by Commissioner Capita and seconded by Commissioner Eiding, the Philadelphia City Planning Commission approved the staff recommendation of approval.

Upon a motion made by Acting Chair Bumb and seconded by Commissioner Eiding, the February 25, 2020 meeting of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission was adjourned by the Acting Commission Chair at 1:19pm.

The next City Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.**