



# **City of Riverside**

## **PRIORITIZATION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

### **FISCAL POLICY**

Approved by the City Council on \_\_\_\_\_

#### **PURPOSE:**

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends that state and local governments establish an objective process for prioritizing capital improvement projects, to give decision-makers a basis for choosing the most compelling projects for funding and implementation.

#### **POLICY:**

The City shall adopt an objective process of prioritizing capital improvement projects to ensure consistency with the General Plan, and in conjunction with the biennial budget process or otherwise as capital funding becomes available, using the following factors:

1. Risk to Health, Safety and Environment:
  - a. Avoids or minimizes the risk to health, safety and environment associated with the infrastructure based on condition assessment of the asset, or the lack of an asset, that may include the age, size, material, capacity, and history of failure of the infrastructure; and
  - b. Urgency of the project to reduce the potential hazards to the public, property and environment.
2. Regulatory or Mandated Requirements:
  - a. By legal mandate or consent decree;
  - b. By other regulatory requirements (project specific or programmatic), and
  - c. Must comply with court orders and settlements or avoids plausible legal claims.
3. Asset Condition, Annual Recurring Costs and Asset Longevity:
  - a. Existing conditions and capacity to meet the basic level of service is deficient;
  - b. Avoids potential failure due to substandard conditions;
  - c. Improves the overall reliability of the capital asset and infrastructure system;
  - d. Major implications of delaying the project such as significant future costs, or negative community impacts;
  - e. Extent to which reduces City operations and maintenance expenditures; and
  - f. Increases the longevity of the capital asset or extends the useful life of the asset in the long term.

4. Community Investment and Economic Prosperity:

- a. Contributes toward economic development and revitalization efforts;
- b. Reduces or avoids impacts to the community when infrastructure fails;
- c. Benefits under-served communities including those with low income households, low community engagement and low mobility or access to transportation systems; and
- d. Located in a census tract that is deemed eligible for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

5. Level and Quality of Service:

- a. Improves existing conditions and capacity to meet the minimum level and quality of services that is deficient;
- b. Addresses an infrastructure or facility deficit identified in a community plan; and
- c. Addresses the need to install new facilities or improve existing facilities to provide access to City services

6. Sustainability and Conservation:

Improves the health of the community and natural environment through sustainable designs with improved regional air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emission that contributes to climate change.

7. Funding Availability:

Rank is increased based on assessment of the amount of funding needed to complete the current project phase and the entire project.

8. Project Readiness:

- a. Ready to enter the phase corresponding to the funding proposed;
- b. Delivered most expeditiously shall be preferred; and
- c. Complex environmental issues or known significant legal challenges shall be scored lower than projects without said complications.

9. Multiple Category Benefit and Bundling Opportunities:

- a. Fulfills the prioritization factors described above across multiple scoring categories;
- b. Reduces construction costs by potentially bundling with adjacent projects; and
- c. Provides for partnering or bundling opportunities with other local, state, or federal agencies (e.g. leverages shared resources).

Implementation of this Policy is not intended to release or alter the City's current or future obligations to complete specific capital improvement projects by specified deadlines, as may be imposed by court order, or order of any federal, state or local regulatory agency.