



PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING DATE: APRIL 11, 2024
AGENDA ITEM NO.:4

PROPOSED PROJECT

Table with 2 columns: Field Name and Value. Fields include Case Number, Request, Applicant, Project Location, Wards, and Staff Planner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission:

- 1. DETERMINE that the City of Riverside's Capital Improvement Program for FY 2024-2026 is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) as this action is not considered a "project" as defined by Section 15378(b)(4), and a determination of consistency has no potential to result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment;
2. FIND that the capital improvement projects added for FY 2024-2026 are consistent with the City's General Plan 2025; and
3. REPORT to the City Council that the capital improvement projects added for FY 2024-2026 are consistent with the City's General Plan 2025.

BACKGROUND

California Government Code Section 65401 requires that the Planning Commission review the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the upcoming fiscal year to evaluate conformity with the General Plan and report its findings to the City Council. The City of Riverside Charter and the Riverside Municipal Code also require that the Planning Commission review the City's proposed CIP and report its findings to the City Council. It is anticipated that City Council will consider the FY 2024-2026 budget and CIP in June 2024.

The Planning Commission's determination of General Plan consistency is not an approval or endorsement of the projects. Individual projects will undergo further planning, design and review prior to approval or implementation. The City Council has final discretion in approving, modifying or removing projects from the CIP.

The Planning Commission last reviewed the CIP project list for FY 2023/2024 on May 11, 2023, and reported to the City Council that the projects were consistent with the General Plan.

PROPOSAL

Staff is requesting that the Planning Commission review the CIP projects added for FY 2024-2026 and determine that the new projects are consistent with the City's General Plan 2025 (General Plan).

The CIP project list for FY 2024-2026 includes 33 projects not previously reviewed by the Planning Commission for General Plan consistency and 79 projects previously reviewed that are ongoing (Exhibit 1).

PROJECT ANALYSIS

The CIP is updated every fiscal year with some projects carrying over to the next budget period, some projects modified, and some added. The Planning Commission is responsible for reviewing only those CIP projects that have been added or modified.

Exhibit 1 includes a list of all capital improvement projects anticipated for fiscal year 2024-2026 and identifies:

- 1) Projects previously reviewed by the Planning Commission; and
- 2) New projects requiring a determination of consistency (detailed project descriptions are included in Exhibit 2).

The Planning Division reviewed the 33 new projects by category to assess consistency with the General Plan and found that the new projects are consistent with the Objectives and Policies of the General Plan as detailed further below.

OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Land Use

Policy LU-10.2: Review the Capital Improvement Program of the City and local public works projects of other local agencies within the corporate boundaries of Riverside annually for consistency with this General Plan, pursuant to Government Code Sections 65401 et. seq. and Municipal Code Title 19, 19.050.030 (B).

Policy LU-10.3: Time the provision of capital improvements to ensure that all necessary public services and facilities for an area planned for new urban development are in place when development in the area occurs.

The 2024-2026 Reference Numbers of each project in Exhibit 2 are identified for each of the specific General Plan Objectives and Policies, organized by Element, with which they are consistent as summarized below.

AIRPORT – PROJECT 1

- **Project 1 – AIRPORT FAA BUILDING STABILIZATION**

Circulation and Community Mobility

Policy CCM-11.3: Ensure that Riverside Municipal Airport continues to serve general aviation needs.

Land Use

Objective LU-23: Enhance and ensure the long-term viability of Riverside Municipal Airport by developing facilities that efficiently serve present and anticipated future needs and encouraging increased business and corporate usage.

Policy LU-28.2: Encourage the rehabilitation or replacement of dilapidated housing units and buildings, discouraging further deterioration. Where necessary, seek to remove unsafe structures.

ELECTRIC UTILITY – PROJECT 11

- **Project 11 – HUNTER SUBSTATION**

Open Space and Conservation

Objective OS-9: Encourage the efficient use of energy resources by the City of Riverside.

Policy OS-9.1: Encourage the most energy-efficient design for local government facilities and equipment consistent with reasonable rate of return and the recognition of the environmental benefits from energy conservation.

Policy OS-9.2: Evaluate and implement measures to improve energy efficiency in City operations, including efficient load management systems in City buildings and regular energy audits of City facilities and operations.

Public Facilities

Objective PF-6: Provide affordable, reliable and, to the extent practical, environmentally sensitive energy resources to residents and businesses.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES – PROJECTS 33, 35, AND 36

- **Project 33 – CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OFFICE RENOVATIONS**
- **Project 35 – CITY HALL TRANSFER SWITCH**
- **Project 36 – RIVERSIDE ACCESS CENTER REHABILITATION**

Land Use

Objective LU-26: Ensure that a network of modern, effective, and adequate community facilities are equitably distributed across the entire City.

Public Facilities

Policy PF-6.2: Ensure that adequate back-up facilities are available to meet critical electric power needs in the event of shortages or temporary outages.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – PROJECTS 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, AND 43

- **Project 37 – BORDWELL PARK HVAC REPLACEMENT & PLAYGROUND SURFACE COATING**
- **Project 38 – CITYWIDE PARK IMPROVEMENTS**
- **Project 39 – FAIRMOUNT PARK GOLF CART BARN**
- **Project 40 – NICHOLS PARK PLAYGROUND SHADE SAILS**
- **Project 42 – RIVER DISTRICT FEASIBILITY STUDY**
- **Project 43 – VILLEGAS PARK DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

Circulation and Community Mobility

Policy CCM-EJ-1.0 Active Transportation: Promote physical activity and active transportation to address negative health outcomes, particularly among environmental justice communities.

Land Use

Objective LU-1: Increase the prominence of the Santa Ana River by providing better connections and increased recreational opportunities.

Objective LU-2: Recognize and enhance the Santa Ana River's multiple functions: a place of natural habitat, a place for recreation and a conveyance for stormwater runoff

Policy LU-46.1: Continue the City's support of existing community centers, namely Villegas Park and the Casa Blanca Library.

Open Space and Conservation

Objective OS-1: Preserve and expand open space areas and linkages throughout the City and sphere of influence to protect the natural and visual character of the community and to provide for appropriate active and passive recreational uses

Policy OS-1.13: Design Capital Improvement Program projects which affect identified open space areas to support these areas' value as open space.

Objective OS-7: Turn the Santa Ana River Task Force "Vision" into reality.

Objective OS-9: Encourage the efficient use of energy resources by the City of Riverside.

Policy OS-9.1: Encourage the most energy-efficient design for local government facilities and equipment consistent with reasonable rate of return and the recognition of the environmental benefits from energy conservation.

Policy OS-9.2: Evaluate and implement measures to improve energy efficiency in City operations, including efficient load management systems in City buildings and regular energy audits of City facilities and operations.

Park and Recreation

Policy PR-EJ-1.0 Parks and Recreation: Distribute recreational facilities equitably throughout Riverside's neighborhoods.

Objective PR-1: Provide a diverse range of park and recreational facilities that are responsive to the needs of Riverside residents.

Objective PR-2: Increase access to existing and future parks and expand pedestrian linkages between park and recreational facilities throughout Riverside

Public Facilities

Objective PF-10: Meet the varied recreational and service needs of Riverside's diverse population.

PUBLIC PARKING – PROJECTS 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, AND 54

- **Project 44 – DIGITAL VALET SYSTEM**
- **Project 45 – DOWNTOWN PARKING GARAGE #3-FEASIBILITY STUDY**
- **Project 46 – DOWNTOWN PARKING GARAGE #8**
- **Project 47 – ON-STREET SPACE MONITORING SYSTEM**
- **Project 48 – PARKING GARAGE-GUIDANCE, LIGHTING, CAMERA SYSTEM**
- **Project 49 – PARKING GARAGE #6- STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE**
- **Project 50 – PARKING GARAGE #7- STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE**

- **Project 51 – REPAVING AND RESTRIPIING PARKING LOTS**
- **Project 52 – RESTRIPIING ON-STREET PARKING SPACES**
- **Project 53 – UNINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY BACKUP SYSTEM**
- **Project 54 – VEHICLE EXIT WARNING SIGNS**

Circulation and Community Mobility

Objective CCM-13: Ensure that adequate on- and off-street parking is provided throughout Riverside.

Land Use

Policy LU-28.2: Encourage the rehabilitation or replacement of dilapidated housing units and buildings, discouraging further deterioration. Where necessary, seek to remove unsafe structures.

Open Space and Conservation

Policy OS-9.1: Encourage the most energy-efficient design for local government facilities and equipment consistent with reasonable rate of return and the recognition of the environmental benefits from energy conservation.

Public Facilities

Policy PF-6.2: Ensure that adequate back-up facilities are available to meet critical electric power needs in the event of shortages or temporary outages.

Public Safety

Policy PSE-3-Transportation: Minimize the risk of potential hazards associated with air and ground transportation.

SEWER – PROJECT 57

- **Project 57 – 14TH STREET PUMP STATION ATS SWITCH REPLACEMENT**

Public Facilities

Objective PF-4: Provide sufficient levels of storm drainage service to protect the community from flood hazards and minimize the discharge of materials into the storm drain system that are toxic, or which would obstruct flows.

Policy PF-6.2: Ensure that adequate back-up facilities are available to meet critical electric power needs in the event of shortages or temporary outages.

Public Safety

Policy PSE-1 – Natural Hazards: Reduce the risk to the community from hazards related to geologic conditions, seismic activity, flooding, drought, and structural and wildland fires.

STORM DRAIN – PROJECT 65

- **Project 65 – COOLIDGE AVENUE STORM DRAIN**

Public Facilities

Objective PF-4: Provide sufficient levels of storm drainage service to protect the community from flood hazards and minimize the discharge of materials into the storm drain system that are toxic, or which would obstruct flows.

Policy PF-4.1: Continue to fund and undertake storm drain improvement projects as identified in the City of Riverside Capital Improvement Plan.

Policy PF-4.3: Continue to routinely monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the storm drain system and make adjustments as needed.

Public Safety

Policy PSE-1 – Natural Hazards: Reduce the risk to the community from hazards related to geologic conditions, seismic activity, flooding, drought, and structural and wildland fires.

TRANSPORTATION – PROJECTS 69, 71, 72, 75, 84, 93, 96, 97, AND 98

- **Project 69 – CALTRANS SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT**
- **Project 71 – CITYWIDE PEDESTRIAN & BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE**
- **Project 72 – CIVIL RIGHTS WALK IMPROVEMENTS**
- **Project 75 – FIVE POINTS INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**
- **Project 84 – MITCHELL AVENUE SIDEPATH PROJECT**
- **Project 93 – TRAFFIC SIGNAL BACKPLATES, LPI & MISSION INN MEDIAN BARRIER PROJECT**
- **Project 96 – WATKINS & BIG SPRINGS TRAFFIC SIGNAL**
- **Project 97 – SOUTH MAIN COMPLETE STREETS**
- **Project 98 – CITYWIDE SPEED REDUCTION PROGRAM**

Circulation and Community Mobility

Policy CCM-EJ-1.0: Active Transportation: Promote physical activity and active transportation to address negative health outcomes, particularly among environmental justice communities.

Policy CCM-EJ-2.0: Transportation Options: Encourage increased public transportation and multimodal transportation choices as means of reducing roadway congestion and associated air pollution and promoting overall health.

Objective CCM-2: Build and maintain a transportation system that combines a mix of transportation modes and transportation system management techniques, and that is designed to meet the needs of Riverside's residents and businesses, while minimizing the transportation system's impacts on air quality, the environment and adjacent development.

Policy CCM-2.1: Complete the Master Plan of Roadways shown on Figure CCM-4 (Master Plan of Roadways).

Policy CCM-2.8: Design street improvements considering the effect on aesthetic character and livability of residential neighborhoods, along with traffic engineering criteria.

Policy CCM-2.9: Design all street improvement projects in a comprehensive fashion to include consideration of street trees, pedestrian walkways, bicycle lanes, equestrian pathways, signing, lighting, noise and air quality wherever any of these factors are applicable.

Objective CCM-8: Protect neighborhoods and reduce the risk posed to young children and other residents by vehicular traffic on local roadways.

Policy CCM-8.1: Continue to regularly meet with local school districts to identify safe routes to all schools, enabling better school access by cyclists and pedestrians. Support the establishment of safe drop-off and pick-up zones around schools during the morning and afternoon peak hours.

Policy CCM-8.2: Promote walking and biking as a safe mode of travel for children attending local schools.

Objective CCM-10: Provide an extensive and regionally linked public bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian trails system.

Policy CCM-10.3: Provide properly designed pedestrian facilities for the disabled and senior population to ensure their safety and enhanced mobility as users of streets, roads and highways emphasizing "complete streets" principles.

Policy CCM-10.4: Identify and seek to eliminate hazards to safe, efficient bicycle or pedestrian movement citywide.

Policy CCM-10.6: Encourage pedestrian travel through the creation of sidewalks and street crossings.

Policy CCM-10.8: Maximize links between trails and major activity centers, residential neighborhoods, schools, shopping centers and employment centers.

Policy CCM-10.12: Encourage bicycling as a commute mode to school, work, etc.

Education

Objective ED-4: Maintain a safe environment at all campus facilities and on routes to school.

Policy ED-4.8: Support the Safe Routes to School programs of the Alvord and Riverside Unified School Districts.

Land Use

Policy LU-72.6: Complete roadway improvements needed to ensure adequate access to the Northside Neighborhood to meet the needs of residential, commercial and other users.

Public Safety

Policy PSE-3 – Transportation: Minimize the risk of potential hazards associated with air and ground transportation.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

This project contributes to the Envision Riverside 2025 City Council Strategic Priority No. 6 – Infrastructure, Mobility & Connectivity (Goal 6.2 – Maintain, protect and improve assets and infrastructure within the City's built environment to ensure and enhance reliability, resiliency, sustainability, and facilitate connectivity and Goal 6.4 - Incorporate Smart City strategies into the planning and development of local infrastructure projects).

This item aligns with the following Cross-Cutting Threads:

1. Community Trust: The proposed project will be reviewed at a public meeting held by the City Planning Commission and the public is able to provide comments.
2. Equity: The proposed project identifies infrastructure needs consistent with the City's General Plan.
3. Fiscal Responsibility: All project costs will be analyzed relative to desired public improvements and the City's financial resources.
4. Innovation: The proposed project will ensure the timely repair of aging infrastructure.
5. Sustainability and Resiliency: All infrastructure updates will be required to meet the current Building Code.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This proposal is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because the consistency review is not a "project", per 15378(b)(4), and because a determination of consistency has no potential to result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

APPEAL INFORMATION

Actions by the City Planning Commission, including any environmental finding, may be appealed to the City Council within ten calendar days after the decision. Appeal filing and processing information may be obtained from the Planning Division, 3rd Floor, City Hall.

EXHIBITS LIST

1. CIP Project Summary List for FY 2024-2026
2. CIP New Project Descriptions

Prepared by: Clarissa Manges, Californians for All Program Fellow

Reviewed by: Matthew Taylor, Principal Planner

Approved by: Maribeth Tinio, City Planner

Concurs with: Edward Enriquez, Interim Assistant City Manager/Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer