

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What is the “Capital Improvement Program” (CIP)?**
 - ✓ A six-year funding plan for “general government” capital projects¹.
 - ✓ A framework for decisions on future local bond and state grant requests.
 - ✓ Proposed by the Mayor and approved by the Assembly.
[The CIP Includes, but does not program, the latest federal funding plan proposed in the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)]
- 2. Who identifies projects and funding for inclusion in the draft CIP?**
 - ✓ **In the General Government CIP**, projects are identified and proposed by each department:
Project Management & Engineering (PM&E): Road, safety, drainage, pedestrian, traffic projects.
Office of Economic and Community Development: Parks, trails, libraries.
Anchorage Fire Department: Fire equipment and facility needs.
Anchorage Police Department: Police equipment and facility needs.
Public Transportation: Transit equipment and facility needs.
Maintenance and Operations: Municipal facility and fleet needs.
- 3. How does each department identify and prioritize projects?**
 - ✓ Each department maintains a list of capital project needs.
 - ✓ Throughout the year, each department adjusts its needs list to delete projects completed and to add new projects.
 - ✓ New projects are identified through: a) municipal or state agency comments; b) Community Council recommendations; c) calls from elected officials, and; d) suggestions from the public.
 - ✓ Each Department uses standard criteria for evaluating, scoring, and ranking all projects in their department. For example, PM&E uses 15 criteria established to evaluate transportation projects.
- 4. Where does capital project funding come from?**
 - ✓ Bonds: Primary funding source is voter approved bonds.
 - ✓ Federal: secondary funding source is federal funding programmed through the AMATS TIP
 - ✓ State: Legislative grants also provide funding, but more sporadic based on state budget status.
 - ✓ Mill Levies: The Chugiak/Eagle River/Birchwood area residents approved special taxes that fund road and parks projects, following priorities established by their local road and park boards.
- 5. What is the typical schedule for development of the CIP?**
 - ✓ In the spring, OMB routes project lists to the community councils for comments.
 - ✓ Each department evaluates projects identified and develops a prioritized needs list.
 - ✓ In May, OMB provides departments with proposed funding levels for next six years.
 - ✓ In June, departments submit their draft CIP to OMB for distribution and review by other departments.
 - ✓ In the summer, the Administration reviews the consolidated preliminary CIP.
 - ✓ In late summer, adjustments are made by each department to reflect Administration comments.
 - ✓ In September, the draft CIP is submitted to the Assembly.
 - ✓ In November and December, following public hearings on the budget, the Assembly approves the CIP.
 - ✓ In February, the Assembly holds a public hearing and then approves bond ballot propositions.
 - ✓ In April, voters decide on bond propositions in a municipal election.
 - ✓ In May, the Legislature finalizes its capital budget.
 - ✓ In June, the Governor adjusts and/or approves the State legislative capital budget.

¹ Separate CIPs are prepared by Anchorage School District and municipally owned utilities. In the Municipal Utility CIP, projects are identified and proposed by each utility:

Municipal Light and Power: Electrical facilities within their service area boundaries.
Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility: Public water and sewer facilities.