



AGENDA

Infrastructure Task Force Ad Hoc Policy Committee

Thursday, April 24, 2025

3:00 p.m.

Aurora Room

15151 E. Alameda Parkway

Aurora, CO 80012

Council Member Curtis Gardner, Chair
Council Member Françoise Bergan, Member

Executive Staff: Laura Perry, Deputy City Manager
Legal Staff: Jack Bajorek, Rachel Allen

Public Participation Dialing Instructions

Dial Access Number: 1-720-388-8447

Event Number: 238 494 648#

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Pages

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
 - 2.a 032725 Infrastructure Task Force - Ad Hoc Policy Committee Meeting Draft Minutes 2
3. New Items
 - 3.a Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) 5
 - 3.b GO Bond Facts
4. Miscellaneous Items for Consideration
5. Confirm Next Meeting
 - 5.a Thursday, May 22, 2025, 4:00 PM
6. Adjournment

DRAFT – Subject to Approval

Infrastructure Task Force Ad Hoc Policy Committee
Thursday, March 27, 2025

Members Present: Council Member Curtis Gardner, Chair
Council Member Françoise Bergan, Member

Others Present: L. Perry, J. Burne, S. Coffin, J. Zambrano, C. Essman, T. Kuntzelman, B. Dalton,
C. Dancy, R. Sewald, T. Carpenter, K. Lardie, J. Boyd, J. Patterson, J. Bajorek, J.
Knight, K. Stuart, W. Mitchell, J. Wardip, J. Batchelor, R. Connerly, N. Collwell,
R. Barnes

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member (CM) Gardner welcomed everyone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

NEW ITEMS

CM Gardner started the meeting with an ice breaker and the conflict of interest disclosure. There were no conflicts of interests noted.

Communications and Engagement Plan

Kim Stuart discussed the Communications and Engagement Plan and stated that communications and engagement is going to be very foundational to the work ahead of them. She discussed the goals of the Communications and Engagement Plan, which is to educate on what infrastructure is and why it is important, raise awareness about infrastructure needs and challenges, collaborate on priorities, build community confidence, engage many different kinds of stakeholders, establish long-term and broad-based community support, and position Aurora as a city that thinks and acts strategically.

J. Zambrano added that everybody at the table has influence and the city has built a tremendous platform to gather community input, and preliminary research is showing that people get this and understand the need to take care of what we have. He urged the task force to urge people to scan the QR code to take the survey. He also discussed materials that will be coming to the Task Force, including Meeting in a box, flyers and posters, social media messaging and images, and updated talking points.

J. Batchelor stated that we have to put together a good geographic distribution of projects so people feel like they will benefit where they live, work, etc., and that will start to bubble to the top as they start to put this together.

Outcome:

Information only.

DRAFT – Subject to Approval

Follow-Up:

No follow-up needed.

Capital Master Planning Efforts

J. Batchelor congratulated them on making it through Budget and special districts. He stated that when they are talking about budgeting, it is typically about capital budget, which is a one-time expense where you build it and it is done. It is multi-year projects that includes major infrastructure replacements, roadway or park improvements, facility construction, etc., and is pay-as-you-go, financing, or bonds. He noted that they do try and apply for grants. He explained what the Capital Master Plan is, which is a strategic, long-term plan on what capital needs are going to be and the infrastructure that they need to provide a service.

L. Perry discussed why capital master planning matters. She stated that with City Council's approval, dollars were set aside for various capital planning efforts across the City. She talked about all of the Master Planning work that they have done or is under way, and over the next 6 to 8 months, this Task Force will be hearing presentations on them.

L. Perry talked about the Connecting Aurora Master Plan, which is the first ever citywide multimodal transportation master plan to look completely at the transportation needs throughout Aurora, and will guide the development design investment and delivery of transportation projects and programs for the City

L. Perry shared that Aurora Public Library has launched its Strategic and Facilities Master Plan, and she voiced that they will assess the condition of the libraries and cultural services facilities, see what programs they offer, who they are servicing, and what the future of the facilities need to be to accommodate growth in the city, and optimize the program they are operating. She added that this will guide investment and resource allocation and incorporate public involvement, and they do have a survey that is live.

PROS completed their master plan last year and have committed to expanding and enhancing its public spaces and programs, and there was substantial community engagement on this, with 17,000 touch points with the community. She explained that this is a guiding document for strategic planning for the City for the Parks Department both operationally and capital.

L. Perry discussed the ADA Transition Plan, which is legally required by the Department of Justice to have an ADA Transition Plan. The one they have is from 1992, so they are in the process of updating the plan and assessing accessibility operationally with programs and services and with infrastructure. She noted that they just completed the public right-of-way phase of the project. She explained that they are assessing and identifying needs, which will result in a defined plan to be posted publicly, and it involves a lot of public feedback. She expressed that they are at the end of Phase 1, the public right-of-way, and Council will receive a presentation on that in the next few months, and Phase 2 consists of self-evaluation and transition plan for emergency service and preparedness. Phase 3 is a self-evaluation and transition plan for public buildings, parking lots, and other structures, and Phase 4 will end on Parks, Recreation, and Open Space.

DRAFT – Subject to Approval

Committee Discussion:

R. Connerly stated that when they initially received their notebook, there was a chart that showed 17% of the entire City’s budget is spent on capital. She asked if that was an accurate reflection.

J. Batchelor responded that is an accurate reflection, and when they say capital improvements, that is going to the Capital Projects Fund, and 90% of that is on maintaining our streets and infrastructure network.

Outcome:

Information only.

Follow-Up:

No follow-up needed.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be April 24, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The March 27, 2025 Infrastructure Task Force Ad Hoc Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

APPROVED:

CM Curtis Gardner, Chair



*Care for What We Have
Provide for What We Need*

Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 24, 2025



Agenda



- Welcome
 - Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR)
- GO Bond Facts
- Communications & Engagement Update

TABOR stands for the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.

It is a Colorado constitutional amendment that is found in Article X Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution. TABOR regulates many things, but its principal intent is to **“restrain the growth of government.”** TABOR Article X Section 20 (1).

TABOR was authored by Douglas Bruce and approved by Colorado voters in 1992. Voter initiatives to remove TABOR regulations on any or all revenues is thus commonly referred to as “de-Brucing”.

What does TABOR regulate?

- It regulates elections, the language on the ballots, revenue, pension, emergency reserves, emergency taxes, real estate taxes, and few other details.
- TABOR uses the term “District” which is any “State or any local government, excluding enterprises.” Enterprises are a Government owned business authorized to issue its own revenue bonds and receiving under 10% of its annual revenue in grants from all Colorado State and local governments. **If the enterprise receives more than 10% it will be disqualified.**
- Enterprises are similar to a “public company” but there is a difference. Enterprises are not for profit. (i.e., Aurora Water, Sewer Enterprise etc.)

TABOR & Ballot Questions



- TABOR requires the government to refer any tax increase to the voters
- TABOR specifically states when an election can happen. Questions must be presented in a state general election, a biennial local district election, or first Tuesday of odd numbered years.
- The TABOR question must start with “Shall taxes be increased...” (Subsection (c))
- The TABOR ballot question must contain an approximate amount of money the jurisdiction intends to raise.

TABOR & Ballot Questions



- TABOR questions can be referred to voters for the raising of revenues for general purposes. TABOR does not require a stated “subject” or “program” to be covered by the tax increase.
- Since the year 2000, all successful ballot questions have included a subject matter. (i.e. Raising lodger’s tax, park maintenance, extending a tax rate, and increases on Marijuana taxes)

General Obligation Bonds Facts You Should Know

GO Bonds – Facts You Should Know



Municipal bonds are generally issued as tax-exempt obligations because of the public purpose nature of the projects being financed.

- Interest is tax exempt for the investor, making City's interest rate lower and the total cost of borrowing lower

IRS regulations limit the use of tax-exempt bond proceeds:

- Private Use
- Capital Expenditures
- Spenddown Requirements

GO Bonds – Facts You Should Know



Spendedown Requirements

- Bond can be issued in series of tranches or issuances
- Per bond issuance: 85% of bond proceeds should be spent within 3 years of the issuance date
 - Project readiness
- Bond funding may only be spent on the purpose in the ballot question (e.g., transportation projects, facilities projects, etc.)
- Principal amount of bonds for each purpose capped at amount in the ballot question

Staleness of Bond Authorizations

- Bonds should be issued within 10 years after approval of a ballot question for issuance of bonds.

Communications and Engagement Plan



Confirmed Events

- Thursday, April 24: Ward I Townhall (Murillo)
- Saturday, April 26: Ward V Townhall (Lawson)
- Thursday, May 8: Denver Metro Realtors
- Wednesday, May 21: Ward VI Townhall (Bergan)
- Saturday, May 31, June 28, July 26, September 2: Havana Street Night Market
- Saturday, June 7: Flagship Event at Town Center at Aurora
- Saturday, June 7, July 5 and Aug. 2 : Rebel Marketplace Farmers Market Town Center at Aurora
- Saturday, June 14: Global Fest
- Saturday, June 21: Juneteenth at Town Center at Aurora
- Saturday, June 28: Flagship Event at SE Rec Center
- Saturday, July 12: Flagship Event at Aurora Highlands
- Saturday, Aug. 2: APS Back to School Kickoff

Meetings and Events To Be Scheduled

- Aurora Chamber of Commerce
- Rotary Club of Aurora
- Stanley Marketplace First Fridays
- Southlands Farmers Market
- African Leadership Group



Next ITF Meeting: May 22, 2025 (4 to 6 p.m. in-person)

- Public Safety Capital Needs / Master Plan
 - Aurora Fire Rescue
 - Aurora Police Department
 - 911



Questions

