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JEANNE ROBB  
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CHRISTOPHER  
HERNDON  
DISTRICT 11

ROBIN KNEICH  
AT-LARGE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Denver City Council Identifies 2015 Budget Priorities**

**(DENVER)** Denver City Council President Mary Beth Susman today announced the City Council's key 2015 budget priorities for the City. "The Council has called for transit and multi-modal transportation investments as its top priority this year," said Susman. She noted that Council reiterated its commitment to bike and pedestrian safety goals from last year, but broadened the focus to include transit connections, accessible sidewalk ramps, street paving, and balancing parking and density.

"We each start with a long wish list of 2015 budget priorities, but we work through our lists with each other to identify the key outcomes Council as a whole wants for the City," Councilwoman Susman said. "We want to let the Mayor know Council's priorities early enough in the budget process to impact initial decisions."

Council's priorities for 2015 are:

- Enhanced transportation infrastructure
- Robust housing and homeless services
- Sustainable solid Waste Management through implementation of the Solid Waste Mater Plan
- Aggressive economic development and job creation
- Safe, healthy and attractive neighborhoods

Each Councilmember ranked their individual priorities, and the full Council discussed the entire list at its annual retreat on April 4 in the City's McNichols Building overlooking Civic Center Park. After a few hours of discussion, debate and votes, the final list emerged.

The complete document, including specific activities and actions in each category, follows.



## **Denver City Council Priorities for the 2015 Budget**

*City Council annually identifies its priorities for the following year*

### **Enhanced Transportation Infrastructure**

- Create a plan to finance transit connections between neighborhoods, FasTracks lines and other high-use destinations.
- Increase staffing in Community Planning & Development and Public Works for multi-modal improvements, such as bike and pedestrian trail connections and bike lanes.
- Fund Street Maintenance to ensure that:
  - streets are improved to and maintained at a higher pavement condition rating safer for vehicles and bicycles; and
  - the City completes construction of ramps at all intersections to meet Federal regulations.
- Expedite plans to support bicycle and pedestrian programming as per Council's 2014 goals.
- Facilitate area parking management plans in mixed use neighborhoods to find opportunities to balance parking and density.

### **Robust Housing & Homeless Services**

- Adopt an Affordable Housing Plan.
- Create annual, sustainable funding sources for affordable housing.
- Create a 24-hour housing/resource center with comprehensive services, and provide adequate mental health services for individuals struggling with homelessness.

### **Sustainable Solid Waste Management**

- Expedite implementation of the Solid Waste Master Plan to maximize diversion of recyclable and compostable materials from the landfill.

### **Aggressive Economic Development & Job Creation**

- Facilitate retention and expansion of primary jobs, particularly in manufacturing and creative industries.
- Increase efficiencies in Plan Review, Development Review and Building Inspections.

### **Safe, Healthy and Attractive Neighborhoods**

- Increase number of Police academies and patrol staffing.
- Fund a plan to identify mitigation strategies for areas with high crime concentration.
- Facilitate development of grocery stores in underserved areas.
- Increase the number and coordination of neighborhood plans.
- Improve and maintain Parks' facilities such as medians, restrooms and high-use areas; and provide adequate seasonal enforcement.