



# **2025 Vibrant Denver Bond**

## **Subcommittee Orientation**

Department of Finance  
Mayor's Office  
April 2025

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City and County of Denver honors and acknowledges that the land on which we reside is the traditional territory of the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Peoples. We also recognize the 51 contemporary tribal nations that are historically tied to the lands that make up the state of Colorado.

We honor Elders past, present, and future, and those who have stewarded this land throughout generations. We also recognize that government, academic and cultural institutions were founded upon and continue to enact exclusions and erasures of Indigenous Peoples.

May this acknowledgement demonstrate a commitment to working to dismantle ongoing legacies of oppression and inequities and recognize the current and future contributions of Indigenous communities in Denver.

# LABOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that our country's economy, infrastructure, and resulting generational wealth would not exist as they do today without the stolen and forced labor of enslaved Africans who suffered transatlantic human trafficking, chattel slavery, and Jim Crow.

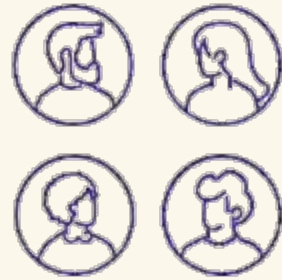
We acknowledge how these dehumanizing practices have social, legal, and economic legacies that continue to haunt to this day.

# Agenda

- I. Thank you and Welcome
- II. GO Bond 101
- III. Vibrant Denver Bond Process
- IV. Timeline
- V. Q&A
- VI. Subcommittee Breakout Sessions



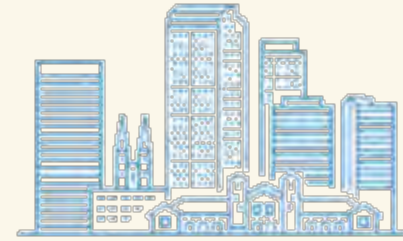
# How do GO Bonds work?



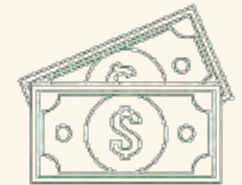
**Denver voters** approve the GO Bond program every 4-10 years.



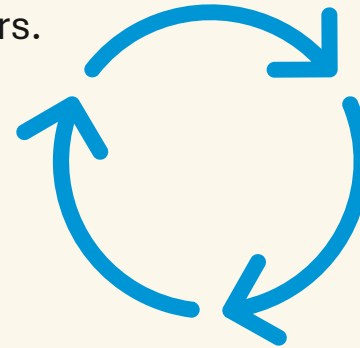
**Investors** are repaid by the city's property tax revenue over time.



**City and County of Denver** issues the GO Bonds.



**Investors** buy the GO Bonds from the city.



**Citywide projects** are funded by the proceeds of the GO Bond sales.

# What GO Bonds Are and Aren't

## Sources of Funding

### **BONDS**

Restore, replace and expand city amenities

Infrastructure improvements

Reinvestment, Deferred Maintenance

### **CIP**

Regular maintenance or funding (i.e., annually)

Can help “initiate” larger projects

Capital programs with smaller scope projects

### **OTHER**

#### **GRANTS, SPECIAL DISTRICTS, DEDICATED CAPITAL FUNDS**

Grants: state or federal, competitive or formula programs

Special Districts: geographically constrained, supports public infrastructure

Dedicated Capital Funds: restricted to specific uses

### Examples of What GO Bonds Cannot

#### Pay For

Operations

Schools

Drainage

Golf Course

Airport

City Services

# Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

## Foundational Plan

Result was two project lists:

1. New Capital Improvements
2. Reinvestment and Upkeep  
(Deferred Maintenance)

[denvergov.org/sixyearCIP](https://denvergov.org/sixyearCIP)



# How Bonds Help Us

GO Bonds Allow the City to Control our Own Destiny

## \$7 Billion

Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan identified ~250 needed projects worth over \$7B, but our annual capital budget is ~\$300M



Bond projects are an economic stimulus tool



**Local financing tool** for public infrastructure like parks, roads, and buildings

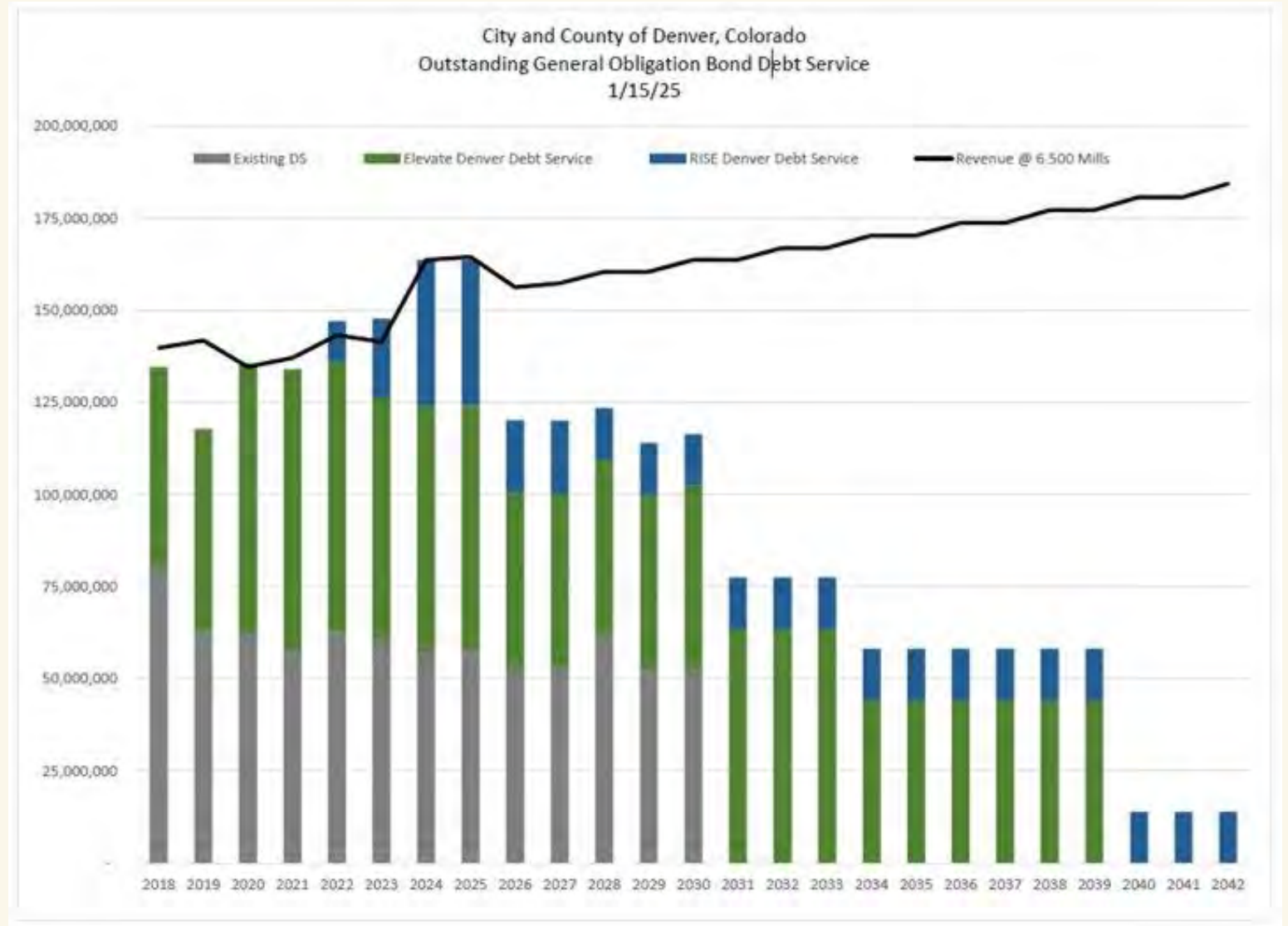


Asks voters for input on the most important capital and infrastructure projects

**No new taxes**

Denver's current bond programs are nearly complete, creating capacity for new projects – **without raising taxes**

# Bond Interest & Payments



# Recent Bond Programs



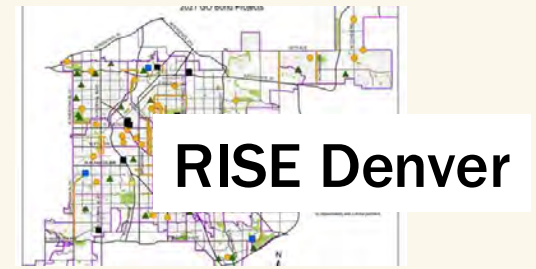
## 2007 Better Denver Bond

- \$550 million
- 380 capital projects
- 10-year bond



## 2017 Elevate Denver Bond

- \$937 million
- 500 capital projects
- 10-year bond



## 2021 RISE Denver Bond

- \$260 million
- 80 capital projects
- 5-year bond

# Bonds In Action

Denver Zoo Improvements & New Animal Hospital



16th St Mall

Urban Peak Mothership Campus/Shelter



Colfax BRT



Bear Valley Park Tennis Courts

# Highlights of Proposed New Vibrant Neighborhoods Bond Program

**~\$800M**

Target investments  
across the city

**6 years**

Delivery  
timeframe

- Shorter timeframe with fewer projects reduces risk and ensures residents see improvements in their neighborhoods sooner



**Parks,  
playgrounds, trees,  
trails, and our  
climate**



**Arts and  
cultural  
venues**



**Recreation  
centers, libraries,  
housing, and other  
city facilities**



**Connectivity:  
street, bridge,  
bike, and  
pedestrian safety**



**Safe and healthy  
neighborhoods  
(formerly, 'Public  
Safety')**

# Bond Process

## PROJECT IDEA SUBMISSION/ INTAKE

Via Survey,  
Community  
Meetings, CIP,  
Outreach, and  
Reinvestment  
Project  
Opportunities

## TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Validate Scope,  
Schedule, Budget.  
OSEI and citywide  
equity review.  
Validate Intake  
Forms.  
Is it Bond Eligible?

## SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW

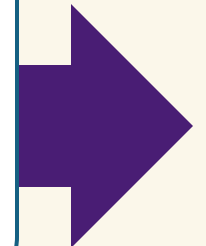
Review and tier  
Project List

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REVIEW

Review  
Subcommittee  
Recommendations  
and Refine into  
Final Project List

## LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Process is led by  
City Council and  
determines the final  
Project List to be  
referred to the ballot



# Subcommittee Values

- Commitment to Equity
- Commitment to Sustainability
- All Meetings Held in Public
- No Advocating/Lobbying on Behalf of Projects or Organizations
- Serve to Present a Balanced Package of Investments that Address City Needs

# Evaluation Timeline

**Subcommittees will set their own cadence:**

Likely to require a two-hour, weekly meeting for 4 to 5 weeks

Meetings start: Week of April 14 (flexible)

Meetings end: Week of May 16

# Evaluation Process

- Subcommittee members will receive summaries of each project in their committee at the first group meeting (week of April 14)
- During the weekly meetings, subcommittees will evaluate projects and prioritize them into Tiers 1, 2, & 3
- Subject Matter Experts from city agencies will serve on each subcommittee to provide technical expertise
- Project tier recommendations from all subcommittees go to the Executive Committee for further refinement, before being submitted to City Council

# Evaluation Criteria

## Project evaluations should include:

- **Community Needs and Benefit** – How does this project change or improve the lives of the people in the community?
- **Community Equity** – Does this address historic deficits in services and investment? How will this project impact the community holistically? Do the long-term benefits from the project outweigh the negative impacts from project implementation?
- **Economic Impacts** – Does this project promote economic activity? Does this project create growth? Does this project require long term O&M investment?
- **Health, Safety, and Environmental impacts** – Does this project address health and safety concerns? Does it increase or decrease environmental impacts?
- **Project Readiness** – Can this project be completed in 6 years?

# Community Conversations

*~515 attendees to date*

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**District 2: April 10**

**District 4: April 16**

**Past Meetings:**

District 10

District 4/5/6

District 3

District 9

District 8

District 1

District 7

At-Large



# Community Engagement Update

~3,250 survey responses (>2,800 online, >450 print)

Online dashboard of results in development

Submitted project ideas under review

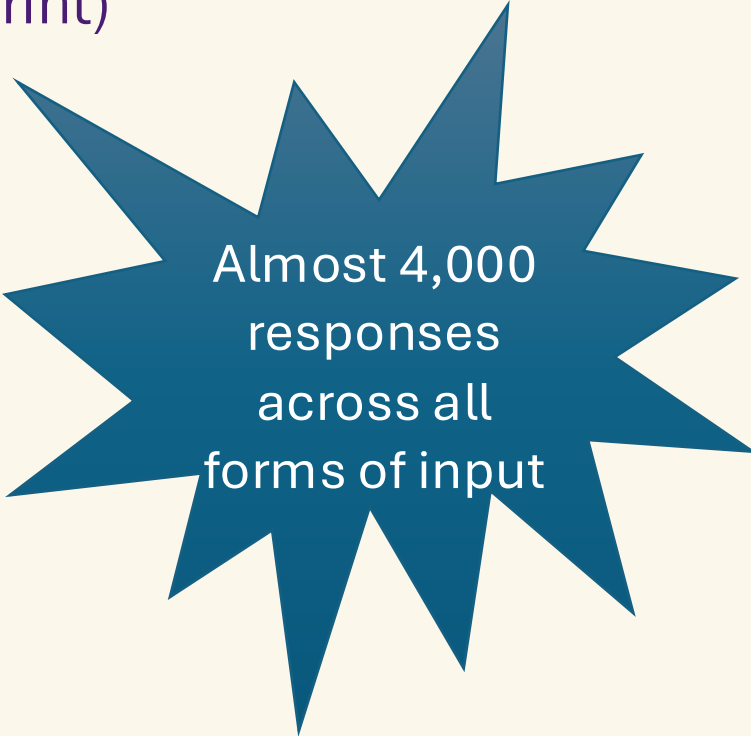
- From surveys

- From table read-outs at the Community

- Conversations

Survey to close April 17

*Please continue to share!*



Almost 4,000  
responses  
across all  
forms of input

# Survey Dashboard

Response results may be filtered by clicking on a variable of interest within the dashboard. The opportunity "gap analysis" is possible by comparing an area's relative importance to current satisfaction levels.

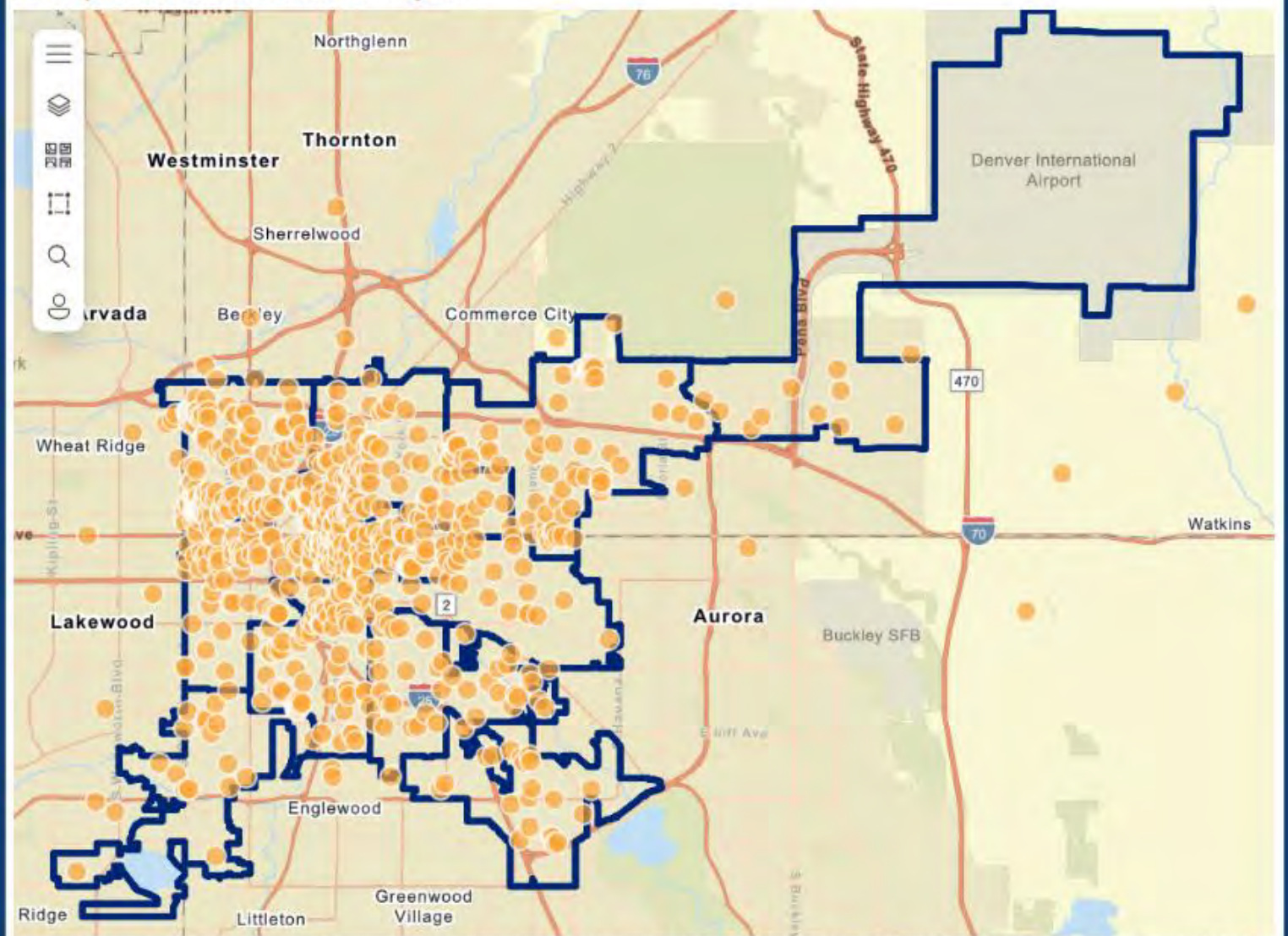




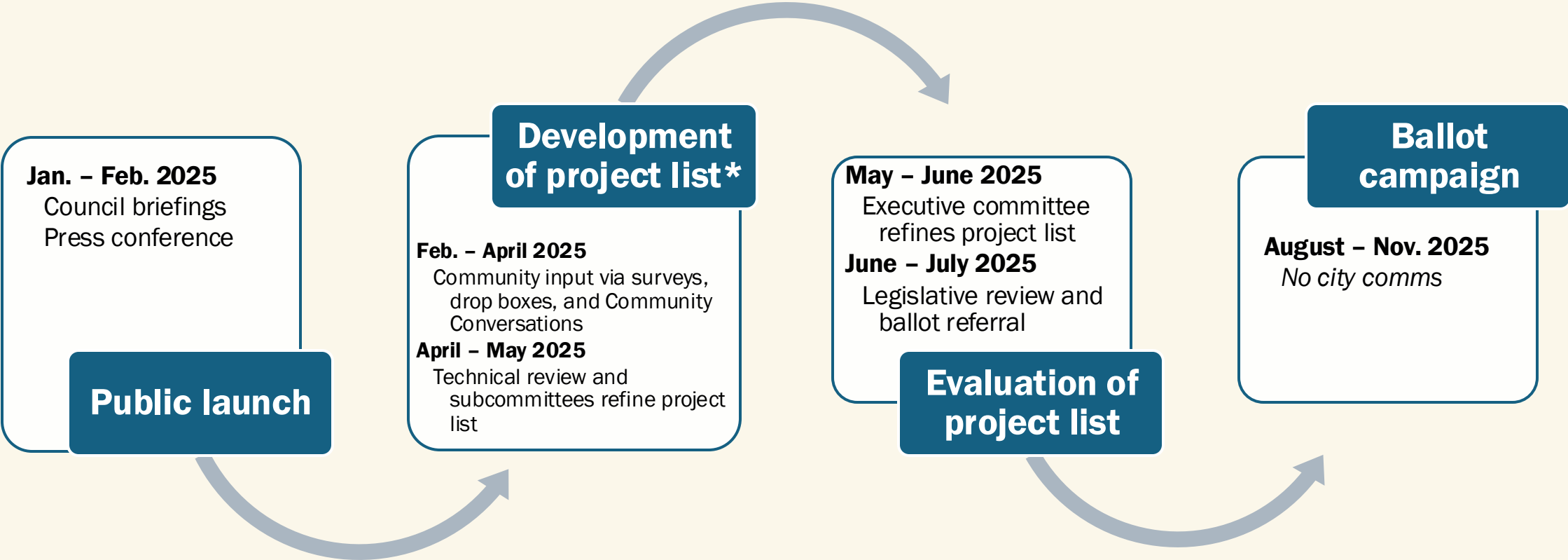
# Mapped Project Distribution

Open response detail for ideas and requests appears when hovering over each dot.

Survey Location Selections of Projects



# Timeline Overview





**VIBRANT DENVER**  
**BOND**

**Questions &  
Discussions?**



**VIBRANT DENVER**  
**BOND**

# Breakout Sessions

# Agenda for Breakout Session

- Meet your Subcommittee and Staff
- Select a Chairperson
- Determine Meeting Schedule
- City Agency Presentation
- Discussion and Questions

# Breakout Rooms

- **Arts & Culture in room 4.I.3** – Patrick Riley
- **Parks & Climate in room 4.I.4** – Lisa Carpenter
- **Rec Centers, Housing & Libraries in room 4.I.5** – Laura Wachter
- **Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods in room 4.H.2** – Jackson Brockway
- **Connectivity remain in room 4.G.2** – Molly Scarbrough

# Subcommittee Rosters



## Arts and Cultural Venues

**Council Member Kevin Flynn**

**Council Member Stacie Gilmore**

Stephen Brackett

Andrea Fulton

Nola Miguel

Malik Robinson

Patty Salazar

Ed Scholz

Solicia Lopez

Mozan Ahmed



## Parks, Playgrounds, Trees, Trails, and Our Climate

**Council Member Sarah Parady**

**Council Member Jamie Torres**

Yoli Casas

Pastor Eugene Downing

Dominique Gomez

Conor Hall

Kelly Nordini

Katie Terrazas Hoover

Jevon Taylor

Omar-Eduardo Corona

## Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods



**Council Member Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez**

**Council Member Amanda Sawyer**

Barb Archer

Steve Foster

Yoal Ghebremeskel

Vernon Jones Jr.

Monica Martinez

Murphy Robinson

Mike Somma

Francesca Lawrence

## Recreation Centers, Libraries, Housing, and Other City Facilities

**Council Member Flor Alvidrez**

**Council Member Diana Romero Campbell**

**Council Member Shontel M. Lewis**

Julian Aguilar

Ryan Aids

Naomi Amaha

Alexis Menocal Harrigan

Elena Mendoza

Theresa Peña

Rosemary Rodriguez

Scott Wolf

Donna Garnett

James Scott

## Connectivity: Street, Bridge, Bike, and Pedestrian Safety



**Council Member Chris Hinds**

**Council Member Paul Kashmann**

**Council Member Darrell Watson**

Makisha Booth

Brad Dodson

Jill Locantore

Steve McCarthy

Rodney Milton

Michael Sapp

Alejandra Spray



**VIBRANT DENVER**  
**BOND**

**Thank You**