Capital Improvement Program

Overview

Capital Improvement Program Purpose

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a six-year financial planning tool that identifies future capital investments and potential strategies for funding those investments. The CIP also satisfies various requirements of cities planning under Washington State's Growth Management Act.

Introduction

The City of Seattle owns and operates a variety of physical assets, ranging from community parks, roadways, bridges, office buildings, libraries, open space, fire stations, maintenance yards, facilities at Seattle Center, and more. The City must properly maintain these assets in order to ensure they are safe, lasting, and provide a welcoming and usable space to serve their intended purposes. The City's utility infrastructure is also included in the CIP, including electric, solid waste, water and wastewater utility assets. The City's capital infrastructure supports City operations, direct public services and programs, and in some cases, provides direct public benefits themselves.

Every year during the annual budget process, the City adopts a six-year CIP, which outlines anticipated investments over that timeframe. The 2027-2032 Proposed CIP totals $11.1 billion over six years, with approximately $1.6 billion of that amount designated for the 2026 budget year.

The 2027-2032 Proposed CIP is a compilation of all CIP adjustments made through the Year End Supplemental period for the 2026 Revised budget. This includes all legislative action that occurred in the following periods:

- 2026 Midyear Supplemental budget adjustments,
- 2026 Year-end Supplemental budget adjustments,
- Stand-alone legislation and administrative adjustments made prior to the year-end Supplemental.

All allocation totals listed in this document are the sum of the project adjustments made in the periods listed above.

Capital Planning Policies

The City has historically based capital planning efforts on a set of criteria that help set priorities among potential capital programs. Resolution 31203, adopted in June 2010, set out the following policies to guide the City's capital spending:

- preserve and maintain existing capital assets;
- support the goals of the City's plans;
- support economic development;
- consider external funding possibilities;
- consider revenue-generating possibilities;
- seek regional funding for regional projects;
- pursue cost-saving commitments; and,
- pursue conservation and sustainability investments.

Additional specific considerations include:

- compliance with regulatory requirements;
- coordination between departments and with other jurisdictions; and
- public safety and health.

Project Cost Estimate Review and Validation Process
The 2027-2032 Proposed CIP continues to incorporate the process that was developed in 2019 through the work of the capital department Directors group. This process reflects an improved approach to budgeting for large, discrete CIP projects in early stages of development and provides Council and the public with a better understanding of the risk and uncertainty associated with each of the projects.

The key elements of the process are:

- Discrete projects with an initial rough order of magnitude total project cost estimate over $10 million will show a range of possible costs rather than an exact dollar estimate.
- Departments will appropriate and budget the estimated cost to reach 100% design, as shown on the CIP Project Page. They will also plan for and communicate the remaining construction costs by using a midrange "Financial Planning Estimate" for six-year financial planning purposes.
- At the 30% design milestone, the project will be baselined and a total project cost and project schedule will be established. During the next budget cycle (or any subsequent Council action) the department will budget the full total project cost on the CIP Project Page.
- If the baseline total project cost estimate is under $50 million the project will proceed through capital project delivery process according to historic practice.
- If the 30% baseline total project cost is over $50 million, the department will initiate a third-party review of the baseline total project cost estimate. The department will bring the results of the third-party cost estimate review to the Project Delivery Executive Committee and/or the Directors' Capital Committee to determine the next steps.

The Cost Estimate Review and Validation process will be modified according to the findings of the initial pilot projects being used to improve the concept.

Capital Improvement Program Funding

Like all large municipalities, Seattle relies on a variety of sources to pay for capital projects. These include locally generated revenues (taxes, fees, voter-approved levies, utility rates, and user fees), intergovernmental revenues (including state and federal grants), private funding (franchise utilities, philanthropy) and debt issuance. These traditional sources continue to provide the majority of funding for capital facility investments. The City's level of capital investment is based on the mix and amount of financial resources available to the City.

Debt Financing
The City uses multiple forms of debt to finance large capital projects such as Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds (LTGO) also known as councilmanic bonds, Unlimited Tax General Obligation Bonds (UTGO) or voter-approved bonds, and revenue bonds. Unlike pay-as-you-go sources of funding, the issuance of debt requires revenues in future years to repay the principal and interest expenses. Councilmanic debt is a common financing tool used by the City, but those obligations must be repaid from the same set of limited resources including Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), commercial parking tax (CPT), and General Fund revenues. See the "City Bond Issuance and Debt Service" in the Introduction section of the 2027 Proposed Budget for more information on debt financing.

The 2027-2032 Proposed CIP includes approximately $114.5 million in 2027 LTGO bond issuances and related costs for CIP projects. The 2027 bonds will provide financing for a portion of costs associated with the redevelopment of Memorial Stadium and for significant community center and technology projects

Ratepayer Funding
Both Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities fund utility projects with revenues from utility rates. Each utility has adopted financial policies that determine what share of their capital investments are funded through cash, and what share from debt. These policies are designed to balance the portion of current investments that are paid by today's ratepayers, versus future ratepayers who will also benefit from long-term capital investments.

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)
Funding of the City's general government capital program is highly dependent on revenue from the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), which is an excise tax imposed on the sale of real property. REET is a relatively volatile revenue source that generally tracks closely to local economic activity.

For the 2027-2032 Proposed CIP, the ongoing effects of local real estate market conditions and an uncertain economic climate are heavily affecting REET revenues. Since the publication of the 2026-31 Adopted CIP and subsequent 2026 April Forecast, projected REET revenue decreased significantly. Compared to the 2026 April Forecast. The 2026 August Forecast projected REET for 2026-2031 to decline by $55.1 million (10%), with $23 million (14.6%) occurring from 2026-2028. The sharp decrease in forecasted revenue places pressure in the short-term to balance funds.

The City's REET policy (Resolution 31952) requires a $10 million REET fund balance reserve to protect against unexpected downturn in REET revenue collection and forecast. The 2027-2032 Proposed CIP meets City financial policies despite severe changes to its revenue forecast.

The 2027-2032 Proposed CIP, places emphasis on right-sizing capital project budgets based on accomplishment rates in order stay balanced. This shift also represents a concerted effort to continue funding that maintains city-owned cultural, public-safety, and administrative facilities. The 2027-2032 Proposed CIP uses REET to make investments in a wide variety of asset preservation projects across the City's capital departments and to fund ongoing debt service for City commitments to the rehabilitation of Memorial Stadium at Seattle Center and the Waterfront Operations and Tribal Interpretive Center.

Seattle's Recent History – Major Voter-Approved Levies and Capital Projects
In addition to reliance upon general tax sources, Seattle undertook several major capital projects during the last two decades using voter-approved funds and councilmanic debt. Voter-approved capital projects include improvements to Seattle Center and construction of new or expanded community centers and parks, new or remodeled downtown and branch libraries, new or remodeled fire facilities, parks improvements, transportation infrastructure improvements and replacement of the Elliott Bay Seawall. The following is a list of recent property tax levies that are still actively funding projects:

- *The Move Seattle Transportation Levy and the 2024 Transportation Levy:* The Move Seattle Levy, a nine-year $930 million levy was approved by voters in 2015 and expired at the end of 2024. The proposed budget appropriates $3.8 million in 2027, as investments funded by the levy wind down. A major financing strategy in the Move Seattle Levy was the dependence on partnerships—leveraging external resources such as state and federal grants to accomplish transportation projects such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – RapidRide Roosevelt. In addition, at the end of 2024, voters passed the $1.55 billion 2024 Transportation Levy, of which $220.1 million is budgeted in the 2027 Proposed Budget. This includes $23.3 million in arterial asphalt and paving, $5.7 million in bridge investments, $31.5 million in new sidewalks, and $8.7 million in the Vision Zero safety investments CIP project; one part of the overall Vision Zero safety investments space in SDOT.

- *Seattle Park District:* The Seattle Park District was passed by voters in 2014, with a goal to provide long term, stable funding to support recreation programing, parks projects and the critical needs for investment in major and ongoing maintenance. 2027 will be the fifth year of Park District Cycle 2, a six-year funding cycle, which is proposed to provide $42.4 million in 2027 for major maintenance and capital projects.

- *The 2019 Library Levy and 2026 Library Levy:* The 2019 Library Levy, a seven-year $219 million levy to support, maintain and improve core Library services, was approved by voters in 2018 and will expire in 20260. In November 2026, voters passed the $479.7 million 2026 Library Levy, of which $67 million is budgeted in the 2027 Proposed Budget. The 2026 Library Levy continues substantial support of operations, including maintaining expanded operating hours and days of service, keeping a robust physical and electronic collection for patrons, ensuring a safe environment via security measures and staffing, offering use of free computer and printing services, and maintaining community programming for all ages. The 2026 Library Levy also provides expansions across various investments areas, including more budget for community programming, the establishment of an office for inclusion and belonging, more security staff and cybersecurity enhancements, and the incorporation of the Seattle Channel into Library operations. Capital investments in the levy include $134.1 million supporting deferred and scheduled maintenance needs, facilities upkeep, structural improvements for the Americans with Disabilities Act, and major elevator repairs. Capital investments also include two seismic retrofit projects for Carnegie-era library branches as well as a major renovation project for the Central Library downtown.

Funding Dynamics for Significant Future Capital Projects

Given general resource funding challenges, the City will continue to rely on a mix of general government resources and voter-approved funding packages to complete major capital projects and to secure needed funding for basic asset preservation. The City has identified several major priority areas for which significant capital investments will be needed. The following sections describe these priority areas at a high level.

Public Safety Facilities

Planning for the future of Seattle's public safety facilities is critical to maintaining the high level of service expected of the Seattle Fire Department (SFD) and Seattle Police Department (SPD). Both departments have a number of large capital facility needs, such as improvements to the Fire Station Headquarters and growing capital needs at police facilities. This CIP provides funding for several critical projects at Fire Station 25, specifically replacing and upgrading the HVAC system, roof, and range hood at the facility. This CIP also provides funding for asset preservation projects at the Seattle Justice Center including elevator replacement and critical systems upgrades.

Electrifying the City's Fleet

The Green Fleet Action Plan (GFAP) and Mayoral Executive Orders established the need for a capital program to plan for the future support of rapid electrification of the City's fleet and also support decarbonizing facilities to promote sustainability. The Drive Clean Seattle program originally funded four major projects to install vehicle charging infrastructure that supports transportation electrification to meet greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the City. The 2027-2032 CIP continues funding the next phase of prioritized vehicle charging infrastructure projects, including the necessary power service upgrades to a key fleet location at Charles Street. Additional future funding will be needed for similar power service upgrades at the Haller Lake facility. Power service upgrades are needed to support large-scale electric vehicle charging hubs and future facility decarbonization.

Transportation

The City's existing transportation network faces an extensive backlog of major maintenance. Current funding is insufficient to maintain the City's roads, bridges, signs, etc. In addition, through a series of long-term planning efforts, the City has compiled the previously named "modal plans" into one Seattle Transportation Plan that identifies large potential investments in a transit network, bicycle facilities, freight projects and pedestrian-oriented infrastructure. The $1.55 billion 2024 Transportation Levy is addressing critical transportation programs such as safe routes, relief of congested roadways and maintenance and repair programs.

Protecting and Creating Opportunities for Workers

The City considers not only what capital projects to fund, but also how to deliver them and achieve broader goals for fairness, equity, and opportunity in the community. The Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) leads several policy initiatives to strengthen social responsibility and equity in the spending of City capital dollars.

Fair and equitable treatment of workers

FAS monitors and enforces fair and equitable treatment of workers in City construction contracts.

- For over 15 years, the City of Seattle, through FAS, has been an innovator in improving prevailing wage compliance. The City of Seattle was the first government agency in Washington State to implement electronic payroll reporting, a strategy that greatly strengthened wage-monitoring accuracy, increased transparency, and allowed issues to be identified and resolved more quickly, setting a new statewide standard for public-sector oversight.
- Since then, FAS has expanded monitoring and enforcement of wage and labor conditions on City-contracted construction projects, including Office of Housing-financed and Human Services Department projects.
- On projects over $5 million, FAS administers a Community Workforce Agreement (CWA), which sets basic terms and conditions of employment. On these projects, FAS also provides Acceptable Work Site (AWS) training. AWS training teaches anti-harassment and anti-bullying interventions to support a safe working environment for people working on City projects.
- On projects of all sizes, FAS enforces prevailing wages and AWS contract provisions to prevent harassment and bullying.

Increase economic opportunities through access to construction jobs:

The City's spending on major capital investments can help drive employment within the local economy. Construction offers living-wage careers that can support individuals and families. The City's Priority Hire program is a strategy to support local residents receiving a fair share of wealth-generating construction jobs that increase economic equity in the region.

The workforce investments in Priority Hire provide access to training and opportunities for local workers on covered projects. Priority Hire is administered on projects over $5 million through the City's CWA, which supports employment for women, people of color and those living in economically distressed areas through contractual requirements and aspirational goals. In 2017, Priority Hire was expanded to public-private partnership projects with significant City investment such as the Climate Pledge Arena and the Seattle Aquarium Expansion.

Women- and Minority-Owned Business (WMBE):

The City continues to advance contracting equity for women- and minority-owned businesses (WMBEs). For over 15 years, the City has required all public work bids and contracts above $300,000 to include a Public Works WMBE Inclusion Plan, effectively strengthening WMBE participation, with similar inclusion plans now used for consultant and purchasing contracts.

To further support WMBEs, FAS provides technical assistance services that help firms navigate City contracting, prepare bids and proposals, develop business capacity, and access outreach and recruitment opportunities.

The WMBE Advisory Committee, established by Executive Order and reestablished in 2023, advises the City on WMBE policies, program improvements, outreach, and equity strategies. The Committee reviews data, recommends policy changes, and helps shape annual work plans to strengthen WMBE participation.

In 2023, FAS commissioned a disparity study to identify strategies for improving WMBE utilization. The study was completed in 2025, with implementation beginning in 2026.

2027-2032 Proposed Capital Improvement Program Summary

The 2027-2032 Proposed CIP totals $11.1 billion for six years and includes approximately 489 projects[1]. Approximately $7.9 billion of the six-year total (71.1%) are utility projects managed by Seattle City Light (SCL) and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and mostly funded by utility rates. The Seattle Department of Transportation's CIP totals $1.7 billion (15.7%) over the six-year period, while the remaining departments (Parks and Recreation, Finance and Administrative Services, Seattle Center, Seattle Public Library, and Seattle Information Technology Department) account for approximately $1.5 billion (13.2%) of the six-year CIP.

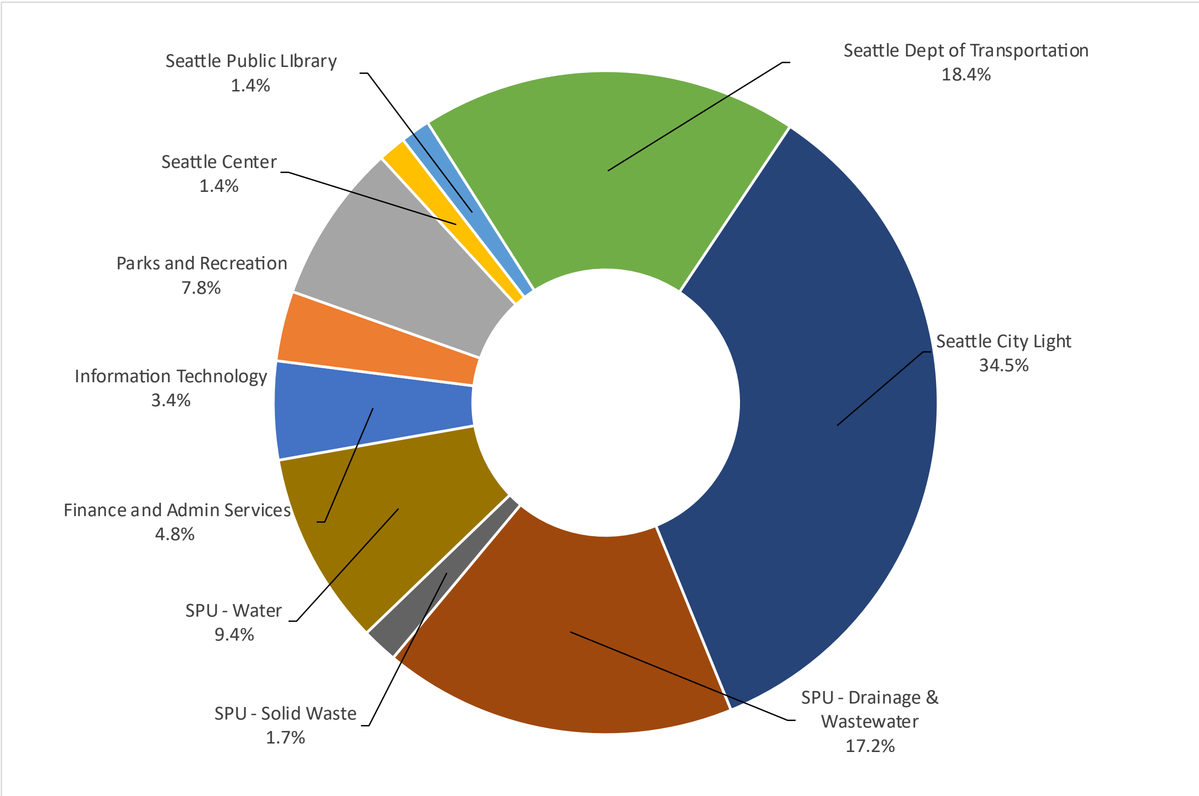
2027-2032 Proposed CIP by Department (000s)

Department	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed CIP	2028-2032 Proposed CIP	2027-2032 Proposed CIP
Finance and Admin Services	50,991	76,798	182,246	259,044
Information Technology	19,799	54,588	183,089	237,677
Parks and Recreation	90,690	124,372	629,305	753,677
Seattle Center	38,342	21,750	85,502	107,252
Seattle Public LIbrary	2,587	23,049	85,745	108,794
Seattle Dept of Transportation	347,650	294,002	1,451,614	1,745,616
Subtotal	**550,059**	**594,559**	**2,617,501**	**3,212,060**
City-owned Utilities				
Seattle City Light	511,470	552,058	3,816,157	4,368,215
SPU - Drainage & Wastewater	380,621	275,324	2,068,949	2,344,273
SPU - Solid Waste	19,506	27,954	90,775	118,729
SPU - Water	176,814	151,007	914,964	1,065,971
Subtotal	**1,088,411**	**1,006,343**	**6,890,845**	**7,897,187**
City Total	**1,638,470**	**1,600,902**	**9,508,346**	**11,109,248**

Note: 2026 Adopted totals are based on the 2026-2031 Adopted CIP. Not all funds above are appropriated; see the 2026 Adopted Budget for a list of capital appropriations by department.

[1] The project total includes all projects with a CIP Project Page in the 2027-2032 Proposed CIP.

2027 Proposed CIP by Department - $1,601 million

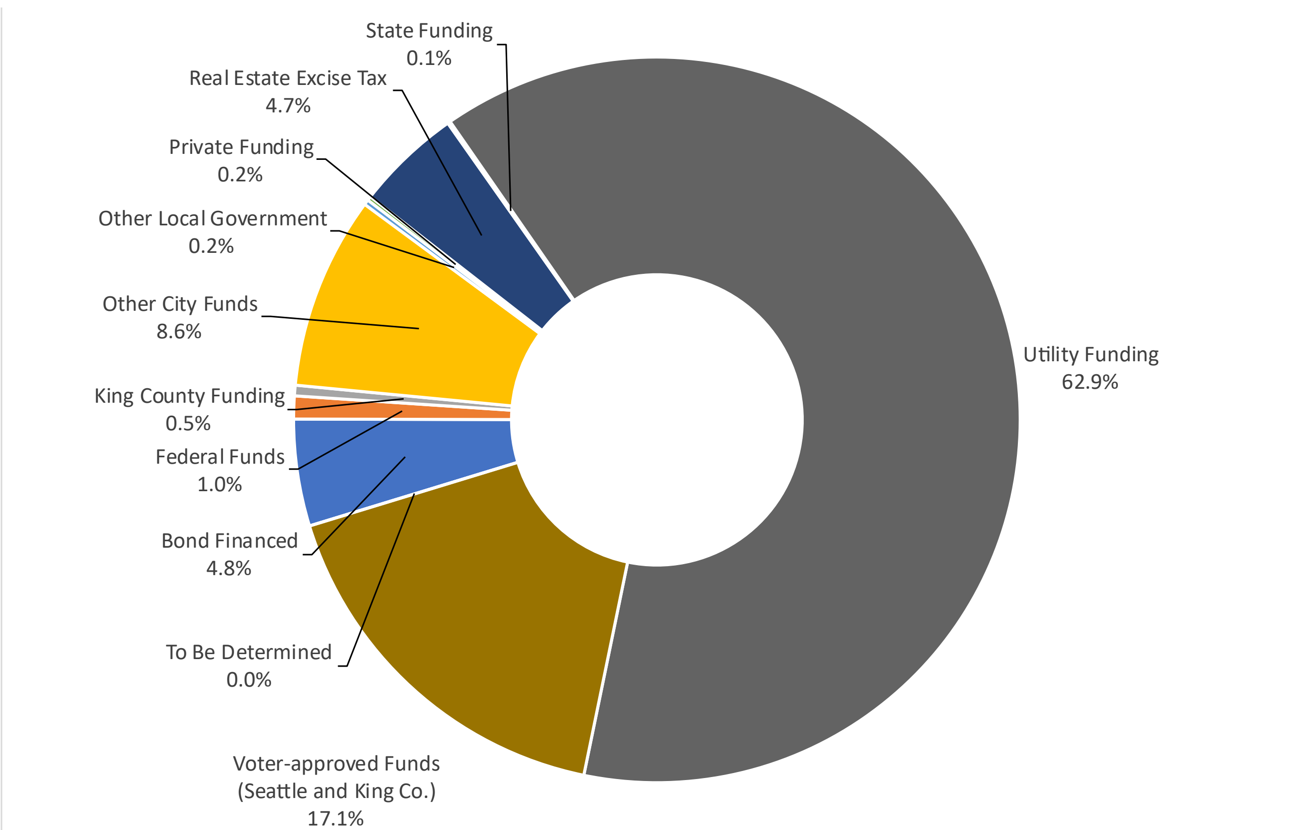


The table below identifies funding sources for the 2027-2032 Proposed CIP by Revenue Source Group

Revenue Source Group	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	2028-2032 Proposed CIP	2027-2032 Proposed CIP
Bond Financed	26,406	76,184	191,999	268,183
Federal Funds	61,485	16,327	4,812	21,138
King County Funding	2,800	7,548	26,330	33,878
Other City Funds	116,401	137,634	451,256	588,890
Other Local Government	8,382	3,715	19,367	23,082
Private Funding	2,968	2,988	14,691	17,679
Real Estate Excise Tax	110,129	75,190	502,684	577,873
State Funding	17,765	1,960	39,811	41,771
Utility Funding	1,089,358	1,006,343	6,890,845	7,897,187
Voter-approved Funds (Seattle and King Co.)	202,775	273,014	1,358,411	1,631,425
To Be Determined		-	8,140	8,140
Grand Total	**1,638,470**	**1,600,902**	**9,508,346**	**11,109,248**

Note: 2026 Proposed totals are based on the 2026-2031 Adopted CIP.

2027-2032 Proposed CIP by Revenue Source - $1,601 million



Asset Preservation
The four general government departments in the City's CIP (Finance and Administrative Services, Seattle Public Library, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and Seattle Center) are responsible for approximately 6.9 million square feet of building space, 2.6 million square feet of parking space, and 240 million square feet of grounds (primarily green space) and multiple work yards. These assets require significant investments in preservation and rehabilitation each CIP period.

For 2026, the City will spend a total of $43.3 million from the two Real Estate Excise Tax Funds and an additional $105.8 million from various other resources on asset preservation and improvements for general government infrastructure in parks, libraries, civic buildings, and on the Seattle Center campus.

Art and Design Funding for City Capital Projects - 1% for Art Program
The 1% for Art program, established by Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 20.32, requires the City deposit 1% of eligible CIP project budgets in the Municipal Arts Fund for the commission, purchase, and installation of artworks throughout Seattle. The Office of Arts and Culture (OAC) manages the 1% for Art program and the Municipal Arts Fund.

Municipal Art Fund revenues from the 1% for Art program can fluctuate significantly from year-to-year depending on changes in City capital investments. In 2027, the Municipal Art Fund is estimated to receive approximately $3.5 million from capital departments for the 1% for Art program, as described below. Actual receipts may vary because of project timing, prior year credits, actual CIP expenditures, and City Council changes to the CIP.

1% for Art Revenues (Estimated)	2027 Proposed
City Light	$346,887
Seattle Public Utilities	$1,252,685
Seattle Center	$15,000
Parks & Recreation	$485,000
Transportation	$1,438,734
Total	**$3,538,306**

Design Commission
Established in 1968, the Seattle Design Commission advises the Mayor, the City Council and appropriate City departments on design and environmental aspects of the City's CIP. Commission members are appointed by the Mayor for a renewable two-year term. Membership is comprised of two licensed architects, one professional fine artist, one appointee from the Get Engaged program, one lay member, and at least one and no more than two from each of the following categories, for a maximum total of five: professional urban planner, professional environmental or urban designer, landscape architect, and licensed professional engineer. The Design Commission is funded with General Fund and Real Estate Excise Tax.

Projects eligible for review include any on-or above-grade structure, including buildings and additions to buildings, bridges, park developments, street furniture, and all similar installations. The Commission reviews below-grade structures such as tunnels, arcades and underground passageways that are regularly visible to the public. Projects reviewed by the Commission must be financed in-whole or in-part with City funds, be on land belonging to the City, or be subject to approval by the City. Commission involvement in capital improvement projects begins as early in the planning process as possible, starting with participation in the consultant selection process and continuing through the many stages of project development. This includes project reviews at the scope briefing or pre-design stage, conceptual design, schematic design, design development, and sometimes construction documents stages.

Background of Capital Improvement Program Policy Drivers

As described above, City investments in capital projects are guided by a set of key policies reflecting the City's values and priorities. These policies shape how the City takes care of buildings and infrastructure, invests in capital projects in areas that have accepted growth as envisioned in the City's Comprehensive Plan, preserves the City's historic buildings, supports sustainable building practices, and ensures that all members of the community have access to the economic opportunities capital projects create. The following section details some of these key policies.

Sustainable Building Policy

In February 2000, the City Council adopted a Sustainable Building Policy for the City of Seattle (Resolution 30121) which articulated the City's commitment to environmental, economic and social stewardship and set the expectation that new municipal facilities meet established green building standards. Specifically, it called for all new construction and major remodel projects over 5,000 square feet to achieve a LEED Silver rating. When adopted, this policy was the first of its kind in the nation and represented a groundbreaking approach to demonstrating City leadership and transforming the marketplace.

Since 2000, the green building community has experienced exceptional growth in expertise and capacity. Recognizing this change, in 2011 the City passed an updated Sustainable Building Policy (Resolution 31326). The update represents a comprehensive approach that reflects advances in the green building industry, aligns the policy with the City's increased attention to climate change, addresses a greater range of project types, and ensures that Seattle continues to provide leadership that advances sustainable development in both the public and private sectors. The updated polices include the following requirements.

- For new construction, additions, and major renovation projects 5,000 square feet or greater:
    - The minimum required green building rating is LEED Gold.
    - There are minimum requirements for energy and water efficiency, construction waste reductions, and bicycle amenities.
- For tenant improvement projects 5,000 square feet or greater, where the scope includes mechanical, electrical, and plumbing:
    - The minimum required green building rating is LEED Gold.
    - There are minimum requirements for water efficiency and construction waste reductions.
- Completion of a Capital Green checklist is required for projects smaller than 5,000 square feet or those otherwise not eligible for a LEED rating.
- City departments are encouraged to test new approaches and standards, such as the Living Building Challenge and the Sustainable Sites Initiative.
- Annual reporting of performance under the policy is required by March 31st of each year.

Additionally, the resolution directs City departments to evaluate and improve existing standards and processes that relate to tenant improvements, leasing, and site management.

City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan is a 20-year vision and roadmap for Seattle's future. The plan guides City decisions on where to focus development for new jobs and households, how to improve our transportation system, and where to make capital investments such as utilities, sidewalks, and libraries. The Plan is the framework for most of Seattle's big-picture decisions on how to grow. The City began the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan in 2021. In December 2025, Council adopted the final One Seattle Plan along with the first phase of zoning legislation to implement the plan which made changes to Neighborhood Residential zoning to comply with new state middle housing requirements (HB 1110). A second phase of zoning legislation to implement the new growth strategy (Centers and Corridors) was transmitted to Council in early 2026, with further consideration for adoption delayed until resolution of ongoing litigation around the Comprehensive Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). OPCD has begun early work on a third phase of zoning legislation, starting with a Supplemental EIS to study alternatives, with a focus on expanding opportunities for residential density around transit and neighborhood amenities.

The Comprehensive Plan helped inform the development of the 2027-2032 Proposed CIP as departments have taken special note of capital projects in neighborhoods targeted for substantial growth in the future or that have received substantial growth in the last few years. This effort is intended to make sure areas receiving growth have the appropriate physical infrastructure to accommodate such growth, while balancing the major maintenance of existing facilities, such as power distribution systems, pipes, community centers, swimming pools, libraries, and streets that are located throughout the City, not just in targeted growth areas.

Federal and State Regulatory Requirements

The City's utilities have several facility projects in their Capital Improvement Programs to meet federal and state regulatory requirements. The City of Seattle must abide by the City's two National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, one for storm water and one for combined sewer system. The City is required, for example, to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in the combined sewer/storm water system over the next several years to control the number of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into receiving bodies of water, including Lake Washington and Puget Sound. This is per a CSO Consent Decree with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Ecology (DOE), which outlines how the City will become compliant with EPA and DOE regulatory requirements regarding sewage releases from the city conveyance system.

City Light operates its hydroelectric dams and powerhouses under licenses from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Licenses include Settlement Agreements that require City Light to perform protection, mitigation and enhancement activities. City Light is currently implementing mitigation under annual extensions to the current Skagit license while the FERC relicensing process continues, and is in year 14 of implementing the Boundary License mitigation program. City Lights' South Fork Tolt Project is also undergoing FERC relicensing as the current FERC license expires in 2028.

City Light also complies with a wide range of permitting requirements and environmental regulations. Examples include the mitigation of soil contamination at former substations, and ongoing environmental mitigation in the Endangered Species Act project. Street-use permits and regulations are a major part of City Light projects that expand and repair the electric distribution system.

Endangered Species Compliance

The Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is a 50-year, ecosystem-based plan that was prepared to address the declining populations of salmon, steelhead and other species of fish and wildlife in the Cedar River basin. The HCP was prepared under the Endangered Species Act and is designed both to provide certainty for the City of Seattle's drinking water supply and to protect and restore habitats of 83 species of fish and wildlife that may be affected by the City of Seattle's water supply and hydroelectric operations on the Cedar River. Seattle Public Utilities is continuing to implement its commitments under the HCP, which include downstream habitat protection and restoration, upland forest restoration, logging road decommissioning, and ongoing monitoring. City Light is also acquiring salmon habitat in the Green/Duwamish, Skagit, and Snohomish watersheds.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) conducted an audit of select City of Seattle facilities, practices and procedures, in order to assess City compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and reported its findings to the City. While the City is largely in compliance, there are some elements within facilities that the DOJ has requested the City update or alter to improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities. The City is working on an update to its ADA Transition Plan, which will guide the development of a long-term strategy that manages the City's most critical public-facing ADA deficiencies first and maximizes accessibility to the greatest extent possible.

FAS coordinates and oversees implementation of ADA improvements in certain City facilities, determines and reports compliance to DOJ, and reviews and modifies as needed the facilities design and construction process with regard to the ADA. The City is in the process of moving towards a new approach to ADA improvements in which these improvements are included in ongoing maintenance and other remodeling work.

In order to provide additional proactive monitoring of compliance with ADA standards for new capital projects, the City added staffing dedicated to monitoring ADA compliance of new projects. All capital departments have a specific ADA coordinator and large departments such as Seattle Parks and Recreation, SDOT, and FAS have dedicated ADA staffing.

Historic Preservation

Seattle's commitment to historic preservation began with citizen efforts in the 1960s to block the demolition of two of Seattle's oldest neighborhoods—Pike Place Market and Pioneer Square. Both neighborhoods were threatened with proposals that would have irreversibly changed the character of the districts. The Pike Place Market was faced with an Urban Renewal Plan that would have demolished it, while Pioneer Square was threatened with a major roadway project. In 1970, the City Council created the Pioneer Square Preservation District, Seattle's first historic district. Then, in 1971, voters approved an initiative to create the Pike Place Market Historical District. In 1973, the City Council adopted a Landmarks Preservation Ordinance to safeguard properties of historic and architectural significance throughout the City. Today, Seattle's Historic Preservation Program encompasses eight historic districts located across the City and more than 400 designated landmarks. The City currently owns or maintains many of those landmarks, including libraries, park buildings, and fire stations.