

The questions and comments below were submitted prior to the Planning Commission review of the CIP by Vice Mayor Dent via email on Monday, March 6, 2023.

1. Pages 6 and 9: Fire Stations 4 and 5. I'm surprised to see these happening the same year, 2025. I thought the plan was to build FS5 first, and then refurbish or rebuild FS4, so we have the backup of FS5 while FS4 is being renovated.

Response: Great question; your inquiry prompted staff to double check documentation and discussion that occurred in January regarding the timing of the projects. Originally, Fire Station 4 was planned as shown in FY24, however, in mid-January staff decided that Fire Station 4 should be demonstrated as occurring in FY25. After another conversation among staff, we will place Fire Station 4 expenditures and funding sources in FY26.

2. Page 28: Annual Street Paving. This may be affected by the proposed road reconfiguration - at no extra cost?

Response: The roadway reconfiguration will have no effect on this project, as this project is based on pavement condition. Roadway reconfigurations are planned on roadways that are already planned to be repaved.

3. Page 29: Garbers Church/Bluestone ES New Traffic Signal. I'm surprised to see this off in the "Future" when it's a known problem now.

Response: The only warrant that is partially met for this signal is pedestrian due to the elementary school. The addition of the sidewalk along the eastern side of Garbers Church Road and the planned roadway reconfiguration does and will provide additional safety measures. Staff will continue to monitor this intersection to determine if additional warrants are met in the future.

4. Page 42: Chicago Ave and Waterman Drive. Likewise surprising that it's in the "Future" as IJA funding is likely more imminent.

Response: At this point staff needs to better identify the needs and possible solutions for this corridor before we can be successful with any type of grant application. This CIP includes \$150,000 for a small area study in FY24 to study both the transportation and stormwater needs of this area. Following that study staff will have a better idea of funding opportunities and this CIP project may be advanced in subsequent years.

5. Pages 41-66: Several Public Works projects contain the statement "This project would achieve progress towards meeting the Sustainable Transportation Targets in the City's Environmental Action Plan approved by Council on June 14, 2022." Most of these projects are pushed off to "Future" in whole or in part. Some may be done sooner with grants from SmartScale (such as the Reservoir St. Sidewalk). I wonder: how can we meet the ambitious targets for GHG reduction within the time frame required, rather than some vague "Future" date?

Response: If a project is shown as future, it does not mean that staff will not actively pursue studies or grant opportunities that could accelerate the timeframe of the project. However, during the preparation of the CIP each year, it is very difficult to forecast how these projects may develop and grants become available. Therefore, staff places realistic costs in the future column to confirm priority for the project, and allow the public to understand the scale of needs in our transportation system.

6. Page 62: Solar Implementation Plan. Excellent!

No response provided.

7. Pages 70 and 75, Splashpad and Kids Castle: A couple of projects have funding listed from Capital Project Fund when it should (apparently) be in "Other Revenue" for ARPA funding.

Response: Correct. However, the CIP was submitted way before the ARPA funds were allocated.

8. Pages 87 and 88: Chiller and Boiler Replacement at Harrisonburg High School. Are we considering alternatives for greater efficiency and/or use of alternative energy, such as heat pumps?

Response: At this time we have not considered alternatives to increase efficiency, however we would be open to exploring alternatives to improve efficiency.

9. Pages 90 and following: Roof Repair and Parking Lots at the various schools: are we considering solar at the time of the roof repairs, and EV chargers (infrastructure at least) at the time of the parking lot resurfacing?

Response: Yes, we would like to install solar panels at the same time that we replace roof sections, as funding is available. All pavement replacement or resurfacing would include EV charging stations if funding is included.

10. Page 120: Western Raw Water Line. Where is the funding for the **Eastern** Raw Water Line? I'm surprised not to see it in this CIP, as it's a large ongoing project.

Response: The project funding is complete and was removed last year.

The questions and comments below were submitted prior to the Planning Commission review of the CIP by Commissioner Washington via email on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. Page numbers have been changed to reflect the current page numbers.

11. Who sets priorities and what is the criteria for being a priority 1, 2 or 3?

Response: Within the Introduction section of the CIP document, it explains that priority codes are assigned by the CIP Committee in conjunction with Department Directors. The CIP Committee includes the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, Assistant to the City Manager, Director of Finance, Director of Community Development, and the Sustainability and Environmental Manager. The Introduction also explains the basic criteria for each priority code. Priority 1 means the project is absolutely required, which staff typically interprets to mean required by law. Priority 2 is a project that is highly desirable, affects efficiency and effectiveness. Priority 3 is simply a desirable project. While there are descriptions for priority 4 and 5 projects, such projects are not included in the CIP document nor were there any projects categorized as 4 or 5.

12. How is equity considered throughout the process?

Response: As noted within the Introduction section of the CIP document, the CIP is not a budget, but a planning tool. The actual commitment of funds for any capital item comes with the approval of the annual budget for each fiscal year, where public hearings are held prior to adoption of the budget. All the proposed projects within the CIP will likely not be funded exactly as outlined due to budgetary restraints.

Equity could be accounted for in different ways. One way is through Planning Commission's review, which allows questions to be asked and recommendations to be offered by the Commission to City Council for consideration. Examples include recommending changes in priority for any particular project or to recommend moving a project to a different desired fiscal year for completion. City Council holds a public hearing on the CIP, which allows the public to offer comments or concerns.

If there are ideas to strengthen equity in this process, suggestions are welcomed.

13. Page 4: Will someone be hired to take on this project, or will current staff be asked to do this on top of their daily tasks? While I'm not sure how often cyber attacks happen, shouldn't the city's technological upgrades to increase efficiency and cyber security happen asap?

Response: The project will be managed by I.T. staff in coordination with a Value Added Reseller (VAR). This is the normal process for purchasing products from Laserfiche, Documentum, Hyland, as well as other vendors in this arena.

The documents are mostly stored as paper rather than electronically; therefore, there is no immediate technology need or cybersecurity risk. The original stakeholders for the project were Human Resources, Finance, and the Commissioner of the Revenue. The Commissioner has a product that was purchased with their assessment and billing software. The other departments have not had this as a priority, so the project has been pushed back several times. Recently, there have been discussions in the City Manager's and Community Development departments, but these discussions are in their early stages.

14. Page 22: Does the city have a budget for historic preservation? Is it the City's job to maintain historic buildings and structures?

Response: The City does not have a specific line item budget for historic preservation. With regard to this project, the Harrison House is owned by the City. At this time, \$500,000 is expected from the Margaret Grattan Weaver Foundation. It is in the City's best interest to preserve this historic structure in the heart of our downtown central business district, which can enhance the attractiveness of downtown and, hopefully, increase tourism activity and revenue for Harrisonburg.

15. Page 25: Are these bridges only used for car transportation or are these bridges that can encourage safe bike and pedestrian transportation?

Response: The reconstructed bridges would include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

16. Page 27: Does this include constructing new sidewalks in areas that don't have sidewalks?

Response: A majority of this project is dedicated to the maintenance of existing curb and gutter and sidewalk segments in the City. New sidewalk segments are typically constructed under other CIP projects or as yearly budget funding allows.

17. Page 29: Why is this priority 3? Could this not be executed asap?

Response: This signal only partially meets warrants. Staff will continue to monitor this intersection and recommend signalization if warranted in the future.

18. Page 31: With all of the new development that is slated to go in this area, infrastructure and adequate traffic equipment should be more than a priority 3.

Response: At this time, staff maintains its recommended priority ranking.

19. Page 34 and page 36: How does traffic detection cameras take priority over street signal upgrades and enhanced signage?

Response: Upgrades in traffic signal detection improves the technology at these intersection and allows for 1) 24/7 traffic and pedestrian counts, which are used by staff to study traffic patterns and recommend improvements, 2) improves the detection ability of the intersection and staff hears numerous concerns from cyclists about not being detected at intersections, 3) improves the video at each intersection, which aids during incident management activities such as detours on I-81. Note that these cameras do not record.

Because of these benefits associated with upgrades to the detection systems, Public Works supports the higher priority given to this project.

20. Page 37: What are the effects of light pollution in these areas?

Response: The addition of LED street signs has little to no effect on light pollution, as these are only located at signalized intersections, which already have streetlights in the area.

21. Page 53: Project 3: Is there conversation around expanding this program throughout the city?

Response: Staff needs more information about this inquiry to adequately address the question.

22. Page 58: Are all pedestrian signals ADA compliant? If not, this should be Priority 1.

Response: All pedestrian signals in the City are compliant as of the date of initial installation. This project is to upgrade pedestrian signals to the most current standard, which requires an Audible Pedestrian System (i.e., the signal talks to the pedestrian). We are only required to upgrade to the most current standard when maintenance activities occur, therefore Public Works supports a Priority 2 for this project.

23. Page 70: This project should be bumped up in priority due to how long the project has been on the table as well as creating equity in regards to water recreation throughout all communities in Harrisonburg. Outdoor learning spaces for the children are extremely important. I hope this happens with improvements to school schedules that will allow students to take advantage of outside time.

Response: We were successful in gaining ARPA funding for this project. The project has already been started with some conceptual planning and will continue through the construction phases that hopefully keep us on a schedule that will allow for the project to progress in a timely manner.

24. Page 113: This is vague.

Response: This item would be similar to what we have proposed and are actively developing for HHS. Our intent will be to renovate the instructional spaces of THMS, upgrade technology, and ensure ADA access for all. Since this project is anticipated for 2027, we have not yet begun working through the specific details of the renovation plan.