

INTRODUCTION

Introduction to the Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

The Pinellas County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a comprehensive plan of proposed capital projects, intended to identify and balance the capital needs of the community within the fiscal capabilities and limitations of the County. It is primarily a planning document and is updated annually and subject to change as the needs of the community become more defined and the adopted projects move closer to final approval.

The first year of the program is the basis for actual appropriations authorized by the Board of County Commissioners for capital projects when adopting the Annual Budget.

The remaining five years are a guide for the future development of the County's new and replacement infrastructure needs. The overall CIP schedule is formulated to reflect County priorities and needs, by taking into consideration the County's goals and policies, strategic plan, urgency of a project, the County's ability to administer a project, the involvement of outside agencies, and the potential for future project funding.

The CIP brings together needs identified through many capital processes. Projects are established in the CIP based on input from citizen requests and prior public discussions, safety needs, planned rehabilitation cycles, grant funding processes, County staff, and Commissioners, as well as the County's mandated Growth Management Plan, Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Long Range Transportation Plan, and other County master plans. While capital projects originate from a variety of sources, projects most often come forward through the sponsoring department that is responsible for their implementation.

Primary funding for capital improvements comes from a number of dedicated sources. Largest sources include the "Penny for Pinellas" one cent local option sales surtax approved by vote of Pinellas citizens, and water, sewer, and solid waste user fee charges.

The objectives used to develop the CIP include:

- To preserve and improve the basic infrastructure of Pinellas County through public facility construction and rehabilitation;
- To maximize the useful life of capital investments by scheduling renovations and modifications at the appropriate time in the life-cycle of the facility;
- To identify and examine current and future infrastructure needs and establish priorities among projects so that available resources are used to the community's best advantage; and
- To improve financial planning by comparing needs with resources, estimating future bonding needs, and identifying fiscal implications.

Department management reviews each project submitted for inclusion to the CIP and submits qualified projects to County Administration for review and approval. County Administration reviews a project request for its merit and relationship to overall County needs. The Board of County Commissioners conducts a final review of the program at public budget workshops, and at annual public budget hearings prior to adoption of the Annual Budget.

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The Six-Year Work Plan Presentation

This document is intended to present a brief summary of each project in the various Capital Improvement Program classifications, and show the proposed level of funding and the timing for the various stages of each project. Please note that the presentation of resources in this document is intended to show anticipated revenue on a project-by-project basis and does not reflect budgetary statutory reductions or official adopted total revenue fund budgets. A complete accounting of first year resources may be found in the FY2009 Pinellas County Annual Operating and Capital Budget document. For additional information on any project appearing in the work plan, please contact the Office of Management & Budget.

Goals

The following are the goals of the County in developing its annual capital budget and associated CIP:

- Identify and prioritize infrastructure requirements based upon a coordinated needs assessment methodology. The CIP is a comprehensive guide for the allocation of financial resources and provision of public service for a six year period. The CIP serves as a “blueprint” for the future of the community. It is a dynamic tool, not a static accounting document. The CIP requires each department to look to the future, anticipate the need for projects and justify that need. This requires the thoughtful integration of financial, engineering, and planning functions.
- Classify projects to ensure that those submitted for inclusion in the CIP are capital projects, not operating requirements. An accurate CIP relies upon the proper classification of projects. Requests which do not meet the specified criteria, for a capital project, should be considered in the operating budget.
- Identify the mandated state growth management Capital Improvement Element (CIE) projects from the non-mandated projects within the CIP. The CIP and CIE are closely related, but they are not the same. Some projects within the CIP will also be contained in the CIE; these projects should be separately identified. The funding of these projects is a high priority and must be balanced against the non-CIE projects that are also in the CIP.
- Develop a realistic funding scenario for the CIP that identifies resources on a project specific basis. The Growth Management Act requires a financial plan for projects that are mandated by the CIE. This same approach is to be extended to the CIP.

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Policy

It is the policy of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners to maintain a continuing Capital Improvement Program that will, when implemented, provide physical facilities that are:

- Responsive to the needs and demands of the public and county government;
- Supportive of the long and short-range economic, social, and environmental development policies of the county;
- Necessary to achieve the level of service identified in the adopted Comprehensive Plan.

The Capital Improvement Plan represents the planned implementation of various comprehensive plans that serve as a guide for future growth and development as adopted and amended by the Board of County Commissioners.

Capital Improvement Program Budgetary Definition and Criteria

The following definition and criteria shall be utilized in determining the appropriateness of capital improvement budget requests:

Capital projects are defined as activities that lead to the acquisition, construction, or extension of the useful life of capital assets. Capital assets include things such as land, buildings, parks, streets, utilities, and other items of value from which the community derives benefit for a minimum number of years.

1. All projects in the Capital Budget must have a total cost greater than \$50,000 and a useful life of more than five years.
2. Capital projects are considered to be one-time outlays, which are non-recurring in nature. Purchases involving ongoing debt service or lease/purchase costs are typically not budgeted in the Capital Budget.
3. Capital projects must add to, enhance the value of, or extend the life of the County's physical assets. Major equipment purchases must be associated with a capital project and must meet the definition of a capital item in order to be placed in the Capital Budget.
4. County vehicular equipment purchases will not be addressed in the Capital Budget. Fleet appropriations are to be considered within the Operating Budget.
5. Expenditures for maintenance supplies and materials or replacement items shall be budgeted as an operating item. These items may not be appropriated in the capital budget.

