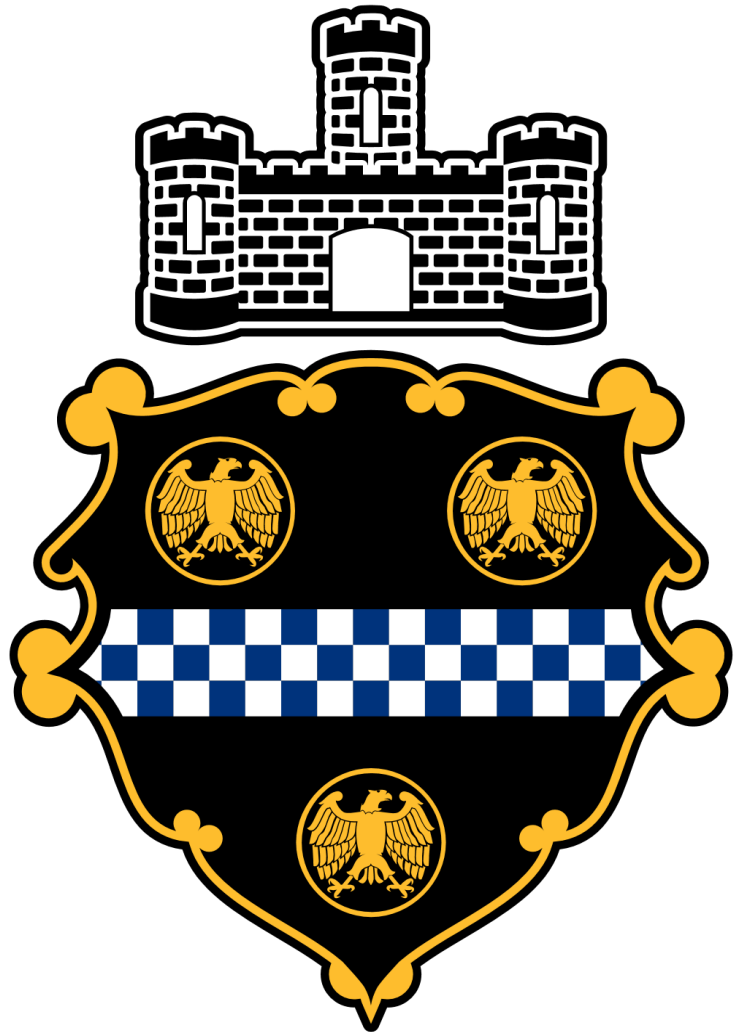


NOVEMBER 9, 2020



2021 CAPITAL BUDGET – CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THIS YEAR’S OUTREACH

City Code requires the City to hold two public meetings “to obtain the advice of public officials and citizens in preparation of the project proposals and annual budget.” In most years, The Mayor’s Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of Community Affairs hosts two deliberative forums on the next year’s budget. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and social distancing requirements, OMB hosted the 2021 meetings online.

Additionally, OMB utilized an online survey to capture opinions from the public on the 2021 Capital Budget.

107	Virtual meeting registered participants
556	Completed Surveys
69	Neighborhoods represented
733	Project ideas generated
264	Youtube Views

WHAT WAS THE FORMAT OF THE ONLINE MEETINGS?

Instead of two in-person deliberative forum meetings, OMB hosted three public meetings virtually. Deliberative forum meetings encourage Pittsburghers to talk to fellow residents from other neighborhoods in structured small-group discussions. Each meeting repeated the same program material and covered the entire Capital Budget. Working digitally this year though provided opportunities to talk in more detail about specific parts of the 2021 Capital Budget.

CAPITAL BUDGET FORUM TOPICS

Meeting Date	Meeting Topic	Department(s)	Project Types
06.04.20	Mobility Projects	Department of Mobility and Infrastructure	Street Resurfacing * Bridges * ADA Ramps * Public Sidewalks * Slope Failure Remediation * Flood Control Projects
06.08.20	Community Projects	Department of City Planning * Department of Permits, Licenses, and Inspections * Urban Redevelopment Authority	Sub-recipient grants * Fair Housing * Affordable Housing * Condemned Buildings * Small Business Development
06.10.20	Recreation Projects	Department of Public Works * CitiParks * Department of City Planning	Pools * Parks * Playgrounds * Ballfields * Sport Courts * Recreation and Senior Centers

THE MAYOR’S 2020 CAPITAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

Each year, the Mayor provides a list of Capital Budget priorities to all departments. These priorities are an expression of the Mayor’s values and guide departments in selecting and designing proposals for the next year’s Capital Budget.

Equity: Ensuring inclusive growth in all our neighborhoods across the City by addressing equity within the policies, programs and services that the city provides or support

Critical Infrastructure: Building a 21st century infrastructure system that is reliable, secure and efficient to keep the city moving and connected

Mobility: Connecting communities to economic opportunity and supporting improvements for all types of mobility, to ensure our roads, streets and paths are safe, reliable, and convenient

Housing: Providing safe, affordable, and sustainable housing in new development and redevelopment projects across the city

Children and Families: Investing in spaces and programs that benefit our families and youngest residents by improving the access to early childhood centers and increasing the types and quality of programming and services within the city’s recreation and senior centers

Neighborhood Empowerment: Empowering all residents to contribute to the growth and vibrancy of their neighborhoods by ensuring that basic needs are met, diversity of all types is celebrated, and residents have equal access to resources and opportunity

Workforce and Entrepreneurship: Eliminating barriers to opportunity for education and employment for all Pittsburghers by investing in workforce development and entrepreneurship

Critical Communities: Improving the overall wellness of people in Pittsburgh by improving resource access for people who use drugs, experience homelessness or food insecurity

Green Infrastructure: Ensuring that our parks and rivers are safe and clean for recreation and commerce every day of the year

Climate: Eliminating waste, reducing building energy use and greenhouse gases by 50% and moving towards 100% renewable energy electricity in all city run buildings and facilities

Arts, Culture, and Open Space: Providing all residents with affordable and equitable access to art and open spaces in their neighborhoods so that all can enjoy

By their nature, priorities are meant to be broad and inspirational, but not prescriptive. As in years past, meeting respondents expressed frustration with:

- Having too many priorities
- A lack of specificity (some requested example projects for each priority)
- Confusion over the difference between a priority and a project
- The Important/Somewhat Important/Not Important feedback options allowed users to selected “Important” for all and avoid making tough choices

SCORING PRIORITIES

Survey respondents were asked to review the Mayor’s 2021 Capital Budget priorities and rate them on a three point scale. The below table represents survey responses sorted from highest-rated priorities to lowest-rated priorities.

2021 Capital Budget Survey Mayoral Priorities	Important		Somewhat Important		Not Important		[blank]		Total	
Priority	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
EQUITY	460	83%	65	12%	29	5%	2	0%	556	100%
CLIMATE	429	77%	90	16%	33	6%	4	1%	556	100%
MOBILITY	423	76%	110	20%	18	3%	5	1%	556	100%
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE	418	75%	111	20%	25	4%	2	0%	556	100%
HOUSING	415	75%	106	19%	34	6%	1	0%	556	100%
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT	414	74%	99	18%	39	7%	4	1%	556	100%
CRITICAL COMMUNITIES	408	73%	114	21%	28	5%	6	1%	556	100%
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE	398	72%	137	25%	20	4%	1	0%	556	100%
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	391	70%	129	23%	33	6%	3	1%	556	100%
WORKFORCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP	333	60%	173	31%	43	8%	7	1%	556	100%
ARTS, CULTURE, AND OPEN SPACE	324	58%	187	34%	43	8%	2	0%	556	100%

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

Survey respondents were asked to provide their own priorities not included on the Mayor’s list. Two topics stood out in the survey responses. They are reflected below with specific responses as examples.

Public Safety – “ABOLISH THE POLICE,” “ADDITIONAL POLICE FUNDING AND HIRING,”
 “COMPREHENSIVE DE-ESCALATION TRAININGS AND INTERVENTIONS FOR PITTSBURGH POLICE,”
 “CRIME,” “DEFUND THE POLICE,” “CUT THE POLICE BUDGET IN HALF,” “DE-MILITARIZE THE POLICE,”
 “GRADUAL DEFUNDING OF POLICE TO MAKE THE ABOVE STATEMENTS POSSIBLE,” “INITIATIVES TO
 IMPROVE SAFETY, ESPECIALLY IN OVER-POLICED COMMUNITIES,” “MORE RESOURCES ARE NEEDED FOR
 FIRST RESPONDERS”

Maintaining Public Resources – “CLEAN STREETS BREED SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS,” “CLEAN UP
 GRANDVIEW AVENUE,” “CLEAN DRINKING WATER,” “COMMUNITY CLEAN UP,” “PLEASE FIX THE
 SIDEWALKS,” “IMPROVING AIR QUALITY + CLEANING THE RIVERS,” “VACANT LOT REMEDIATION,”
 “CLEANING SIDEWALKS,” “GARBAGE CLEANUP,” “MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF EXISTING
 INFRASTRUCTURE,” “PAVE THE ROADS,” “UPKEEP ON OUR PARKS”

CAPITAL PROJECTS

In addition to a broad policy discussion on the Mayor’s priorities, respondents were also to discuss the projects they want to see in the 2021 Capital Budget in the form of two survey questions.

In the first question, survey respondents were asked to identify the specific projects that need to be completed in their neighborhood in 2021. respondents suggested 157 specific projects.

The most commonly requested projects are reflected below. Each one has the number of requests for that type of project and some specific responses as examples.

COMPLETE STREETS (122) – “AUDIBLE PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS,” “TRAFFIC CALMING,” “BEAVER AVE PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AND TRAFFIC CALMING,” “BIKE LANES AND BUS LANES,” “STANTON AVE CLIMBING LANE,” “BROADWAY AVENUE PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS,” “CHATEAU STREET PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AND TRAFFIC CALMING,” “COMPLETE THE RE-GRIDING OF PENN CIRCLE,” “UNSAFE PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS,” “IMPROVE SIDEWALKS AND CROSSWALKS,” “GREEN BOULEVARD PLAN,” “NEIGHBORWAY ON REYNOLDS STREET,” “PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MEASURES AT NEGLEY AND PENN AVENUES,” “SPEED HUMPS,” “BIKE LANES IN THE STRIP DISTRICT”

STREET RESURFACING (96) – “PAVING,” “STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PAVING FOR DRAGON WAY,” “STREET RESURFACING,” “WORK ON THE STREET INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING STOCK IN THE LOW INCOME CENSUS TRACTS IN THE DISTRICT,” “MARSHALL ROAD IS ABSOLUTELY DESTROYING CARS,” “POTHOLE,” “PAVE THE BRICK PORTION OF KAMBACH STREET INTERSECTING WITH KATHLEEN STREET,” “MCFARREN, BLACMORE, AND ETTWEIN STREETS DESPERATELY NEED TO BE REPAVED”

PARK RECONSTRUCTION (74) – “ROBERT E. WILLIAMS PARK,” “SPRUCE UP GARLAND PARK,” “RENOVATION OF ESSER’S PLAZA,” “MORE COMMUNITY GARDENS,” “SOUTH SIDE PARK MASTER PLAN PHASE TWO,” “RESTROOMS AT FRICK PARK,” “RESURFACING PATHS IN PARKS,” “HETHS RUN RESTORATION PROJECT,” “LESLIE PARK POOL REMOVAL,” “COMMONS PARK RUNNING ALONG WEST NORTH AVENUE,” “JOHN MORROW PARK NEEDS REFURBISHED,” “SERPENTINE DRIVE REPAIR”

RAMP AND PUBLIC SIDEWALK (49) – “PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND ADA ACCESSIBILITY,” “SIDEWALK REPAIRS AND ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS,” “SIDEWALK ON BARNSDALE BETWEEN DALZELL AND AYELSBORO,” “STREETLIGHTS AND SIDEWALKS ON BROWNSVILLE ROAD,” “TROY HILL ROAD SIDEWALK,”

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (34) – “AFFORDABLE HOUSING,” “BUILD MORE PUBLIC HOUSING,” “HOUSING FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE,” “AFFORDABLE HOUSING & HOME RENOVATION FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS”

For the second question, survey respondents were asked to identify the types of projects city-wide that need the most attention in the coming year. Where applicable, responses were matched with an existing Capital Budget project. The most common responses are below.

# Requests	Capital Budget Project
110	STREET RESURFACING
70	PARK RECONSTRUCTION
52	FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS – RECREATION AND SENIOR CENTERS
42	PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS
34	COMPLETE STREETS
30	HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
16	RAMP AND PUBLIC SIDEWALK

Figure A in the appendix is a chart comparing the number of requests for each Council District

Figure B in the appendix is chart showing the distribution of functional areas for city-wide project requests

APPENDIX*Figure A: Neighborhood capital project idea locations*

Survey respondents were asked to “provide specific capital project (or projects) that [they] feel need to be completed in [their] neighborhood in 2020.” All responses with locations were tagged with the corresponding Council District. A comparison of the number of requests by Council District is below.

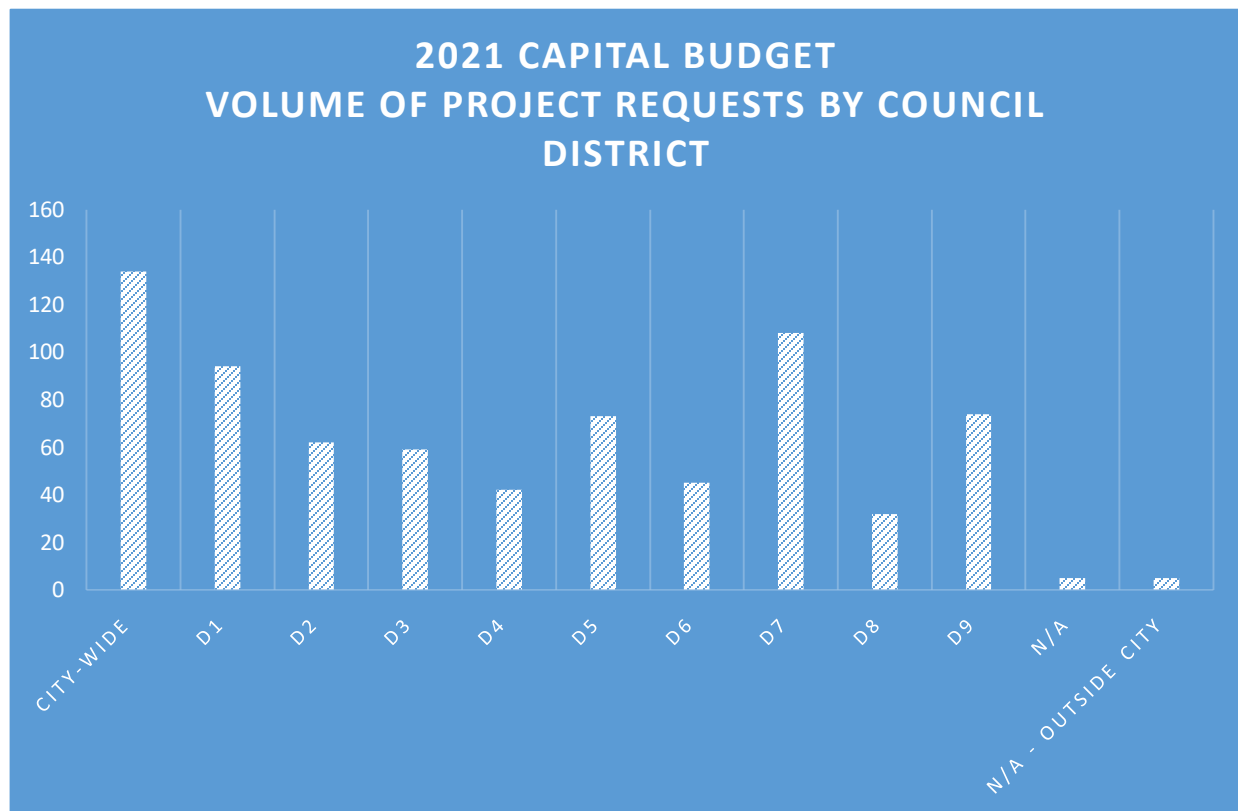


Figure B: City-wide capital project requests

Survey respondents were asked: “Across the whole City, what type of projects (play areas, recreation and senior centers, street resurfacing, etc.) do you think need the most attention in the coming year?” Where possible, responses were matched with existing Capital Budget projects. Each Capital Budget project fits into a larger functional area. The distribution of requests by functional area is shown below.

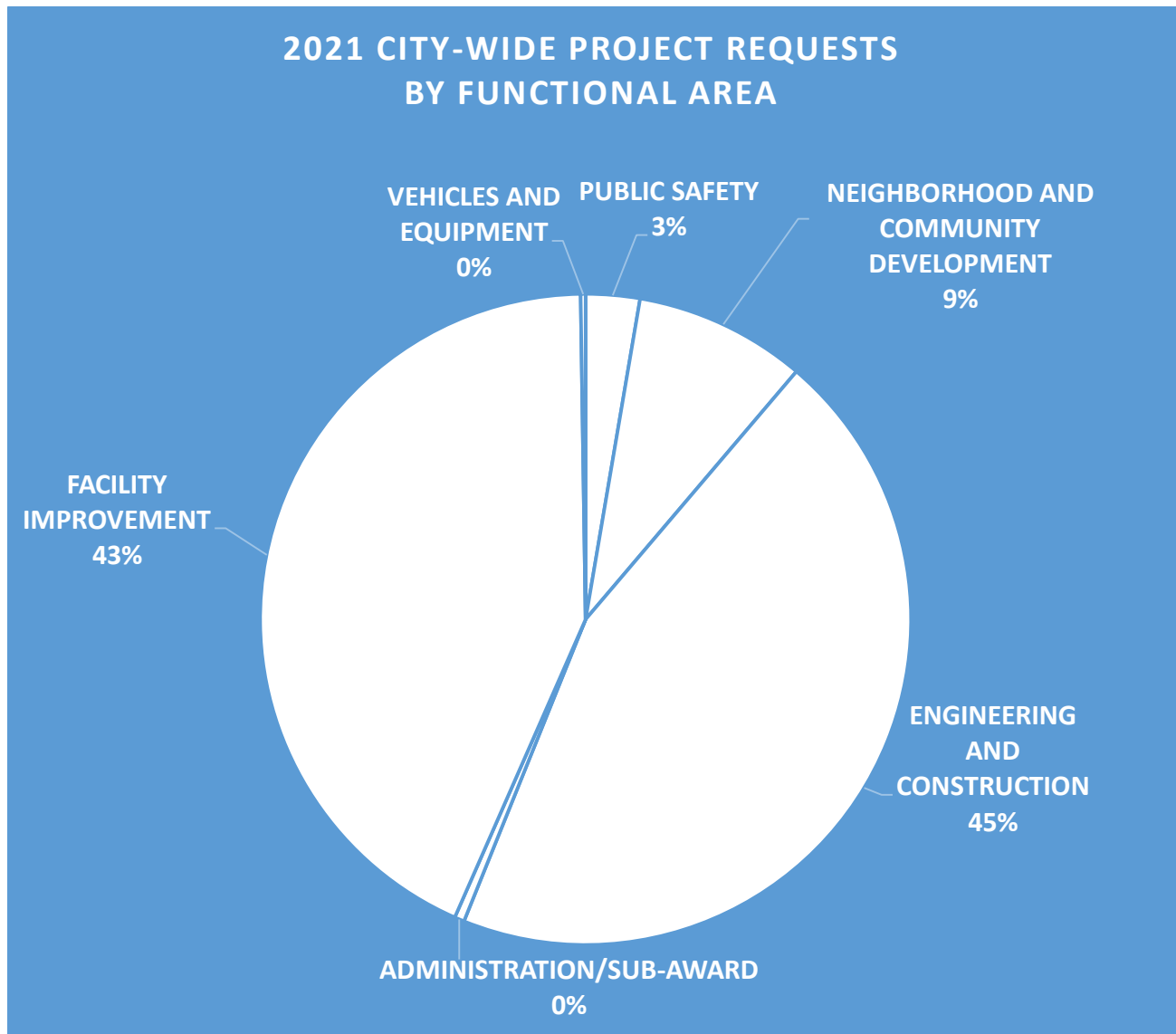


Figure C: Respondents’ Locations

Survey respondents were asked to provide their neighborhood of residence. Below is a map that shows the distribution of respondents by neighborhood.

