

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

*For consideration at the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on
September 17, 2025*

2. Prioritizing the Completion and Delivery of Community Facilities and Infrastructure in the 2027–2030 Capital Plan

Submitted by: Councillor Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver's Capital Plan is a four-year financial strategy that guides investment in essential infrastructure and public amenities, including water and sewer systems, roads, sidewalks, curb cuts, lighting and bikeways, traffic and pedestrian signals, community centres, recreational facilities including pools, sports fields and rinks, arts and culture spaces, firehalls, parks, public spaces, the urban forest and libraries;
2. Development of the 2027–2030 Capital Plan presents a critical opportunity for Council to reaffirm its commitment to addressing the City's growing infrastructure deficit and to prioritize delivery of public-serving projects over prolonged planning efforts;
3. The current 2023–2026 Capital Plan includes \$3.5 billion in investments, but historical trends show increasing planning expenditures and fewer completed projects within a single capital cycle, delaying the delivery of tangible benefits to residents;
4. Vancouver faces compounding challenges, including aging infrastructure (such as pipes from the late 19th and mid-20th centuries, and community centres built in the 1940s–1980s), escalating construction costs, and declining revenue from development contributions due to economic conditions and policy shifts that prioritize rental and affordable housing;
5. These conditions require the City to adopt a more nimble, outcome-driven approach that focuses on delivering fully funded, shovel-ready projects within shorter timeframes, and avoids allocating resources to planning efforts where capital funding is unlikely to materialize in the foreseeable future;
6. Disparities persist between neighbourhoods in terms of access to public amenities and community infrastructure, including ice rinks, firehalls, and community centres as examples, and must be addressed through equitable capital planning; and
7. In a rapidly growing and increasingly unaffordable city, refreshed playgrounds, renewed dog parks, and small-scale upgrades to local facilities can be just as impactful to residents' quality of life as large, high-profile capital projects.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to prioritize the renewal and delivery of core community facilities and essential infrastructure in the 2027–2030 Capital Plan, with particular focus on aging and end-of-life assets.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to prioritize projects that are fully or substantially funded and can be completed within the Capital Plan cycle, and to deprioritize planning initiatives where funding is uncertain or unavailable within a reasonable timeframe.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to report back, in advance of Council's consideration of the draft 2027–2030 Capital Plan, with a comprehensive inventory of the City's community facilities and core infrastructure, including the age, expected lifespan, and current condition of each asset, to support evidence-based decision-making during Capital Plan deliberations.

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