



WESTMINSTER

Budget Town Hall Summary

On April 3, 2025, City Council and staff held the second-annual Budget Town Hall for the community at City Park Recreation Center. This year's focus was on fire and roadway infrastructure in Westminster.

The evening began with an open house with Westminster Fire Department and Public Works and Utilities staff showcasing and demonstrating equipment related to fire and roadway infrastructure in the community.

During the town hall, community members learned how the City receives funding for the services it provides and manages the 2026 budget process. City staff also gave presentations about fire and street infrastructure with City Council Strategic Priority #3 in mind: Resilient Infrastructure.

After the presentations, attendees had the opportunity to share feedback on those topics. City Councillors guided small group discussions and attendees provided input on the following five questions:

1. In your neighborhood or normal commute, please identify streetlights, sidewalks, roadways, and other infrastructure that requires the City's attention?
2. What do you expect from your City regarding infrastructure?
3. If Westminster was threatened by wildfire, flood, or other natural event, are you/your family prepared to evacuate? In its current condition and configuration, do you feel our roadways will allow you to safely evacuate? Please tell us why?
4. How can the City better engage and communicate with residents about infrastructure projects, maintenance, and budget priorities?
5. What funding sources should the City consider and prioritize for fire and streets infrastructure?

Over 60 attendees participated in the small group discussion and an additional 1,000 attendees tuned into the virtual town hall. After the small group discussions, a representative from each table shared their group's responses with all in attendance.

What We Heard:

Question One: In your neighborhood or normal commute, please identify streetlights, sidewalks, roadways, and other infrastructure that requires the City's attention?

Participants engaged in a mapping activity to note streetlights, sidewalks, roadways, and other infrastructure that could benefit from the City's attention, based on their experiences commuting in the City.

[View the map activity \(PDF\)](#)

Staff will look at what was shared and use the information to help inform them about what parts of the city need repairs or improvements.

Question Two: what do you expect from your City regarding infrastructure?

From the small group discussions, four themes surfaced about expectations regarding infrastructure:

1. Infrastructure Maintenance and Improvement – Focus on completing projects that maintain and upgrade streets, sidewalks, and connectivity within the city to help people move safely and easily throughout the City.
2. Public Safety and Traffic Management – Ensure roads and traffic systems support quick and safe access for emergency services while also making travel safer for everyone. Tools such as roundabouts, traffic calming measures, and possibly red-light cameras can support these goals.
3. Utilities and Core Services – Make sure the City's infrastructure supports core services by providing clean, safe drinking water, effective stormwater drainage systems, and effective rental housing inspection programs.
4. Community Engagement and Communication – Strengthen how the City shares information and engages the community about infrastructure needs, funding sources (like tax districts), budget shortfalls, and project updates.

Question Three: If Westminster was threatened by wildfire, flood, or other natural event, are you/your family prepared to evacuate? In its current condition and configuration, do you feel our roadways will allow you to safely evacuate?

Most participants said they felt prepared to evacuate if needed and believed the roadways would allow for safe evacuation. However, the following points highlight important things to keep in mind when getting ready for an evacuation:

- Evacuation challenges related to mobility and those without vehicles
- Education around being prepared
- Access to notifications and technology

Question 4: How can the City better engage and communicate with residents about infrastructure projects, maintenance, and budget priorities?

Participants discussed how the City can better engage and communicate with residents. The common themes that arose included:

- For infrastructure projects, the City could improve communication by using both digital and printed updates, like email newsletters and The Westy. An online CIP (Capital Improvement Program) status board could show real-time updates on current and upcoming projects, and project sites could have QR codes that link to more information. Hosting community meetings would also help share updates and allow for questions and fact-checking.
- For emergency evacuations, communication could be improved by providing easy-to-read evacuation maps and checklists to help people get prepared. The City could also promote signing up for emergency alert systems and share information on how to evacuate without a car or for those with limited mobility.

Question 5: What funding sources should the City consider and prioritize for fire and streets infrastructure?

Participants generally supported the idea of City staff and Council evaluating potential changes to taxes and fees, if the additional revenue would be used to support fire and roadway infrastructure. There was also interest in exploring

other funding options, such as bonds, public-private partnerships (P3), and finding savings within the City's existing budget.

What's next?

The conversations at the Budget Town Hall kicked off the important discussions held during the April 7, 2025 study session, where City Council began looking at initial priorities for the 2026 budget development process, especially around infrastructure needs.

The ideas and themes shared at both the town hall and the April 7, 2025 study session will be explored further at the budget workshop on May 3, 2025. This workshop is a time for City Council to give direction to staff about what should be included in the next budget.

Community input from the town hall, along with the City's strategic plan, community needs, and other requirements, will all help shape the 2026 budget. The goal is to make sure the City continues to provide high-quality core services and foster resilience in order to promote a safe and thriving community.