



WESTMINSTER

Paramedics and Pavement Town Hall Summary

On July 24, 2025, City Council and staff held a town hall for the community at West View Recreation Center. The purpose was to hear from community members and residents about a gap in funding needs for our emergency services and street repair program, and a proposed Paramedics and Pavement Ballot item for the upcoming 2025 election.

The evening began with an open house with Westminster Fire Department and Public Works and Utilities staff showcasing and demonstrating emergency services and roadway infrastructure equipment.

During the town hall, community members were informed about the City's current funding challenges. They also learned about the City's neighborhood street needs, emergency service area gaps, and longer emergency response times. Additionally, Mayor McNally, City Manager Jody Andrews, Fire Chief Erik Birk, and PWU Director Paul Knippel discussed opportunities to close the funding gap, repair residential roads, and minimize service area gaps with new fire stations.

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 three questions:

1. How is the City doing with respect to finding solutions to the funding gap for neighborhood streets and emergency services?
 - What do you think the City is doing well in this regard?
 - Are there any opportunities we've missed that we should be considering?
2. Do you have all the information you need to be informed on this issue?
 - What additional information would be helpful?
3. At this current moment, would you support a potential 0.4% sales tax increase to fund neighborhood streets and emergency services? If not, what would be an alternative solution to address the City's outstanding funding gap? Please provide concrete examples, if possible.

More than 50 attendees participated in the small group discussion, and an additional 1,500 attendees tuned in to 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: How is the City doing with respect to finding solutions to the funding gap for neighborhood streets and emergency services?

-What do you think the City is doing well in this regard?

-Are there any opportunities we've missed that we should be considering?

Participants said the City is doing well, and they were overall positive about the potential need for more revenue by increasing taxes. Participants mentioned wishing to see more informational materials and asked for a more robust social media presence. In order to make sure emergency 911 personnel are able to reach residents in central and northwest Westminster within the critical six minutes, participants suggested re-examining current programs and projects to determine if funding could be moved to help stretch existing dollars. Here are some other ideas/questions mentioned during the small-group discussions:

- Residents agreed that City streets are in need of robust repairs. They understand that because the cost of materials has soared, the City needs increased funding to restore roads to the safest possible level.
- Some participants suggested the City negotiate a City-wide trash hauling service. They said revenue from that could help build a central fire station to close the service gap in the middle of the city.
- Another way to increase revenue would be to promote the City's EMS coverage program, which is \$55 a year. The extra money collected from new enrollments could help build a new fire station that's needed to make sure emergency response time is within six minutes for all Westminster residents.
- Participants suggest the City consider lottery/gambling opportunities for residents. If these opportunities were allowed and taxed, then the revenue could help close the gap in services, the need for which has doubled in the past 20 years.
- If increasing revenue isn't possible, participants suggested opening EMS stations instead of a fully equipped fire station.
- A final option to get funding that is crucial to saving lives is for City leaders to ask major corporations that operate in Westminster to donate money to help hire more firefighters and paramedics.

Staff will consider the above suggested options to help complete the following tasks that are necessary to not only improve the quality of life for residents, but to also save their lives:

- Build a central fire station to close a service gap in the middle of the city
- Hire firefighters and paramedics to staff the central and northside stations
- Rebuild a 50-year-old westside fire station that is too small to house modern firefighting equipment
- Dedicate \$2M annually to repair — not just patch — neighborhood streets

Question Two: Do you have all the information you need to be informed on this issue?

-What additional information would be helpful?

Participants said sharing fact sheets with the community would help gather support for the sales tax increase. They said many people don't realize that first responders cannot currently reach central and northwest Westminster within six minutes, which can be the difference between life and death.

Many residents said they didn't fully understand why roads are deteriorating and patchwork isn't enough. They didn't know that the cost of concrete and other paving supplies has gone up exponentially, soaring beyond the City's current budget. After discussing the state of City roads, residents understood that according to industry standards, our neighborhood streets have an average score of 43/100 points on the pavement quality index, and it will continue to decline over the next decade without additional funds.

To help other residents understand why there is a current funding gap, participants suggested more grassroots campaigning and in-person events. They believe the City should host fewer formal meetings because those can intimidate people. Instead, they suggest informational booths/events at parks, libraries, and community centers to help people understand the need for more funding to save lives and improve streets.

Many in attendance didn't know all the ways City leaders have tried to close the funding gap without raising taxes. Staff shared that the City has:

- Reassigned or repurposed staff and found operational savings totaling \$3M
- Reduced or delayed non-essential projects
- Reviewed and updated cost of service fees for developers and large retailers
- Repurposed development fees called Urban Renewal Area funds and dedicated all \$38M for construction of a northside fire station.

These actions are important steps forward — but they're not enough to fully close the emergency response gaps, hire paramedics and firefighters to staff the stations, or fund long-term neighborhood street improvements.

Question Three: At this current moment, would you support a potential 0.4% sales tax increase to fund neighborhood streets and emergency services? If not, what would be an alternative solution to address the City's outstanding funding gap? Please provide concrete examples, if possible.

Most participants said they would support a sales tax, but not an increased property tax. Some residents suggested a marijuana sales tax and developer fees could raise enough money to build two new fire stations within the service area to ensure paramedics can get to a patient as soon as possible.

What's next?

Staff will consider what participants suggested. Staff will see if there are ways to use residents' ideas to help the larger community understand the need for a new sales tax. City staff will work on messaging to increase awareness about the fact that residents living in central and northwest Westminster might not get the medical help they need within six minutes, which can be the difference between life and death.

The City will look at ways to show residents how leadership is not only asking for a new tax, but also looking for funds within our current resources to dedicate to neighborhood streets and build new fire stations within the service gap areas, including:

- Cutting costs and tightening operations
- Prioritizing existing resources on critical services

More resources

- [Recording of the presentation](#)
- PowerPoint presentation
- [Community notes from the event](#)