

# CIP Guiding Principles

(August, 2014)

The City of Boulder develops a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that addresses the ongoing major business needs and maintenance and repair of city assets as well as enhancements and expansion called for in the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan. The CIP is a strategic document that assures that the municipal organization maintains a strong bond rating, implements community values, and has fiscal integrity. The city prioritizes its investments both across and within funds based on the following guiding principles:

- 1. Capital Improvement Programs should be consistent with and implement Council-accepted master plans and strategic plans.**
- 2. Capital Improvements should achieve Community Sustainability Goals:**
  - Environmental – sustainable materials, construction practices, renewable resources, etc.
  - Social – enhancements that improve accessibility to city services and resources provided to the community
  - Economic – effective and efficient use of public funds across the community.
- 3. As potential capital investments are identified, the city must demonstrate in the CIP process that there are sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project or program.**
- 4. Capital Improvement Programs should provide enough capacity and flexibility in our long-term planning to be able to respond to emerging, unanticipated needs.**
- 5. Capital Improvement Programs should maintain and enhance the supporting city-wide “business systems”, such as information and finance systems, for the city over the long term.**
- 6. Capital Improvement Programs should sustain or improve maintenance of existing assets before investing in new assets.**
- 7. Capital improvements should:**
  - Meet legal mandates from federal, state, or city levels
  - Maintain or improve public safety and security
  - Leverage external investments
  - Promote community partnerships
  - Reduce operating costs and improve efficiency.
- 8. Capital programming should maximize efficiency of investments demonstrated by measurable cost/benefit analyses and coordination of projects across departments within and across funds.**
- 9. The Capital Improvement Program should provide sufficient reserves to allow for a sound fiscal foundation with benefits that include:**
  - A strong bond rating
  - The ability to address emergencies and natural disasters.