

FY 2026-2027 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Austin Housing; Austin Transportation and Public Works (TPW)

CBQ NO.: 129

REQUESTED BY: (District 1) Natasha Harper-Madison

DATE REQUESTED: Monday, August 3, 2026 2:41 PM

DATE POSTED: Tuesday, August 11, 2026

REQUEST:

Please describe the criteria used to prioritize transit projects in high-growth areas with affordable housing developments. Include the role of grants, federal funding, and future bond programs in addressing these unmet infrastructure needs.

RESPONSE:

TPW prioritizes transit projects in high-growth areas with affordable housing by applying criteria rooted in the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (ETOD) analysis. We evaluate transit speed and reliability needs, safety improvements, displacement risk, access to jobs and services, and compatibility with existing and planned affordable housing. These priorities are shaped significantly by community input collected through extensive engagement across the city.

Federal and grant funding are critical components of our delivery strategy as well. TPW actively leverages grants and maintains a strong pipeline of competitive Federal and State grants such as Safe Streets for All, Reconnecting Communities, and Bridge Investment. Our partnership with both USDOT and TxDOT expands access to innovative financing tools like Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) and Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF), helping us accelerate transit-supportive infrastructure.

Local bond programs also remain key to addressing unmet infrastructure needs. The City's bond programs apply structured scoring frameworks to transit-supportive projects recommended within the ["Transit Enhancement Infrastructure Report"](#) emphasize community benefit, affordability, project readiness, long-term resilience, and impact to transit operations. These bond programs provide needed capital and allow TPW to leverage City dollars to pursue additional grant opportunities.