



COUNCIL MINUTES

April 6, 2026

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in the Study Session room at City Hall, 20 East Main Street, on April 6, 2026, at 4:45 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mark Freeman
Scott Somers
Rich Adams
Jennifer Duff
Francisco Heredia*
Dorean Taylor

COUNCIL ABSENT

Alicia Goforth

OFFICERS PRESENT

Scott Butler
Holly Moseley
Jim Smith

(*Participated in the meeting through the use of video conference equipment.)

Mayor Freeman conducted a roll call.

1. Review and discuss items on the agenda for the April 6, 2026, regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflict of interest: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: None

2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide direction on the Transportation Department budget.

Transportation Director Erik Guderian introduced Deputy Director Andrew Calhoun and displayed a PowerPoint Presentation. **(See Attachment 1)**

Mr. Guderian shared the Transportation Department's new public purpose statement, which closely aligns with their mission statement. He identified two key focus areas for the Transportation Department based on a 2022 proclamation by the Mayor and Council aimed at reducing fatal and serious injury crashes by 30% by 2030. (See Pages 2 and 3 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Guderian reported that the City's pavement condition index (PCI) is performing well above the target level, due to the significant investment Council and Management have made to the Transportation Department to preserve asphalt. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Guderian provided an update on the Streetlight LED Conversion project, stating approximately 400 fixtures are remaining in downtown with completion expected in June 2026. He stated that the City saved money by having the work performed by in-house staff. He explained that the City re-established an in-house concrete crew three years ago to improve response times for repairs, especially buckled sidewalks. He noted that repair times have improved from over 30 days to about 10 days, while also allowing staff to handle smaller projects and gain experience. (See Pages 5 and 6 of Attachment 1)

City Manager Scott Butler shared his appreciation for the Department's continued efforts to determine the most timely and cost-effective service, whether that be in-house or through contractors, noting that the best option can change depending on economic conditions.

Mr. Guderian added that while the City moved heavily toward contracted services about 20 years ago, recent contract trends have led them to reconsider whether in-house operations may now be more efficient.

Mr. Guderian highlighted the City's continued turf conversion efforts, especially along Dobson Road, replacing grass with low-water landscaping and improving irrigation systems. He commented that these projects have reduced water use and costs by about 80%, with only two turf locations remaining. (See Page 7 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Guderian described how the City receives \$800,000 to \$1 million annually from the Photo Safety program to fund traffic safety improvements near schools, parks, and pedestrian areas. He added, since 2020, the fund has supported smaller-scale safety projects that otherwise may not have been possible. He presented a list of projects that the City recently completed and projects that are in progress. (See Page 8 of Attachment 1)

Mayor Freeman emphasized that 100% of photo radar fine revenue is dedicated to safety-related projects throughout the city.

Mr. Butler clarified that these funds are not used to supplement the General or Transportation Fund, or operations budget, and are strictly reserved for transportation safety improvements that are identified by the Transportation Department as areas of high critical need.

Responding to a question from Mayor Freeman, Mr. Guderian explained that the City receives an annual allotment that is placed into a dedicated fund and later transferred into approved safety projects. He advised that the department meets quarterly to prioritize projects and currently has about a two-year backlog.

Mr. Guderian discussed the updates for the mill and re-pavement project for the entire downtown square mile over the next four years. He noted that the work begins in the northwest quadrant and will move counterclockwise, including not only new pavement but new striping plans to improve parking, bike lanes, and vehicle lane use. (See Page 9 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Guderian reviewed the funding sources for the Transportation Department, which operates largely through restricted funding sources that must be used for transportation purposes. He indicated that approximately 94% of funding comes from Mesa's Local Street Sales Tax (LSST) and Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF), both dedicated to street maintenance and construction. He noted 2% is derived from the Environmental Compliance Fee (EFC) that is

included on Mesa's utility bills used for some storm drain maintenance, with additional funds from photo safety revenue. He emphasized that there are limited General Funds and Utility Funds that flow through the Transportation Department for other departments. (See Page 10 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Calhoun discussed the expenditures for Fiscal Year (FY) 26/27, noting that Transportation has 184 authorized positions, but approximately 170 employees. He commented that most expenditures are for personnel and contracted services, with future analysis planned to compare in-house versus contract work. He noted that \$11.9 million is largely fleet-related costs and \$5 million is for utilities such as electricity and water for the City's assets. (See Page 11 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Calhoun provided an overview of Transportation's financial summary, stating that the department is not requesting any new employees or programs and will maintain current service levels. He reported that the proposed budget for FY 26/27 is \$58.9 million, which has increased from the FY 25/26 revised budget driven by contract costs, personnel step increases, operational costs for new projects, and \$650,000 transferred from lifecycle funds to cover landscape and tree maintenance. He emphasized that revenue is expected to remain stable, and the majority of transportation revenues come from temporary traffic control permit fees, and that revenues may taper off as fiber work declines. (See Page 12 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Calhoun explained that the Transportation Department was instructed to take its 2% reduction from the ECF funding source, amounting to \$25,000. He stated that savings from HURF funds will cover the reduction so that storm channel maintenance services are not impacted. (See Page 13 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Guderian provided an overview of the department's \$35 million annual lifecycle budget, and the majority of the funds go to the Street Overlay program. He commented that the City uses the budget to replace equipment and infrastructure that have reached the end of their useful life across various programs. (See Page 14 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Guderian introduced a proposed \$3 million annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for smaller active transportation projects, noting that Council had requested this type of program over the years. He mentioned that the fund would allow the City to address smaller community-requested projects more quickly rather than waiting several years for grants or bond funding. He added that the program is proposed as a three-year pilot funded through Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) reimbursements. (See Page 15 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Taylor, Mr. Guderian confirmed that active transportation refers to walking, biking, pathways, and any form of self-propelled travel.

Mr. Guderian reviewed the various stages of projects and associated costs, noting that one mile of canal path now costs approximately \$3 million, while pedestrian crossings can range from \$750,000 to \$1 million. He shared that the proposed funding could support several smaller projects annually and sought Council feedback before finalizing the CIP. (See Page 16 of Attachment 1)

City Manager Scott Butler clarified that the goal is to fund smaller-scale community projects that close a gap or fill a different need in the community without requiring a need for transportation bond funding which is needed for larger projects.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Adams, Mr. Guderian replied that most of the active transportation projects come directly from Councilmembers and residents, often through district concerns such as shared-use path connections or new crossings, making the process largely community-driven rather than staff-driven.

In response to multiple questions from Councilmember Taylor, Mr. Guderian explained that the consolidated canal is owned and maintained by Salt River Project (SRP), and the City enters into a license agreement with SRP to use one side of the canal for recreational purposes. He confirmed that any new amenities on the City's side, including lighting, would be provided and maintained by the City. He defined a traffic calming project as a project that involves improvements to street designs that reduces speed, such as speed humps, raised crosswalks or building medians in the roadway to slow traffic down.

Responding to an inquiry from Mayor Freeman, Mr. Guderian said the Transportation Department has a lot of turnover and plans to fill its vacancies. He advised that the specific reduction is \$25,000 from storm drain maintenance, which will be offset by savings from other areas within the department.

Discussion ensued regarding the base budget reduction of \$25,000.

Mayor Freeman thanked staff for the presentation.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

- 3-a. Education and Workforce Development Roundtable meeting held on December 3, 2025.
- 3-b. Planning and Zoning Board Meeting held on January 28, 2026.
- 3-c. Housing and Community Development Advisory Board meeting held on February 5, 2026.
- 3-d. Planning and Zoning Board Meeting held on February 25, 2026.

It was moved by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Duff, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Freeman–Somers–Adams–Duff–Heredia–Taylor

NAYS – None

ABSENT – Goforth

Mayor Freeman declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

4. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

Mayor Freeman and Councilmembers highlighted the events, meetings, and conferences recently attended.

5. Scheduling of meetings.

City Manager Scott Butler stated that the schedule of meetings is as follows:

Thursday, April 9, 2026, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, April 23, 2026, 8:00 a.m. – State of the City

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:22 p.m.




MARK FREEMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:


HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 6th day of April 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.


HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

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(Attachments – 1)



Transportation Department

April 6, 2026

Erik Guderian, Transportation Director
Andrew Calhoun, Deputy Director

Fiscal Year 2026/27



The Transportation Department exists to **plan, operate, and maintain Mesa's transportation network** to enhance its efficiency, reduce its safety risk, and promote its longevity to support quality development in Mesa.

PERFORMANCE**PLUS**

ENVISION . ELEVATE . IMPACT .

WHY WE EXIST

OUTCOMES-base of kpis

HOW WE ALIGN TO THE PRIORITIES

Income Areas

- Reduce safety risk
- Promote longevity and enhance efficiency



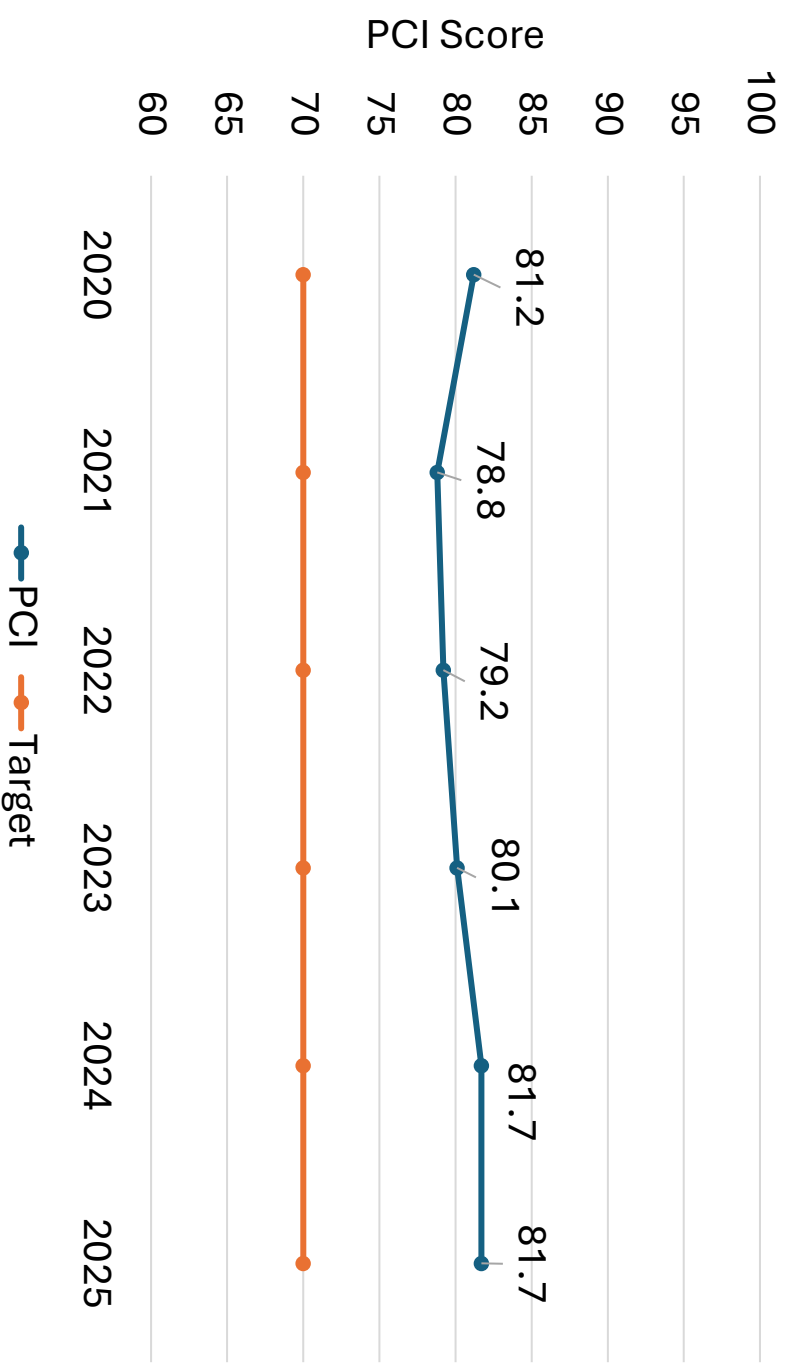
Performance Measure/KPI



Pavement Preservation



All Streets Pavement Condition Index (PCI)



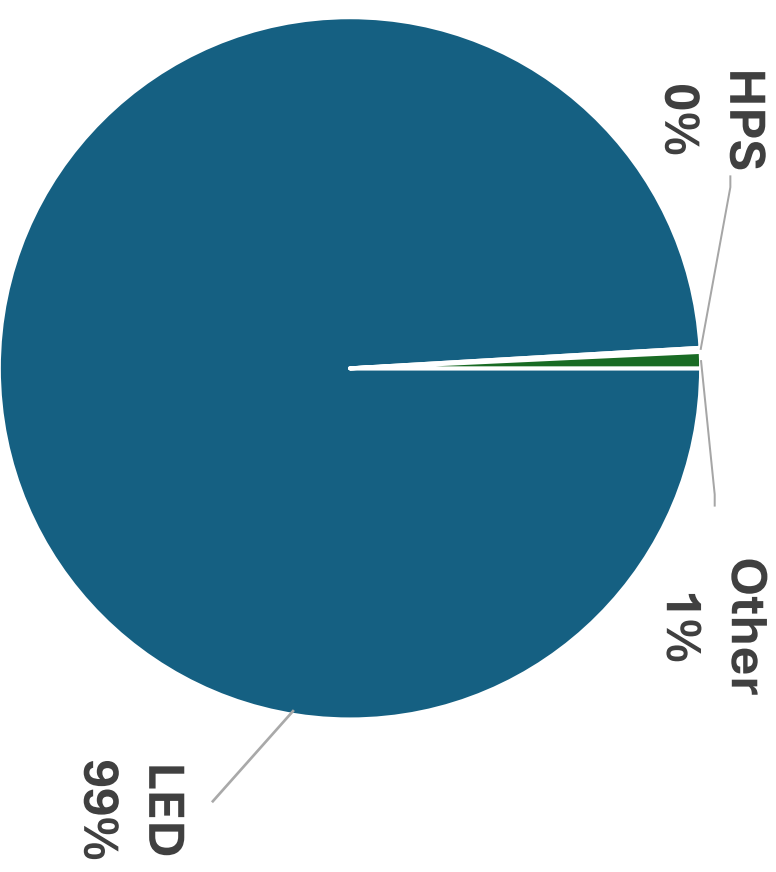
Performance Measure/KPI



Streetlight LED Conversion

45,445 converted, 427 remaining to convert

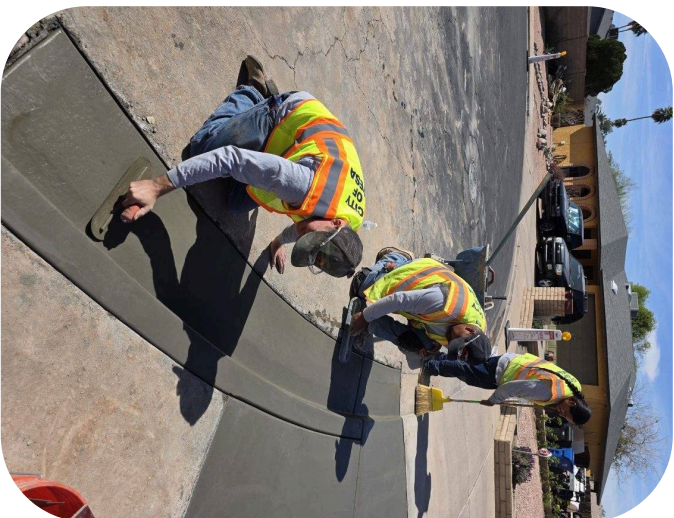
Expected date of completion: **June 2026**



accomplishment



In-House Concrete Crew



10
Days

- Average Response Time: 10 Days (In-House) vs. 30 Days (Contractor)
- Improved schedule control and resident response
- Direct oversight during placement and finishing

Landscape Refurbishment

Dobson Road: US60 and Guadalupe Rd – **Completed December 2025**



Highlights

79% reduction in water costs (Dobson Rd Project)

- ✓ Low-water landscaping
- ✓ Preserved healthy mature trees
- ✓ Stormwater catchment swales
- ✓ Upgraded irrigation system
- ✓ Smart controllers
- ✓ Decreased maintenance

Safety Projects – Photo Safety Reinvestment

Recently Completed

- ✓ **Gateway Library Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon**
(Nov 2025)
- ✓ **Extension Bike Lanes**
Baseline Rd → Main St (Dec 2025)
- ✓ **Hampton Bike Lanes & Pedestrian Crossing**
96th St → Signal Butte Rd (Dec 2025)
- ✓ **ITS Green Arrow Installations**
Phase 1 complete
Phase 2 begins March 2026
- ✓ **Westwood Raised Crosswalks**
University Dr & Rio Salado Pkwy (Dec 2025)



**Gateway Library
Pedestrian Hybrid
Beacon**

Funded – In Progress / Upcoming

- Dobson Rd Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon**
South of Broadway Rd (Est. June 2026)
- Stapley Dr Sidewalks**
South of Main St, west side (Summer 2026)
- May & Ella ADA Improvements**
Est. Summer 2026
- Beverly & 2nd St Enhanced Crosswalk**
Design starts Spring 2026
- Horne RRFB @ Consolidated Canal**
Est. March 2026

coming

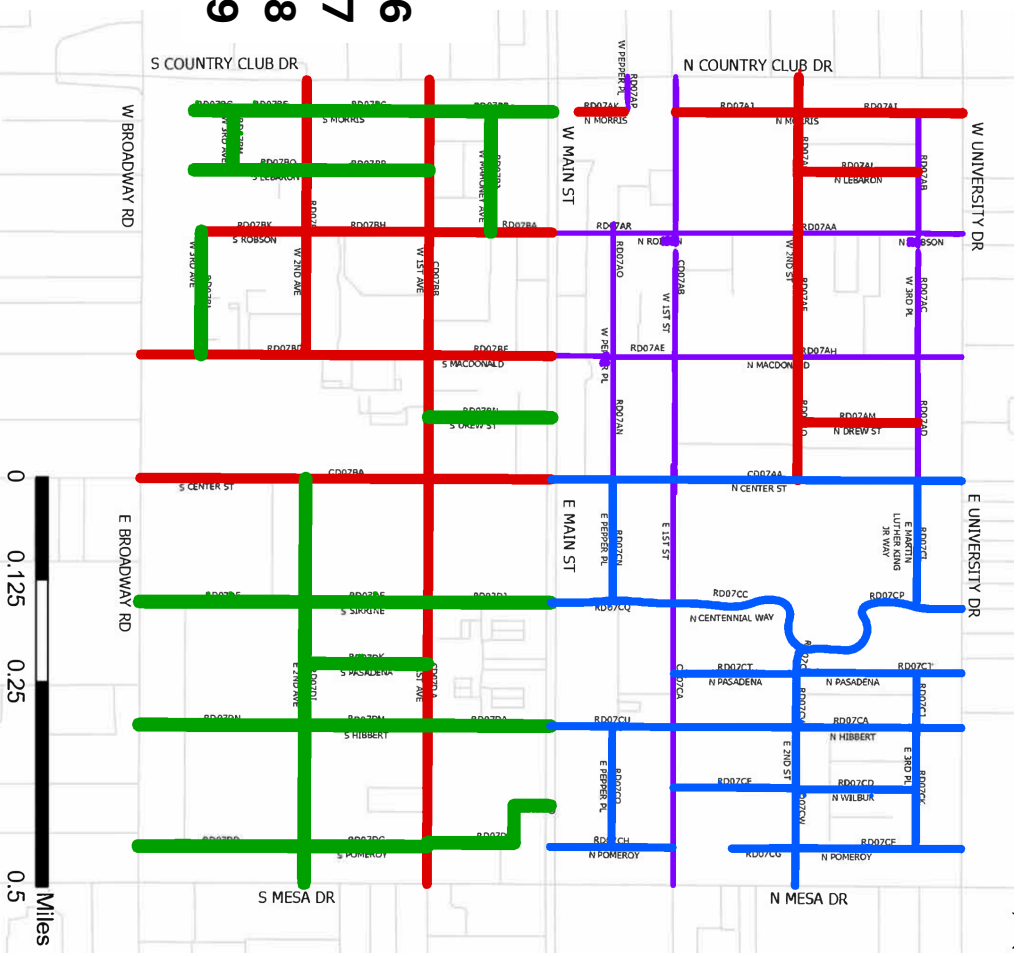
Downtown Mesa Mill and Overlay Project

- Four-year program to mill and pave all City streets within the downtown Mesa area (1 sq. mi.)
- Includes targeted concrete curb repairs and ADA upgrades where needed
- Coordinated with improvements identified in the Downtown Micromobility and Parking Study

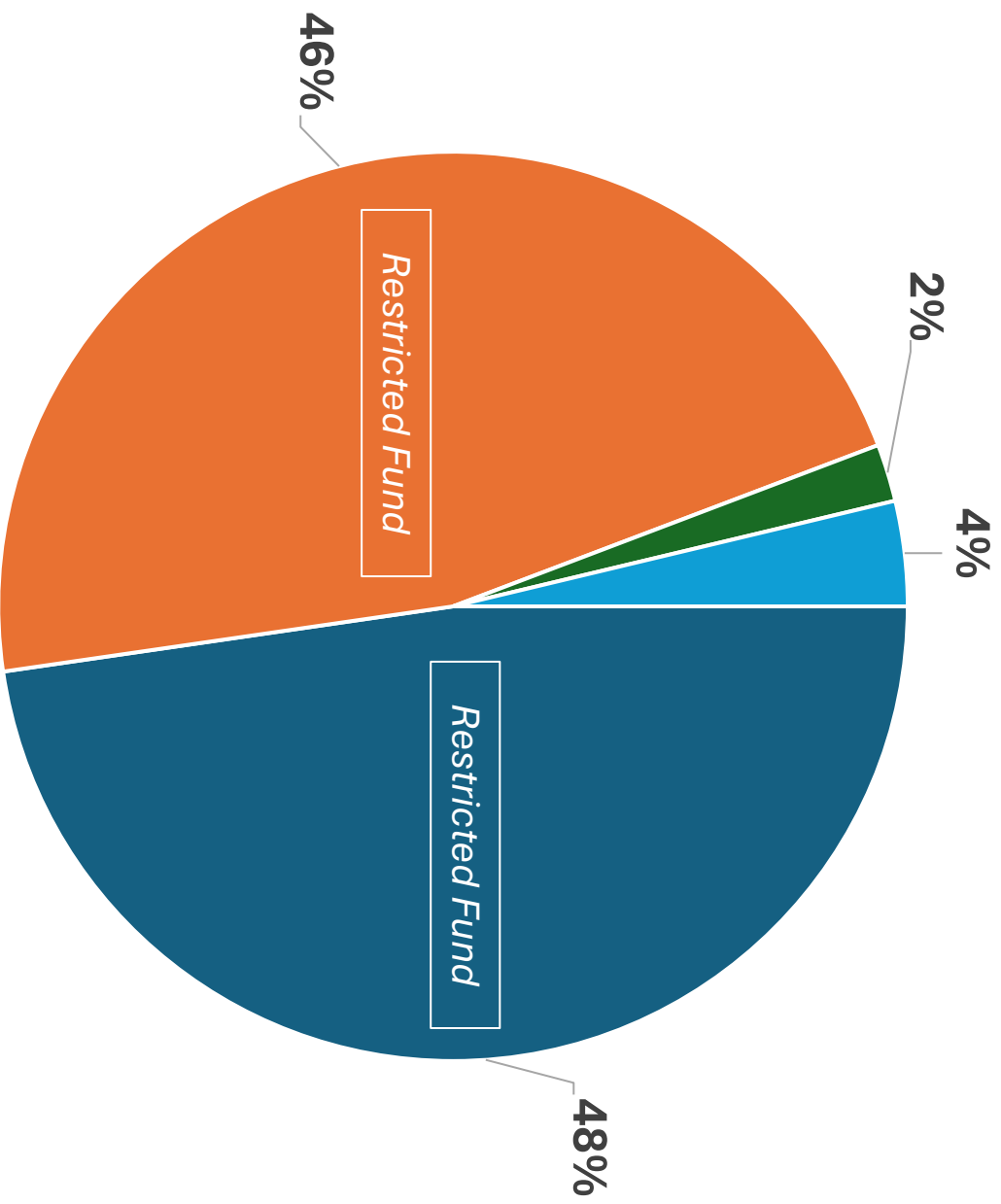
FY 25/26 = \$6,000,000
FY 26/27 = \$5,925,000
FY 27/28 = \$4,950,000
FY 28/29 = \$5,250,000

Legend

- █ FY 25/26
- █ FY 26/27
- █ FY 27/28
- █ FY 28/29

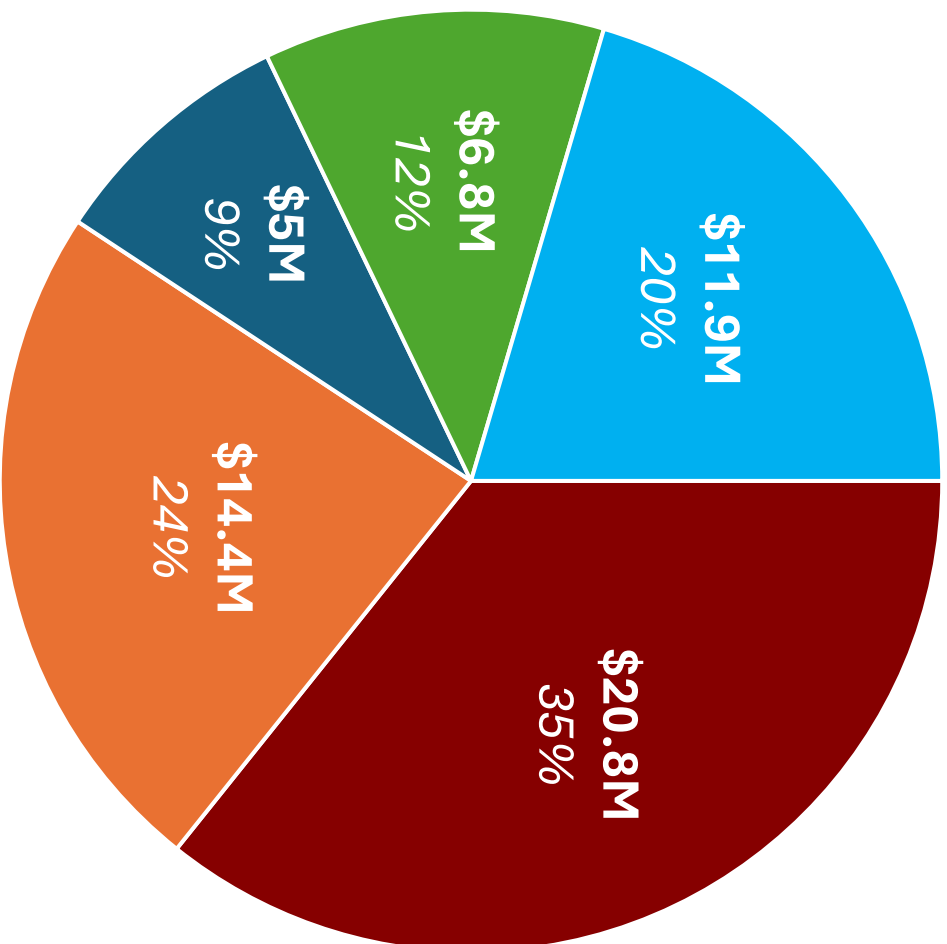


26/27 Operational Funding Sources



- Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF)
- Local Streets Sales Tax (LSST)
- Environmental Compliance Fee (ECF)
- Other

26/27 Operating Expenditures



- Personal Services
- Contractual Services
- Utilities
- Commodities
- Other Services

Department Financial Summary



Core Business Process	FY 24/25 Year End Actuals	FY 25/26 Revised Budget	FY 25/26 Year End Estimate	FY 26/27 Proposed Budget
Expenditures				
Field Operations	\$41.9	\$46.9	\$45.7	\$48.8
Traffic Engineering	\$9.0	\$9.7	\$9.5	\$10.1
Total	\$50.9	\$56.6	\$55.2	\$58.9
Revenues				
Field Operations	\$0.2	\$0.6	\$0.3	\$0.2
Traffic Engineering	\$5.9	\$5.5	\$5.5	\$5.6
Total	\$6.1	\$6.1	\$5.8	\$5.8

Figures in millions, rounded

se Budget Reduction



Ranking	Adjustment	FTE	Ongoing	Fund
1	Personal Services and Contracted Services	0	-\$25,426	Environmental Compliance Fee

Recycle Programs



\$35M Annually

- Street Overlay Program
- Storm Channels Maintenance and Repair
- Streetlight LED Conversion Project
- Transportation Landscape Improvements
- Rusted Streetlight Pole Replacements
- ADA Improvements
- Citywide Sidewalk Improvements
- CCTV Replacements
- Irrigation System upgrades
- ITS Field Equipment Upgrade
- Signalized Intersection ADA Improvement
- Traffic Signal Controller Cabinet Replacement
- Streetlight Spot Improvement
- Traffic Signals – New and Upgrade
- Traffic Calming Projects

Annual Active Transportation Projects



Funding Sources

Transportation Fund - \$3,000,000 Annually

FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30	FY 30/31
\$3.0M	\$3.0M	\$3.0M	TBD	TBD

Lifecycle Program Description

Description: Annual program that identifies, plans, designs and constructs new active transportation facilities, focusing on closing critical gaps in the regional active transportation network.

Council District: Citywide

Council Priority: Community Health & Safety

Projected O&M Cost

One-Time: TBD Ongoing: TBD

Project Start Dates

Design: On-Going Construction: On-Going



Annual Active Transportation Projects



Recent Projects Completed

- Hampton Ave Bike Lanes - \$300K
- Westwood Raised Crosswalks - \$600K
- Mesa Dr & Consolidated Canal Signal - \$400K

Other Projects Under Design

- Dobson Rd Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon - \$750K
- Beverly & 2nd St Enhanced Crosswalks - \$300K
- Las Sendas Pedestrian Crossings - \$1.5M

Examples of Future Projects

Under \$3.0 M

- 1 Mile of Shared Use Path
- Eastern Canal Shared Use Path – Lindsay to McKellips
- Thomas Road Bike Lanes – Higley to Power Rd
- Eastmark Pkwy Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon @ Paladium