



Attachment B – Plans for Community Forum and Goal-Setting

2025-27 Financial Plan

Community Forum

A cornerstone of the community engagement process is the Community Forum (Forum) where the community can engage in person and give voice to the desired programs and initiatives for the City Council to consider as part of the Major City Goal plans. The forum is intended to solicit feedback from residents, community groups, stakeholders, and interested individuals on tasks and projects to support the priorities identified through the Community Priorities Survey. The Forum is also intended to meet requirements of the City's local sales tax ordinance to hold an annual community forum by providing an opportunity for the Revenue Enhancement Oversight Commission (REOC) to receive input on the use of the revenue generated by the Local Revenue Measure¹.

The Community Forum is scheduled for January 23, 2025, from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Ludwick Community Center. There will be a supervised children's room for ages 4+ and the bike valet will be on site for those who choose to bike to the Forum. Bilingual staff will be available at the Forum to help translate for Spanish-speaking community members.

This year's Forum will be led by internal staff instead of an external facilitator to promote cost efficiency and foster trust through consistent communication. A third-party consultant will facilitate the goal-setting workshop as has occurred in past financial planning processes to provide specialized expertise.

The forum will feature a presentation from staff and leadership, followed by an interactive breakout session and a chance for public comment. During the breakout session, attendees will have the opportunity to visit various stations, engage with staff, and participate in interactive prioritization of tasks and projects. Staff recommends limiting the number of stations to no more than nine, aligned with the current Major City Goals and the priorities identified in the Community Priorities Survey (see Attachment A in the Council Agenda Report). The proposed stations include:

1. Homelessness
2. Infrastructure and Sustainable/Multi-model Transportation
3. Downtown Vitality
4. Housing
5. Climate Action and Open Space
6. Fiscal Sustainability (including use of Local Revenue Measure funds)
7. Public Safety
8. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
9. Other/ New Ideas

¹ Code 2.14.040(D), Annual Citizen Oversight Meeting: *The REOC shall hold an annual community services and investment measure community forum for the purpose of taking input from residents and community members on preferences for the use of the revenues generated by the community services and investment tax.*

Staff with expertise in each selected topic will be present at the breakout areas to answer questions, discuss the City's current initiatives, and gather feedback on potential new items to include in the work plan. Each topic area will feature a list of proposed projects or work program efforts tied to the identified priority. Community members will have the opportunity to rank these items digitally through their phones and view the rankings in real-time. They may also suggest and rank any additional they or other communities have. Staff will assist individuals who are unable to use the digital process or would prefer to hand-write their responses.

A finalized list of proposed tasks and projects for each station will be published one week before the Community Forum, allowing the public time to brainstorm their responses. For those unable to attend in person, feedback can be submitted via email at communityforum@slocity.org and will be incorporated into the results from the forum.

Staff recognizes that some projects may overlap across multiple priorities. For instance, an active transportation project might align with both "Infrastructure" and "Climate Action." While these stations are not designed to be an exact science, they aim to provide community members an opportunity to share their perspectives on what programs or projects are most important to them.

The insights gathered from the forum will be used by the Council during the Goal-Setting Workshop to establish the City's Major City Goals for the 2025-27 Financial Plan.

Draft Forum Agenda

5:30-6:00 **Individuals Welcomed at the Door**

1. *Agenda with instructions on how to participate*
2. *Ice Breaker Dot-Exercise*
3. *Booths are staffed to allow individuals to begin pre-conversations with staff*
4. *Informational flyers about various aspects of the City are available.*

6:00-6:10 **Welcome by Mayor**

6:10-6:15 **City Manager's Opening Comments**

6:15-6:35 **2025-27 Financial Plan Process by Finance Director**

6:35-6:45 **Presentation on Themes from Pre-Survey and Instructions for Forum**

6:45-7:45 **Open House/Workshop with Breakout Stations**

7:45-8:15 **Reconvene for Public Comment**

1. *Attendees will be encouraged to post all ideas and concepts during the open house/workshop and do not need to stay for public comment.*
2. *Members of public who desire to directly address the Council and REOC or elaborate on an idea or concept will complete public comment cards and indicate the topic.*
 - a. *Where a group has several members present, we encourage them to select a spokesperson and have others in their group indicate support for the same position with a show of hands.*

8:15-8:30 **Closing Remarks & Adjournment**

Goal-Setting Workshop and Council Pre-work

Based on the feedback and input received, Councilmembers will be asked to complete some pre-work by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, for consideration during the Goal-Setting

Workshop on February 8, 2025. Templates and specific instructions for Councilmembers will be distributed via Council correspondence in early January. This pre-work will involve submitting proposed edits to existing goals, suggesting new goals, and recommending adjustments to current programs and services to help meet the City's priorities.

Without identifying who submitted the statements, staff will compile the feedback, compose lists, and organize feedback by common topics. The lists will be distributed to all Councilmembers and made available to the community by the close of business on Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

Based upon pre-work submittals provided by the Councilmembers, the facilitator will guide the Council in discussion of the goals by category and the relationship of those goals to current projects and services. The discussion intends to capture tangible steps that can be taken in the next two years to get closer to reaching overarching goals. Because the City anticipates tighter financial constraints in the coming years, the discussion of goals and work plan items will likely be different from previous budget cycles and goal-setting workshops that supported service expansions. The Goal-Setting Workshop will provide the City Council with an opportunity to collaborate on prioritizing the use of existing resources to align with the services most valued by the community.

The outcome of the goal-setting workshop will help guide staff's development of the draft budget which will be presented to Council in April 2025.

City Council Guidance

Staff is seeking input and guidance from the City Council relative to the upcoming Community Forum and Goal Setting Workshop.