STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Meeting, Thursday, February 29, 2024, with nine members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; Burns, Commissioner Second District; Hill, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Lopez, Commissioner Sixth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District and Mayor Pro Tem; presiding. Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO; were absent. The following officials were also in attendance: David Johnston, County Administrator; Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator; Angela Lawson, Interim Chief Counsel; Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director; Tanner Stark, Asset Manager for Public Works; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; Troy Shaw, County Engineer; John Kelly, Director of Buildings & Logistics; and Monica Sparks, Interim Unified Government Clerk.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs said before I call the meeting to order I want to announce that we do have individuals attending remotely as well as on-site. All participants joining by phone, should please mute your phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, make sure you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is participating knows exactly who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is also current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General's Office. I would also like to remind, especially here on the 5th floor, that you please be sure to speak loudly and clearly into the microphone to ensure that your comments are being captured by the Clerk for an accurate record of the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Burns, Hill, Kane, Lopez, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Townsend, Burroughs.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be conducted in a hybrid format on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the fifth floor conference room of the Municipal Office Building for an Update on Capital Improvement Projects. Immediately following there will be an Executive Session in the 5th floor conference room regarding Litigation.

CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

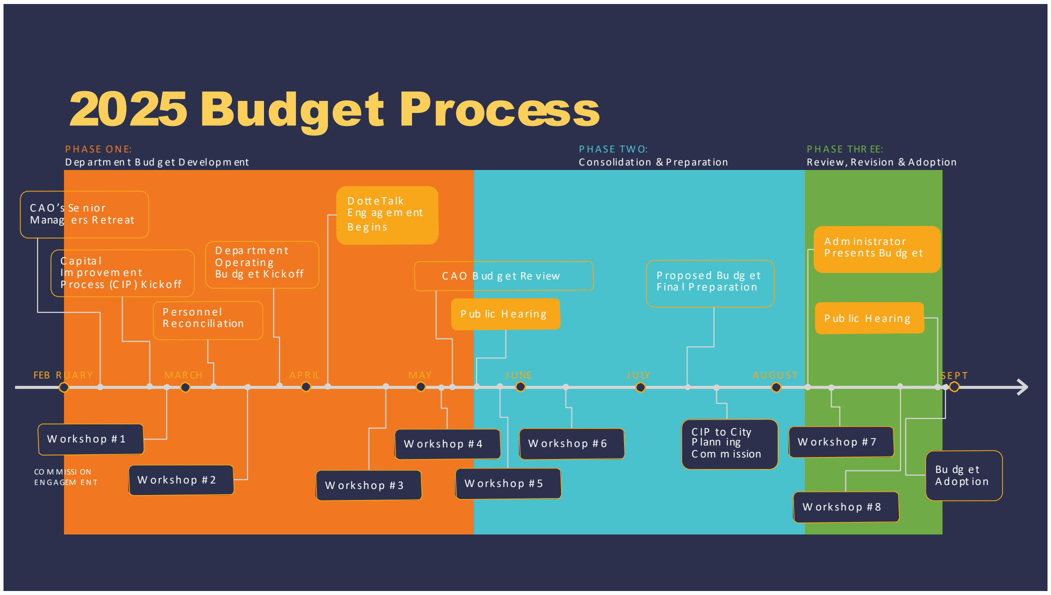
Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs said tonight we are here to hear an update on our Capital Improvement Projects and immediately following the update we will adjourn to Executive Session. I'll ask our County Administrator, David Johnston, if he has any opening remarks.

David Johnston, County Administrator, said as always at the start of our budget process we give you an overview of what we envision being included at the final recommendation in the budget and I'll call Jeff to lead this discussion.

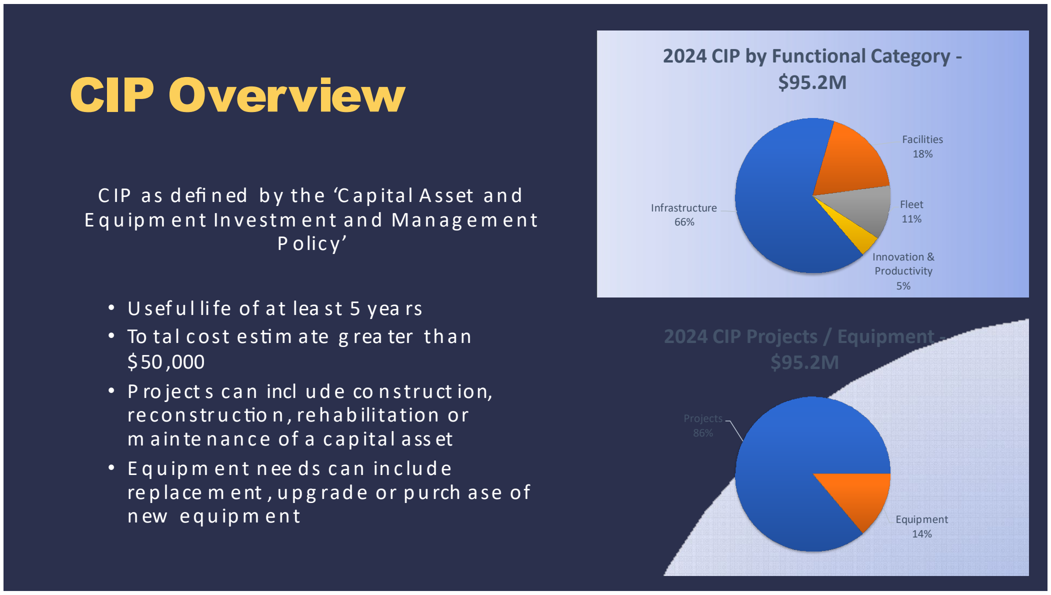
Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works, said much of this presentation is going to be very familiar to several of you that have been through this several times. We also did meet with the new commissioners last week and ran through this briefly. As you know, this is a key part of any city's financial plan. It's a short-term Five-Year Capital Improvement Program, describes the major investments in the community over the next five years.

Before we get started I'm going to introduce Reggie Lindsey that everybody knows, our Budget Director; and Tanner Stark is our new Asset Manager, and he's going to play a part in this and I encourage you to be nice to him since it's his first time, but he's going to do a great job.

So, Five-Year Capital Improvement Program, I would say most, if not all cities, have some form of this. The process is supposed to include the Planning Commission, which we have visited with the Planning Commission already. There will be another session with them as we work with the elected body on the Capital Improvement Program. We work closely with Planning, Budget, and Public Works to develop this and then there are several people in the room that are important to implementing the CIP to support this. I'm going to hand it over to Reggie real quick so he can highlight the process ahead of us.



Reggie Lindsey, Budget Director, said earlier this week we kicked off our 2024-2029 CIP process and what we'll be doing in that process is going through and allowing departments to submit their Capital Improvement Projects and also equipment. It will be about a three to four month process, so this is kind of where we kicked it off right here and we'll move through all three phases of our budget process. We have the department budget and development process and then we have a consolidation and preparation. Within this part, consolidation and preparation, what we'll do is work the Capital Improvement process internally where we'll have departments, the County Administrator Office, and then also we'll have internal core groups, which are internal committees that'll help make decisions on Capital Improvement Projects. After we go through that process in Phase Two we'll bring the completed CIP back to the Commission in May and then we'll get you all's input to see what projects we have in there if there's something you're looking for that did not make it in there. Also, once we go through that with you all and do an analysis on it, we also take it to our Planning Commission, so it will go to our Planning Commission two times and that will happen in the months of August and July and then we'll bring it back, the Capital Improvement Plan, in our final proposed budget document that David Johnston will present on August 8th.

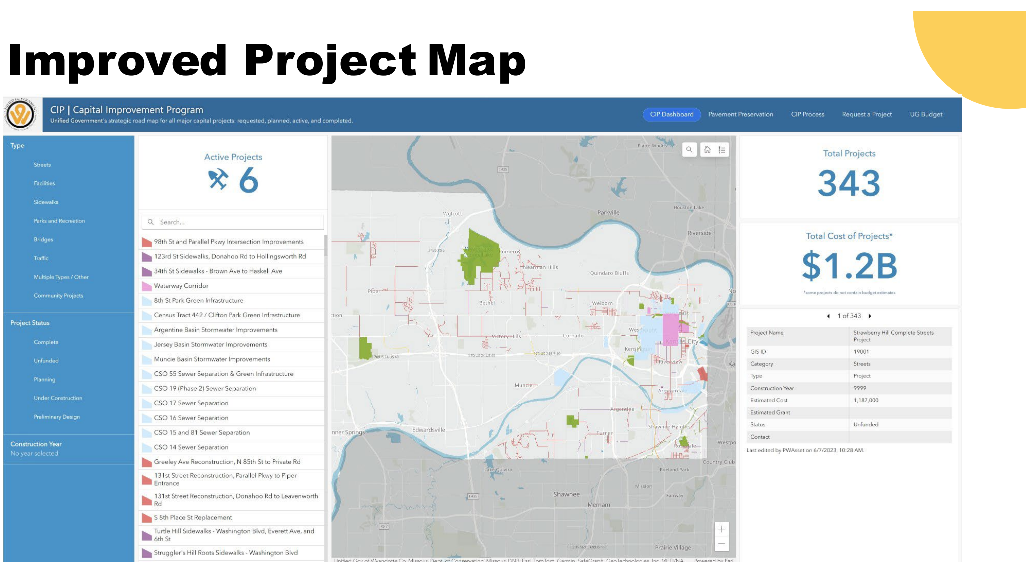


We just kind of break down an overview of CIP. So, CIP is defined as anything with a useful life of five years and also has a total estimate cost of $50K and they include projects that include construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation and maintenance of capital assets and then also includes equipment. So, all the vehicles and everything that we have going around the city including fire apparatus, Sheriff vehicles, Street vehicles, and also Police vehicles are included in the equipment.

Just to kind of give you an idea of the numbers for dollar amounts for CIP, it's $95M is what we're spending on CIP in our 2024 Budget currently, so that's about 21% of our $467M budget. To further break that down $81M of it is projects and then $13M of it consist of equipment. I'll turn it back over to our Public Works Director Jeff Fisher.

Mr. Fisher said I want to say Reggie and his team over the last three or four years has really done a lot of work to improve our process for developing the CIP. They've done some excellent work. We really appreciate them. As we've talked about before, we've worked hard to build an objective data driven process that also builds in transparency. I think that has worked well. It is a work in progress each year. We continue to look for ways to improve this. We know as of a few weeks ago the County Administrator shared four priorities for the organization to operate from, infrastructure, economic development, fiscal sustainability, and communications customer service, so we're thinking about those things now as we work through these processes. That's really helpful to us.

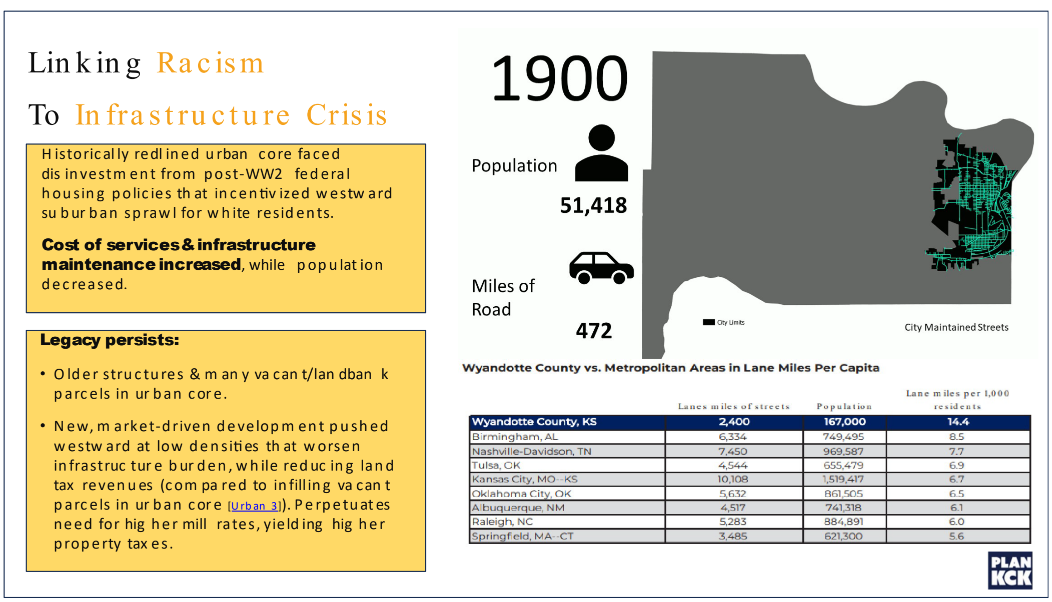
We know also that we've always talked about, you know, as much as we want to be data driven and objective about how the organization invests in infrastructure and assets. There's also a human element in developing it and in the elected body's decision-making process and that's important and also how the public engages in the process.



You might recall the UG has developed this interactive map that's out there for the public so this goes a long ways to building transparency. They can get in there and take a look at what the work is going on, what's happened in the past, what's going forward and then also citizens can actually get in here and request a project be considered. We believe that's really helped building trust in the community and transparency. I know I'm missing something here, but I can't remember.

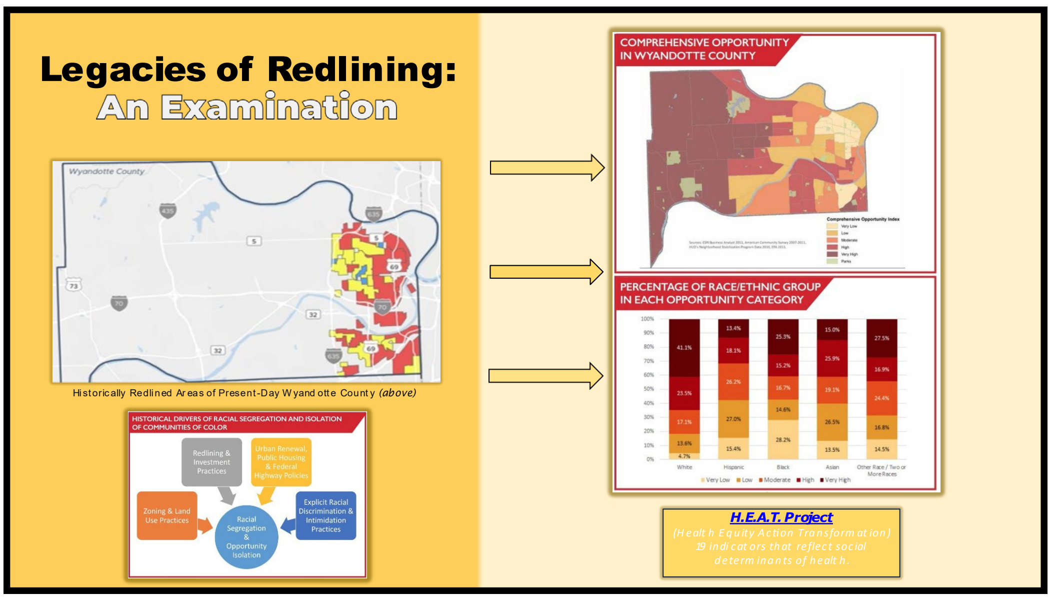
Tanner, being the Asset Manager, is going to remind you kind of the scoring and ranking of the process, how we've done that. Before he gets started, a little story. A few years ago I was invited to an event at one of the churches in the northeast and the discussion was about the historic redlining and the generational impacts as a result of that and so I walked away thinking in our CIP how do we—is there things we can do to recognize that past and ensure that there's equity in the investment throughout the city. So, I asked the team to explore that and they've been working on it for about a year and we had some really talented folks working on that. They made a presentation to the Planning Commission a few weeks ago about this. We've abbreviated that for the purposes of this discussion and solicited some feedback from the elected body on that. I'm going to let Tanner take it from there.

Tanner Stark, Asset Manager for Public Works, said as he mentioned, I'm just kind of jumping onboard here late in the game, but I'll do my best to convey the spirit of the project and keep moving it forward. So, really we have a couple of visions here. Back at the end of '22 the Commission's Mission Statement was to have an equitable, healthy and prosperous future. Additionally, here from Plan KCK, you can see there's an aim to transcend a legacy of inequity and disinvestment in the past to realize an accessible, regenerative and healthy future. In Public Works we take pride in having a culture of continuous improvement, so in that spirit we wanted to make sure that our CIP aligned with those visions.



	Lanes miles of streets	Population	Lane miles per 1,000 residents
Wyandotte County, KS	2,400	167,000	14.4
Birmingham, AL	6,334	749,495	8.5
Nashville-Davidson, TN	7,450	969,587	7.7
Tulsa, OK	4,544	655,479	6.9
Kansas City, MO--KS	10,108	1,519,417	6.7
Oklahoma City, OK	5,632	861,505	6.5
Albuquerque, NM	4,517	741,318	6.1
Raleigh, NC	5,283	884,891	6.0
Springfield, MA--CT	3,485	621,300	5.6

First, we'll start by just taking a quick examination of the legacy of inequity. There on the bottom right we have a table of lane miles per resident, which is inordinately high and there's a lot of factors there, but on the left we kind of touch on because of post-World War II Federal Housing Policies. White flight, there was incentivized westward suburban sprawl, so you've got way more lane miles than less total residence, so you're going to have a higher cost of service for a similar level of service and really you'd probably expect to see that in the sewer collections network as well.



In a similar vein, on the left side you have a map of historically redlined areas in Kansas City, Kansas and on the right side you have a map from the H.E.A.T. Project and that was a study that was done a few years back. I think it's Health Equity Action Transformation and identified 19 criteria that were good social determinants of health and so that's mapped out there on that index and it's not hard to look at the correlation and see how they relate and so that also plays into that legacy of disinvestment and equity.

Examples of Potential Biases

Population Served

As residential population estimates. Devalues communities most impacted, underserved, & excluded from political/planning processes.

Commerce

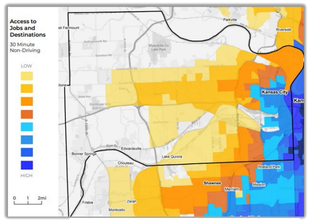
Devalues communities with barriers to retail (e.g., Northeast KCK, despite high population density [Countywide Market Study]) & under-resourced communities with less available income. Related racial disparities include: renters who are extremely cost-burdened & must devote most income to housing/utilities [31.2% Black renters vs. 17.2% of white renters; WyCo 2022 Community Health Assessment].

Community Sites

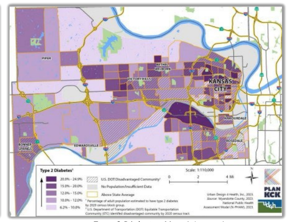
As the number of destinations that fall into several categories (e.g., grocery stores, healthcare clinics). Devalues communities (e.g., Northeast KCK) who endure scarcities of key amenities.

Safety

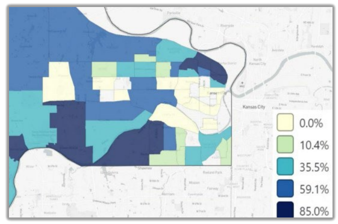
(Currently curated) as *traffic safety/crash data*, which is often underreported for marginalized communities (Vision Zero) despite how these communities are more likely to experience crashes & more severely impacted by them.



Access to Opportunity Map *(GoDotte Mobility Plan)*



Type 2 Diabetes Map *(Plan KCK)*



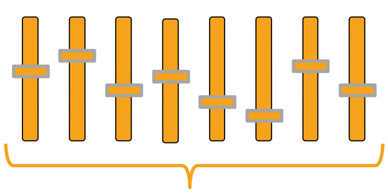
More than 1 mile from a Grocery Store Map *(USDA ERS Food Access Research Atlas, 2019)*

One of the first tasks our group undertook over the course of the year was just to examine existing criteria, re-evaluate them, make sure they were reasonable. Something that stood out to me that I hadn't thought about before was we have a criteria for Commerce, so something that is an area that serves Commerce is going to score highly. You also have areas, for instance, there in the bottom there's a map of areas that are more than one mile from a grocery store, so if you're in that area and you're not close to commerce or grocery store, then you're going to score low on Commerce, so it's definitely something to think about.

Criteria and Weights: A New Category?

Revisit the criteria & weights every two years:

Reassess & formalize our shared values



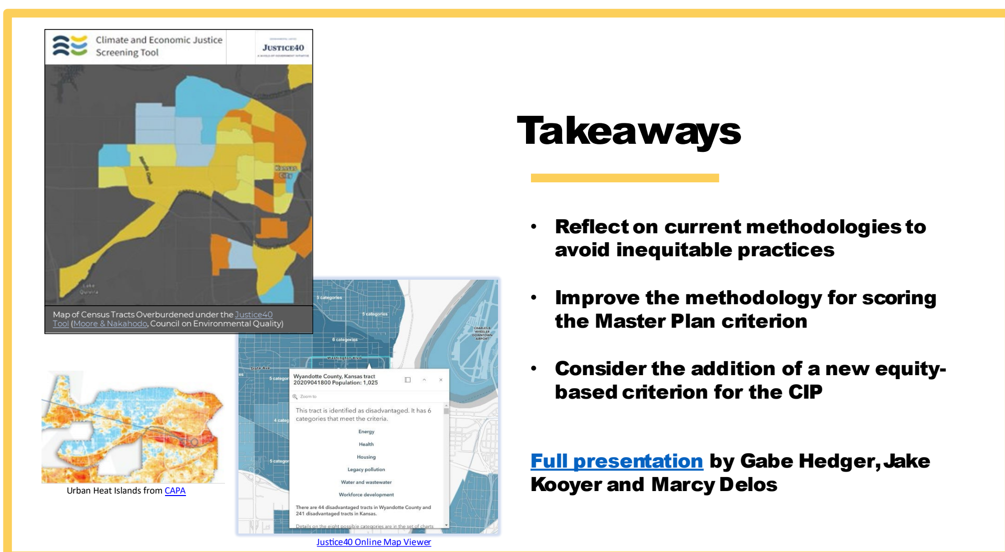
New proposed CIP criterion

Given what our communities have voiced throughout PlanKCK & other planning/engagement efforts (e.g., Health Dept.'s community conversations around systemic racism), as well as insights across assessments & studies

Capital Criteria	Previous	2022 Update
Costs: Futre O&M	14	14
Return on Investment (ROI)	13	13
Infrastructure Condition	12	12
Population Served	10	10
Safety	9	10
Master Plans	**8**	**9**
Community Sites	8	7
Capacity Needs	8	7
Commerce	6	6
Coordination: Internal/External	6	6
Predictable Project Timing and Scope	6	6

(Modifications in yellow: input from Planning Commission & the Board of Commissioners' Public Works Standing Committee increased weighting of Master Plan & Safety criteria)

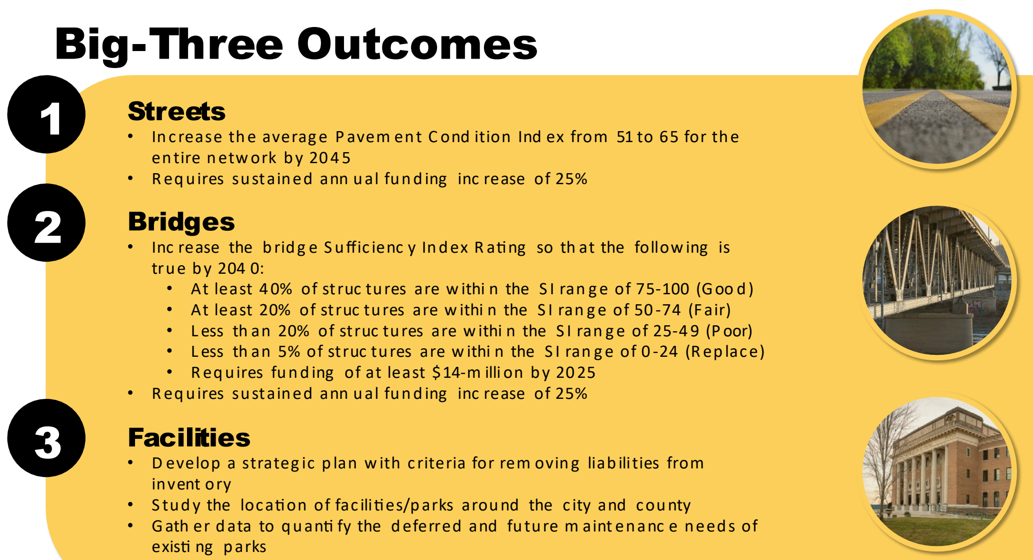
This is kind of a more broad overview of our criteria as they exist right now. You'll see the criteria in yellow on the right, are the criteria that were changed in 2022 weight wise, so master plans and safety increased in the weight for the scoring community sites and capacity needs were—they declined slightly. So, part of the project—we also explored the idea of a new criteria altogether, perhaps an equity based criteria and with that being the case just bear in mind if we go that direction, you would have to come up with a reasonable weight for that, that you would score it and then you would have to adjust the other weights as well so that they continue to add up to 100 to fit into our formula.



Actually the map on the top left and the bottom right, that's from the Justice 40 Initiative and so the Justice 40 Initiative stipulates that 40% of certain federal investments have to go to areas of disadvantage and so we actually use that mapping from the federal government on some of our grant applications, I believe, so that would be an example of a good tool you could use in something like an equity category. In the bottom left I included an Urban Heat Index Map from CAPA, which was done a couple years ago I think for both Johnson County and Wyandotte County and that's something I think that could also maybe play into that.

To sum up the work that we did over the last year, we reflected on current methodologies to avoid inequitable practices. We came up with ideas to improve the methodology for scoring the master plan criterion and we explored the possibility of adding a brand new equity based criterion for the CIP and my predecessors put together a much bigger, more thorough deep dive into the subject, so if it's something that interests you and you want to take a closer look, follow that link there and like I said, it's just much more comprehensive.

Mr. Fisher said thank you Tanner. So the point of that is to share with you that Public Works, Planning, Budget we're looking into these matters and we got some feedback from the Planning Commission and any feedback we get from the elected body tonight we'll go back and explore this further and hone in on things that we believe will be beneficial to the decision-making process and present those findings at a later time even if it's this fall because we definitely want to—if we find things that we believe we want to build in like new criteria, that we want to test it, I also believe Tanner wants to test the existing criteria based on latest information, latest data. So, again, it's a work in progress. We're going to continue to build on that.



I also want to remind the elected body we have the outcomes and strategies document that the elected body put a lot of time into and then adopted a resolution. The spirit of that was to revisit that annually, measure progress, updated if needed in the budget process, and so we're always ready to do that. I know most of you are familiar with the highlights of that, so I won't go through that in great detail.

We hope that the improvements that we continue to make to the CIP process build in objectivity data driven approach and transparency and that will always be staff's goals in the CIP process along with just making sure you have an informed decision-making process. That's all we have.

Commissioner Bynum said thanks for the presentation and the new look at how we go about doing our business. I would first ask that if you haven't shared the outcomes document with the new commissioners, that we make sure that they have that document and I have some kind of nuts and bolts questions. The first one is to your last page, if you don't mind answering some questions about where we are with some of these really big projects that your department is tasked with tackling starting with the two bridges. If you don't mind, just giving us those updates real quick. One is a grant application in the hands of the federal government and the other one is a grant that is going to be submitted if I'm not mistaken.

Mr. Fisher said right. We actually have three different grant efforts, Kansas Avenue Bridge that we know we were not awarded in this last grant cycle through the Mega Grant. We are pursuing that again. I believe the application will probably be due by May or June like it was last year. KCMO's partnership on that is important and we'll continue to attempt to garner that support, so we'll make that application again this year.

The Central Avenue Bridge, we're pursuing the RAISE Grant. That is preceded by a Planning Grant. I think we submitted that last week or early this week and so we'll go through a planning exercise that will also include some design and if awarded, that would put us in a very good position for construction monies later.

We also have another program that I think it is called the BIP that we're putting application in for that would help us with a fairly large package of smaller structures. Considering how far we are behind in our sort of overall bridge program, if we were successful with all three of those, it would be huge for this community going forward.

Commissioner Bynum said my second question is going back to the project map. We know that we have prior year projects that were planned for, but didn't occur, so were they budgeted for and is that money being held—maybe Reggie can help. You know you have neighborhoods, for example, where we had said in 2021 or 2022 we're going to do a grind and overlay of this entire neighborhood, but the project didn't happen and we budgeted for it I assume. So, are we holding that funding within that year's budget, but we will eventually—you know, how does that impact the projects that we say we want to get done this year when we clearly have like a backlog of prior year payment improvement projects that didn't get completed?

Mr. Lindsey said it depends on if it's a debted project or if it's a cash project. If it's a cash project and it hasn't been spent, there is the option for us to move that funding forward, but it is something that we look at. Sometimes all of them don't move forward if it's a cash project. If it's a debt project, it kind of depends on the authorization and what year it was in and if we decide we want to authorize that debt. We are in the process now of looking at like projects that might not have been completed in 2022, what will be the fate of those projects as far as if they'll move forward or if the debt will be authorized on them.

Mr. Fisher said if you don't mind, our County Engineer is ready to jump in.

Troy Shaw, County Engineer, said we've had this conversation with Budget and I'll speak specifically to the mill and overlays because that's an annual, it happens every year. It's easy to talk about it through that lens. Historically our practice was we get the money let's say in 2021, it's obligated in January, we didn't spend it or we didn't obligate it even until the end of the year because we bid projects—tried to bid projects at the end of the year because then you get better prices if you bid them over the winter and contractors are ready to go around the next year, so historically our mill and overlays have always been a year behind when the funding was obligated. So, this past year we've started, from direction from Commission and Budget, it's like no, we need those spent and obligated the year that they're let out so we've started trying to get those back and you'll see us get caught up this year. We've actually bid the project out for last year and we're getting ready to bid the one for this year coming up already, so we're trying to get—that was just—we're catching up on previous practices, we're changing them as we go, so there's a couple year lag. The year that our project was called the 2021 Mill and Overlay usually didn't happen until '22 or '23 just because of when we bid it versus when the budget was obligated. You'll start to see that change this year and next year too.

Commissioner Bynum said okay and so a couple things because one of my questions was kind of from a practical standpoint, should there be a year of catch up, you know, catching up on the projects, but it sounds like you're saying—**Mr. Shaw** said all the funds that were dedicated for the projects that they're dedicated for from a mill and overlay perspective are going to get done. They are getting done. That money is still there. Actually Reggie just worked with—we worked with Reggie's budget team to help us get that money rolled over quickly this year, so they did a great job helping us with that so that we could bid the new project out now and get that caught up this year is the goal. It will still be lagging because we're slowing catching up, but I would say by next year we should be bidding the next year '25 project. It should be ready to go the minute spring rolls around of '25 to start construction. **Commissioner Bynum** asked, are the prices stabilizing at all or is everything just continuing to go up? **Mr. Shaw** said it's better. I mean it's still high, but it's not going up another 25% again. We're seeing them at least level off finally. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay, thank you.

Commissioner Townsend said thank you gentlemen for the update. I want to make sure I leave here with a clear perspective about what all this meant. What I'm hearing is that as a result of putting this project together or in the process of putting it together certain historical shames, for lack of a better term, were factored into when and how certain infrastructure will be done. Is that correct? **Mr. Fisher** said that's what we're exploring. We haven't landed on anything just yet. **Commissioner Townsend** said okay. I'll share this and I'm glad to hear that's a focus because Sunday after church, and I went west to one of my churches, way out on about 85th & Parallel, and the point of going there was so I could conduct pothole patrol from all the way there to 5th & Parallel. Not to catch you off guard, you'll get an email where I detail. I must say there weren't that many potholes as you would expect, but I would say and I paid particular interest to say by

Schlagle, so 62nd on, couldn't find a lot of potholes but that ride was being like inside the tumbler of a washing machine. So, there's just a need from what I experienced Sunday all the way to really by Heathwood Park and a little beyond, that's around 10th & Parallel just to get that stretch repaved. I've gotten a lot of calls and I just went Sunday for the express purpose of doing pothole patrol and all this. If this direction will help speed that up, that's what I'm trying to find out so I can tell my constituents this is when 42nd to 60th is going to be paved or this is when 9th to 10th & Parallel is going to be paved.

Mr. Fisher said based on the way we've been operating very recently is just data driven conditions only, right, regarding street preservation and we know about eight years out, six to eight years out, what streets need to be hit. They're prioritized. This might inform that a little bit differently or might influence that a little bit differently, we don't know yet. I don't know how it would influence the street preservation versus whether we do another Leavenworth Road type project versus Quindaro, don't know that yet. What we do want to know is are there criteria that we can build into this that would influence the process to address any inequities or disparities and where we've—where the UG's been investing and will invest in the future if that makes sense. **Commissioner Townsend** said it does. It's a starting point. Like I said, I'll give you the details and maybe we can look at factoring this in. It also impacts economic development who comes, who doesn't want to come, who wants to live here, who doesn't and then maybe we can focus on a project like Leavenworth Road getting money to do that strip. I think this is looking at a lot of things that had not been considered before, so I'm appreciative of that.

Mr. Fisher said I'll just add one more thing. On potholes we've talked about this before, each year the volume of potholes increases. We were at I'll just say 28,000 or 18,000, I don't remember exactly, but then this year we almost went 10,000 more potholes or something like that. Each year that the PCI falls, especially coming out of winter, the more potholes we're going to see. Fortunately, you all supported getting the two pothole patchers four or five years ago and now we got a new spray patcher this last year and those are going to be extremely helpful to addressing the potholes in a timely manner. But as the potholes increase each year because the PCI follows, we're going to have to increase maintenance dollars to keep up with the potholes until the Street Preservation Program catches up if that makes sense. **Commissioner Townsend** said it does and I want to be clear that I thought there had been a good job done in that stretch that I named because I started out like 80, but I was really concentrating like 60th on back and so most of the potholes had been addressed. They're only—I'm not going to say a number, I'll rely on my notes, but it was really the quality of the streets. Some just plainly need to be paved over, wasn't a pothole there, but it was a bumpy ride.

I want to commend Public Works for getting out and getting on it. I didn't find that many, but the condition of the streets left a whole lot to be desired that my constituents have been coming to me about. I will say I recall being on the committee under the previous administration that looked at our infrastructure and I think the number that I recall is about 18M needed just to keep up with where we were, not improve the PCI, so I'm very aware of that as well and remember that. Let me see, who else is around here, Commissioner Bynum I recall was on it. I don't know, I think maybe Commissioner Davis as well, but that was very insightful, so I'm aware of that. I commend Public Works for what it has done. We got to do a whole lot more—try to figure out how to do a whole lot more especially on that main thoroughfare.

Commissioner Davis said excellent presentation. I'm actually really, really excited. When we talk about using Justice 40 census tracks and kind of this tool that our federal government has released for investments in projects, I think it would be great for us to parlay that with whatever applications we are putting. If righting historical wrongs and historical disinvestment is a goal of our federal government that we should probably align that with our application efforts and so I am literally excited for what we could create because it can really change the game for our capital investment. On that, have you all done any research on how other cities or other municipalities capture equity when it comes to capital and maintenance improvement? **Mr. Stark** said I know if you go to the link there on one of those slides where it says full presentation, that group did a much deeper dive and they definitely looked across at least 10 to 20 other communities to observe what they were doing right now, so that might be a good starting point.

Commissioner Davis said okay, gotcha. Okay, David was helping me out here, awesome. That's exciting. I'm excited about it. I absolutely think we should take into consideration, and just for the public's awareness when our federal government chose not to invest particularly in the northeast end of Wyandotte County, it has a ripple effect over time. If you do not invest in a particular area and you see depopulation, you do not have the tax base to support the infrastructure and the amenities around that area. We have seen particularly in the Land Bank, and I know many of us are here that serve on the Land Bank Standing Committee, where we are looking at areas in neighborhoods where it's desolate and we aren't seeing as many single family homes and density that's needed to support this infrastructure. So, I invite you all's creativity as we discuss it.

Regarding streets and potholes, yes and amen to everything Commissioner Townsend said. I've heard a lot of people ask me about it and my response is how much are we talking and how much are we willing to pay because none of this is getting any cheaper. Do we have a number of what we would need to invest. I've heard $18M, but I don't know if that's adjusted for 2024. Is there a number to reach that 25% increase to get to the desired PCI? **Mr. Fisher** said I believe, Troy, correct me if I'm wrong, we need to be north of $25M a year. **Commissioner Davis** said and then how much are we doing right now? **Mr. Fisher** said we're on a trajectory—I'm sorry. **Commissioner Davis** asked, how much right now are we investing?

Mr. Shaw said I think between—for the entire program it's roughly around $10M and what we did and what we'll put in the budget this year when we go through is another 25% increase because we discussed that. I think two years ago we started that so we'll add another 25%. We can get you the numbers on that. The numbers are from two years ago when we did it, but we could add inflation and see what it would turn into, but we did—when we ran those it was 25% a year for x number of years to get us to the PCI score of an average of 65 by I think it was like 2045 or something. I would have to look at the numbers exactly, but yeah, it's 25% a year is what we're on right now. This year we'll put in another 25%. **Commissioner Davis** said okay, so it's kind of an incremental steps to getting there because that is quite a jump to get there.

Regarding facilities, I'm of the opinion that we just own too much. We just own too much. I mean we all just had our presentation with our Appraiser regarding what is happening and we have a lot of nonprofits, we have a lot of Land Bank properties and UG-owned properties, none of them are generating revenue to support the work that you all need to do. So, I'm of the mindset of how do we creatively dispose of UG-owned property responsibly and equitably to ensure that we can start to change that ratio. I sat on the subcommittee for facilities and parks and we talked about the Ameresco Study. Where are we regarding that work and how is that going to influence the current CMIP? **Mr. Fisher** said that's John Kelly, our Facilities Director.

John Kelly, Director of Buildings & Logistics, said we are still working on that with Ameresco. We have some funding this year for them to take more of a deeper dive, but we are looking at some of the square footage in like City Hall, for example, the Courthouse, and some of our other larger structures to talk about removing some of the outlying smaller buildings to reduce that square foot space, but we are continuing to look at that. Parks is another one. Some of the parks we're looking at and the rec centers, you know, if we're talking about making a state-of-the-art bigger rec center, so there are things that we're still working on, but we don't have anything at this point that's solid that we're talking about. Some of our fire stations, you know, with the new fire stations that are being built, we're looking at removing some of those assets, but at this time we don't have any major big structures that we're looking at. **Commissioner Davis** said gotcha. I just know there's—just looking at that and I think it was a lot of fire stations that were identified as kind of like the D or the F range and my goodness, God bless our firefighters for what they do living in those conditions, but there is potential I think for us to take some of those buildings that we can confidently say we're probably not going to renovate. What does it look like for that to be disposed for private investment.

My last question is just generally about grants. Are we having follow-up meetings with either the federal government or state government, whoever, to just get an idea of why we are not being selected for these projects? **Mr. Fisher** said yeah, we have. Public Works over the last 10 years has secured somewhere in the neighborhood of $150M in grants. We did not get the Mega Grant, which was disappointing. We did meet with them and did get that feedback. Troy, do you want to speak to that. Troy did get some feedback from the federal government on that.

Mr. Shaw said there were a couple—we went through all the different categories of the grant. We actually did pretty well. There were a couple categories that didn't get our cost ratio benefit—ratio high enough on the Kansas Avenue one for us to make it to the second round. After discussions with them we found some ways that we can tweak that next time to get that ratio higher. That was one of their big concerns and then their second concern was we needed greater support from the KCMO side from the commitment. They gave us a letter, but it wasn't—like we did a commitment in a resolution, they needed something to that level they said would help next time as well. So, those were the two big things that they noted and we're moving forward with that.

While I'm talking about grants, the Central Avenue Bridge, the planning grant that we just submitted, I believe earlier this week, it does have a huge component about the Justice 40 and then there's opportunity because of that and where that bridge is at that we could get the whole design done or 70% of the design done plus some of the NEPA work and other things with that bridge at 100% federal government funded because of that, so that's what we're trying to get worst case scenario. It may be we may have to spend a little bit, but it's a huge benefit to your point Commissioner. **Commissioner Davis** said okay. Please let us know how we can support particularly if it's just helping and getting our colleagues—I was just on a panel with two City Council women from KCMO, so whatever we can do to help support you all to make our applications more competitive we would love to do so.

Mr. Fisher said I think using those relationships, it will be helpful. I know the County Administrator worked hard to do his part. The Mayor's Office worked hard, staff did. It just wasn't a high enough priority for them this last year.

Commissioner Kane said sometimes we have to think outside the box and I was pretty sure Emanuel Cleaver said he supported the Kansas Avenue Bridge. I know Sharice Davids did for a fact. She's no longer the rep there. It's Jake LaTurner, so I think we need to bring him in the loop and Senator Marshall's office is right over here, so I don't think we should just think small. I think we should think big and get as many of the big dogs in helping us. They have earmarks for these kind of things and I would think that we would think outside the box and pursue those folks because they're the ones who got the big money. I know that Chuck knows some of the same people that I do and we could probably set up meetings with some of those folks to sit down and have that conversation about getting some of that monies.

Mr. Fisher said I agree. Those partners are important. I know we worked with them on this and the UG has secured I'll say somewhere in the neighborhood of $10 to $14M in earmarks over the last few years, so Congresswoman Davids has been a big advocate, so we've had good success. She is by the way—her district covers half of that Kansas Avenue Bridge and LaTurner covers the other half. **Mr. Shaw** said I'll also note with the Kansas Avenue Bridge we did work with KDOT through the infrastructure hub and secured—if we would have got that grant for the Kansas Avenue, we would have gotten $10M from the infrastructure hub as well from the state of Kansas. They were—awarded it to us if we get the grant to help cover our matching portion; however, what they didn't do—we talked to them after we didn't get it, they said what they'll do with that $10M since it's been approved already, is roll that over into the program next year, so if we submit for the grant next year and get it, we're very likely to get that same $10M next year too.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs asked, any other questions, comments? Administrator Johnston, do you have anything you wanted to add?

Commissioner Burns said, Jeff, I know I've already spoke to you in private about this, but I think it's very important that you tell your staff that worked during the storms cleaning our streets and doing the best job that was possible and other entities in the metropolitan area ought to follow what your guys do, and ladies I'm sure. So, if you would just tell them that it is deeply appreciated and not gone unnoticed. **Mr. Fisher** said I have and I'll do it again.

Administrator Johnson said I guess to conclude to add some information on this, we had an intense discussion during the last budget process with limitations on revenue. I think we all would like to do more, but we have to be realistic on what we can do. We talked about our level of debt that we've accumulated over decades and how we do debt management is important. We will be talking about our ability to meet the 25% each year increase in infrastructure. I don't think our revenue stream can support that particularly when we have to fund all the rest of the departments and their programs and all that.

I want to bring some rationality to our discussion in that the capital needs are competing against other operational needs and you'll find those types of discussions over the next four or five months that Reggie outlined earlier in this presentation. Infrastructure as articulated by you to me is one of the highest priorities of us. It's expensive and we do participate in grants. They're highly competitive because other cities, counties and states are applying for those grants, so we are active in that and Jeff has told you how well we've done. I also think that there may be a change in the federal approach in the next three to four years because we're not in pandemic funding mode where the federal government is going to be throwing out free cash. So, we took advantage of that with CARES, ARPA, and the Infrastructure money, but we don't know how far the federal government will take that investment because—remember, they're operating on a deficit too and the Fed also just lobbed in the last three or four weeks, the first time you heard from the Fed their concern about the federal debt level which means a message to the federal agencies be cautious about how much more you're going to be asking here.

That's the environment that we're in. We know we have needs and we're going to strive to meet as many needs as we can, but as we learned in our budget process last year, there's going to be some tough choices on priority setting for us to continue to meet the needs of our citizens. Not to dampen the enthusiasm, but a dose of reality is also important to keep in front of us.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs said state and federal grants lower the cost of us doing business which will free up dollars for us to put somewhere else and it can amount to asking and if we don't ask, we don't get, so I do appreciate the comments about the grants. I'm pleased to hear that the grant conversation is continuing to move forward and we're seeing staff comply with the Commission's requests.

One question I have, projects that have been funded or to be funded in the past that haven't gone forward for whatever reason, maybe they've lost favor, maybe they've lost significance in the CPI projects, what happens to those projects and what happens to those dollars that were set aside for those? Do we have many of those that were projects that were put in place five to seven years ago that just haven't advanced and gone anywhere? **Mr. Lindsey** said I don't think we have any projects five or seven years old that haven't went anywhere. **Mr. Fisher** said, yeah, I can't think of any. **Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs** said that's good to hear because I know there have been voices on the Commission that worried about having something in the budget, a project, and it wasn't getting funded for a period of time that went into their Commission district, so I'm pleased to see that we've continued to push forward those issues even when the commissioner may not even be a member of the Commission any longer. I think it's a testimony to staff to continue to move those projects forward.

I don't have any more questions or comments. Does anyone else? Seeing none. Thank you for the presentation and we'll wait just a minute before we go into Executive Session. I'll wait for the individuals to clear the room and we'll have a reading and then we're going to go into Executive Session.

Chairman Burroughs said at this time we will go into Executive Session for a discussion regarding litigation. Do we have a motion for Executive Session?

Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Townsend, to go into Executive Session until 6:15 p.m. in the 5th floor conference room to consult with our attorneys and discuss confidential matters related to pending claims and litigation, as permitted under the Kansas Open Meetings Act; and that David Johnston, County Administrator, Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator; Angela Lawson, Acting Chief Counsel, SueZanne Bishop, Senior Counsel; and Spencer Low, Outside Counsel; be present to participate in the discussion and that we reconvene in open station at 6:15 p.m. here in the 5th floor conference room. Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Burns, Hill, Kane, Lopez, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Townsend. **Kane, Commissioner Fifth District;** dismissed himself at 5:57 p.m. due to conflict of interest.

Present for the Executive Session: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; Burns, Commissioner Second District; Hill, Commissioner Fourth District; Lopez, Commissioner Sixth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Burroughs, Mayor Pro Tem, presiding. **Staff present:** David Johnston, County Administrator; Angela Lawson, Interim Chief Counsel; SueZanne Bishop, Senior Counsel; Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator; and Spencer Low, Outside Counsel.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs reconvened back into Special Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Commissioner Burns made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hill, to go back into Executive Session until 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and there were seven "Ayes," Burns, Hill, Lopez, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Townsend.

Commissioner Townsend made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bynum, to adjourn. Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Burns, Hill, Kane, Lopez, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Townsend.

MAYOR PRO TEM BURROUGHS AJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 6:31 p.m.

Monica L. Sparks
Interim Unified Government Clerk

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