

Madison Mayor Rhodes-Conway: Releases 2023 Executive Capital Budget prioritizing affordable housing, climate resiliency and strong neighborhoods

Posted on Tuesday, Sep 6, 2022

>> WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)

Today, Mayor Rhodes-Conway released her 2023 Executive Capital Budget and 6-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which detail her funding proposals for buildings, infrastructure and other capital investments in Madison. The Capital Budget is one major piece of the City's budget. In a month, she will introduce her 2023 Executive Operating Budget, which focuses on services, staffing and programs.

"Infrastructure investments are not just about bricks and mortar, they are a reflection of our values. This budget puts our money where our values are, building a better Madison that will be strong, resilient and ready for the many challenges ahead of us," said Mayor Rhodes-Conway.

In this year's capital budget, the Mayor increases City investments in affordable housing; funds infrastructure projects geared toward helping our City take action on climate change and build climate resiliency; and makes important investments across the City to build strong neighborhoods.

BUILDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

With the population growth Madison continues to see, it will take a strong, sustained investment to meet the housing needs of our community.

- This budget increases the City's investment in affordable housing to \$60 million over six years. Since 2019, the Mayor has more than doubled the affordable housing fund.
- The City is also taking a transformative approach to homeless services by constructing our first purpose-built homeless shelter. With support from the county and the federal government, this \$21 million facility will be constructed in 2024.
- The City will continue to spend \$19 million over six years to help people purchase and rehabilitate homes, provide property tax relief to seniors and support homeownership down payment assistance.
- The budget continues investments to combat gentrification with \$6 million in land banking funds.

BUILDING A RESILIENT CITY

It is becoming increasingly clear that dramatic climate action is needed to ameliorate the worst impacts of the climate crisis. It may not be glamorous, but the repair and reconstruction of streets, bridges, water wells, sewers and stormwater systems is the backbone of creating a strong and resilient city.

- The budget invests \$22.2 million to support flood mitigation efforts. Since the 2018 flood, the City has rapidly advanced major flood mitigation projects on key streets and drainage areas.
- \$23 million in federal Small Starts funding will be used to ensure the 46-vehicle Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) fleet is comprised of fully electric buses.
- The City will be investing \$1.7 million for the construction of an inter-city bus terminal in the State Street Campus Garage. This will allow students and residents to easily reach destinations across the Midwest from a modern transit facility.
- The budget also includes \$350,000 to help locate and plan for Amtrak service.

BUILDING STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS

This budget reflects the fact that building and supporting strong neighborhoods is a critical component of City activities. It continues investing in parks, playground improvements, libraries, sidewalks, crosswalks, bikeways and small businesses that strengthen our neighborhoods. In addition, the Mayor is strategically prioritizing some investments based on local need and opportunities, and that help advance equity.

- In the Sandberg area, the budget puts \$15 million toward the construction of Madison Public Library's Imagination Center.
- In the Brentwood-Northport area, the budget funds a \$5 million expansion of the

Warner Park Community Center.

□ In the Hammersley-Theresa area, the budget funds improvements to the stormwater system to alleviate issues with basement flooding.

□ In the Darbo-Worthington area, the budget reserves \$2.5 million to purchase the Salvation Army site, providing them with needed capital for a purpose-built women's shelter and providing the opportunity to support new community facilities in the neighborhood.

The budget also continues to invest in programs for affordable and equitable business access across our City, with \$4.5 million in continued support for the Small Business and Equitable Recovery program, building improvement grants, and the Commercial Building Ownership program.

At every turn, the City seeks to leverage local dollars with state and federal funds. Madison is fortunate to have the strong support of the Biden and Evers administrations, with direct support in the federal budget, other major spending bills, and American Rescue Plan Act allocations.

"My goal with this budget it to build a beautiful city, a place that people are proud to call home. My goal with this budget it to build an affordable city, so that people who work here can afford to live and raise a family here. My goal with this budget is to build a greener, more resilient city—ready for the many challenges of a changing climate. My goal with this budget is to build healthy, strong neighborhoods, with libraries, parks, bike trails and family-friendly events that embrace the great diversity of our city," said the Mayor.

The Mayor's Executive Budget will be introduced at Common Council tonight and will be discussed at City Finance Committee meetings planned for September, with final Common Council action in November, allowing multiple opportunities for resident input.