Communication from Public

Name: Yes, it's me again. And I'm back. Ooh.

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Comments for Public Posting: Good afternoon. I want to comment on the discussion regarding project prioritization and equity. Equity absolutely needs to be part of the process, but equity should be built into clear, transparent scoring criteria, not used as a reason to move projects forward before they are adequately developed. A capital project needs more than community support or a funding opportunity. It needs a defined purpose and scope, a "client" or "asset owner", a realistic funding path, and consideration of the STAFFING AND MAINTENANCE RESOURCES that will be needed after construction. THE CITY HAS TO STOP TREATING THE ABILITY TO BUILD SOMETHING AS PROOF THAT IT CAN AFFORD TO OWN IT. If we continually add projects or reprioritize them without considering readiness, lifecycle costs, and existing commitments, projects will constantly leapfrog one another and nothing will move efficiently. A standardized citywide process does not have to compete with equity. Done correctly, it should protect equity by making the reasons projects move forward transparent and consistent. The question should not only be, “Can we fund this project?” It should also be, “CAN THE CITY AFFORD TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THIS ASSET FOR DECADES?” If the roof is leaking and the plumbing is failing, adding a new bedroom doesn’t solve the maintenance problem, it gives you more square footage to maintain. You can pay to build the restaurant, but if you don’t budget for cooks, servers, food, utilities, cleaning, and repairs, you just built an empty restaurant. You can afford the car today, but can you afford the gas, insurance, tires, maintenance, registration, and repairs for the next 15 years? Getting the down payment together doesn’t mean you can afford the house. You still have the mortgage, utilities, insurance, repairs, and a new roof someday. You don’t treat people strictly in the order they walked in, but you also don’t let whoever yells the loudest jump the line. You use defined criteria: urgency, severity, readiness, resources, and risk. The question isn’t whether the City can afford to build it. The question is whether the City can afford to OWN it. Thank you.