



COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

CITY COUNCIL of SALT LAKE CITY

TO: City Council Members
FROM: Allison Rowland
Budget & Policy Analyst

DATE: January 21, 2025

RE: INFORMATIONAL: GREEN LOOP GUIDELINES AND NEXT STEPS

Item Schedule:

Briefing: January 21, 2025

Public Hearing: n/a

Potential Action: n/a

ISSUE AT-A-GLANCE

The Administration has requested the release of \$3,140,000 in fiscal year 2024 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds related to the planned Green Loop project. These funds would be used for the following:

1. For the Administration to produce guidelines in conjunction with the Council on Green Loop project development and public space management;
2. To advance conceptual planning for the 200 East section of the Green Loop in conjunction with the Library Square visioning process, and develop construction documents for the "Civic Campus" section of the Green Loop, on 200 East from 350 South to 450 South; and
3. Concept Design (30%) documents for the planned Green Loop section on 500 West from North Temple to 900 South.

The Council may wish to take a straw poll on whether to release the funding contingency so that the Administration may use these funds as proposed. See item A on page 2 for the contingency language adopted by the Council.

Goal of the briefing: Consider releasing \$3.1 million of Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding related to the planned Green Loop project.

CITY COUNCIL OF SALT LAKE CITY

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ADDITIONAL AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. **Council Contingency.** In conjunction with adoption of the FY25 CIP budget in August of 2024, the Council adopted the following contingency:

The FY2025 CIP Budget Contingency for Green Loop Funding includes a public space management plan for the three blocks of 500 West. The public space management plan will address site amenities, programming opportunities, public safety, and neighborhood context for those three blocks. This management plan will provide the framework for future projects along the Green Loop and Downtown.

➤ **Policy Question: Given the roadmap presented by the Administration, is the Council comfortable releasing the contingency"**

B. **Proposed Distribution of Contingency Funds.** The Administration proposes to use the \$3.1 million in CIP funding for the following items (see Attachment C1 for additional information).

To produce guidelines in conjunction with the Council on Green Loop project development and public space management	\$314,000
To advance conceptual planning for the 200 East section of the Green Loop in conjunction with the Library Square visioning process, and develop construction documents for the “Civic Campus” section of the Green Loop, on 200 East from 350 South to 450 South; and	\$1,570,000
Concept Design (30%) documents for the planned Green Loop section on 500 West from North Temple to 900 South.	\$628,000
Contingency	\$628,000
TOTAL	\$3,140,000

C. **Green Loop Background.** The full Green Loop concept is outlined in the 2022 Public Lands Master Plan, *Reimagine Nature*, in the section “Downtown Comes Alive.” The Green Loop would use locations in and along Downtown’s wide streets to create a new 5.3-mile linear park with up to 54 acres of new green space. It would feature trees, places for outdoor seating, and a multi-use recreational trail. By integrating large and small green areas and plazas into a public, outdoor network, it would provide the City’s growing Downtown and Central communities—which currently have the least access to parks and trails of any City neighborhoods and where future growth is expected to be the highest—new access to green spaces. In addition, the integration of street trees and “green” stormwater management techniques would also provide environmental benefits to the City as a whole.

The project goals, as outlined in the Administration’s November 26, 2024, transmittal are the following:

1. Develop a dense downtown urban forest;
2. Serve as an active transportation corridor;

3. Improve water quality through stormwater management;
4. Create inviting social spaces that provide a variety of amenities and attractions; and
5. Create public front yards and gardens within the Downtown that support the needs of all users.

D. **Updates.** Last year, the Administration hired a consultant for two aspects of the overall Green Loop project:

6. **Schematic Designs.** Schematic design and a cost estimate for the 200 East Civic Campus was combined with a vision for the entire 5.3-mile linear Green Loop project, which laid out potential routing, benefits, impacts, and estimated costs.
7. **Needs Analysis.** This included discussion of potential models for operations and maintenance; identification of gaps and redundancies in the current and potential City roles for the Green Loop (like management, funding, security, and programming; and a block-by-block needs analysis for the full concept).

E. **Ongoing work.** The Administration continues to explore a variety of funding strategies for both capital and operations for the Green Loop. Examples include public-private partnerships; exploring the potential of a Special Assessment Area or Business Improvement District; bonding; federal and local grants; and philanthropic opportunities.

POLICY QUESTIONS

1. *Are there specific elements of the proposed Project Development Guidelines that the Council wishes to discuss and identify in advance as priorities for the Administration?*
2. *Before additional project planning is undertaken, would the Council like to have a more extensive policy discussion with the Administration on the funding strategies for the full Green Loop project?*
3. *Council Members have expressed two related capacity concerns about the Department of Public Lands. Would the Council like to discuss these concerns with the Administration?*
 - a. *There is already a large number of major parks and open lands projects currently underway (see Attachment C2. Public Lands Major Capital Projects Update)?*
 - b. *There were problems last year with timely maintenance in parks and other green spaces, stemming in part from difficulties finding sufficient numbers of maintenance employees.*

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment C1. Proposed Distribution of Green Loop Contingency Funds.

Attachment C2. Public Lands Major Capital Projects Update.