COOK COUNTY
GOVERNMENT

2026 Capital Budget Hearing

October 29, 2025

Toni Preckwinkle,
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Capital Budget Overview

COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Foundation for the FY2026 Capital Budget

In FY2024, Cook County launched the **Policy Roadmap 2024-2027**, following the inaugural strategic plan originated in FY2018. The six policy pillars of Cook County's Policy Roadmap are the foundation for the FY2026 budget.

Healthy Communities
Health and Wellness

Open Communities
Good Government

Safe and Thriving Communities
Criminal Justice

Connected Communities
Public Infrastructure

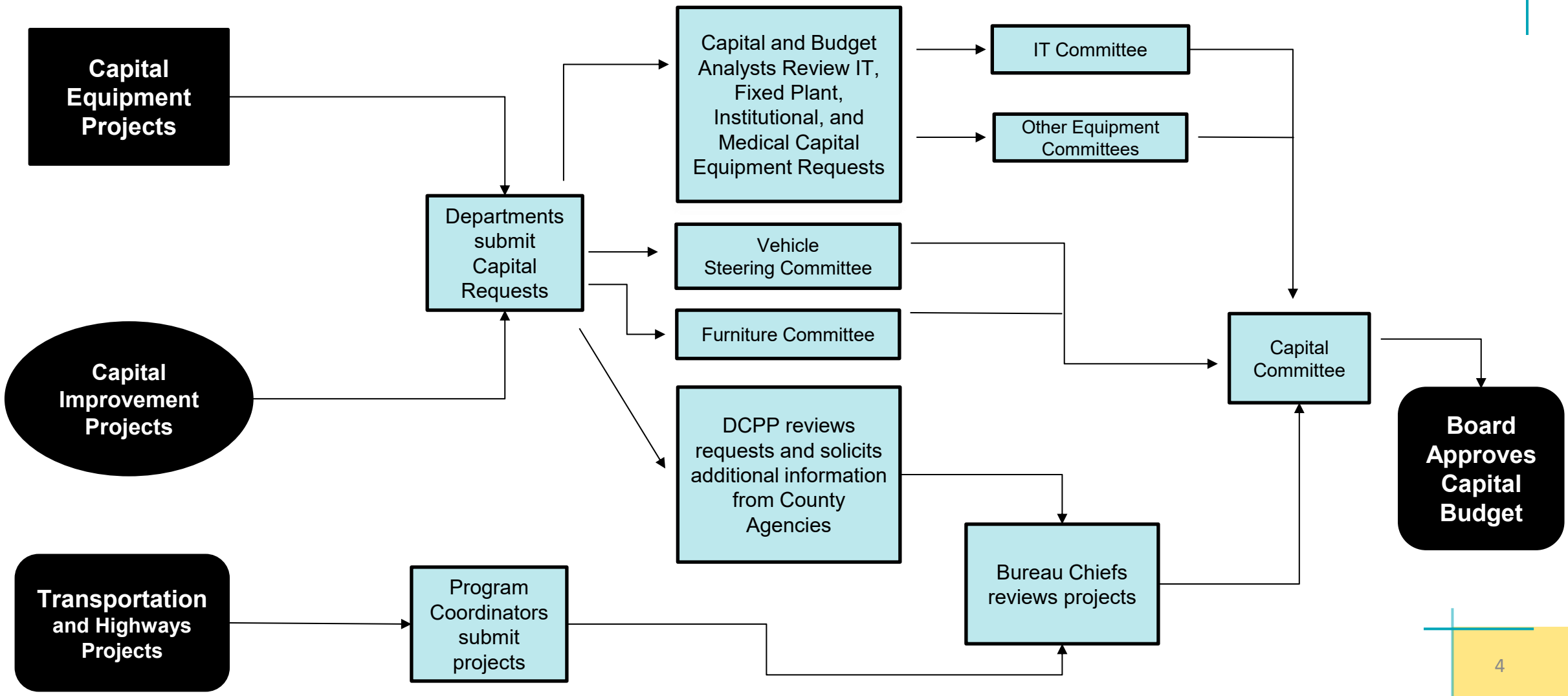
Sustainable Communities
Environment and Sustainability

Vital Communities
Economic Development

Using the policy framework to improve outcomes for residents requires continuous coordination and collaboration with separately elected officials and other partners.

COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

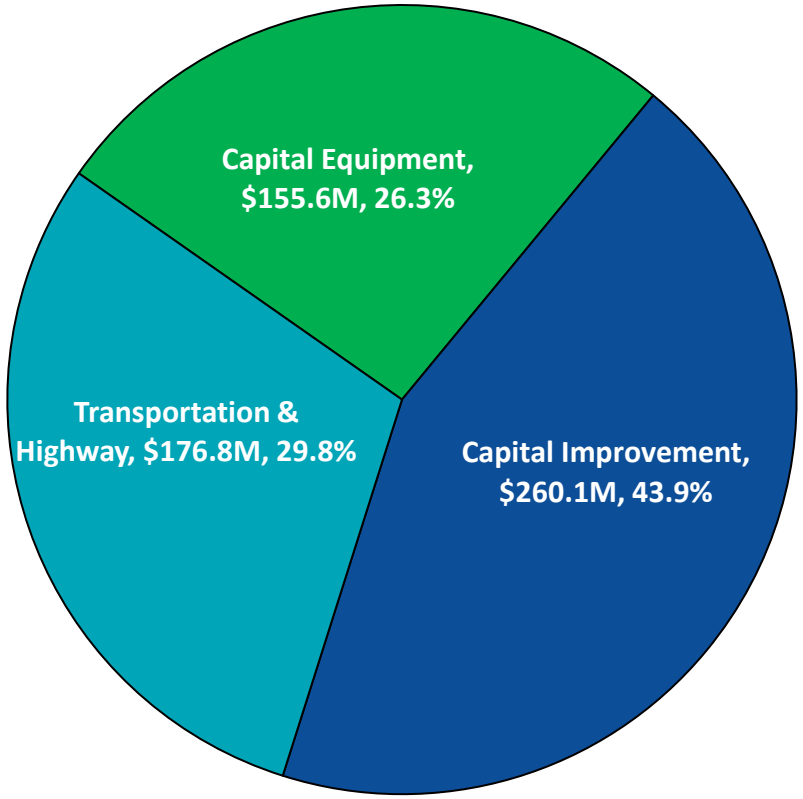
Capital Review Process



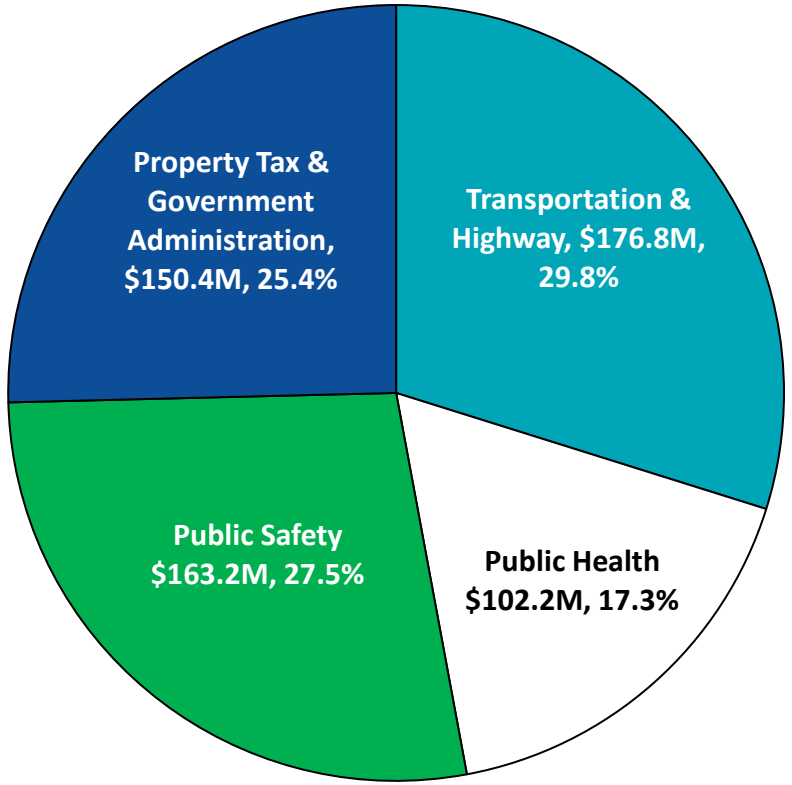
COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Capital Uses and Sources

Capital Investment by Program
$592.5 million



Capital Investment by Function
$592.5 million

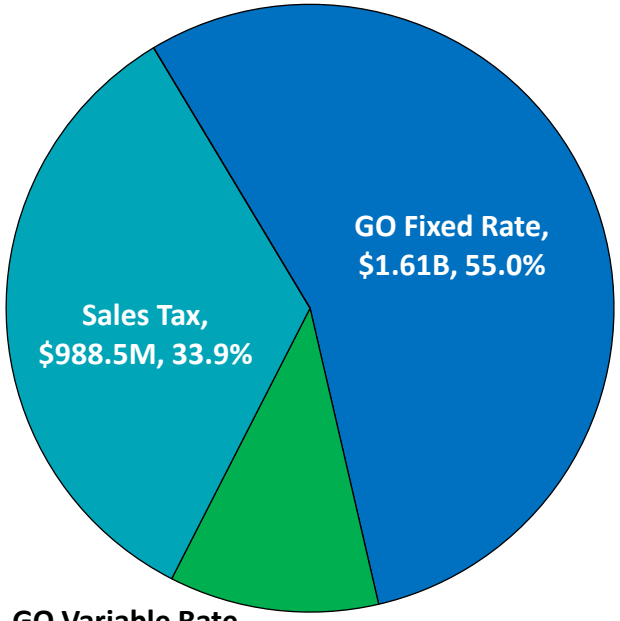


COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

County Debt Profile

Cook County's judicious debt management allows the County to enjoy high investment grade bond ratings and lower borrowing costs.

Total Principal Outstanding
$2.92 Billion



Current Credit Ratings

GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT

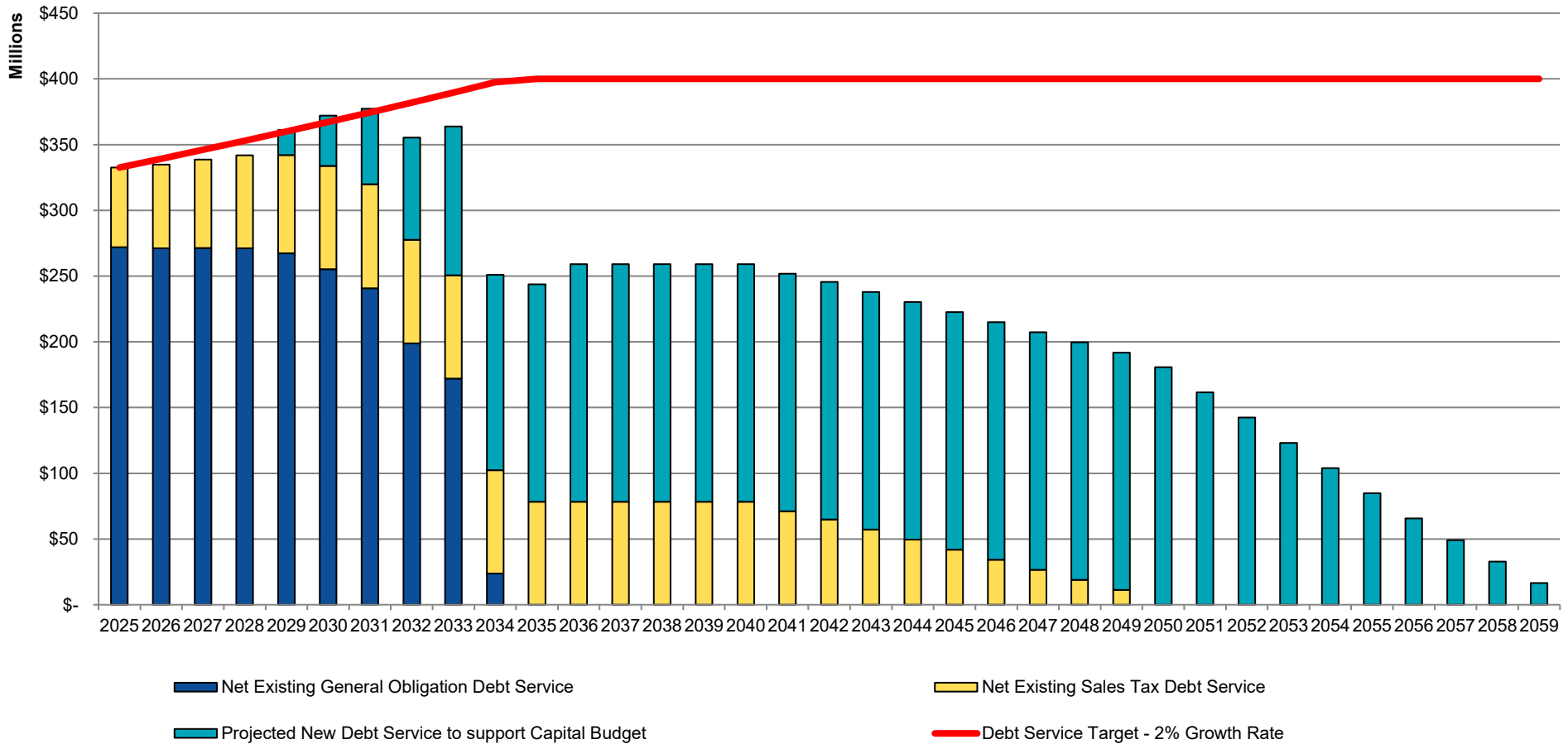
Rating Agency	Rating	Outlook
Moody's	Aa3	Stable
S&P Global Ratings	A+	Stable
Fitch Ratings	AA	Positive

SALES TAX DEBT

Rating Agency	Rating	Outlook
Kroll Bond Rating Agency	AAA	Stable
S&P Global Ratings	AA-	Stable
Fitch Ratings	AA	Positive

COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Capital Plan Projected Debt Service



- In accordance with Cook County's financial policies, annual debt service growth, including any issuance of new money, is aligned with the Federal Reserve's long-term aim for inflation at **2%** and capped at **$400 million**.
- The County seeks to fund capital equipment through **pay-as-you-go means entirely**, excluding large non-recurring multi-year initiatives, to **decrease reliance on budgeted funds** for debt supported capital equipment.
- All capital equipment purchases funded with sources other than debt proceeds **require capital appropriation**.

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Capital Improvement Projects

COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Unlocking the Value of Our Assets

Strategic Framework

The Cook County Policy Roadmap serves as a guide to asset-related decision-making

Cook County utilizes a data-driven approach to drive facility investment decisions using analyses related to:

- Real Estate Asset Strategic Realignment Plan (REASRP): *provides an overview across all portfolios*
- Facilities Conditions Assessments (FCAs): *a 10-year update of REASRP assessments currently underway*

Capital Plan Development

The County develops its capital plan and budget to sustain facilities, support core functions, reduce long-term recurring operational costs, with priority towards ADA compliance, life safety and security

Prioritization is driven by activities such as:

- Collaboration with user agencies to identify efficiencies, critical upgrades, or needed replacements
- Improvement cost estimates
- Examination of the County's long-term objectives

COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Unlocking the Value of Our Assets

Green Buildings Program (GBP)

- Use the GBP initiative to reduce the environmental impact of our County buildings and create a positive impact on communities
- Leverage revenues from high-performance design project to yield measurable reductions in operating costs
- Clean Energy Plan (2020) drives building performance

FY2026 Capital Improvements

- Ensure completion of active carryover projects
- Prioritize work to be completed by in-house trades
- **Appropriation request for FY2026 is $260.1 million**

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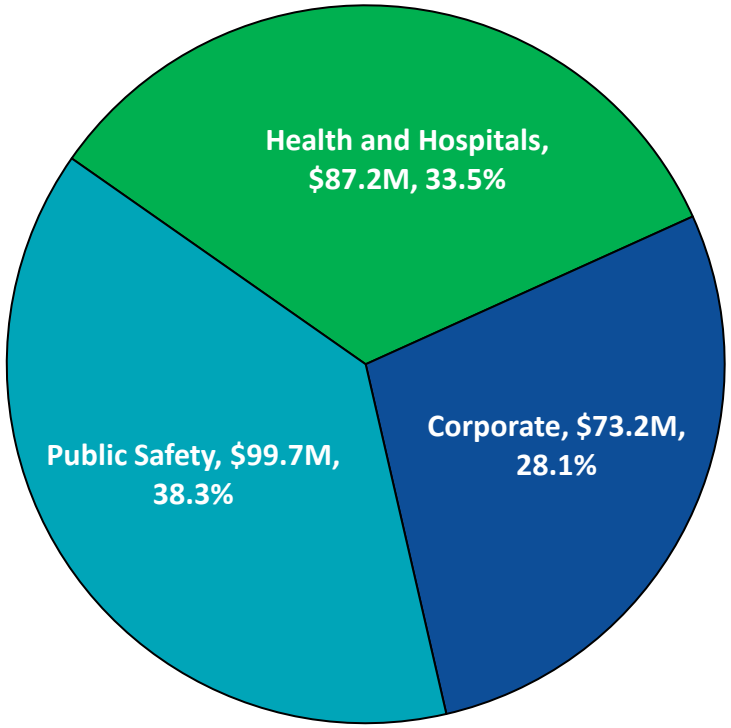
Capital Improvement Program by Category and Portfolio

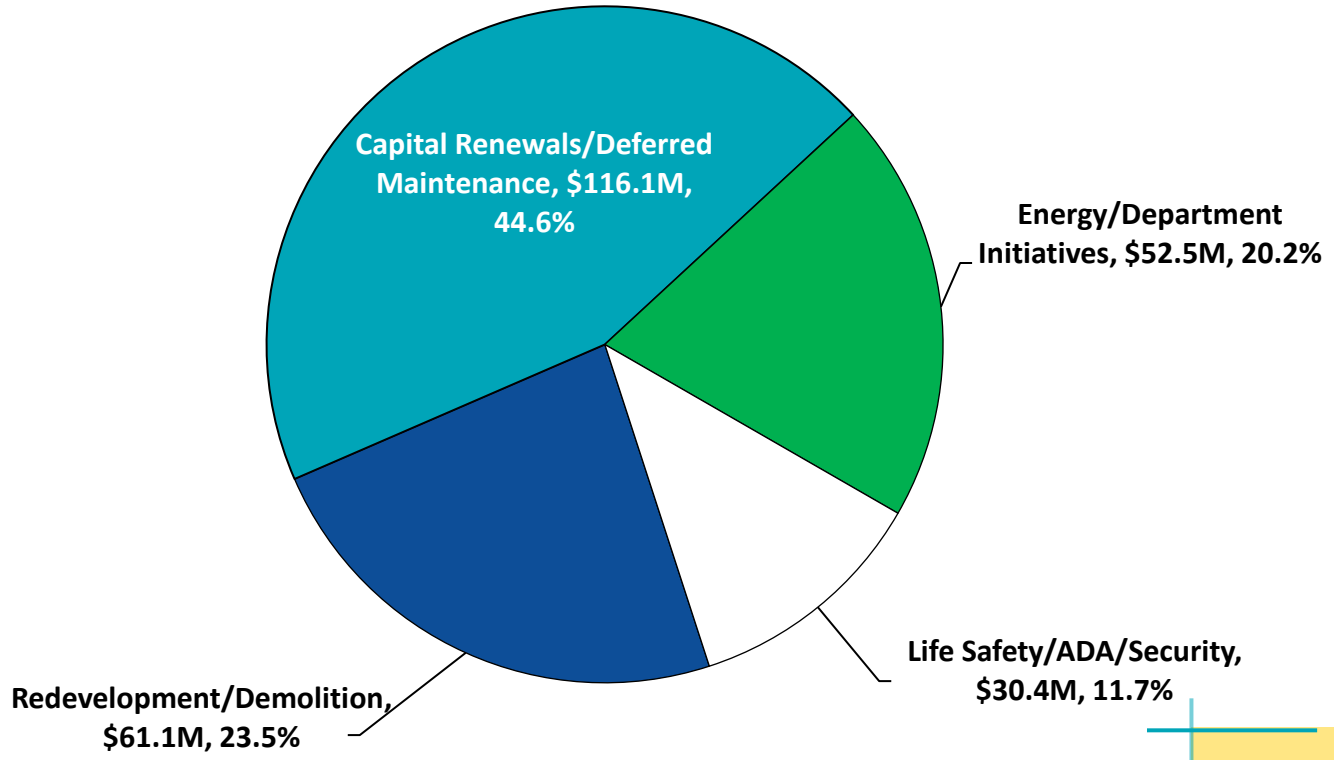
Capital Improvement Portfolio

Portfolios $260.1 Million



Program Category

Categories $260.1 Million



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Major 2026 CIP Projects

Sustainable Communities

Countywide

- Green Building Program, efficiencies, and rebates
- Countywide solar installations
- Enhanced HVAC filtration assessments
- Life safety and ADA upgrades
- Roof and building envelope renovations
- Solar EV charging stations

Safe & Thriving Communities

Public Safety

- New DOC Enhanced Visitation facility
- New MEO Facility design
- Demolition of DOC Division IV - design
- DOC Powerhouse heating & cooling upgrades
- CCAB/CCB Plaza renovation design
- Courthouses AV/IT and ADA upgrades planning & design
- Court Utilization Plan Phase II
- Courthouses hardening construction

Healthy Communities

Health and Hospital

- Provident Campus major improvements
- Stroger Hospital major renovations
- Community based healthcare centers
- Cook County Health Care System Long Term Planning
- CCDPH system planning & design
- Gender Neutral Restrooms and Mothers' Rooms
- Elevator upgrades

Connected Communities

Corporate Facilities

- Renovation and consolidation at County Building
- 1st, 2nd, and 5th Floor/Board Room ADA Upgrades
- Dunne Building re-stack
- Optimize technology solutions in buildings
- Implement Workplace Strategy & Design guidelines

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TRANSPORTATION & HIGHWAYS PROJECTS

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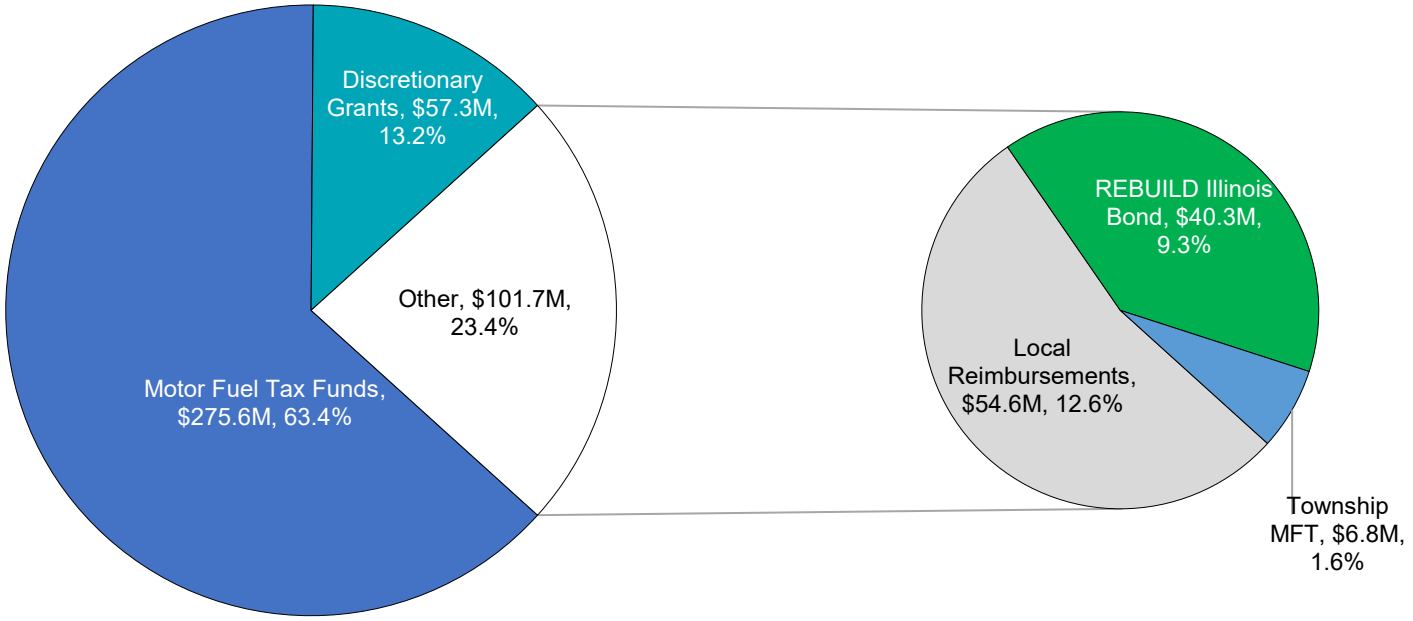
FY2026 Transportation Projects by Category and Funding*

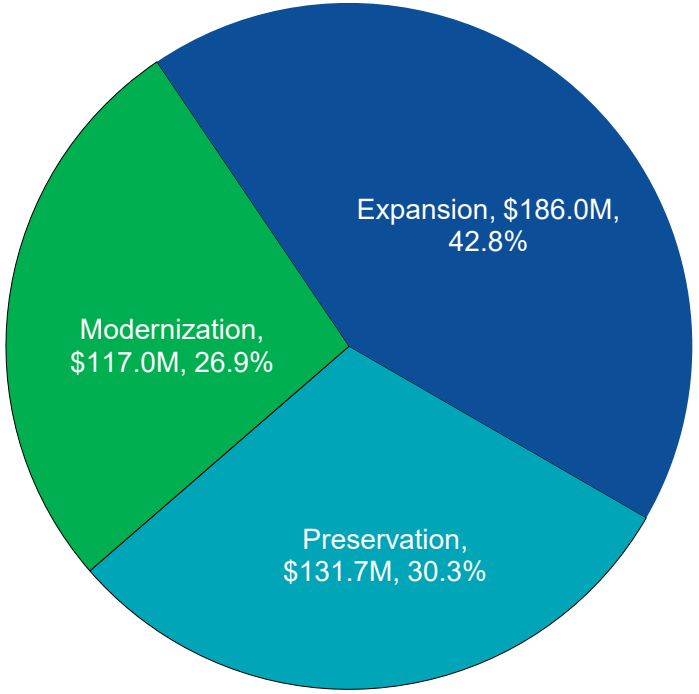
Funding Source

$434.7 Million



Project Category

$434.7 Million



*Capitalizable Projects total $176.8M
Non Capitalizable Projects total $257.9M

COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Major New and Ongoing Projects in FY2026

Planning

- Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Engineering

- **606 Extension:** Ashland Avenue to Elston Avenue
- **Burnham Multimodal Connector Bridge:** Green Bay Ave to Brainard Ave
- **1st Avenue & Union Pacific RR Grade Separation** at IL 171 and UPRR
- **I-294 Interchange** at Midlothian Turnpike / Pulaski Road
- **Lake Cook Road Bridge Replacements** over the North Branch of the Chicago River; over CNRR; and over East Rand Road

Construction

- **175th Street:** Ridgeland Avenue, Oak Forest Avenue
- **88th/Cork Avenue** at I-294 Interchange
- **Busse Road:** Golf Road to Central Road
- **Central Road**: Huntington Boulevard to Barrington Road
- **County Line Road South:** I-294 Ramp to Lake Street
- **Franklin Avenue/Green Street**: York Road to Runge Street
- **Old Orchard Road:** Woods Drive to Skokie Boulevard
- **Touhy Avenue:** Elmhurst Road to Mt. Prospect Avenue

Roadway rehabilitation in suburban Cook County

Central Avenue Bridge Deck Replacement

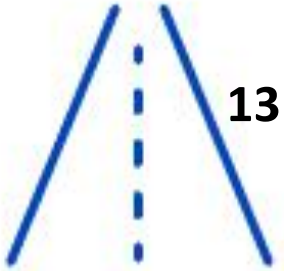
Invest in Cook Program – New Awards

The Invest in Cook Program has allowed the County to conduct **32** projects in **31** municipalities and **1** township, advancing $27.4 million in project activity.

4 Transit Projects

1 Freight Project

14 Pedestrian/Bike Projects



13 Roadway Projects

Over **60%** of Funds invested in high need communities

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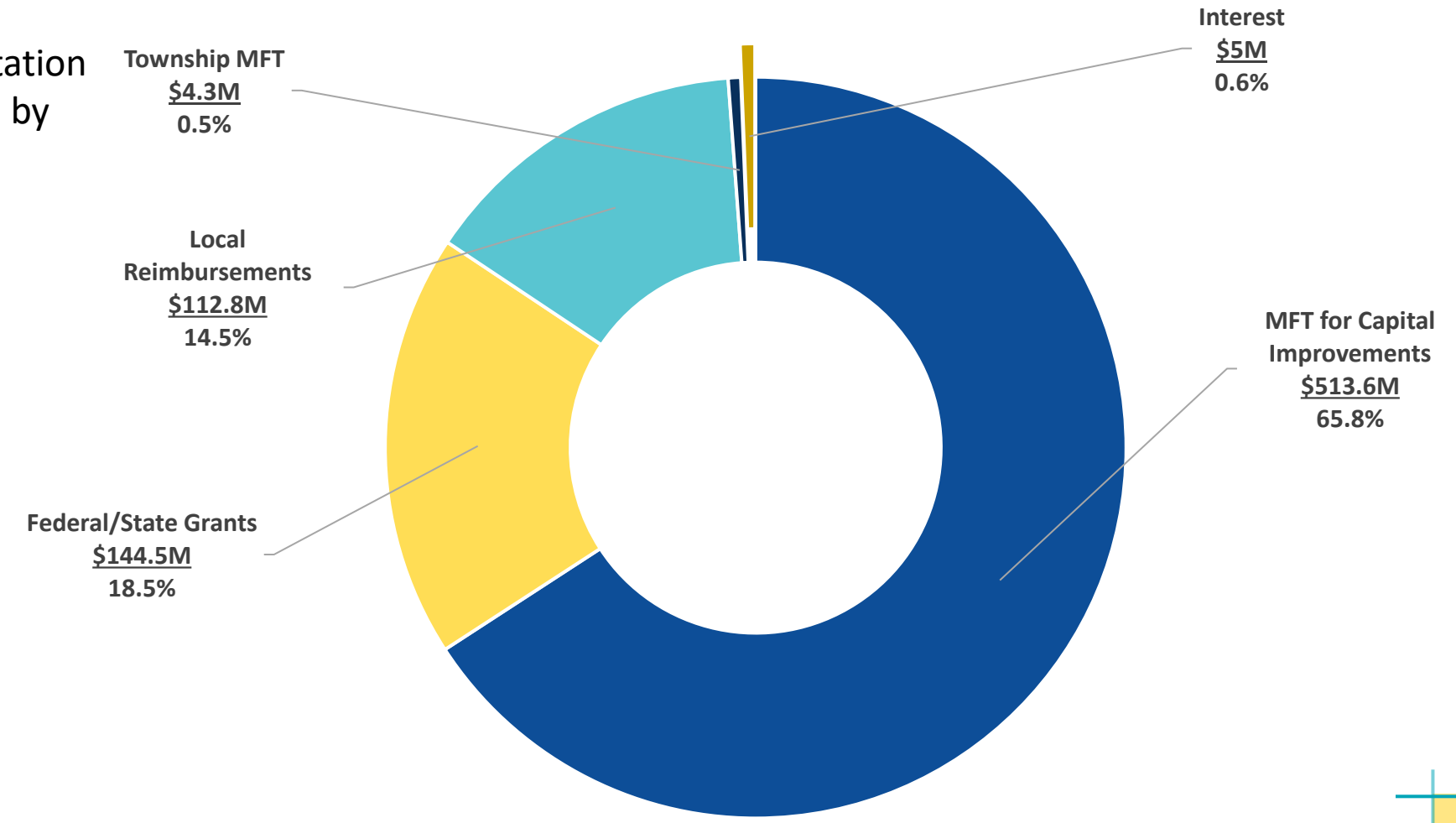
2026-2030 Transportation Program Funding by Source

DOTH's 2026-2030 Transportation funding program breakdown by funding source.



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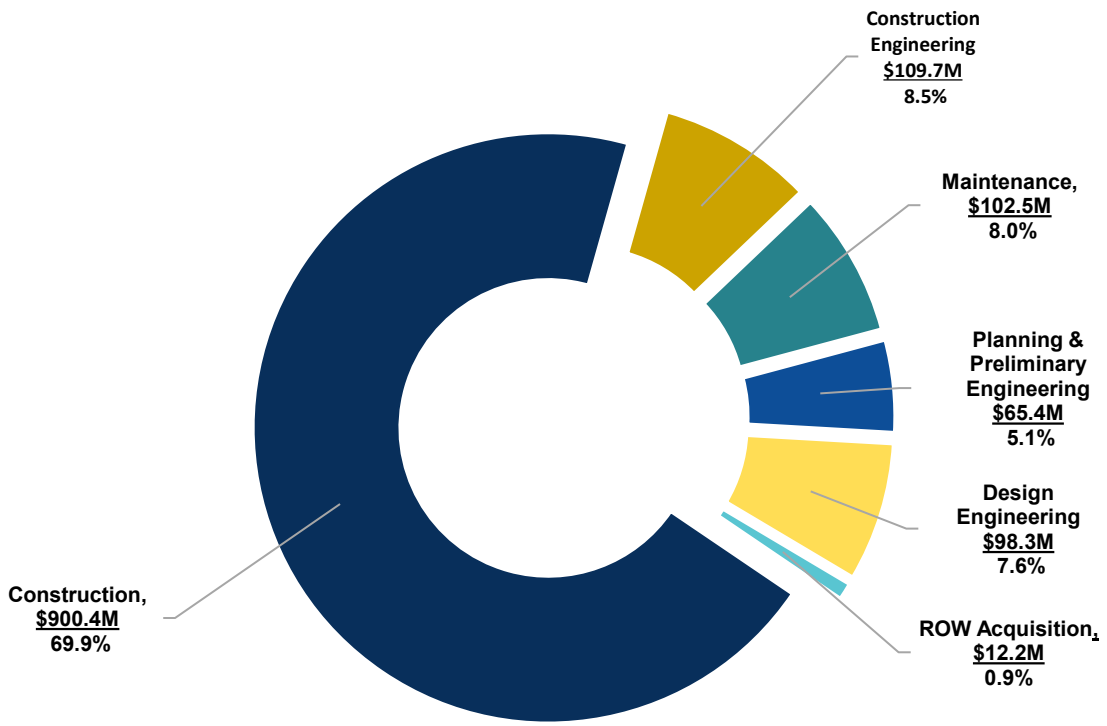
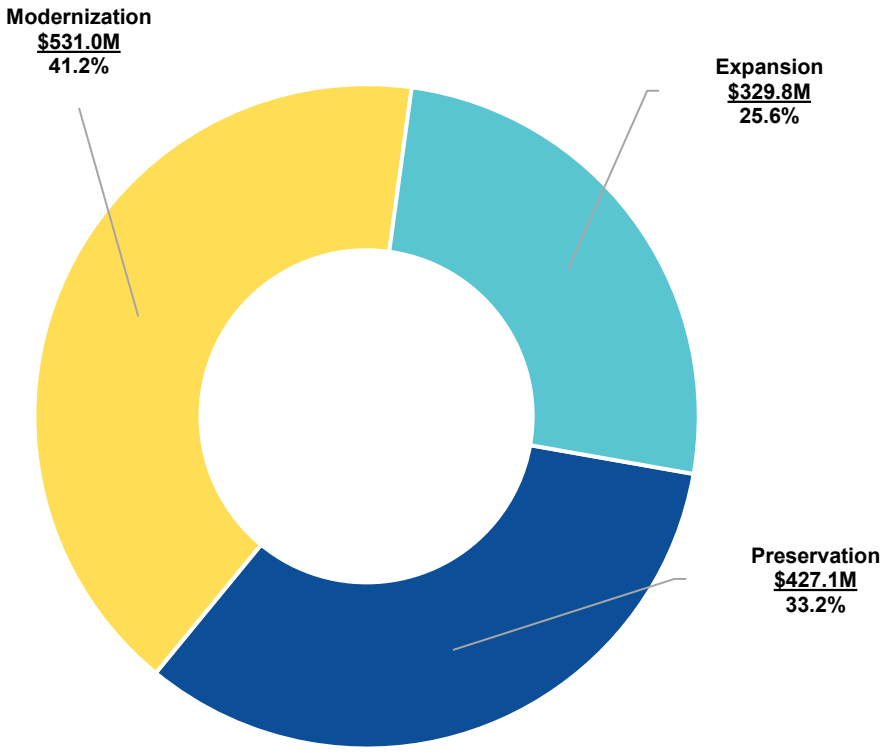
2026-2030 Projects and Services by Category and Task

Transportation Program by Project Task



Transportation Program by Project Type



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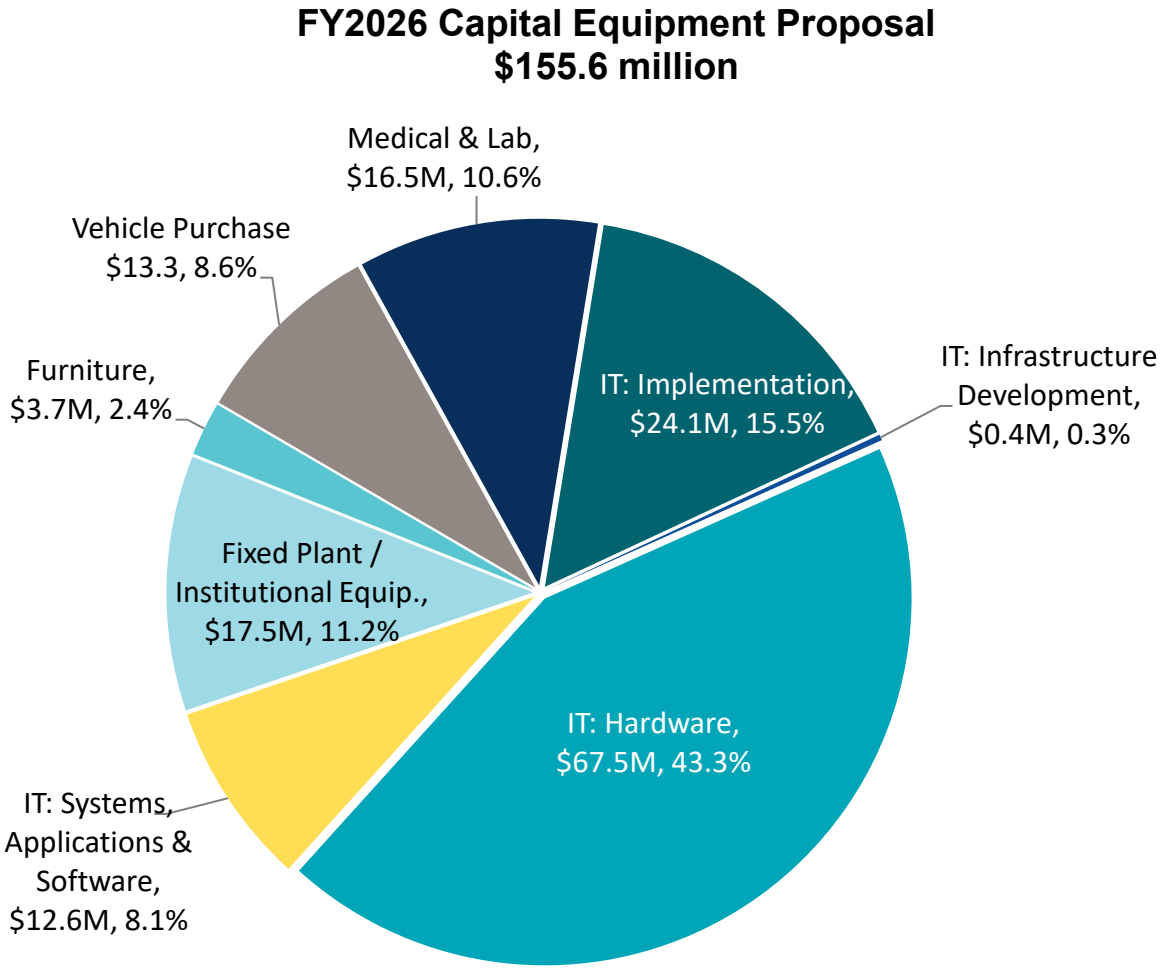
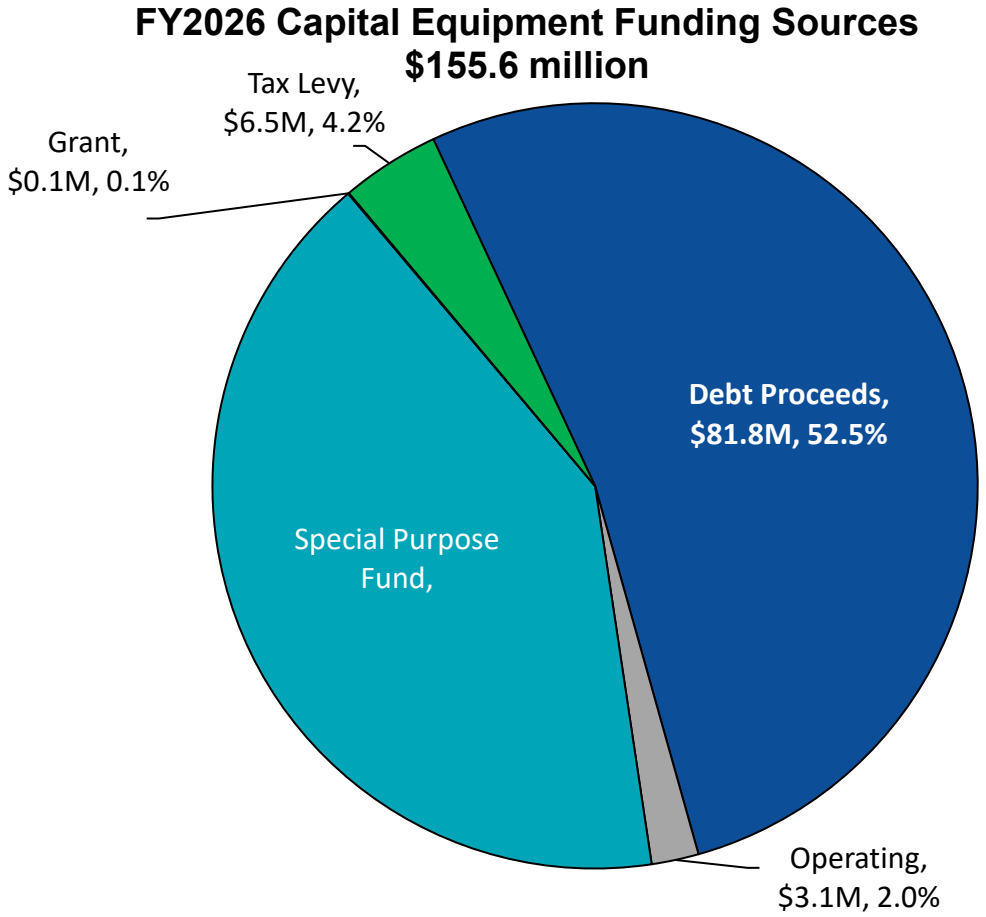
Capital Equipment Projects (CEP)

FY2026 Capital Equipment By Funding Sources





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Major 2026 Capital Equipment Projects

Connected Communities

- Data Center Consolidation & Remediation
- Integrated Property Tax System
- Generative AI
- Capital Improvement Asset Management System

Vital Communities

- GIS Property Imaging and Data Collection
- County Zoning Map
- ADA Enhancements

Safe & Thriving Communities

- Digital Evidence Management System
- Public Defender Case Management
- Juvenile EMS (JEMS)
- State's Attorney Case Management System

Open Communities

- Computer & Radio Hardware Lifecycle
- Hosting & Disaster Recovery
- ERP Enhancements
- Enterprise Identity & Access Management
- Enterprise Data Warehouse

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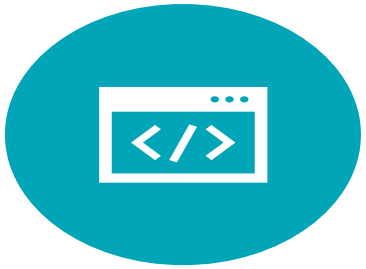
Technology Strategy



APPLICATION MODERNIZATION

- Migrate legacy applications to a new platform, **merging redundant applications** whenever possible.
- Focus on systems flexible enough to meet the needs of the County that require minimal changes; **saving costs and eliminating excessive time to completion**.
- Align staff and skills to a more **customer-centric approach**.

HYBRID CLOUD INFRASTRUCTURE

- Smart mix of **on-premises and off-premises infrastructure**
- **Disaster recovery** for all critical applications and data
- Facilitate **cross-departmental data integration**
- Improve **data security, access and quality**

RESIDENT TECHNOLOGY ENGAGEMENT

- Open Data
- **Digital access** for underserved residents
- **Digital mapping services**

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Major IT Project Strategic Areas

APPLICATION MODERNIZATION

- Data & File Storage $1.8M
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) $3.7M
- ERP $4.3M
- AI Implementation $3.0M
- ADA Enhancements $1.5M
- Budget Project $2.9M

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- Hosting and Disaster Recovery $3.5M
- OUP Computer Hardware Lifecycle $7.9M
- Enterprise Identity Access $2.1M
- ITSM Tool Upgrade $0.6M
- Security $.4M

Questions