

Program Details

Equity and Quality of Life Program

Purpose of the Program

The Equity and Quality of Life (EQOL) Project is a capital program initiated by the City of Urbana to address tactical infrastructure needs, with an emphasis on underserved neighborhoods. The goal is to improve health and safety for Urbana residents in tangible ways through a series of small projects. Project selection will be done with community input using a rating scale as outlined below. The initial investment in the program is \$2,000,000.

Purpose of the Submission Process

The purpose of the submission process is for community members, as well as City staff, to propose projects for consideration that will be ranked using the rating system below. No monetary awards will be made to community members. Rather, the City of Urbana will be implementing these projects using either in-house resources or contracted services. The City is interested in hearing from residents what their priorities are for small changes that can have a large impact on their community. The maximum target size for an individual project will be \$250,000, but the City reserves the right to exceed that maximum for a given project if circumstances warrant.

Types of Infrastructure Projects that will be considered

- Enhancements for pedestrian travel safety
- Enhancements for bicycle travel safety
- Enhancements for personal safety
- Enhancements for ADA compliance

Examples

- Street lights
- Sidewalks
- Traffic calming
- Sidewalk ramps
- Streetscapes, trees

For this initial phase of the program, all proposed enhancements must be located in the public right-of-way to be eligible.

Submission Process

In order to maximize participation from community members, the City wants to keep the submission process as simple as possible. At a minimum, the submission form must include a specific location (may be a specific address or block), identification of the proposed infrastructure (e.g., missing sidewalk), and a short statement of why the enhancement will promote safety.

Submission Review

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) has agreed to be the reviewing body for the EQOL submissions. There will be two rounds of review.

The first round of review will be to determine whether the submissions fit the parameters of the EQOL project. This will include a high-level determination of whether the proposed scope would exceed the \$250,000 maximum for a single project, whether the proposed project will be addressed through another initiative, and whether the improvement would be exclusively within the public right of way. Depending on the number of submissions received, there may be additional screening applied.

Next, each project will be reviewed by staff to determine the appropriate number of points to be assigned per the scoring system outlined below:

Scoring System (Points awarded)

Physical Safety

Documented fatality at this location w/in past 5 years (any cause)	10 points
Documented injury at this location w/in past 5 years (any cause)	5 points
Accident history w/in past 5 years (including frequency)	5 points

Personal Safety

Documented NIBRS Group A crime (e.g., assault) within one block	10 points
Documented NIBRS Group B crime (e.g., DUI) within one block	5 points

Neighborhood Need

Documented Low- to Moderate-Income Area (per HUD)	30 points
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Connectivity to Destinations (e.g., schools, parks, commercial)

Part of a documented safe-route-to-school or identified connectivity issue in existing plans	10 points
Within one-quarter mile of a school	5 points
Serves multiple destinations	3 points/destination

Availability of Matching Resources

1% - 50%	5 points
>50%	15 points

The scoring system is intended to be a guide for assisting in the prioritization process. Staff will report to the results of this scoring to BPAC for consideration and recommendations.

The projects recommended to advance will then be reviewed by staff to assign an order-of-magnitude cost estimate. These cost estimates will be used to make the final determination of which projects will be recommended for design and implementation. BPAC will report to Council for their final determinations.