



denver **STREETS PARTNERSHIP**.org
Advocating for people-friendly streets in Denver

Budget Public Hearing Comment Guide: Share your support for safe streets funding at City Council

BACKGROUND

In 2021, Denver doubled parking meter rates and created the Transportation & Mobility Special Revenue Fund (SRF) to dedicate approximately \$15 million in annual revenue to safe streets, including pedestrian, bicycle, and transit improvements. But the Mayor's proposed 2027 budget diverts nearly \$9 million from the fund to pay for parking operations (more than half!). This is even as traffic deaths remain unacceptably high.

We need City Council to address both the immediate budget problem and the loophole that allows this misuse to stop it from happening in the future. **Show up to the budget hearing on Monday October 26 to urge City Council to amend the 2027 budget to reallocate that \$9 million back to safe streets improvements and act quickly to amend the ordinance to clearly protect the fund's original purpose**, prioritize infrastructure investments, and prevent future administrations from diverting this dedicated revenue to unrelated expenses.

Read our sign-on letter to Denver City Council [here](#).

HOW TO ADVOCATE

Step 1: Sign up

1. You **MUST** [sign up to speak](#) between 5 p.m. **THIS Thursday, October 22** and 3 p.m. on **Monday, October 26**.
 - a. If you email our Organizing Director, Adrienne (adrienne@denverstreetspartnership.org), that you want to speak, she'll remind you to sign up and remind you day-of to attend!
2. Sign up asap after registration opens, though unlike regular public comment, there is no overall time limit for public hearings, so if you show up to speak you **WILL** get to.

Option 1: Speak in person

1. Choose "in person" when signing up

2. Write and practice a 2 minute and 3 minute version of your written comment (there's a sample below that you're welcome to copy and paste or adapt!)
3. Be at the City and County Building on Monday, XXXX just before 5:30 p.m. (1437 Bannock St, 4th Floor, Cathy Reynolds City Council Chamber)
4. When called, speak for 2 or 3 minutes, depending on how long they've announced comments will be limited to.

Option 2: Speak virtually

1. Choose "Virtually, via Zoom" when signing up
2. You'll receive instructions to join the session online
3. Write and practice a 2 minute and 3 minute version of your written comment (there's a sample below that you're welcome to copy and paste or adapt!)
4. Be signed on and ready to speak on Monday, October 26 just before 5:30 p.m.
 - a. Join at [this link](#) (password: Denver)
5. When called, speak for 2 or 3 minutes, depending on how long they've announced comments will be limited to.

****Tip: Personal stories can make a big impact, no matter which option you choose.**

SAMPLE COMMENT

We encourage you to adapt this sample comment to include why funding for biking, walking, rolling, transit, and safe streets is important to you in the highlighted section.

Good evening, Council Members. My name is [NAME], I live at [Address or cross-streets], and I'm here today to ask you to prioritize funding from the Transportation and Mobility Special Revenue Fund for multimodal and safe streets improvements, and that's it.

In 2021, Denver doubled parking meter rates and created the Transportation & Mobility Special Revenue Fund with the understanding that this money would go toward increasing the safety of our streets for everyone who uses them and making it easier to get around without driving. When we ask for more improvements, we're told there isn't enough money, yet the Mayor's proposed 2027 budget takes \$9 million from this fund to pay for parking operations.

That's unacceptable. Denver continues to see more and more people each year seriously injured or killed on our streets. We desperately need more investment in safe crossings, sidewalks, protected bike lanes, and better transit infrastructure.

I'm asking City Council to take two important actions. First, amend the 2027 budget to remove parking operations costs from the Transportation and Mobility Special Revenue Fund and put that money toward the safe streets improvements Denver desperately needs. Second, act quickly to amend the Fund's ordinance so it can't be misused in the future.

This is important to me because... [Insert your personal paragraph here: why this matters to you – for example, your own experiences trying to navigate dangerous Denver streets.]

This isn't just about one budget cycle. We need to protect the original purpose of this fund and make sure the revenue Denver collects is actually invested in the transportation improvements residents were promised.

Please honor that commitment and put our money toward safe streets for everyone.

Thank you.