

PIEDMONT POST

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING THE CITIZENS OF PIEDMONT

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What, in your view, are the city's top 3 infrastructure needs? If elected to the council, which of these needs would you prioritize addressing? And why?

Given the age of our infrastructure, Piedmont has more maintenance and capital needs than available dollars. As a result, identifying, prioritizing, sequencing, and funding infrastructure projects is a continuous discussion between the city administrator, city council, and residents.

Short-term priorities include regularly-scheduled maintenance and replacement projects, as well as fixing unplanned hazards that — if left unaddressed — could lead to more costly repairs or liability exposure. These include items like street paving, sidewalk repair, and hazardous tree removal, and should be planned for in the annual budget.

Medium-term priorities include larger capital repairs, ADA upgrades, new equipment, technology, and upgrades that are known but may be beyond the reach of the current-year budget. Sequencing of these projects can change with the availability of municipal funding, limited state and regional grants, and community fundraising efforts.

Long-term infrastructure needs (10+ years) include replacing or rebuilding older city buildings, particularly our fire and police stations. These buildings are in use 24-hours a day, are expensive to maintain, and suboptimal for their current needs. While rebuilding these facilities would require significant financial and logistical planning, it may also present an opportunity to consider additional civic assets such as a library or senior center.