

Overview: Each January, Salt Lake City Council Members review and revise the priorities on which they want to make significant progress during the coming year. Their three priorities for 2016 – adding affordable housing and reducing homelessness, improving the City's economic development activities, and finding sustainable funding sources for street maintenance – provide a guiding lens through which Council Members view their discussions and decisions on policy and budget issues. The priorities also inform the Mayor, City Administration and the public about the items Council Members feel are of highest importance to ensure that quality of life remains high for Salt Lake City residents and businesses; that the City is accommodating, vibrant and safe for those whose live, work, visit and play here; and that the City's financial underpinnings are solid and fair for all taxpayers.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING / HOMELESSNESS

One of the most-pressing issues facing Salt Lake City – and cities throughout the nation – is the lack of affordable housing for everyone who wants to live here and enjoy a high standard of living. An ample supply of affordable housing is especially important to help address the complex issue of reducing homelessness in our community.

The Council's priority is to:

- Increase affordable housing availability for individuals and families earning between 60 percent and 100 percent of the local average median income (AMI), in part by:
 - Adopting an updated Housing Policy
 - Lobbying for more federal funds for housing
 - Ensuring the City's Housing Trust Fund supports this goal
 - Considering zoning changes that could expand housing opportunities
- Improve housing and services for homeless people while ensuring public safety, order and quality of life, in part by:
 - Working closely with the City Administration and Salt Lake County to implement the recommendations of the citizen-led commissions on homeless services and locations
 - Encouraging state legislators to expand Medicaid and to fund \$20 million for homeless facilities and \$7 million annually to fund homeless services
 - Supporting legislative proposals to increase funding for affordable workforce housing

Measures of success include:

- Additional funding for affordable housing
- Zoning changes to support affordable housing and shelters
- Improved homeless services and facilities; fewer panhandlers

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Salt Lake City's economy is strong, our population is growing, and our downtown and other business districts are thriving. Nonetheless, we are facing challenges requiring us to do more to strengthen our local, regional and national economic standing so that prosperity and high-quality opportunities are plentiful for all current and future residents in every neighborhood of the City.

The Council's priority is to:

- Nurture a robust, sustainable, vibrant and diverse economy that offers opportunity for all City residents, in part by:
 - Developing and approving a Citywide economic development strategic plan that incorporates appropriate elements of the City's 3-Point Economic Development Pledge, as well as the research and public discussions summarized in the EnterpriseSLC Vision and Strategy Memorandum
 - Building on the goodwill established with the public and business community during the EnterpriseSLC process
 - Supporting business districts and nodes throughout the City
 - Encouraging technology-focused businesses to locate in the City, particularly in the West Downtown and Granary districts
 - Commissioning an audit of the City's building services functions

Measures of success include:

- Council adoption of an Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Providing sufficient resources to implement the Strategic Plan
- Establishing reporting requirements to measure progress and actions to implement the Strategic Plan
- Engaging a consulting firm for a Building Services audit

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR STREET MAINTENANCE

A principal function of City government is to build and maintain the network of roads and sidewalks on which residents and businesses depend on. However, our needs for ongoing maintenance and periodic replacement of our critical infrastructure – streets, sidewalks, curb and gutter – continue to grow faster than the City's ability to keep up because of a lack of sufficient and sustainable funding sources.

The Council's priority is to:

- Maintain the City's infrastructure at a higher level than we do at present, in part by:
 - Identifying and putting in place sustainable funding sources, such as a Transportation Utility Fee
 - Approving a new 10-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) that makes progress to reduce the maintenance backlog
 - Researching and implementing maintenance best practices and innovative technologies and materials
 - Adopting measurements to track maintenance progress to help guide the Council's budgeting and decision-making processes
 - Making information about the City's maintenance schedule and funding easier for the public and businesses to access

Measures of success include:

- Implementation of sustainable funding source(s) for maintaining City infrastructure
- Adoption of a new 10-year Capital Improvements Plan with sufficient focus on maintenance
- Better metrics to track maintenance budgets, projects and progress, and a more-transparent way for people to access maintenance information