

Project Selection Committee Update

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEE
APRIL 6, 2026

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Project Selection Committee

Council Priority Alignment

- Well-Managed Government

Purpose

- Provide an update on Council's request to explore adding councilmembers to the project selection committees

Key Takeaways

- Recap on the 2025 discussion regarding County process
- Share operational considerations for the City
- Have meaningful dialogue on next steps

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Background

- In Spring 2025, Budget, Governance, and Intergovernmental Relations (BGIR) Council Committee requested guidance on Councilmember participation in selection committees
- Request is to design something similar to Mecklenburg County process
- Interim City Attorney Fox (attorney at the time of discussion) shared perspectives from his office
- Staff conducted follow-up research and analysis and shared with the Committee

Mecklenburg County Process

- Currently focus on the selection of architects + Construction Managers At-Risk (CMAR) projects
- Mecklenburg County allows limited commissioner participation
- 1–2 commissioners serve on specific committees (under review to reduce to 1)
- Commissioners do not participate in shortlisting
- Participate only in final interviews
- Committee includes staff leadership and external representative

County Project Selection Approach

- Uses objective scoring criteria:
 - Experience and qualifications
 - Building a workforce that reflects the community served
 - Team composition and joint ventures
- Emphasis on equitable distribution of work
- ~15 projects annually

County Project Selection Committee Benefits & Challenges

- **Benefits:**
 - Additional oversight
 - Supports Board approval process
 - May reduce protest risk
 - Structured through a BOCC policy
- **Challenges:**
 - Scheduling delays with commissioners
 - Limited role to preserve objectivity
 - Public perception of elected officials on committees

BGIR Council Committee Ask of Staff

Design a process that allows City Council members to serve on project selection committees during the interview process

City Operational Considerations

- City processes ~30–34 projects annually over \$2M
- Technical expertise required for evaluations e.g., CMARs
- Legal considerations
- Deputy City Managers to serve on committees as non-scoring members
- Council would need a Council approved policy

Next Steps

- Design a process that is balanced and focused on diversification of qualified businesses
- Review process during upcoming committee meetings

Discussion