

Public Testimony- Budget Hearings for FY25 Budget

- Key Point: Things can **still** change! The budget has *not* been finalized and is still in negotiations.
 - This is the time to make your voice heard- reach out to your council person and attend one of the Mayor's neighborhood meetings
 - Your council people are your advocates so don't make enemies of anyone

Sample testimony that you can use to prepare your own testimony at the hearing or the community town halls:

Hi my name is FULL NAME and I live in NEIGHBORHOOD. I am testifying in support of the gradual increase in funds from the city for Vision Zero.

I was happy to see ____ included in the FY25 Streets Dept. Budget (Pick one issue)

- \$1.25M Budget Line Item for Speed Cushions/Traffic calming but not at the expense of the Vision Zero traffic control line
- Continued investment in the Paving budget
- Happy to see a plan to increase the City's contribution to SEPTA from \$4.8 million to \$7.8 million to the Capital Budget

However the City is still not prioritizing street safety to its fullest potential (Pick one issue)

- The line item for Speed Cushions comes at the expense of the Vision Zero line. The Speed Cushion/Traffic Calming line should come from the grading and paving budget not the traffic control budget line
- The Vision Zero budget line was sliced from \$2.5M (2024) to \$1M (2025). Mayor Kenney was gradually raising this line and it should be increased to \$3M in 2025
 - \$3 Million in 70.1 Traffic Control in Traffic Engineering IMPS for Vision Zero capital projects.
 - Designate \$1 Million in CN Funds from Line 64.1 Reconstruction/Resurfacing of Streets for Vision Zero Maintenance to pay for supplies such as flex posts, quick-curb, line stripping and traffic calming devices that are installed by the Vision Zero Maintenance Crew.
 - \$600,000 for Transit Improvements in line item 70.4 Traffic Control - Signal Synchronization in order to implement transit improvements in the City's five high priority corridors.
- Alongside transit funding, the time is now for Philadelphia to commit to planning and building a short- and long-term intercity bus terminal.
- I would also like to see the Parker administration commit to fully funding the Low Income Zero Fare Program
- Lastly, I implore the School District, SEPTA, and the State Department of Education to explore allowing all students, regardless of distance from their school, to take advantage of free SEPTA transportation.

These issues are important to be because _____ (please provide a personal reason you care about Vision Zero/Safe Streets)

Thank you to Council President and the rest of Council for your time and attention. I look forward to seeing your commitments to Vision Zero reflected in the final FY24 Budget.

Transit Budget Blog:

https://www.transitforwardphilly.org/41724_cityinvestmentintransit_fy2025

Vision Zero Budget Blog:

<https://bicyclecoalition.org/mayor-parkers-first-proposed-budget-leaves-vision-zero-advocates-with-questions/>

City Budget Center:

<https://phlcouncil.com/budget2025/>

Mayor Parker's neighborhood town halls:

https://www.phila.gov/2024-04-26-join-mayor-cherelle-l-parker-at-an-upcoming-budget-town-hall-to-learn-more-about-her-historic-first-budget/?mc_cid=bc6aeef8dd&mc_eid=290d41d9d4