

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Anya Sharma, Director of Public Works **FROM:** David Chen, City Manager **DATE:** October 26, 2023 **SUBJECT:** Upcoming Budget Cycle and Capital Projects

Anya,

As we prepare for next week's council presentation, I want to reiterate the administration's priorities. The Riverbend Technology Park is our primary focus for new capital allocation. It's projected to bring 1,500 jobs and significant tax revenue, and the Mayor is fully committed to its success.

This means we must be extremely prudent with the existing capital improvement budget. I've seen the preliminary numbers on the Century Bridge inspection, and they are concerning. However, a \$75M replacement is simply not feasible right now. The political and financial capital isn't there.

I need you to come back with a plan that focuses on essential, safety-critical repairs only. Let's look at a 1-2 year horizon. We need to keep the bridge functional without derailing our city's primary growth initiative. Find the leanest option that keeps traffic moving safely. We can revisit a larger-scale project in a few years once the tech park is generating revenue.

Let's discuss before the council meeting.

Best,

David