

City of Detroit


CITY COUNCIL

GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 6

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ron Brundidge, Director
Department of Public Works

THRU: Council Member James Tate, Council President

FROM: Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero 

DATE: March 24, 2026

RE: DPW Budget Questions

Please see below for inquiries related to activities undertaken by the Department of Public Works:

1. Please provide estimates of how much funding would be required to support implementation and installation of the Safe Streets program and infrastructure.
 - a. Please provide detail including:
 - i. Estimated cost for “quick-build” temporary infrastructure City-wide (phase 1 type build)
 - ii. Estimated cost for hard build outs in major pedestrian and commercial corridors
2. Please provide estimates of how much funding would be required for the Department to effectively implement:
 - a. Multilingual, fully translated temporary signage for residential alerts, such as No Parking for street sweeping. (in English, Spanish, Arabic, and Bengali)
 - b. Nonverbal/image-based wayfinding signage in major pedestrian and commercial corridors.
3. Please provide estimates of funding needed to install 100 bike racks across the city.
 - a. Locations would be guided by the Complete Streets program, who have estimated costs at \$50,000 over a period of two (2) years.
 - i. Please include if the estimated amount is still accurate, and if not, what additional funding is needed.

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DPW Small Business supports during street renovations:

Members of the small business community have reached out to my office with concerns regarding the impacts of City of Detroit-initiated street construction projects on the viability of their businesses. To that end, please provide responses to the following inquiries:

1. How does DPW or the administration support small businesses impacted by street construction projects?
2. What can DPW be equipped with to better support small businesses impacted by street construction projects?
3. Please provide estimates of how much funding would be required for DPW to implement a program to support small businesses and ensure their viability through the initiation and completion of street construction projects.

Public Restrooms:

January 20, 2026, my office submitted a memo to LPD requesting, 1) Information on how many parks have public, accessible restrooms, 2) The cost for the city to address every bathroom in need of repair, and 3) The cost for the city to establish or create new public unisex bathrooms, and 4) The cost effectiveness, if any, to contract with a company to provide restrooms instead of the city building their own, among other questions. Based on the estimate from the General Services Department, a comfort station/public restroom will cost between \$40,000 to \$300,000 depending on the size. Please provide the following:

1. The estimated funding DPW will require for the city to build new, public unisex restrooms; these are to be available in public corridors, that can be temporary and should be able to be moved to different locations.
 - a. Where in the budget allocations would DPW pull this funding to accomplish this request?
2. The estimated funding needed for the city to pay a vendor such as, but not limited to, Throne Labs who provide such accessible restrooms to various cities across the United States.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Cc: Honorable Detroit City Council

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Louise Jones, City Clerk's Office
Malik Washington, City Council Liaison