

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

Date: 1/15/2025

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairperson, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Joe Lamers, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, & Budget

Subject: Amend Milwaukee County General Ordinance Chapter 36 – Capital Improvements Committee to include Racial Equity Scoring Criteria pursuant to Adopted 2025 Amendment #07

File Type: Action Report, Resolution, Ordinance

REQUEST

Pursuant to Amendment #07 from the Adopted 2025 Budget, the Office of Strategy, Budget, & Performance (OSBP), is to provide an amendment to Milwaukee County General Ordinance Chapter 36 – Capital Improvements Committee (MCO-36), to include racial equity as a criteria factor when determining capital project priorities.

POLICY

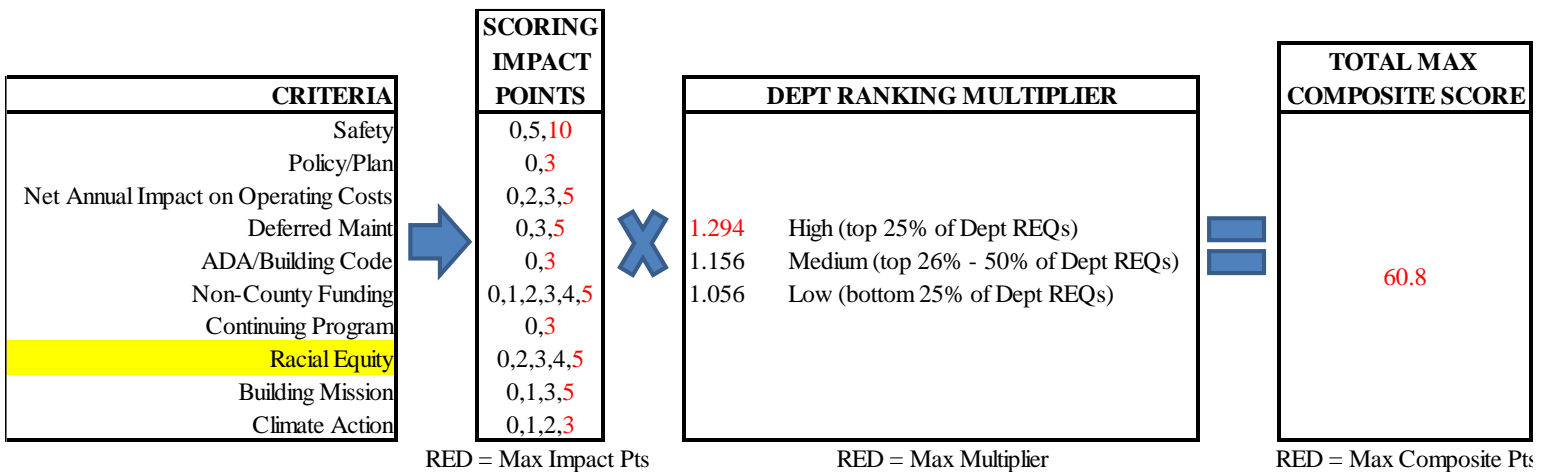
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Chapter 36
Specific Adopted Budget:	2025 Adopted Budget
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	Amendment #07 (File No. 24-827)

BACKGROUND

Capital Improvements Committee

Milwaukee County (County) established the Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) to review, score, and prioritize annual capital project requests via MCO-36 and has been functioning continuously since 2014. The CIC acts in an advisory capacity and provides a non-binding advisory report to the Board of Supervisors and the County Executive to assist policy makers with development of the annual capital budget.

Once established, the CIC formed criteria to prioritize capital projects as directed by MCO-36. The CIC utilizes this scoring criteria to evaluate and prioritize annual capital project requests and provide a quantitative baseline predicated on shared County priorities and goals:



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Existing Racial Equity Scoring Criteria (Capital Budget) – Development

Racial equity criteria was developed as part of a CIC workgroup (including staff from the Office of Equity) and incorporated into the overall CIC scoring criteria at its May 13, 2019 meeting (File No. [19-473](#)).

Existing Racial Equity Scoring Criteria (Capital Budget) – Detail

Racial groups are based upon those defined by the United States Census Bureau (USCB). For this criteria, scoring impact points are assigned to projects based on the percent of minority population(s) served by the given project. If this information is not available from departments, the location (by ZIP Code) of the capital project is used. The USCB provides racial group data by ZIP Code and minority populations can be determined as a result. The USCB definitions and ZIP Code information allow for standardization that can be applied to this scoring criteria.

CRITERIA	IMPACT
6.) Racial Equity *Minority Population: defined as any group other than non-Hispanic white (United States Census Bureau).	5 – 76-100% racial minority population* served (PRIMARY) OR racial minority population of ZIP Code where the project is located (SECONDARY)
	4 – 51%-75% racial minority population* served (PRIMARY) OR racial minority population of ZIP Code where the project is located (SECONDARY)
	3 – 26%-50% racial minority population* served (PRIMARY) OR racial minority population of ZIP Code where the project is located (SECONDARY)
	2 – 15%-25% racial minority population* served (PRIMARY) OR racial minority population of ZIP Code where the project is located (SECONDARY)
	0 – 0%-14% racial minority population* served (PRIMARY) OR racial minority population of ZIP Code where the project is located (SECONDARY)

The racial equity criteria has been used as part of the annual CIC capital project evaluation and prioritization process with six (6) budgets (2020 capital budget through the 2025 capital budget).

2025 Adopted Budget Amendment 07

As part of the County Board adoption of the 2025 operating and capital budgets, amendment #07 was approved and directs the OSBP to provide an ordinance change to MCO-36 to specifically include racial equity as a criteria factor when the CIC determines capital project priorities. The attached resolution provides updated language to section 36.01 as follows:

The capital improvement committee shall include a racial equity criteria component as part of its scoring and prioritization methodology.

The existing Racial Equity criteria is aligned with the amended MCO language.

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ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.

FISCAL EFFECT

The report has no fiscal impact.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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APPROVED BY

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ATTACHMENTS

None

CC:

David Crowley, County Executive

Marcelia Nicholson, Chairperson, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors

Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive

Janelle Jensen, Sr. Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk

Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller