

5 Year Capital Improvements Plan & Narrative

Town of Putnam
FY2027 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Description		FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031	5-Year Subtotal	FY2027 Category Subtotal
Road Construction ^a								
	Five Mile River Road Improvements	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	
	Road Reconstruction (continued efforts toward various roads on chip seal surface treatment, in addition to other roads.)	\$ 587,220	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 1,487,220	
	Route 44 towards Walmart Sidewalks - engineering and legal/administration, with planned LOTCIP application in later years	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ 1,510,000	
	Grove Street Area (connecting streets) Sidewalks - engineering and legal/administration. Applied for Community Investment Fund 2030 Grant, waiting for response.	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ 1,510,000	
							Subtotal:	\$ 617,220
Bridges								
	East Putnam Road Bridge (over Mary Brown Brook).	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,100,000	
	Danco Road Bridge - State 50/50 Local Bridge Program.	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	
	East Putnam Road Bridge (over Cady Brook). State DOT program for full engineering through construction supported by state.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	
	Chase Road Bridge (over Cady Brook). State DOT program for full engineering through construction supported by state.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	
	Bridge Improvements Fund, including culverts. Past FY funding will include support for Wicker Street culvert repair.	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 200,000	
							Subtotal:	\$ 200,000
Parks								
	Rec & Athletic Fields	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 200,000	
	Playscape and equipment at town recreation fields	\$ -		\$ 50,000	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000	
	Track Improvements at St Marie Greenhalgh. STEAP awarded \$1M, to be used in FY26/FY27.	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400,000	
	Tennis Court Improvements (funding per previous approvals)	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	
	Air Line Trail Connection and Improvements Project, from Putnam to Thompson. Engineering consultant funded per previous FY CIP.	\$ 10,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 6,110,000	

Town of Putnam
FY2027 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Description		FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031	5-Year Subtotal	FY2027 Category Subtotal
Air Line Trail Connection and Improvements Project, from Putnam to Killingly. TAP funded approved 100% including East Coast Greenway component.		\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000		\$ 10,005,000	
Air Line Trail property acquisition and improvements, adjacent to the Quinebaug River and Henry Breault pedestrian bridge.		\$ 110,764	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 110,764	
Improvements to Sabin Street Recreation Field. Expect Revenue from the recent and ongoing Gravel Sales provide for final Town improvements.		\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	
Union Square Granite Steps Repointing and Improvements		\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	
Riverbank Invasive Vegetation Management		\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	
Simonzi Park - Streambank Stabilization		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	
							Subtotal:	\$ 635,764
Board of Education								
See BOE Narrative. BOE Capital Project Fund; including for Furniture Replacement , Wireless Access Point (local share, 80% by grant funding), mini-splits, carpeting, doors, elevation maintenance, security cameras, etc.		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
		\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000	
							Subtotal:	\$ 100,000
Public Buildings								
Public Facilities Maintenance		\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 275,000	
Storage Facility		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 180,000	
Armory - electricity and heat in portions building, and lead and asbestos abatement.		\$ 38,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 388,000	
							Subtotal:	\$ 73,000
Equipment								
Equipment is included in Operational Debt Service (lease payments), or paid with Equipment Reserves Fund		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
							Subtotal:	\$ -
Information Technology								
Tabulators - Elections. Registrars do not expect any for at least 1 more year.		\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000	
Replacement Hardware		\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 90,000	
							Subtotal:	\$ 10,000

Town of Putnam
FY2027 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Description		FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031	5-Year Subtotal	FY2027 Category Subtotal
Economic and Redevelopment Projects								
	Belding Mill Redevelopment - State DECD Grant Pass-through. As shown in previous FY26 for \$2M, State has now tentatively approved \$2.463M for remediation.	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,463,000		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,463,000	
	Town-wide Brownfield Assessment - EPA Grant. While FY26 application was not successful, reviewing committee advised re-submittal in FY27.	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000	
	Putnam Foundry 2 Furnace Street - CT DECD Brownfield Municipal Grant (ongoing, funding per previous FY25 CIP)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	Putnam Foundry 2 Furnace Street - CT DECD Brownfield Municipal Grant. Stage II for facility remediation efforts. Expect Spring 2027 Grant Notification/Opportunity	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	Union Square Courtyard. Applied for State Grant Urban Green and Community Garden Grant Program, with match of local funding and some non-profit commitment.	\$ 338,836	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 588,836	
							Subtotal:	\$1,588,836
Town Improvements								
	Downtown Parking. Coordinate Eversource Gas installation (along Main St in 2026 or later). Placeholder.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	
	Blight	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000	
							Subtotal:	\$ -
		\$ 3,224,820	\$ 4,313,000	\$13,950,000	\$14,390,000	\$2,440,000	\$ 38,317,820	\$4,224,820

Town of Putnam
FY2027 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Description	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031	5-Year Subtotal	FY2027 Category Subtotal
Funding Legend							
1 Ground Lease Revenues ^c	\$ 1,038,000						
2 Federal Aid - LOTCIP	\$ -						
3 State Aid - Town Aid Road	\$ 315,420						
4 Federal Aid - Federal Bridge Program	\$ -						
5 State Aid - State Bridge Program	\$ -						
6 State Aid - Municipal Projects (MGA)	\$ 171,800						
7 Sticker Fund	\$ -						
8 Ash Landfill STIF Account	\$ -						
9 General fund - Unassigned Fund Balance	\$ -						
10 State Aid - LoCIP	\$ 110,764						
State and Federal Aid - Various Grants including DECD, EPA, and							
11 STEAP	\$ 1,250,000						
12 Not Used	\$ -						
13 State Aid - Distressed Municipalities	\$ 50,000						
Town ECD Trust Fund / Redevelopment Funding (requires Board							
14 approval)	\$ 258,836						
15 Cannabis municipal tax share	\$ 30,000						
Subtotal Check:	\$ 3,224,820						

Notes

- a FY2027 proposed road Improvements includes \$315,420 from Town Aid Road; and \$171,800 from Municipal Grant & Aid.
- b All equipment leases are included in the General Government Operational Budget. Direct purchases of equipment are paid from Equipment Reserves.
Ash Revenue is estimated and allocated as follows: CY2026 monthly \$234,851; so calendar year total \$2.818M (assumes first 6 months of CY2027 remain the same). Per March 19, 2018 Special Town Meeting, \$1.7M is allocated to Operational Revenue. An additional \$80k is allocated to lease payment, and therefore the remaining value of \$1,038,000 is allocated towards CIP.
- c

TOWN OF PUTNAM

FY 2027 TOWN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN NARRATIVE

Introduction

The Town has prepared its 5-year capital improvements plan (CIP) based on review of ongoing and planned capital expenditures. Town Departments have provided input, especially from the Mayor's Office, Highway Department, Economic Development, and Recreation Department. The Board of Education has also prepared a plan, which is amended to this narrative, and as applicable, included in the Town's financial planning. The plan will be brought to the Planning and Zoning Commission to request a positive recommendation of the plan, including considering goals of the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

This CIP will be reviewed by the Mayor, the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance, and the public prior to it being voted on at the Town Meeting. This document summarizes the items included under various categories and notes applicable modifications. The categories correspond with the FY27 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan for the Town of Putnam. As with all long-term plans, the initial year (FY27) is most accurate, with future years approximated based on today's knowledge and current planning documents and information. Recommendations for future years will be updated in future budget planning processes. Of course, availability of funding also drives any capital projects. Town Administration is watching the various federal and state programs to identify how local projects may be supported by new sources of funding. In recent and upcoming years, the Town has prioritized applying for state and federal funding. These types of projects are included in the CIP and will be realized dependent on the future success of those funding applications and programs. Regarding scheduling of projects, oftentimes an upcoming year's expected grant is postponed, so there may appear to be overlap of funding between past and projected years.

The following sections summarize anticipated capital projects in FY27 and beyond. This document also includes a summary of the anticipated funding sources for FY27.

Road Construction

Five Mile River Road –Recent years have completed improvements along several lengths of this roadway. Final minor work is expected in this Summer 2026. This work has been funded by the State's Town Aid Road allotment and Municipal Grant & Aid allotment.

Road Reconstruction - Road Reconstruction is for a number of identified roads that have been identified as requiring reconstruction/overlayment/chip seal. Continuing pavement improvement efforts completed in recent years; additional small lengths of roads may be reconstructed in FY2027. For FY2027, pavement efforts including mill and pave, overlay pave, cold in place recycling, and chip seal are planned, with the priority roads to include the following:

- Canal St. following coordination of work by Eversource Gas, Sunset (tying into Kennedy, when that work is completed), various lengths of Kennedy Drive, including between Park Road and Sunset Ave.

This schedule is subject to change. The road reconstruction item also includes drainage, guide rail, and sidewalk improvements, as applicable and as funding is available. This full amount of state funding provided for Town Aid Road and Municipal Grant & Aid is budgeted towards road improvements. As possible, the Town also supports road improvements using Ground Lease Revenues.

North End Sidewalks and Grove Street Area Sidewalks. The Town is planning to continue sidewalk improvements in these areas. Survey work has been completed and NECCOG (included as part of Town services from NECCOG) has prepared preliminary design plans. Then, the Town intends to apply for LOTCIP, Community Connectivity or other available grant funding for each project. As shown, expect several years prior to construction activities.

Bridges

East Putnam Road Bridge - Currently there are two galvanized culverts which are showing soil breakthrough. The Town is using consulting engineers to prepare design options, with expected grant applications to the State DOT following, likely via the State's 50/50 Bridge Program.

Danco Road Bridge –This project has been awarded for state bridge 50/50 funding. Construction has been ongoing since Spring 2025, and is now projected to finish in Spring 2026. This project is funded partially with state funds, and partially with local funds, including past year local allotments, and this year proposed partial Ground Lease Revenues.

East Putnam Road Bridge over Cady Brook. This project has been accepted into the State's 100% design-through-construction bridge program. DOT engineering consultants are coordinating design, with construction expected in future years. This program uses no local funds.

Chase Road Bridge over Cady Brook. This project also has been accepted into the State's 100% design-through-construction bridge program. DOT engineering consultants are coordinating design, with construction expected in future years. This program uses no local funds.

Bridge Improvements – There are 19 bridges throughout the Town of Putnam that are part of the road infrastructure. In addition to the recently completed and planned improvements, many of the Town's bridges require relatively minor repairs including at-grade and substructure improvements. This fund included proposed local funding to keep our bridges adequately maintained so that their full structure life can be realized, and State DOT inspections can report satisfactory or good conditions. FY2026 includes no proposed funding. Prior year funding will be used to repair the Wicker Street culvert.

Parks

Recreation and athletic fields will allow continued improvements and modifications to the Town's properties including Sabin Street and Murphy Park. Additional areas may include the middle school field and the high school level field (driveway out to Woodstock Avenue). Long-term Murphy Park improvements may include various items including tennis courts, skatepark and playground area around

the Armory. Related equipment like fencing, landscaping, and sitework could be covered by this fund. FY2027 has no local funding, with future years increasing.

The playscape item is intended for Town recreation fields, possibly at Murphy Park for toddler playground equipment. FY2027 has no local funding, with future years increasing.

The revitalization of the track at St. Marie Greenhalgh Field has been initiated, including survey and design. The Town has been awarded \$1M in State STEAP funding. The work will include stripping the existing rubber to the base material, installing new rubber, new acrylic coating and new lining. Bidding is expected in Spring 2026, with construction in either 2026 or 2027.

Tennis Court Improvements are planned for the Church St tennis and basketball courts. The work will include strip and reset the pavement on the 3 tennis courts and the 1 basketball court. Two of the tennis courts will be redesigned as pickleball courts. Fencing would have to be replaced. The Recreation Department and Highway Department are coordinating, with possible single or multiple construction contracts.

The Air Line Trail from Putnam to Thompson is one of the last remaining gaps along the Trail throughout the state. Engineering consultant work is ongoing, using State DEEP funding. The next phase includes planning and design for the length between the terminus of the River Trail (at Providence/Kennedy intersection) and Intervale Street (ice cream stand being the destination point). Eventual continuation to complete the trail to connect to the Thompson trail head parking lot along Route 12 in Thompson. [Note that the Town of Pomfret is leading a construction project to improve the Air Line Trail from Pomfret to Putnam to the point of the Quinebaug River / Henry Berault Pedestrian Bridge.]

The Air Line Trail Connection from Putnam to Killingly has been awarded for DOT's Transportation Alternatives Program. Following a request for qualifications evaluation, an engineer has been selected, with scoping and budgeting of engineering efforts ongoing. This is a long-term effort, with planning, permitting and engineering expected over several years.

A new item included in the FY27 CIP is a potential property acquisition and improvements around the 8 Quinebaug and 140 Quinebaug Avenue properties owned by the Sylvia Hankin family. This property includes a portion of the Air Line Trail, which the Town has easement rights over. As the Air Line Trail Improvements from the Town of Pomfret TAP project are realized, full municipal ownership of this Putnam-located portion are beneficial. The adjacent Quinebaug Ave property would allow for trail adjacent use, and possible ease of construction activities on the trail. Longer term, the adjacent Henry Breault pedestrian bridge will continue to require upkeep and maintenance.

The Sabin Street Recreation Field project will need local funding once the contracted gravel work is complete. Town responsibilities include final seeding and landscaping to create recreational opportunities. No funding is planned for FY27, but future years will need to allocate funds. The gravel work onsite is expected to continue through 2026.

The Union Square park improvements under Economic Development include a related improvement in this category, to maintain and repair the existing granite steps to Route 44.

Improvements to the River Walk and adjacent Vegetative continue to be important. This projects use of local funds for invasive vegetative management.

The streambank at Simonzi Park has significant erosion and will likely need to be addressed in future fiscal years. In recent years, the Board of Selectmen have approved conceptual design costs from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds. Efforts in FY23 and FY24 to obtain federal funding through the Army Corps of Engineers were not successful. The Town will continue to monitor availability of federal funding for a future improvements project.

Board of Education

This category covers Board of Education (BOE) capital improvements. The Town coordinates with BOE for these projects and grant efforts, and based on state requirements, the Town manages funding payments and receipts.

For the FY2027 budget, BOE has prepared a separate narrative detailing several projects they are prioritizing (attached following this narrative). The Town has included \$100,000 for Ground Lease Revenues to support the BOE capital improvements.

Public Buildings

This category includes capital projects on any Town facility. Projects may include improvements at the Kennedy Drive Public Restroom, architectural and structural improvements, roof replacement/repair, gutter replacement/repair, and other facility projects on various Town properties. There is a modest amount of local funding proposed for FY27, with increased funding projected for future years.

FY27 continues to include and consider long-term planning for a Town Storage Facility. Storage needs would include considering the Town's 191 Church Street facility (currently housing the Putnam EMS Ambulance Department, along with Highway Department storage), the Town will review its various properties and future needs for departments' equipment and materials. Current locations include the Highway Department Fox Road facility, the Armory, the Church Street Garage, and Murphy Park. Several departments have equipment storage and maintenance needs, including Highway, Recreation and Parks & Grounds, Emergency Management and Maintenance. There is continued modest funding planned for FY27, and in future years will consider several funding options.

Improvements at the Armory are now included in the CIP. In recent years, the Town uses this facility for storage of recreation seasonal materials and other items. There is no climate control or electricity to the site or building. The FY27 CIP includes funding to support initial activities of this site, including possible hazardous material abatement, electricity needs and possible installation, and other initial efforts. Depending on the results of the Town Facilities study and planning, the Armory improvements may become demolition planning.

Equipment

Equipment capital costs are for Town Departments including the Highway Department and Recreation Department and enable replacement of equipment significantly past their useful life. Equipment will be replaced to balance repair costs, availability of replacement parts, and other lifecycle costs. Several items that were previously included in the CIP for the Highway Department, have instead been leased rather than purchased, and therefore are included as part of our General Government operational budget, per recent Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requirements. Generally, the Town balances the decision to lease equipment when the lifespan of that equipment is relatively short, and considers heavy use such as plow trucks that often see salt deterioration. Capital purchase of equipment is often selected for equipment that while necessary, may be infrequently used and expected to last 15 or 20 years, due to relatively low use hours. Outside of Highway and Recreation/Parks & Grounds, other Town departments' equipment may include vehicles for Building, Fire and Emergency Management.

FY27 has no items planned for funding in the Equipment category.

Informational Technology

The Registrars of Voters have noted that they do not expect to purchase any new tabulators for at least 1 more year. There is no funding for this category in FY27.

Replacement hardware includes capital budget to allow planned replacement of older computer hardware, including network devices, printers, plotters, and other shared equipment. In upcoming years, we expect several copy machines to require replacement.

Economic and Redevelopment Projects

This section for Economic and Redevelopment Projects includes several significant projects and their associated grants for Brownfield Revitalization.

Belding Mill Redevelopment includes remediation efforts that the State Department of Economic Community Development (CT DECD) has awarded the Town grant funding for initial activities including characterization and abatement of the existing sites. Full Redevelopment of Belding Mill is planned via private developer funding, and many other components of the project and site will be funded privately and/or through other grants. The FY27 CIP amount is 100% state funded. The State had originally approved/awarded \$2M for this project. Based on updated cost estimates, the State has tentatively agreed to increase the award to almost \$2.5M. The developer hopes to start remediation work in 2026.

In FY26, the Town once again applied for EPA's Brownfield Assessment grant, which allows for several properties throughout town to be analyzed for future development potential. Pending EPA review, the Town would complete this work via 100% federal funding.

In FY24, the Town successfully applied for and was awarded a CT DECD Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development grant. This grant is specifically for properties in and around the 2 Furnace Street and 20 Mechanics Street properties. This effort is funded via past FY25 CIP, and is 100% state funded.

Union Square Courtyard (previously called the 49 Front Street Beautification project) includes purchase and development of a small portion of the property. The Town now owns the portion of the adjacent property, and engineering for development of a public park is ongoing. The planned improvements include landscaping, public gathering spaces and other beautification improvements.

The Town has applied for a grant through Urban & Community Garden in the amount of \$ 508,836, which will break down to \$ 250,000 of State grant and the Redevelopment Agency approved that \$258,836 would come through the Town's Incubator Fund representing the Town's match. For the 2nd year, we plan to use the Distressed Municipalities Funding towards this project; and also for the 2nd year, have allocated cannabis funding towards the project. In addition to state and local funds, private non-profit group Putnam Area Foundation has stated that they will provide the centerpiece statue cost and shipping – at an estimated value of about \$15-20,000.

Town Improvements

Downtown parking includes potential improvements to the downtown area, including Union Square. These improvements would include revised pavement with a goal of increasing available number of parking spots. There is no proposed funding in FY2027, but possible significant funding planned for future years.

The Blight program is a capital effort to fund necessary Town efforts on blighted properties. There is no local funding proposed for FY27. Following several years of this type of funding, plus having a permanent Town Department for blight issues, the Town expects that this capital fund may eventually be supplanted by the operating fund.

Funding Legend

The Town plans its CIP based on a variety of local, state, and federal funding programs. For FY27, there is \$1,038,000 estimated local funding from the Ash Landfill Ground Lease Revenue for capital projects. This FY27 amount is higher than the previous year, reflecting higher ash volumes received at the Putnam Monofil operated by Win-Waste. Historical ash volumes have fluctuated based on various market changes, including a significant reduction when the Hartford Trash Incinerator closing in calendar year 2022, and increased use of out-of-state municipal waste/landfill sites. To continue practice from previous years, as part of our equipment replacement, in addition to the amount allocated for CIP, \$80,000 from the Ash Landfill Ground Lease Revenue is dedicated to the Highway Department's lease-to-own dump trucks (see General Government operating budget "Bonded Indebtedness"). The Ash Landfill Ground Lease Revenue fund includes planning use for a variety of CIP projects, including road reconstruction, sidewalk improvements, bridge improvements, track improvements, recreation and trail projects, BOE capital projects, public buildings, and information technology.

In past recent years, the Town used significant funding from the Local Transportation Capital Improvements Program (LOTICIP). No LOTICIP funds are expected in FY27.

Based on state revenue for Town Aid Road (TAR) program, which the Governor has proposed to maintain levels matching FY2027, the Town anticipates \$315,420 from Town Aid Road towards our FY27 CIP. All TAR funding is directed towards the road reconstruction line item.

Similar to TAR, the revenue from State Aid for Municipal Projects is anticipated as \$171,800 for FY27. All State Aid for Municipal Projects funding is directed towards the road reconstruction line item.

Federal bridge program funding has been used for past bridge projects, including Recreation Park Road Bridge and Woodstock Ave bridge. There are no FY27 plans for federal bridge funding.

State bridge program funding has been included in past CIPs including as part of the construction cost of replacing the Danco Road Bridge. Future years in this CIP are likely to also include State bridge program funding, including East Putnam Road over Mary Brown Brook.

In recent years, we used the Sticker Fund towards the Transfer Station project. This Fund historically collected from the sale of municipal waste (trash) stickers. With the recent payment towards the Pomfret Transfer Station, the sticker fund is generally fully depleted.

The Ash Landfill STIF account is shown in the CIP, without any portion used for FY27 capital improvements. Per Town requirements, use of this Fund must be approved at Town Meeting, including as part of the budgeting process. Depending on future years revenue from the Ground Lease Revenues, continued and increased use of the STIF account may be requested so that appropriate funding can be maintained for the Town's CIP.

Similar to Ash STIF, the unassigned fund balance is shown in the CIP, without any portion used for FY27 capital improvements.

Local capital improvements project (LoCIP) funding is an annual funding source from the State that has historically been combined over years for larger capital projects. The state has given new guidance to encourage municipalities to use LoCIP every year. For FY27, the full value of the Governor's projected \$110,764 is allocated towards the Air Line Trail property and improvements.

The State and Federal Aid various grants fund includes various state funding proposed or expected. For FY27, the Belding Redevelopment (CT DECD), Brownfield Assessment (EPA); and continued from previous CIPs, the State Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP).

State guidance is that distressed municipalities funding should be used for capital projects, and this funding of about \$50,000 is allocated to the Union Square Courtyard.

The Town's Economic and Community Development (ECD) Fund requires approval from both the ECD Commission and the Board of Finance. The Redevelopment Funds require approval from the Redevelopment Agency. The FY27 CIP proposes use of the Redevelopment Agency's Incubator Fund as approved for the Union Square Courtyard project.

The Cannabis municipal tax share fund is applicable since a cannabis retailer is a business in our town. The state accounts for the municipal share, and the town invoices applicable business(es). In addition to educational programs and training, streetscape improvements are an eligible expense. This fund has been proposed as dedicated to the Union Square Courtyard project.

Board of Education Capital Improvement Plan

FY26 through FY30

Overview

The following Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) prioritizes building- and district-level projects across a five-year period. Projects have been sequenced to address safety, code compliance, aging infrastructure, and programmatic needs while balancing fiscal impact over time. Recommendations were developed collaboratively by the Board of Education Facilities Subcommittee, the Superintendent, and the Director of Facilities.

The following assumptions apply to all projects listed:

- Potential state or federal reimbursement is not reflected in the estimated costs unless otherwise noted.
- Financing costs for bonded projects are not included.
- All estimated costs are presented in current dollars.
- Projects will be reviewed annually and adjusted as needed based on facility condition assessments, enrollment trends, programmatic changes, regulatory requirements, and overall district priorities.

The following guiding questions were used to prioritize projects:

- Is the project required for health, safety, or code compliance?
- Will the project significantly improve teaching, learning, or student services?
- Will the project improve operational efficiency or reduce long-term costs?
- Does the project represent a critical replacement or upgrade of a building system?

Funding Considerations

The district will strategically leverage multiple funding streams to support the implementation of this Capital Improvement Plan. When applicable, federal funding sources will be utilized to offset local costs. For example, the district anticipates using federal **E-Rate funding** to partially support eligible technology infrastructure projects, including the district-wide replacement of WiFi access points.

At the state level, the district expects to access limited annual funding through the **District Repair Improvement Program (DRIP)**. While DRIP funding is not intended to support large-scale capital projects, it may provide partial support—typically less than \$100,000 per year—for smaller, targeted improvements such as elevator repairs, flooring replacements, and other facility maintenance needs.

The district's **facility reserve account** will continue to be used for emergency repairs and, when feasible, as partial funding support for larger capital projects. However, the scale and scope of certain initiatives outlined in this plan exceed what can reasonably be supported through existing reserves and annual maintenance funding alone.

Accordingly, the Board of Education will work collaboratively with the Town to explore **long-term planning and financing strategies** to address major capital needs, including a district-wide telephone system replacement and large-scale classroom flooring upgrades. These discussions are intended to support fiscal sustainability while ensuring the continued safety, functionality, and effectiveness of district facilities.

District-Wide Projects

Year of Anticipated Implementation & Estimated Cost

#	Project	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	2030–31
1	WiFi Access Point Replacement	X				
2	District-Wide Duct Cleaning		X			
3	Telephone System Upgrade			X		
4	Student Support Vans	X				

Project Descriptions

1. WiFi Access Point Replacement

All wireless access points throughout the district have exceeded their expected lifecycle of approximately seven years. In addition, several areas experience insufficient coverage, which presents both instructional and safety concerns. This project will replace approximately 180 access points district-wide. The estimated cost is \$250,000. This project is expected to be eligible for E-Rate reimbursement, potentially offsetting up to 80% of the total cost.

2. District-Wide Duct Cleaning

Establish a comprehensive duct-cleaning schedule aligned with industry standards. A recent inspection of ductwork in the Putnam Middle School auditorium revealed conditions that warrant expansion of this work across all facilities. This project supports indoor air quality, system efficiency, and preventative maintenance goals.

3. Telephone System Upgrade

The district's existing telephone system is an older-generation platform, and replacement parts are increasingly difficult to obtain. Transitioning to a modern, cloud-based system will improve reliability, functionality, and long-term support. The anticipated cost of this project is approximately \$100,000.

4. Student Support Vans

Enrollment projections for the Helping Hand and related student support programs exceed the capacity of the current vehicle fleet. In addition, one of the district's vans has exceeded 160,000 miles and has required frequent and costly repairs. This project includes the purchase of one additional van and the replacement of the oldest vehicle.

Putnam High School (PHS)

Year of Anticipated Implementation & Estimated Cost

#	Project	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
1	Basement Exterior Door Replacement	X				
2	Vape Sensors & Security Cameras	X	X			
3	Interior Wall Repainting (Zolatone)				X	
4	Exterior Door Hardware Replacement					X
5	Heat in PE Offices and Locker Rooms	X				

Project Descriptions

1. Basement Exterior Door Replacement

The exterior basement door was not replaced during the previous renovation project and has deteriorated beyond its useful life. Replacement is necessary to maintain building security and weather integrity. Final cost estimates are pending.

2. Vape Sensors and Security Cameras

Student access to nicotine and THC-based vaping products presents ongoing supervision challenges. Emerging technologies allow for the installation of sensors in restrooms that alert administrators to vaping and excessive noise. Approximately ten sensors are required at an estimated cost of \$1,500 per unit. This project may be phased over two years.

3. Interior Wall Repainting (Zolatone)

The high school hallways were constructed using a specialized wall surface that requires professional repainting with Zolatone or a similar product. This project will restore appearance, durability, and cleanliness of high-traffic areas.

4. Exterior Door Hardware Replacement

Several exterior door handles and hardware components are outdated and inconsistent with current safety and accessibility standards. This project will ensure uniform, secure, and ADA-compliant exterior access points.

5. Heat in PE Offices and Locker Rooms

We are troubleshooting some solutions. More information to follow.

Putnam Middle School (PMS)

Year of Anticipated Implementation & Estimated Cost

#	Project	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	2030–31
1	Classroom Furniture Replacement	X	X	X	X	X
2	Mini-Split Installation (Missed Spaces)	X				
3	Library Carpet Replacement	X				
4	Auditorium Doors (Interior & Exterior)			X		
5	Elevator Pump Replacement	X				
6	Interior Door Handle Upgrades		X			
7	Vape Sensors & Security Cameras	X				

Project Descriptions

1. Classroom Furniture Replacement

Much of the existing classroom furniture at PMS is outdated, damaged, or vandalized. This plan establishes a five-year replacement cycle, addressing approximately five classrooms per year. Estimated cost is \$40,000 annually.

2. Mini-Split Installation (Missed Spaces)

Five spaces were not included in the prior mini-split installation project, including band, chorus, conference, guidance, and a technology space near the library. Installing units in these areas will improve comfort and instructional conditions.

3. Library Carpet Replacement

The PMS library and adjacent spaces require new carpeting due to age, wear, and appearance. Replacement will improve aesthetics, safety, and acoustics.

4. Auditorium Doors (Interior & Exterior)

The interior and exterior doors serving the PMS auditorium are original and in poor condition. Replacement will improve security, accessibility, and reliability. Estimated cost is \$25,000.

5. Elevator Pump Replacement

The elevator pumps currently leak excessive oil, indicating end-of-life conditions. Replacement is required to ensure reliability and compliance. The estimated cost is \$8,000.

6. Interior Door Handle Upgrades

Many interior door handles at PMS are not ADA-compliant. This project will replace hardware to meet accessibility standards and improve safety.

7. Vape Sensors and Security Cameras

As with the high school, restroom vaping remains a challenge. Installation of vape sensors and supplemental security cameras will support supervision and student safety.

Putnam Elementary School (PES)

Year of Anticipated Implementation & Estimated Cost

#	Project	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	2030–31
1	Interior Door Handle Upgrades		X			
2	Building-Wide Flooring Replacement			X		
3	Air Handling Units & Exhaust Fans				X	
4	Solar Panel Installation		X			

Project Descriptions

1. Interior Door Handle Upgrades

Many classroom and hallway door handles at PES do not meet ADA accessibility requirements. This project will replace hardware to ensure compliance and improve usability for students and staff.

2. Building-Wide Flooring Replacement

Large sections of flooring throughout PES are aged, worn, and detract from the learning environment. This project will replace flooring in phases to improve appearance, safety, and durability.

3. Air Handling Units and Exhaust Fans

Several rooftop air handling units and exhaust fans are nearing the end of their useful life. Replacement will improve indoor air quality, reliability, and energy efficiency.

4. Solar Panel Installation

To mitigate long-term energy costs, the district recommends installing solar panels following completion of recent roof work. This project supports sustainability goals and long-term operational savings.