

## Public Infrastructure Advisory Committee (PIAC) Project Timeliness and Use of Funds

### PIAC Funding and Project Request Process

In 2018, Kansas City voters renewed the 1% sales tax for capital improvements. Thirty-five percent (35%) of the total receipts from this sales tax are equally divided among the six council districts. Each councilmember appoints a representative to the Public Improvement Advisory Council (PIAC) to review and make recommendations on the use of funds. Funds can be used for neighborhood conservation, maintenance, and improvements. Residents can submit their request each year through the city's website or by mail. Approved projects are included in the city's adopted budget.

### Why audit PIAC projects?

PIAC is part of the city's overall capital improvement plan for city infrastructure and facilities. In fiscal year 2024, \$30 million (\$5 million per district) was allocated to PIAC funding over 190 projects in the six council districts. The Office of Management and Budget manages and coordinates PIAC activities. Operating departments (i.e., Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Water Services) are responsible for planning, constructing, and monitoring projects. However, there are no goals for how long it should take to complete a project. The number of parties involved in the program makes it a complex process and may be more prone to coordination and communication problems. Assessing the use of PIAC funds helps ensure public funds are spent effectively to meet citywide capital improvement needs. Residents also expressed concerns about PIAC to the Office of the City Auditor and suggested we audit this program.

### Audit objective

Our objective is to answer the following question:

- Is the city effectively using the PIAC process and funds to complete in-district infrastructure improvements?

### Audit methods

We will review in-district PIAC funded projects for the past five years to determine their project status and timeliness, analyze how funds were used for each project phase; interview department staff to identify potential timeliness goals to complete projects by project types and phases; review Finance Department process of sweeping unspent project funds.

### Anticipated release date

We plan to issue the audit report in November 2023.

