

Subject: Follow-Up – Budget & Finance Monitoring Report (November 30, 2025)

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Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 at 08:51 PM EST

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Councilmembers,

This is to follow up on my public comments at this afternoon’s meeting of the Budget, Finance and Governance Committee.

I made two observations regarding the Finance and Budget Monitoring Report for the period ending November 30, 2025.

### **1. Timeliness of Monitoring Reports**

The Monitoring Report is dated February 25 for a November month-end — approximately a 90-day lag. For a document intended to support ongoing budget oversight, that time lag limits its usefulness.

A monitoring report is most effective when delivered within 30–45 days of month-end, allowing Council to more closely monitor the city’s finances and budget execution including, the ability to better evaluate emerging trends and take corrective action, if necessary. Council may wish to work with the Administration to explore opportunities for more timely reporting.

### **2. CSR Trust Fund Transparency**

The report does not reference distributions received by the city from the Cincinnati Southern Railway (CSR) Trust.

Because those distributions are deposited into the City’s pooled investment account, additional reporting clarity would enhance transparency. Going forward, it would be helpful for the City’s reporting to clearly identify:

- Beginning balance of CSR distributions held by the city
- Earnings attributable to those funds
- Authorized expenditures from those funds
- Ending balance

When restricted funds are held within a pooled investment structure, transparent reporting of principal, earnings, and uses is particularly important.

Since the CSR Board of Trustees and the City are now both responsible for investing Railway-related funds, consistent and harmonized public reporting would help ensure continued public confidence.

I would be glad to assist in any effort to align or strengthen reporting practices.

Respectfully,

Todd Zinser

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