



2024 Capital Budget

Phase 2: Public Engagement Report

Background & Objectives

Background

A municipality's annual budget is an important policy document that dictates how the City will collect and allocate resources to best improve and maintain City services and infrastructure for the community.

The City of Belleville's budget is broken down into two components: capital and operating. While residents have always been welcome to take part in the budget process by providing their feedback to their council representatives, there has been a significant effort in recent years to encourage more thorough public engagement in the process.

In 2023, Finance engaged communications to craft educational messaging about the budget process. This involved building out a webpage and content with information around what each budget entails, and the approval process. The goal for the 2024 budget process was to focus on further education and direct engagement.

Staff have decided to take a two-phase approach for the 2024 budget process. The first phase of the process was a short, high-level Preliminary Capital Budget Survey to gauge residents capital spending priorities. Questions in the survey looked at ranking and prioritizing City infrastructure, current satisfaction levels of each, as well as areas and tolerance for increased/decreased infrastructure investment, to name a few. This phase also included development of Budget 101 documents to provide a further breakdown of the process for residents.

The second phase in the engagement approach came closer to the finalization of the budget and was a more specific survey of the proposed capital budget. The 2024 Draft Capital Budget and Asset Management Plan Survey broke down some of the capital budget items and allowed residents to weigh in on the specific projects identified by staff in their draft budgets.

Objectives

The goal behind this year's communications and engagement strategy was as follows:

- Provide residents with additional educational material and resources around the budget process.
- Encourage direct engagement from as many residents as possible.
- Provide council and staff with public feedback to help shape a budget and plan that best serves their residents.



Engagement Strategy

Timeline

- June 27 & July 10 – public engagement plan and timeline approved by Finance Committee and Council.
- August 14 & 28 – Preliminary public feedback and recommended guidelines presented to Finance Committee and Council.
- October through November – Internal draft Capital Budget deliberations.
- 2024 Draft Capital Budget - Dec. 6 Agenda posted Nov. 17
- December 6 – Capital Budget Council meeting, presentation of public feedback, and subsequent adoption.



Tactics

Like the first phase, communications used a number of channels to inform and engage the public through the second phase of engagement, including:

- Budget Webpage
- Online Survey
- Budget 101 Document
- Project Email
- Comment Card Form
- Media Release
- Email to News Subscribers
- Website Alert
- Social Media (Paid & Organic)
- Community Press Ad
- Belleville Updates Newsletter
- Marquee Signs

Results & Metrics

Communications around Phase 2 and the 2024 Draft Capital Budget & Asset Management Survey have garnered the following results:

Webpage

Total estimated views of webpage during survey period (Nov. 16-30):

- Belleville.ca/Budget – 404 (90.57% increased compared to previous period of Nov. 1-15)
- News Release – 9

Social Media

Social media metrics during survey period (Nov. 16-30):

- Facebook (Organic) – 2 Posts Total with Average Reach of 666 and Engagement of 6
- Facebook (Paid) – 1 Boosted Post with Reach of 7,040 and Engagement of 856
- Twitter – 3 Organic Posts Total with Average Reach of 510 and Engagement of 12

Digital

- Email to News Subscribers – Reached 271 Subscribers
- Belleville Updates Newsletter – Reached 179 Subscribers
- Marquee Sign (QSWC) –AADT of 22,000/Month

Print

- Community Press Ad – Total Reach of Approx. 18,553 Belleville Households

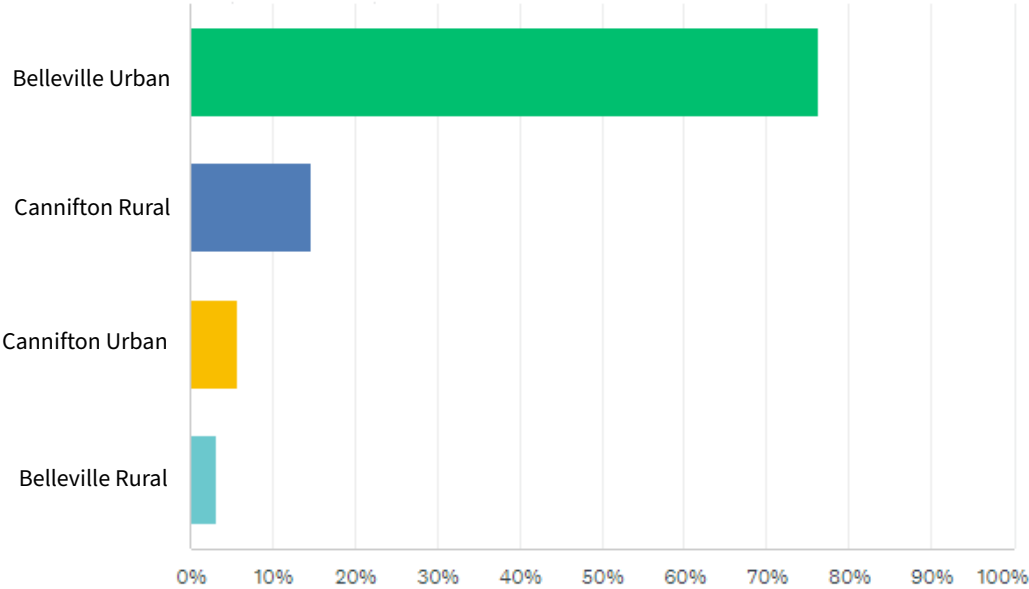
The results above were collected using Google Analytics, Meta Business Suite, Twitter Analytics, iCreate reporting and annual average daily traffic (as last reported in 2014).



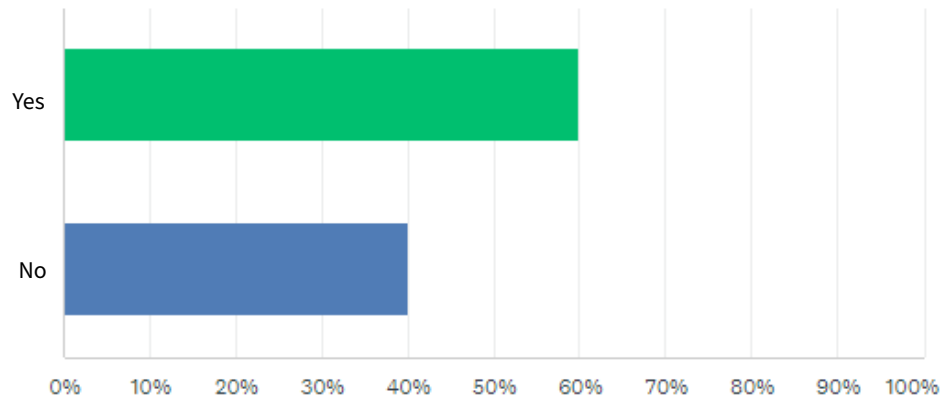
Survey Summary

The 2024 Draft Capital Budget & Asset Management Survey ran from Nov. 16 to 30. Below is a summary of the 122 total responses and feedback received through the survey period. Highlights of comments under “Please Specify” for questions 3, 4, 5 and 6 can be found in beneath each question. See Appendix A for detailed responses.

Q1: What is your tax billing area?



Q2: While considering the above-noted guidelines, are you generally satisfied with the projects included in the 2024 draft capital budget?

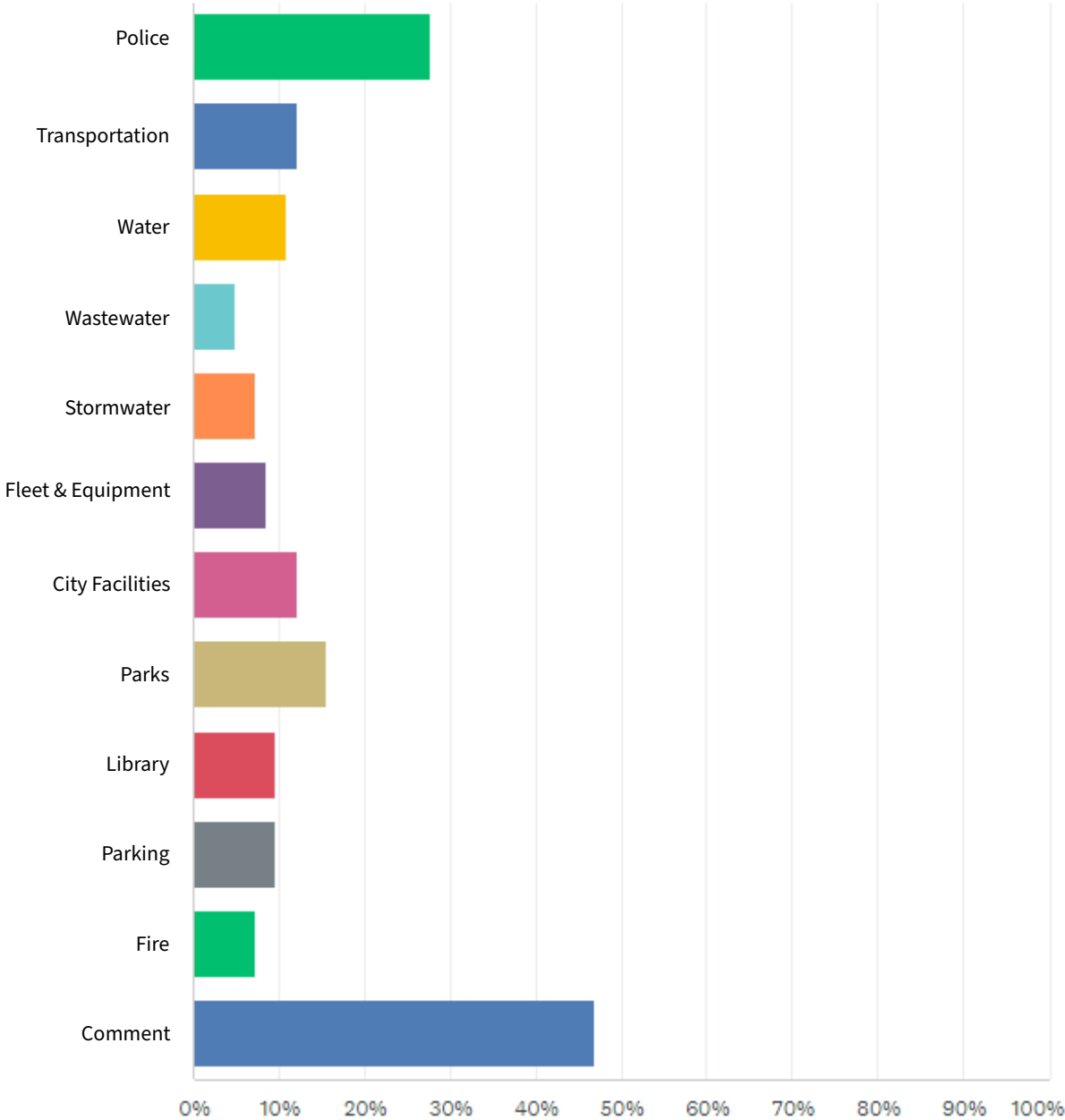


Q3: Feel free to provide additional comment on your response to Question #2 above.

While there was an array of comments, below are highlights from respondents who were not generally satisfied with the 2024 Draft Capital Budget:

- There is a general misconception of the following topics that reiterate the need for staff and Council to encourage ratepayers to review the City's Budget 101 documents at Belleville.ca/Budget: what is included in the capital versus the operating budget, the segregation between tax versus user rate-funded asset categories (i.e. property tax does not fund water infrastructure), funding strategies for growth (i.e. use of development charges) and non-growth (i.e. property taxes and user rates) capital projects.
- Capital projects are not getting completed in a timely manner.
- The 2024 Draft Capital Budget is focused on one project (i.e. Avonlough Street Pumping Station, Bridge Street/Sidney Street). Furthermore, it does not sufficiently address existing core infrastructure (i.e. roads).
- Hillcrest Park completion should be included in the draft budget.
- Police & Fire should have an increased allocation of funds. Facilities & Parks should be reduced. While others expressed that Police's fleet & equipment allocation should be reduced.
- The overall draft capital budget is too low considering costs continue to rise.

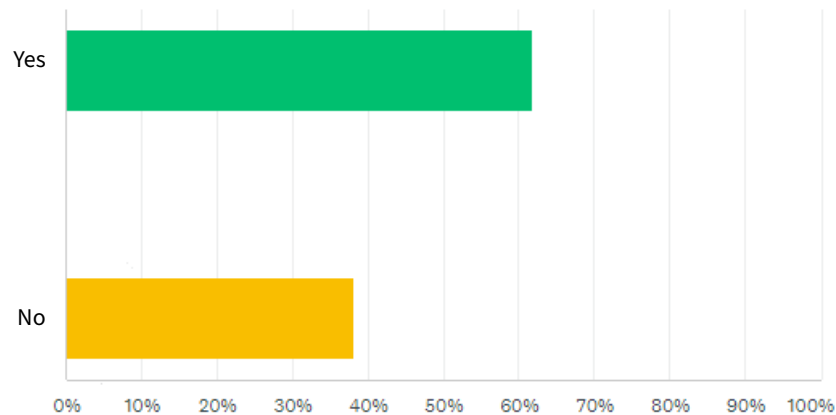
Q4: In your opinion, are there any service areas that you think require general immediate attention but may not be appropriately reflected in this budget?



Comments highlighted to support respondents' selections were as follows:

- Police: Fleet & equipment, traffic & downtown patrol
- Transit: Fleet, active transportation projects, boulevard trees
- Stormwater: Alexander Street

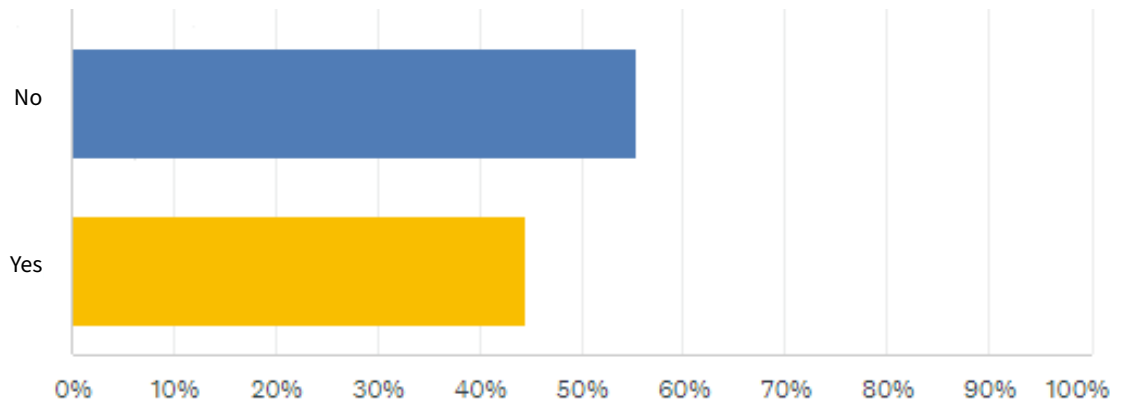
Q5: Do you feel adequately informed about the City's capital budget and the projects included? If not, please elaborate.



Below are highlights from those who do not feel adequately informed about the City's capital budget and projects included:

- It is difficult to locate the draft capital projects list. Respondents were unaware of capital meeting agenda document that was linked within the survey.
- There was insufficient information to support capital projects.
- There is a need for periodic Townhall meetings to discuss progress on capital projects.
- There should be more transparency around the capital budget for Police.

Q6: Are there any specific topics surrounding the City's capital budget and process that you wish you had more information and background on? And if so, please elaborate.

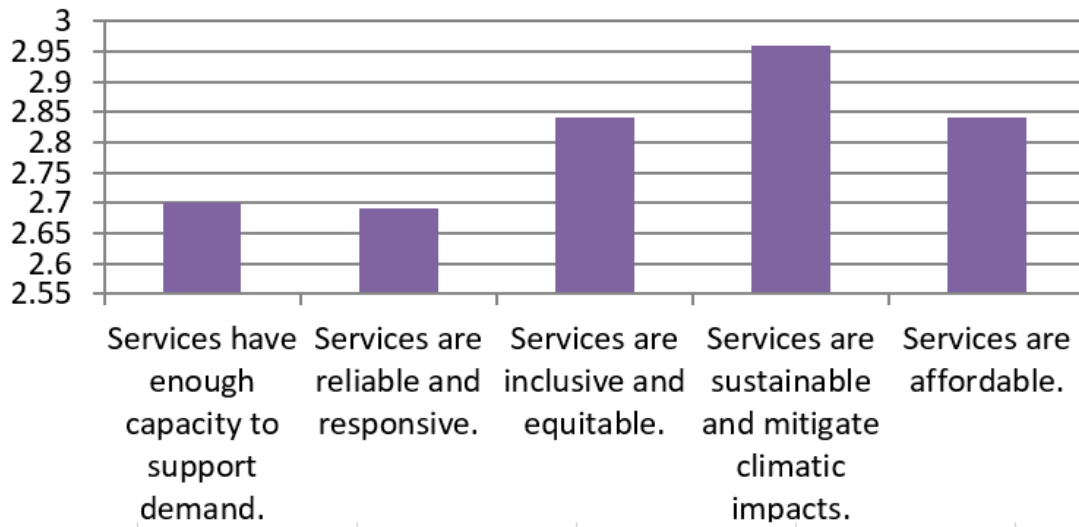


Below are highlights from those wishing to have more information regarding capital budget:

- Their proportion of property tax allocated to capital projects (increased transparency).
- Whether affordable housing should be included in the capital budget.
- Identifying developers' share of funding capital projects.
- Overall implication of projects translated to residents (i.e. Bridge Street reconstruction).
- Increased rationale and business case for projects to move forward (i.e. tax implications).

Q7: In your opinion, how would you prioritize the following aspects of City services tied to capital infrastructure (with 1 being the highest)?

Weighted Average of Responses



Overall Weighted Rank
(1 Being the Highest)

2

1

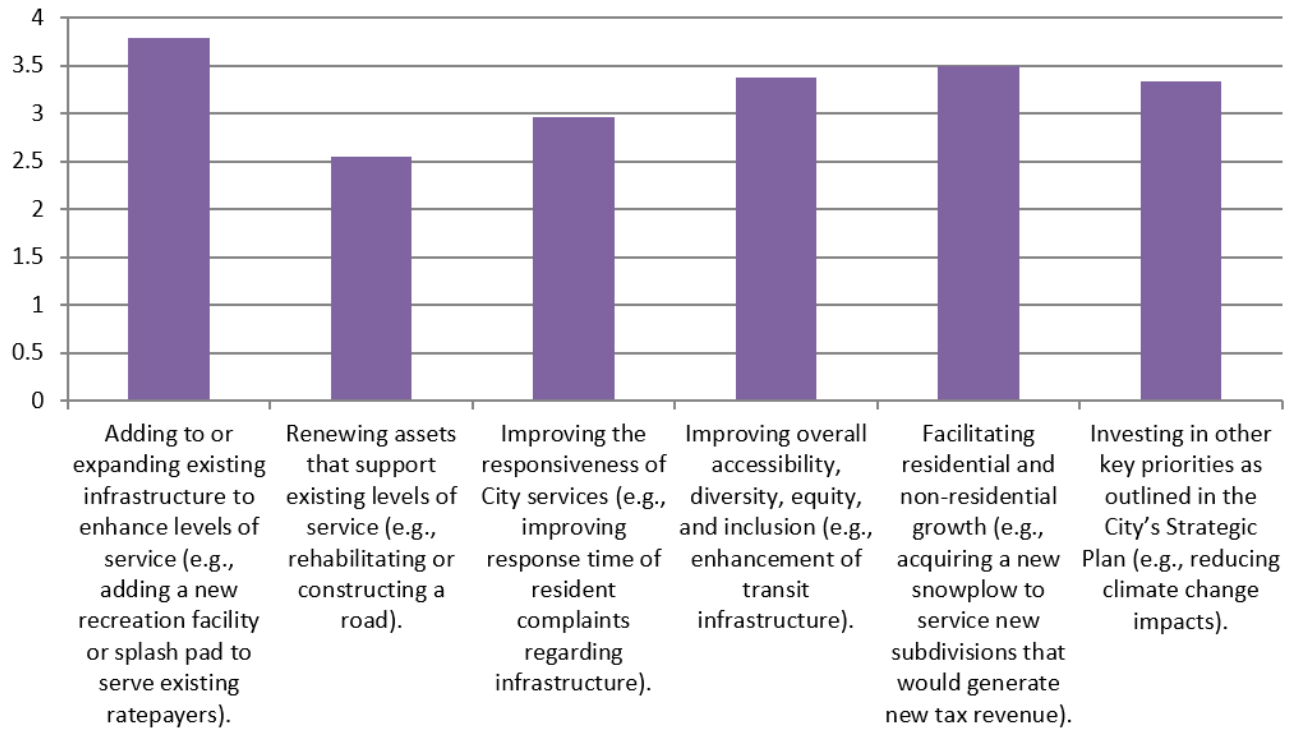
3 (Tie)

4

3 (Tie)

Q8: In your opinion, how would you rank the following areas of the City's capital investment (with 1 being the highest)?

Weighted Average of Responses



Overall
Weighted Rank
(1 Being the
Highest)

6

1

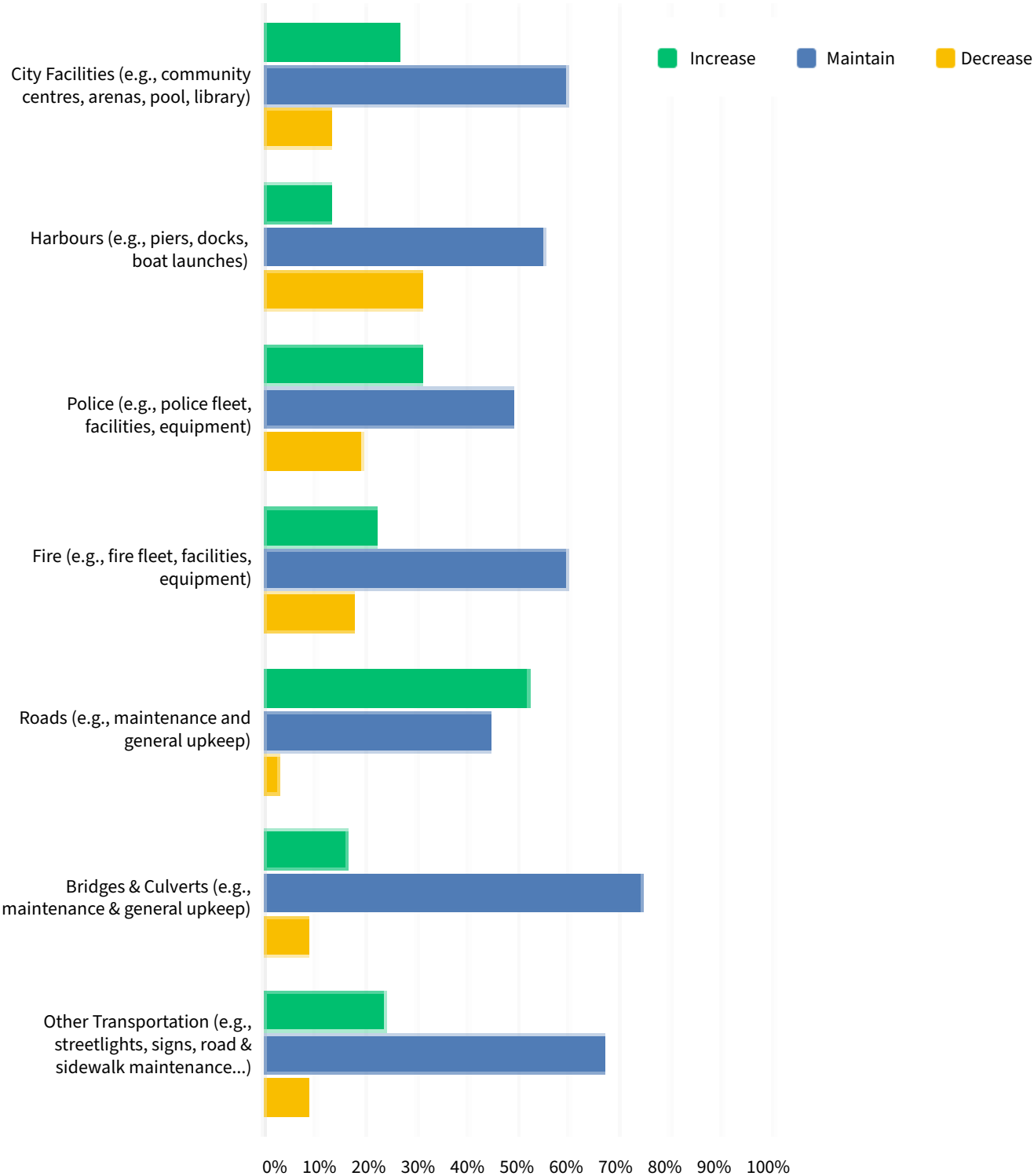
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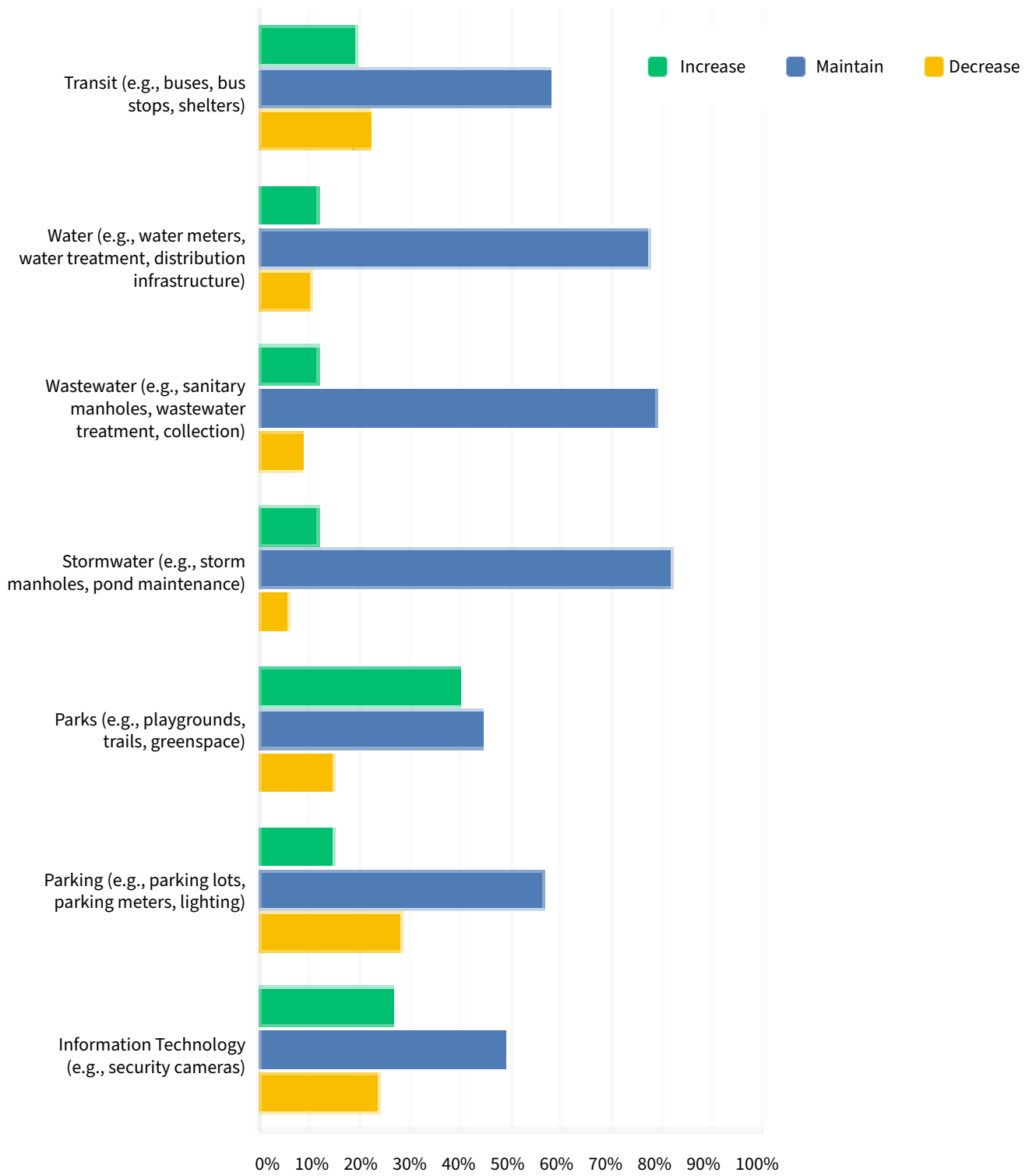
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5

3

Q9: Please indicate whether you feel the level of service related to the infrastructure and investments of each area should be increased, maintained, or decreased.





Q10: If you chose “decrease” or “increase” on any of the service areas above, please elaborate.

- Rural residents are fed up and sick and tired with paying for downtown! Enough is enough!
- I attend the parks / trails on at least 250 days per annum. The users of splash pads is minimal. Belch park does not require a splash pad. Playground equipment can be utilized 7-8 months per year as opposed to splash pads 3 months per year. The city spent money at the Riverside parking lots - that is luxury not a necessity. The funding required should be acquired from the actual users of boat docks/piers.
- Many roads need work - try driving across Tracey Street, sunken potholes everywhere. Contrary to what it might seem like on FB and according to the Belleville Police Services Board, we are not in desperate need of more intensive policing. Crime severity is around the average in Ontario. https://canadacrimeindex.com/crime-severity-index?sort=violent_crime_severity_index&min_population=25000&province=ON The library specifically should get more funding as they do way, way more than just lend out books
- It would be ideal to maintain all, however cuts will have to be made. Infrastructure takes priority.
- never seems to be enough parking
- Transit is very limited within the area. I want a bus that is accessible to neighboring towns.
- Our waterfront is so underutilized. It would be nice if it was generating funds from out of town visitors.
- Police and Fire should have all the tools required to serve the community. I have asked many times about bus shelters location . City Portal should be maintained and improved as possible .
- Always need to move forward
- Security cameras - too many homeless with increase in crime Police - funding to help control the downtown Parking - west end
- Seems the post covid era requires an increase in these services
- Re-routing of funding from police to social services and affordable housing to reduce the need for police enforcement. I would love to see the Zwick's trail extend further west along the waterfront for a longer recreational trail. Not increased transit - but increased bicycle infrastructure as a safe and affordable transportation option especially given the current economics. Bridges need to be maintained for everyone's safety - no collapsing bridges please as the infrastructure of cities across North American cities ages.
- Maintain needed services and decrease those not required as offend.
- Harbours and docks, least of issues need addressing. Information technology, where are the security cameras, privacy, data maintenance. Cost is more than having real people perform security.
- Portion of Police and fire budget should be diverted to related high school education, AI surveillances, door to door education and any other related preventive strategies and reason for my decrease to traditional method of spending. Increase in IT is the way to move forward for the next generation and slowly but surely there needs to be an increase in IT spending after formal need and assessment to create a value in terms to speed, precision and cost savings without compromising on the deliverables
- Accumulation of funds to the current group of employees who keep my community clean and safe is like throwing money on a fire
- More \$ for library, fire (toy drive - operating budget,) free downtown parking and more transit routes/ hours of operation.
- We should be looking for ways to lower our budget to invite newcomers into our city. Costs are already unbelievably high. How can we expect this new generation to want to come back and afford homes if we are improving on services that have no use to half of the population

- Increase police: a lot of issues arising with the growing homeless population, theft, drugs. There are also a lot of dangerous drivers in the city, I think we need more police officers. Increase road maintenance: there are some bumpy roads in the city Decrease bridges and culverts: I haven't personally seen a lot of issues with either bridges or culverts. Increase parks: too many new build areas don't have a good amount of green spaces. We need more ball diamonds here!!! Decrease parking: dont fix what's not broken
- The cost to maintain harbor services can be shifted to the users of the facilities
- Finish the Hillcrest playground and splash pad.
- In 20 yrs of living here I have not seen this city improve our waterfront to encourage tourism. Our waterfront is the worst I have every seen. I went to Brockville this summer and their waterfront is better and small population.
- Pickleball courts please
- sewage treatment plant is overloaded. Needs improvement. Cut back on subsidies for transit.
- More police please. Roads are in terrible shape. Sidewalk and snow ploughs could be quicker to respond
- Library needs to be made more accessible. More parks need accessible play structures and smooth path as opposed to gravel. We need more accessible parking spots.
- Harbours - should be 100% funded by user fees. IT - don't make a nanny state. Stop with community safety zone cameras.
- Many roads are in bad shape to the point of increasing cost of repairs on vehicles. Also they are bad enough that the roads cost even more to repair in the long run especially with our freeze/thaw climate in the winter.
- Accessible parking for those seeking access to healthcare, parks for all people to enjoy nature should be a priority. Decrease police and security spending, because the average citizen is either deeply in debt or rapidly eating through their savings just to exist. The last thing we need is criminalizing people instead of preventing desperation 'crimes'. Harbours are play areas for the wealthy, and if they want to improve it, they should foot the bill themselves without every other taxpayer. If they refuse, reclaim the harbour and marina for public use and re-naturalization.
- must set priorities, parks, playgrounds etc, cannot have priority over police, fire, wastewater etc.
- not really a functioning city site or ecommerce website
- I think we need to increase the service at the library and community centres for the families of this area. This investment in literacy, keeping kids busy and building their sense of community will help us to build a better city with an educated population that will stay. Parks and outdoor (free) spaces will also increase the community involvement and pride. I would like us to use the area we are lucky to live in and increase the health of the area by more outdoor use. With climate change our stormwater needs to be upgraded
- Fire and Police equipment must be updated as required. Waste and storm water should be controlled to protect the lake and environment
- We spend too much money on parks. We use way too much salt on roads when not called for very hard on the environment. Like I said before actually get the right people in charge of maintaining the roads. Good example on Halloween I witnessed a city truck dropping strait salt on a wet road like who is running this department
- Traffic violations are wicked. Police need more help. Security cameras and better roads with signage will help. Bus shelters keep people protected from the cold winds
- We can't continue to build arenas and fair grounds etc, the Infrastructure and prime services must be maintained and expanded to attract future growth, safety and prosperity
- Roads are a mess. Other than that, do not increase the budget beyond current inflation rates.
- Do the basics and and start decreasing tax rates and quit giving taxpayers money to every cause !! If you support a cause , do fundrising yourself !!

- Maintain: necessary services (ex storm water) Decrease: 'luxury items' like harbours Increase: quality of life items, like free access parkland
- Sonny (Clifford) Belch Park needs to be prioritized to be completed properly.
- Defund the police & information technology. No interested in new development. Focus on making roads and stormwater resilient to the environment.

Appendix A

Below is a detailed look at the responses from questions 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the survey.

Q3: Feel free to provide additional comment on your response to Question #2 above.

- The city is hiring additional policemen but not increasing the amount of vehicles for the policemen.
- Where are the housing projects?
- none
- My Taxes are over 7,000 a year. I can pick up pieces of the road but I can not clear the sewer in front of my home. I have called and asked and nothing is done. I would love to go to the Library and park for free. They are filled all the time.
- Disappointed that projects that have been started will not be completed. This tells me that it was not planned well.
- Blowing the entire budget on a single structure is mindboggling narrow-minded.
- It would be preferable to see police funding going towards staffing and preventative programs and community support rather than fleet and equipment, considering the lack of capacity cited by the Belleville Police of late. No need for new toys if there aren't enough people to use them.
- I did read about capital projects on major roads in Belleville, projects for upgrades to newer roads and subdivision. But no indication when cedar st when of the oldest and worst condition roads was only partially done. When does this street get the upgrade so badly needed.
- keeping in mind that we are in a rural area we have to look after our own water. Is transportation -bus service, or roads? We don't have bus service and my road in particular has so many and is getting so narrow that it will disappear in a few years.
- There is no parking in the west end in potters creek and you hound us for parking on the roads when we have company. The houses were only allotted 1 parking space and these days there are multiple people living in 1 house. Additionally the police need more help with the increase of drug overdose, suicide, and crime in this town where the resources just aren't there to help. Some of the budget for water can be pulled
- Actually I find the listing and graph confusing
- No - I would like to see some programs that increase community services for those facing homelessness by defunding some of the police service and re-directing these towards social programs that reduce the need for police enforcement.
- Any water or waster water projects should be soley funded by rate supported revenue or DC. The city should not incur additional long term debt for these projects.
- I see no mention of anything being discussed about the completion of Hillcrest (sonny belcher) park. By the time the play structure for the younger children is completed, most of the them will be too d to enjoy it! I truly hope that this is something that the committee will at least discuss and attempt to make it a priority, before adding new things to the budget. We were promised a park for our children, and I feel like that promise should be kept.
- Nothing for kids at Hillcrest park is an absolute travesty. I will make sure my toddlers and the rest of the smaller kids in the neighborhood have fun on the basketball court and the pickle ball court. Such a shame

- Hillcrest community park needs to have phase 3 completed for the community!
- Do we really need that much more money for the City's equipment fleet and parking?
- Your first 3 are the same takes essential funds from other services. Police and Fire deserve more funding as they are important and essential. You need to spend more on updating your website and making it more interactive and user friendly. Fix glitches haven't been fixed in a few years.
- We pay more taxes than larger cities and have the worst street condition. Plot holes, poor surface Conditions and maintainance.
- Based on the above chart information technology should have some funds allocated as lot new technologies are currently in the market that would be required for municipalities to keep pace with like climate change, surveillance, traffic control, data sources, control and usage, housing infrastructure etc
- More \$ for library services, (free) parking downtown and fire (operating budget - toy drive)
- Why are we wasting money on speed cameras? Such a waste of money
- Generally satisfied, but as a resident of the hillcrest neighbourhood, generally dissatisfied with the park project going on. There are children in this neighbourhood who need a park. Playground equipment. A splash pad would be nice. These elements were part of the plan developed at the start of the build, and now we're hearing that there is no money for this. Find the money. You put money into pickleball courts? Basketball courts. Fancy washroom facilities. But nothing for the children. All they want to do is play. Please make this a priority.
- Belleville Police Services do not under any circumstances require 1 million dollars for fleet & equipment. We also should be looking at a more cost effective option for wastewater transportation when we have a water treatment facility in Belleville. Things should be considered regarding cost management. Especially considering the public library is only receiving a budget of 200000 whereas new vehicles for police - when some are practically brand new is given 1 mil.
- I think it is fiscally irresponsible to completely slash the capital budget as much as is being proposed. Whatever we "saved" this year will likely be even more expensive the following year. Spending as much money as is being proposed on one street in the city seems like a bad idea to me
- We need the Hillcrest playground and splash pad finished.
- No policing increase as our police force is not of value to this community as this city over 20 yrs I have been here has not decreased crime in this city only get worst every year :(We should get rid of city police and have OPP here same as Trenton tweed and other surrounding areas.
- no active transportation projects are indicated work needs to be done on the Highway 401 underpass and path on the hydro right of way south of Bell Boulevard
- We should not be subsidizing public transportation for Loyalist to make a profit attracting international students.
- Why are we spending 280\$k on parking technology
- Hope to see some of the allocated park money to complete Hillcrest park.
- Curious why previous Capital Budget items aren't completed nor discussed. There were several items that were to be done at the Belleville Public Library and they have not been done and some are accessible items that really need to be addressed.
- More development - facilities (ie - ping pong tables in parks)
- Would like to see the park in Hillcrest completed for our children to enjoy with playground structures and such for the smaller children like promised
- Expand details for Police Budget.

- Belleville is spending too much money as my taxes are \$ 5,000.00 a year for a 1285 square foot house; neighboring municipalities have much lower taxes. I don't have an issue with projects that are necessary with the proper return on investment analysis but obviously Belleville is spending too much money on both capital projects and operational costs. I also do not buy the argument that projects should be done because Belleville is going to get money from higher levels of government; Belleville councilors need to remember that the money only comes from one pocketbook (mine) at the end of the day. Councilors need to think of the City treasury as the same as your own bank account; don't spend the money if we can't afford it.
- As a disabled person and a parent of a disabled child who uses a wheelchair, we frequent BGH and are consistently denied van accessible parking. Every single time we are forced to either get a ticket for parking on North Street or circle the hospital lot endlessly and be late for our appointments. While there is some accessible parking, there is clearly not enough. We have already spoken several times with hospital leadership and it is clear that the City and BGH must collaborate to serve the public who are disabled and in need of access to healthcare. Canada's population is aging, Covid will lead to even more disabilities for thousands in our area, and people like us continue to be either an afterthought or not considered whatsoever.
- less monies spent on city facilities and parks, and put that money toward the police and fire department
- I would like Item 10(Library) ranked higher
- Generally a good budget, but I have yet to see any items in Capital or Administration budgets that are on Homelessness specific.
- To much money spent on parks we have to many now
- Except.....fire should be lower and police should be increased. One gets 2 calls a day while the other gets 6 calls an hour
- Would like to see more time and funds spent on traffic (outside of the community safety zones, one area such as college between Sydney and North front) Since most new units being built may have reduced parking, now is the time for the city to establish better rules and start charging and make revenue for overnight street parking on all streets.
- Belleville has one of the highest tax rates in Ontario. Be respectful of the tax payer. Do not give our money away to the multitude of organizations looking for easy cash. The tax payer is not responsible for many of the organizations, however charitable they may seem.
- I would like to see a increase on fire, fleet and police. Water quality is important service as I am a tap water consumer.
- 2023 Capital Budget was 58.4M, a proposed budget of 65 to 70 for 2024 is too great a percentage increase. I would only support an increase matching current inflation rates.
- Policing should be higher in ranking and greater expenditure.
- Too much money is spent on Information Technology.

Q4: In your opinion, are there any service areas that you think require general immediate attention but may not be appropriately reflected in this budget?

- Need more trwffic cops!
- By law officers should be patrolling the downtown core with a policeman. Eliminate the welcoming streets programme. That is a failed matter. Look at the fires in the downtown core.
- Housing
- Housing for homeless

- There is no transportation here other than Car. The buses are horrible and I would not call a cab. They do not even come.
- No
- N/A
- Homeless situation. Belleville has become a welcome center
- Bylaws for parking needs to be better enforced
- Alexanders street
- Seems good. Free parking might help the downtown
- Home lessness
- Affordable housing and funding for social services that reduce the need for policing.
- Where is affordable housing?
- Road conditions
- Better winter road maintenance (side streets) and more transit routes/hours of operation
- Sidewalks in Foxboro
- Is there funding for the library, such an important resource for many?
- Homelessness and jobs
- active transporation projects seem to be missing
- No
- homelessness causing crime downtown
- In 2022 changes were to be made at the library - what happened to them??
- ping pong tables in parks
- I don't have an issue with investing in these items; just the overall amount of money I would question.
- Cut the wasteful spending on police who assault with impunity, and do not prevent crime. Use more funds towards things that prevent crimes, like housing, food, and healthcare. In addition, cease spending on the proposed speed camera project. This will negatively affect all drivers who are already feeling the pinch of increased costs of living.
- way less money on transportation, the taxpayers don't need to pay for more busses, more brand new 4x4 pickup trucks for the city etc, only purchase what the TAX PAYERS CAN AFFORD and that's not happening
- n/a
- More water pressure
- No capital budget increase above current inflation rate.
- Incremental costs due to new developments and growths needs to be the responsibility of the developers and not the established residents.
- Got to cut budgets on all ,
- Homeless crisis
- Policing needs greater cash input, more officers and cars.
- Not specific enough about what the projects entail
- Boulevard Trees

Q5: Do you feel adequately informed about the City's capital budget and the projects included? If not, please elaborate.

- No info gets to me thru city channels
- Hard to find the list of capital issues
- none
- All the money is wasted on Ribbon cutting and should be 1 councillor or 2 for each ward.

- This vague survey doesn't provide a lot of information behind the 'why's'.
- Decent communication from this municipality is laughable.
- Please provide breakdown of 32m on wastewater for better understanding
- Information should be provided more in-depth within tax bills and water bills
- They say one thing and do another
- Not everyone is or has access online, it very accessibility friendly. City councillors are non existent to their wards and fail to communicate. City needs to be more involved and open with residents. It is the city's job to inform, not the residents to find and search for changes.
- Only small amount of info shared
- In order to be informed and recommend adequate advice, there need to be a quarterly townhall to discuss the progress, especially on highly budgeted areas and find a solution to bring down the cost or increase the quality
- We should have access to seeing what is purchased with these funds from BPS. Their budget for fleet is extremely high.
- I want more details on this \$32 million wastewater investment
- A breakdown of where each are going
- Yes for the first time in 20 yrs
- active transporation projects missing
- General info only provided
- A survey and a link to council agenda are not adequate to appropriately engage with the public. Kind of "phoning it in". How about Town Halls??
- I feel there needs to be more information provided to citizens.
- Not informed, but my fault. I need to check the website
- if i hadnt stumbled upon this manually, im sure i would not be in the know
- More details on Police.
- Hillcrest School was torn down and a park was created; I live beside it and didn't know anything about it until it was under way.
- can there be a break down on what grants, federal monies that Belleville gets, and make it so all people can understand it and where the monies go
- would like to see all project documents
- It not specific. eg. \$55 million for Bridge street. ???
- Na
- Additional detail ie. What are the transportaion projects, what wastewater projects will continue, begin etc.

Q6: Are there any specific topics surrounding the City's capital budget and process that you wish you had more information and background on? And if so, please elaborate.

- Yes the downtown core. The buildings are privately owned and as such those property owners should pay for their own security. The Welcoming streets programme is a complete failure to prevent issues downtown. Qualified security personnel are required and that obligation should be to property owners. Buildings in the industrial park have security provided by those owners not city taxpayers
- none
- Our taxes are far too high and for what?
- What percentage of taxes go to each item. Further explanations on the astronomical water bills in this city.

- Funds being spent on homelessness
- The project that is consuming the entire budget
- Should please state why more work is required on finished projects years after.
- Timeline and plan to better the city
- Year end yard waste pickup
- Parks
- I would be curious to know more about the projects regarding drinking water, waste water and storm water with climate change already impacting many communities, I am wondering about bylaws like not watering lawns during droughts, discouraging grass lawns and encouraging vegetable gardens for food security and other plants for species habitats such as bees, low-impact development to deal with heavy downpours and reduce flooding etc.
- Library and cultural services
- Why are police and fire allocated minimal amount? Require police and fire as essential services. Why is affordable housing not on project list at all considering it's a serious crisis?
- Infrastructure
- On all topics as things are not as open to public as they would want too as taxes are now beyond anybodies imagination
- See above
- I would like to know how much the developers are contributing to these upgrades that are apparently necessary for them to continue building. Housing prices across the city are unrealistic so why should we bend over backwards for them to build more homes that the average person from Belleville can't afford anyways
- Hillcrest park
- Mental health and homelessness
- I would like to know when the city is going to seriously look at active transportation including a plan for the city to work towards
- More specifics
- All of it, really.
- industrial inventives to attract businesses
- I would like to know to what extent the Bridge St reconstruction is going to affect me.
- more transparency in all aspects, want to know what our taxpayer dollars are SPECIFICALLY going towards
- Need rationale for some purchases. Fire needs new vehicle but then will donate older one to other country as it is still fit for service - why was it replaced ?
- Make available to the public the documentation showing the math performed by professionals (Accountants & Engineers) showing the return on investment and demonstrate how property taxes will not become excessive because of these investments.
- as i stated above, not sure what all "transportation" includes, would like to have a breakdown on that and let the public know what and why certain vehicles are being bought, don't forget, we as citizens can't afford new vehicles every other year so let us know why new ones are needed
- Get the right people that actually know about roads and maintenance good example is Dundas east in thurlow new pavement and shoulders already undermined needs to be graded
- parks
- The last survey did not go into detail enough. had generalized questions
- Na
- How to LOWER tax rate on farm land
- What will the Parks and Recreation budget be spent on.
- How the City plans on replacing trees lost in prior year storm events

Appendix B

The comments below were received through emails and posts relating to the operating budget on the City's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) throughout the consultation period:

- I think that you should be asking people for more relevant thoughts rather than sewage plants and the widening of Sidney Street etc If you think that the general public and residents care about these issues then you clearly do not understand the people that you claim to represent. Make the streets safer and resolve the crime issues
- What the whole voting scam not working well anymore have to encourage “your” citizens to believe they actually have a say in anything you criminals do? So funny...keep doling out the rope though...
- Don't waist your time. They could care less about what we want. They already knew what they are spending the money on long before they asked for input. They do what they want not what the people of Belleville want. The surveys are a joke
- Please fix the roads.so many bumps and pot holes.Bridge st.w.
- Extend a bus route East along College St to the new Amazon building
- I WANT A DOCTOR FOR MY LIVER TRANSPLANT.
- Does it matter what the people say...question is are you going to take the time to listen? I'm going to say NO as long as your pockets are getting full that's all you care about.
- The city should put cameras all over the city... Oh wait... They're already wasting piles of tax payer money on this garbage.
- You've got a problem in desperate need of your undivided attention. They will burn your town down. Most of the homeless are not even from there originally. So I understand that the unfortunate circumstances this has been placed on your plate and because of that you will have to address it. And STOP thinking it is going to go away. It's going to get worse and worse and worse. Families and children are being shut out of their homes because there is just no catching up. Figure it out. You got the money. More than so many other struggling towns. That's my rant.
- Don't ever spend 500k on a few wood decks for downtown ever again. What a colossal failure decision and bsolute waste that was. Please stop being so useless.
- I've gone through the proposed budget and am very upset that there is nothing in the 2024 budget to complete the Hillcrest (Clifford Sunny Belch) park. It is a community park that has been taken away from the community it resides in. We started with a large green space, a toboggan hill and a children's play structure. Now we are left with 8, yes 8, pickle ball courts, 2 basketball courts, 3 meter chain link fences and MASSIVE lighting. My neighbours refer to it as the prison yard! The new park was to be completed in three phases/years and the only parts completed are the things the neighbourhood fought to keep out. What the neighbourhood wanted in the park, the toboggan hill, splash pad and children's play structure, all parts of Phase three, have now been removed from funding. Please explain this. In the park construction 153 mature trees were removed. These trees need to be replaced! Trees take time to grow. Waiting to replace them does not help anyone. What about mental health, cooling, run-off mitigation, climate change? While I understand you have to look at priorities, and understand not starting NEW projects at this time, I can not comprehend why you would consider taking away all the elements of this park that the community wanted and not finish what has been started! Why leave the children without a play structure, a splash pad and toboggan hill? Why leave a 6 meter tall mound of mud fenced off? Why not replace the trees that were removed? I spoke to Mayor Ellis at the renaming of the park and he assured me the finishing of the park was high priority for him. He said he wanted to see it completed as soon as possible. Was this just the easiest thing to say? Please finish what you've started - give Phase 3 the go-ahead!

- I noticed over the last few years less dollars spent on maintaining the parks and trails and is quite evident this year. I like many feel there has been some neglect to the River and Waterfront trails especially. There is a portion of the trail at Meyer's Pier that has been closed an eyesore for 4 years now and really should not cost a lot to repair or upgrade. The recent addition trail extension west of Hermicer is beautiful, but now it would be nice to upgrade portions of the waterfront trail as it is becoming quite bumpy and isn't the most level of paved trails. There is overgrowth on parts of the trail that are not being maintained, additional signage might be good so people do not loiter or even the "rules" of the trail. In closing I believe from a tourism perspective (revenue) the trail system in Belleville is a huge opportunity to advance, promote and capitalize as a draw to the city of Belleville.