



AGENDA
SPECIAL GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF APRIL 13, 2015, AT 8:00 A.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE

Page

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN & DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Summary of Public Input on the draft Strategic Plan and draft Financial Plan
<i>--K. Hamilton, Director of Citizen Engagement & Strategic Planning</i>

1. Motion from Mayor Helps on the Draft Strategic Plan
2. Items from April 9 Meeting - Reports providing summaries of public input on the draft Strategic Plan & draft Financial Plan. | 3 - 700 |
| 2. | Proposed Adjustments to the Draft 2015 - 2019 Financial Plan
<i>--S. Thompson, Director of Finance</i>

1. Updated - Council Members' 2015 Budget Proposals
2. Items from April 9 Meeting - Report providing proposed adjustments to the Draft 2015 - 2019 Financial Plan. | 701 - 750 |
| 3. | Correspondence - AVICC Update on Natural Gas Operating Agreements | 751 - 753 |

MOTION TO CLOSE THE APRIL 13, 2015, SPECIAL GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

That Governance & Priorities Committee convene a closed meeting that excludes the public under Section 12(6) of the Council Bylaw for the reason that the following agenda items deal with matters specified in Sections 12(3) and/or (4) of the Council Bylaw, namely:

- Section 12 (3) (c) Labour Relations or employee relations
- Section 12 (3) (e) The acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Council considers that disclosure might reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the City.
- Section 12 (3) (k) Negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed

provision of a City service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public

CLOSED MEETING

4. Labour Relations / Proposed Municipal Service
--*K. Hamilton, Director of Citizen Engagement & Strategic Planning*
5. Acquisition / Disposition of Land
--*J. Paul, Acting Assistant Director of Underground Utilities & Facilities*

ADJOURNMENT



Council Member Motion
For the Special Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting of April 13, 2015

Date: April 10, 2015

From: Mayor Helps

Subject: Draft Strategic Plan

Summary

The City engaged the community and staff in consultation regarding the strategic priorities for the term of this Council, which was initiated concurrently with consultation on the financial plan. Council members were directly involved in the development of the strategic priorities and have had the opportunity to hear from a variety of stakeholders whose input will inform our final decision-making.

To conclude our work on the strategic priorities, I encouraged Council members to provide further input to me regarding the strategic priorities they felt were most important to the community and the City. The attached Draft Strategic Plan 2015 - 2019 tracks this feedback and proposes a final set of strategic priorities for Council's consideration. It is my wish that Council consider these proposals and finalize the City's Strategic concurrently with our approval of the 2015 Financial Plan.

Recommendation

That Council members consider and recommend to Council the City of Victoria's Strategic Plan 2015 - 2019.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Helps".

Lisa Helps
Mayor

~~Text with strikethrough proposed for deletion.~~

Text in red proposed for addition.

Text highlighted and in italics suggests moving something.

City of Victoria

Draft Strategic Plan

2015 – 2018

Our Goal:

“Victoria is a leading edge capital city that embraces the future and builds on the past, where human **well-being** ~~needs~~ and the environment are priorities, where the community feels valued, heard and understood and where City Hall is trusted. Victoria is a city that is liveable, affordable, prosperous and vibrant, where we all work in partnership to ~~support~~ **create/seize** opportunities and get things done.”

Council's Principles for Strategic Planning

In the planning process we are committed to:

- ~~• Starting with an open heart and an open mind~~
- ~~• Being honest, frank and respectful in our discussions~~
- ~~• Participating with active listening and respectful challenging~~
- ~~• Keeping a sense of humour~~
- ~~• Believing in the process and the outcome~~
- ~~• Allowing for differences~~
- ~~• Strong facilitation~~
- Learning from the past
- Making the process visible
- Making sure that we're starting with a blank slate but also with transparency around priorities
- Engaging the public

In the plan we are committed to:

- Creating a clear plan with agreed **upon** purposes
- Making sure our stated values are clear
- ~~• Identifying specific proposals that the public can react to — make~~ **Making defining, concrete** statements
- Including timelines, measurables, and budgets for all items
- Making the plan accessible

In implementation we are committed to:

- Doing what we say
- Remaining open to new information, new ideas and public input (*This was in our original but missing from the draft*)
- Scheduling **quarterly** check in updates **with Council** on strategic plan execution ~~with Council~~
- Creating mechanisms ~~for~~ **to consider** emerging issues
- Aligning our governance structure with our priorities

Objective 1: Innovate and Lead

2015–2018 OUTCOMES:

- Council's governance structure reflects its strategic objectives.
- ~~Staff is **are** organized into cross-departmental project teams with strong project management capacity.~~
- **Organizational culture is collaborative, supportive and empowering.**

2015 ACTIONS:

- Be bold.
- To enable bold, innovative leadership, invest in City Hall's capacity by creating an interdisciplinary project team to support collaborative, holistic planning **and execution**, and public engagement. This approach introduces new expertise, project management support and capacity for meeting strategic objectives and delivering within Financial Plan.
- Introduce focused advisory committees and task forces to build capacity and include public input within **specific projects and timelines**. ~~Conclude previous broad topical advisory committees.~~ **Focus mandate and meeting frequency of broad topical advisory committees.**

2015-2018 ACTION:

- **Support the City Manager in developing an organizational culture of collaboration, continuous learning, and employee empowerment.**

Objective 2: Engage and Empower the Community

2015 OUTCOME:

- Improved relationship with nearby First Nations. (Ongoing)

2016 OUTCOMES:

- Build capacity of neighbourhood/community associations. (Ongoing)
- Empowered neighbourhood residents, place makers and others to lead and implement projects.

2017 OUTCOME:

- More youth are engaged in City programs, civic issues, and the broader

2015 ACTIONS:

- Create Councillor Liaison position/role to reach out and work with Esquimalt and Songhees Nations on ~~an~~ **a regular**, ongoing basis.
- Identify dedicated staff to work with community/neighbourhood associations to inform **and** collaborate with ~~and~~ **educate** community association/neighbourhood boards and staff on City processes, expectations and opportunities.
- Make open government actions routine – require automatic posting of reports, **plans, budgets** etc. (Create and

<p>community. (Ongoing)</p> <p>2018 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent government. • Rebuilt trust with the public in terms of meaningful public engagement. • Regional leader in Open and Transparent Government. • City Hall is engaged in a meaningful, two way conversation with the public. 	<p>implement a plan and timeline for open government enhancements.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create “great neighbourhoods initiative” based on Edmonton’s model; amend to fit our local circumstances. • Utilize online tools, established youth networks, and learn from other cities, to improve the City’s youth engagement. • Work with community to design participatory budgeting opportunities. • Be engaged in a meaningful two-way conversation with the public. <i>Made into standalone bullet</i>
<p>Objective 3: Strive for Excellence in Planning and Land Use</p>	
<p>2016 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced processing time for all types of applications from building permits to rezoning. • Capital Park is through Phase One. • Streamlined land use policies. • Local Area Planning focused on urban villages and transportation corridors. • Create a Development Permit/Heritage Conservation Area on Dallas Road between Cook Street and Clover Point. <p>2018 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing, employment and economic boom in Douglas/Blanshard Corridor through implementation of Master Plan, with substantial new low-cost units, mixed use, and quality-of-life infrastructure. • Enlivened public spaces. Victoria is a people-centered place i.e. Centennial Square, Harbour front 	<p>2015 ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire the best City planner in Canada to lead our Sustainable Planning and Community Development Department. • Identify as staff priority in Planning Department: Local Area Planning focused on urban villages and transportation corridors. • Identify as a staff priority: Work through planning process to deliver acceptable form and density for proponent and community at Capital Park. • Establish predictable flat fee per square metre fee for bonus density. • Make a decision with regard to whether we are going to delegate more decision-making authority to staff. • Empower the City Manager to make/lead the changes required to streamline our residential and commercial land use processes at City Hall. • Increase emphasis on placemaking in our planning and support the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network and other citizen-led placemaking initiatives. • Include active transportation and public realm impacts and opportunities listed in all planning and land use reports.

	<p>2016 ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work through planning process to deliver acceptable form and density for Capital Park for proponent and community. • Complete the Douglas/Blanshard Corridor Master Plan and allocate funds in Financial Plan for quality-of-life infrastructure. • Commence three new urban village centre plans upon completion of Burnside-Gorge/Douglas Street Corridor Plan.
Objective 4: Build the Financial Capacity of the Organization	
<p>2015 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A business case for a property acquisitions/real estate management office. • More revenue and strategic influence for City with implementation of Municipal Property Acquisition and Management Strategy. <p>2018 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximized and where possible (e.g. School Districts and City lands) consolidated City-owned assets, put to best and highest use including market rate commercial leases. • Full catalogue and list of long-term investment costs/profits for infrastructure and facilities. Increased revenue from property. 	<p>2015 ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an integrated facilities and real estate arm at City Hall or in Economic Development Office staffed by people who understand business and the real estate market and respond to the market and the short and long term economic outlook of the City. • Complete and implement Municipal Property Acquisition and Management Strategy. • Complete a full long-term infrastructure and facilities assessment.
Objective 5: Create Prosperity Through Economic Development	

<p>2015 OUTCOME:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City “Economic Development Office” or “Office of Small Business Services” or something along these lines is set up. <p>2016 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downtown is the hub of both large and small business. Reduced retail and commercial vacancies downtown. Improved health, consumer purchasing power, and social solidarity with implementation of Municipal Incomes Strategy. Victoria's two largest private sector industries – tech and tourism – have grown and Victoria's social enterprise sector has grown. <p>2017 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downtown is vibrant and is a draw for residents and visitors alike. Victoria has hosted delegations from each of our Twin City partners. <p>2018 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria is the heart of commerce and business in the Region and Vancouver Island. Taxpayers and businesses perceive tax levels to be fair and reasonable. Increase household median income from \$45,827 to something more liveable. 	<p>2015 ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an Economic Development and Downtown Prosperity Task Force led by the Mayor, of up to 15 diverse individuals, to advise on how the City can best deliver an economic development function, support small businesses – including social enterprises – and fill downtown vacancies with the aim of creating local and regional prosperity. on the set up of an Economic Development Office in the City of Victoria that supports economic development in the City and by so doing, contributes to the economic viability of the Region. <p>2016 ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and implement a plan to revitalize and brand Douglas Street as our “Main Street”. Develop a Municipal Incomes Strategy. Invite Twin City delegations for 2017 “Canada 150” events. Adopt a living wage policy for City employees. Model the way and encourage other organizations to do the same.
<p>Objective 6: Make Victoria More Affordable</p>	
<p>2016 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial increase in construction of new low-cost housing units with implementation of income-mixed zoning. Complete Municipal Housing Strategy; include income mixed zoning. <p>2017/2018 OUTCOME:</p>	<p>2015 ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase City contribution to Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Lobby other cities municipalities in the Capital Region to do the same. Review Affordable Housing Trust Fund to consider increasing the amount per door and building family housing and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased the range of affordable housing not only for those in need of supports but also for working people, families and youth. <p>2018 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are more affordable and supportive rental units available. New garden and secondary suites are in process. (Target TBD) 	<p>creating guidelines to allow Housing Trust Fund monies to be used for properties outside the City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate Municipal Housing Strategy; include income mixed zoning. Form an Affordable Housing Task Force to research, analyze and implement innovative housing policy solutions. Look at zoning, bylaws and specifically at inclusionary zoning. Work with developers, BC Housing, and private sector landlords. Think and act outside the box. Be willing to pilot new ideas, e.g. inclusive zoning, tax exemption. Limit annual property tax increases to maximum of rate of inflation plus 1%. Drive more garden suites and secondary suites through an incentive program. Consider re-instituting incentives for suites. <p>2016 ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to push for a National Housing Strategy. Consider a CRD Housing Levy.
<p>Objective 7: Facilitate Social Inclusion and Community Wellness</p>	
<p>2017 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crystal Pool issues are resolved by replacing or renovating the facility. Victoria has a modern, inclusive public pool and fitness facility in a central location, with increased revenue. Created accessible health services for Victoria's most marginalized people. Enhanced quality of life. Victoria is closer to ending chronic homelessness. Opportunities for accessible sports and fitness by children and adults. <p>2018 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public recreation and cultural facilities are first rate. 	<p>2015 ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City commits to facilitates collaboration among Island Health, VicPD, YES2SCS, and City of Victoria to create supervised consumption services embedded in a continuum of health care services, including harm reduction. Develop plan for public engagement on Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre, to be implemented in late 2015 or early 2016. Initiate discussions with YMCA to explore possibility of a common downtown pool and recreation facility delivering many programs. Moved to earlier before decisions. Increase number of subsidized housing units. Deepen partnerships. Lobby upper

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalition to End Homelessness completes its mandate to end homelessness. City's seniors' facilities have grown their memberships by 50%. City infrastructure and facilities are more accessible for everyone. Seniors centres have increased programming options that are not pirated and competitive. 	<p>levels of government and increase investment in the housing trust fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to keep subsidized housing units a focus and work with partners to create/identify new opportunities. Create an Accessibility Capital Fund and Accessibility Advisory Committee to ensure City infrastructure and facilities are accessible to everyone. Work with partner agencies and street-involved people to establish increased options for safe and secure storage of the belongings of street-involved people in an area that will not have negative impacts on surrounding neighbours or land uses. <p>2016 ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Councillor-facilitated process with regard to working toward establishing supervised consumption services, in collaboration with Island Health, VicPD, and YES2SCS, with occasional staff contributions as required, for specific issue-based advice; e.g. land use, zoning, maintenance, etc. Work through Facilities Assessment and community engagement plan, and seek out possible funding partners. Tender required upgrades and invest in public pool and fitness facility. Continue collaborating with Vic High on new/upgraded school and community sports facility at Vic High. Expect \$ expenditure in 2016/2017. Seniors centres have increased programming options that are not pirated and competitive., moved to left-hand column.
<p>Objective 8: Enhance and Steward Public Spaces, Green Spaces and Food Systems</p>	
<p>2016 OUTCOME:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete three high-profile projects, identified through consultation in Parks Master Plan and food security 	<p>2015 ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate Parks Master Planning process, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City greenspace and opportunities for

<p>discussions.</p> <p>2017 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boulevard gardens exist in all neighbourhoods. • Increased waterfront park space at Ship Point resulting in community wellness and economic vitality. • David Foster Harbour Pathway is celebrated for its wayfinding that links all harbour front developments. <p>2018 OUTCOME:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenspace, parks and food systems that are enhanced, well-maintained and fully utilized. 	<p>“have not” park neighbourhoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commitment to a high-quality park and festival site at Ship Point ○ Include public dialogue on waterfront park at Ship Point ○ Discuss dogs in parks, with eye to identify locations, best practices, and plan for fenced dog area in 2016 ○ Identify three high profile projects to advance in 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, design and make investment to improve Begbie Green in the North Jubilee Neighbourhood. • Create a micro-grant for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens. • Develop long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening including an inventory of City-owned land for food production and improved coordination of food systems resources and initiatives in the City. • Learn from Vancouver's success in creating garden on Davie Street and replicate model in Victoria. • Allocate one existing parks employee as the Food Security Coordinator <p>2016 ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land. • Monitor efforts in neighbouring municipalities regarding urban deer. • Build upon input from Parks Master Plan process and hold a placemaking activity at Ship Point to advance a site plan in the Harbour Principles. Consult public on specific design, and allocate money in 2018 capital budget to complete. <p>2017 ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete two of the “special sites” at Heron Cove and Ship Point, along the David Foster Harbour Pathway corridor.
<p>Objective 9: Complete a Multi-Modal and Active Transportation Network</p>	

2016 OUTCOMES:

- Improved quality of life, public safety, air quality, placemaking, and pedestrian and cycling trips through implementation of neighbourhood-led transportation planning and “complete streets” lens for all transportation projects.
- Public transit is accessible to all and rivals private automobile trip duration.
- Substantial increase in the number of trips by bicycles, with the completion of a skeletal cycling network.
- Bus terminal is replaced with bus loop at on Douglas between Belleville and Humboldt

2017 OUTCOMES:

- Extend Government Street Mall, including periodic closures to vehicle traffic.
- David Foster Harbour Pathway almost completed.
- Johnson Street Bridge is complete.
- Train is running between Victoria and Langford.

2018 OUTCOMES:

- Victoria is a national leader for cycling infrastructure and complete streets planning, with completed all-ages and abilities cycling network connecting all neighbourhoods and village centres. having completed six cycling improvement projects at the following locations:
 - ~~○ Pandora Avenue between Store and Cook Streets~~
 - ~~○ Johnson Street between Store and Cook Streets~~
 - ~~○ Vancouver Street route (from Vancouver Street/Park Boulevard, to Fifth Street/Tolmie Avenue, via Graham and Fifth Streets)~~
 - ~~○ Off Bay Street route (Haultain Street/Kings Road between Richmond Road and Douglas Street)~~
 - ~~○ Off Shelbourne Street route (Doncaster Drive/North Dairy Road to Gonzales Beach)~~
 - ~~○ Wharf/Belleville Streets route between Pandora Avenue and Oswego Street~~

2015 ACTIONS:

- Mandate and create a collaborative neighbourhood process and “complete streets” lens for all projects.
- Designate location for E&N station as close as possible to the new bridge.
- Collaborative design and completion of network of 4–8 high quality cycling corridors by 2016.
- Build protected cycling facilities, more bike parking, and start an Active Transportation Advisory Committee. Begin to see all planning and engineering through multi-modal lens.
- Designate money in 2015, 2016, 2017 and just build it (cycling network).
- Sign pedestrian-only lanes just as prominently as streets. Distinguish between “No Exit” and “No Exit for Motor Vehicles”.
- Review policy for desired right of way widths for road dedications and statutory right of ways.
- Explore opportunities for increased safe cycling training in schools.

LATE 2015 ACTION:

- Develop task force including Government Street property owners and the DVBA to consider a Local Area Improvement Project.

2016 ACTIONS:

- Move to full-time bus lanes on Douglas and fewer stops (in accordance with Rapid Bus plans).
- Support replacement of bus terminal with on-street pick up and drop off bus loop (Douglas, Belleville, Humboldt) on Douglas Street
- Work in partnership with First Nations, Province, ferry operators and others to identify financial opportunities for the Belleville Terminal. Allocate money in 2017 Capital Budget for Belleville Street.
- Based on report funded through 2015 budget allocation to Island Transformations, repair rail crossings within the City of Victoria.

2017 ACTIONS:

- Prioritize “special places” along the David Foster Harbour Pathway and identify

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Phase Two of the Belleville Terminal Project. (Phase Two is David Foster Harbour Pathway improvements to Belleville Street public realm.) Walking is safe, comfortable and enjoyable. 	<p>funding opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the Johnson Street Bridge process moving forward and support staff.
<p>Objective 10: Nurture Our Arts, Culture and Learning Capital</p>	
<p>2015 OUTCOME:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of funding partners for the McPherson Theatre. <p>2017 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria has an Arts and Culture Master Plan. A new Arts Centre serves as a cultural hub. A new James Bay Library branch is opened in Capital Park. <p>2018 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for arts and culture is increased, inclusive and strategic. Successful Western Canada Music Awards/BreakOut West event with Rifflandia sees Region being asked to bid for the JUNOS. A new Central Library serves the community. 	<p>2015 ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the 2015 event Western Canada Music Awards/BreakOut West with Rifflandia. Work with the CRD to increase number of funding partners for McPherson Theatre by making it more financially viable. Identify resources required to develop Arts and Culture Plan, including identifying objectives and purposes of the plan. Provide the public with background on arts and cultural mapping to the public. <p>2016 ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Arts and Culture Master Plan. Fund an Economic Impact Study linked to a Cultural Master Plan. Identify scope and develop budget strategy for a new Central Library and for a library branch at Capital Park in James Bay.
<p>Objective 11: Steward Water Systems and Waste Streams Responsibly</p>	
<p>2018 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sewage treatment plan is underway. The City handles waste in a more 	<p>2015 ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue discussion on sewage treatment options.

responsible way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin the discussion of sewage treatment sites for different treatment options. • Communicate to CRD desire to see single stream collection of recyclables in closed wheeled totes. Make garbage disposal less convenient than recycling.
Objective 12: Plan for Emergencies Including Climate Change Short and Long-Term	
<p>2016 OUTCOME:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City has increased the capacity of VEMA. <p>2018 OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City heritage buildings can survive a major earthquake. (Ongoing) • Fire Station issues are resolved. <p>2075 OUTCOME:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-lying areas are protected from flooding. 	<p>2015 ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Begin seismic analysis of privately-owned properties and infrastructure. • Explore potential for City to require upgrades to heritage buildings for seismic protection even where use is not changed, combined with subsidy program. • Align VEMA's budget through Victoria Fire Department and work with Planning. • Initiate public dialogue and market sounding on fire station options. <p>2016 ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move forward with plans for a new fire station. <p>2017 ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review drainage systems in low-lying areas of City in light of ocean rise. Adjust base building elevations as needed.
Objective 13: Demonstrate Regional Leadership	

<p>2018 OUTCOME:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put a recommendation about amalgamation in front of the public in the 2018 Election. 	<p>2015 – 2018 ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and work with the Provincial government in the study of the potential for amalgamation in the Region.



Governance and Priorities Committee Report

For the Meeting of April 9, 2015

To: Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** April 2, 2015
From: Katie Hamilton, Director of Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning
Subject: Summary of Public Input on Draft Budget and Draft Strategic Plan

Executive Summary

Over the past year a new public engagement strategy was developed and implemented to increase public understanding and input on the financial planning and strategic planning processes. Part of a two-phase engagement program aimed at introducing participatory budgeting opportunities in 2016, the engagement program to date has focussed on improved financial information, increased notice of public participation opportunities, and new innovative tools for the public to engage in the decision-making process. Several new practices, tools and techniques were introduced this year including:

- Aligning the draft strategic plan and budget processes
- Inviting public input on the City's new strategic plan
- Introducing a comprehensive financial plan document outlining details about the organization and each business unit in the City of Victoria budget
- Creating short, educational videos to both launch engagement and explain the budget process, and to assist residents and businesses in understanding the City budget and how it impacts them
- Applying a focused and highly visual social media strategy
- Offering a "budget at a glance" package to provide a high-level overview of the draft budget and strategic plan, and "Understanding Your Municipal Budget" guide to assist in understanding the budget process
- Inviting input on how to allocate an estimated \$4.5 million in funding from new assessment revenue and 2014 surplus
- Responding to earlier public feedback, communicating holistic impacts to tax payers in terms of increases to taxes and utilities, providing 5 year forecasts
- Hosting Town Hall, as well as an e-Town Hall, to make engaging in the budget conversation easier and accessible to demographics we may not have heard from in the past
- Providing a Sign Language Interpreter for hard of hearing guests attending the Town Hall
- Utilizing a new online survey tool to improve the administrative compilation and reporting of the public input received

An online survey consisting of both a short and long version was launched on Friday, March 6 and March 29. 1,527 people participated in the survey.

In terms of survey respondents, 86% of respondents indicated they lived in Victoria. 19% were from Fairfield, 11% from Fernwood, and 10% from James Bay. 24% of respondents indicated they owned or operated a business in Victoria, which is a higher level of participation from business than the City typically experiences. 38% of respondents were under 40, 32% were between the ages of 40-59, and 24% of respondents to the survey were 60 or older.

An additional 152 letters/emails were received.

A Town Hall meeting was hosted on Monday, March 23 at City Hall. A record number of over 250 citizens attended in person. Overflow seating and live webcasting were offered in the City Hall foyer to accommodate those who could not sit in the Council Chambers.

For the first time, the City piloted an electronic component to the Town Hall, introducing a new "e-Town Hall" tool to the City's engagement program. This gained high community interest, allowing individuals to participate in the event remotely. Over 102 comments and questions were directed to Council or staff collectively through social media, web submission and phone with additional questions from those in attendance. Questions were interchanged between in-present attendees and those attending "virtually". Aside from the election, the Town Hall was the highest viewed meeting the City has webcast to date, receiving double the amount of online viewers of any other Council or Committee meeting held at city Hall.

In comparison to previous years, public involvement in the financial planning process significantly increased. Last year, a total of 15 people attended the budget information sessions held at City Hall, with 38 people watching the webcast remotely and 47 completing surveys.

The majority of survey respondents stated they agreed with the proposed tax increase and the majority (64%) of survey respondents were moderately (51%) to very satisfied (13%) with the programs and services they receive for their tax dollars.

When asked about the importance of the draft strategic objectives, the five objectives that ranked the highest were (in no order):

- Complete a multi-modal active transportation network
- Strive for excellence in planning and land-use
- Steward water systems and waste streams responsibly
- Enhance and steward public places, green spaces and food production
- Engage and empower the community

In regards to where to direct the estimated \$4.5 million of unallocated funding, the community identified the following objectives as to where they would like to see the funding directed (listed in order):

- 1) Complete a multi-modal active transportation network
- 2) Enhance and steward public places, green spaces and food production
- 3) Create prosperity through economic development
- 4) Strive for excellence in planning and land-use
- 5) Make Victoria more affordable

When asked within the capital budget whether investment should be higher, lower or "just right", the majority were "just right", with exception of active transportation. The majority of respondents felt that spending should be higher.

When asked specifically about the dental benefits for City Council, a slight majority (53%) were supportive of this occurring and 47% were not. Of those who answered yes, the majority felt it should be introduced in 2015, not 2019.

Hundreds of detailed comments related to all business units and the budget overall, are included which will also be considered to further inform projects and initiatives outlined within the financial plan and strategic plan over the coming months.

A detailed summary "*Your Priorities. Your Budget. Your City. Engagement Summary Report*" including and all verbatim input received are attached as appendices.

Recommendation

- 1.) Council accept this report for information.


Respectfully submitted



Katie Hamilton
Director of Citizen
Engagement and
Strategic Planning

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date:


Apr. 2, 2015

List of Attachments:

Appendix A: *Engagement Summary Report*

Your Priorities. Your Budget. Your City.

Engagement Summary Report

APRIL 2015

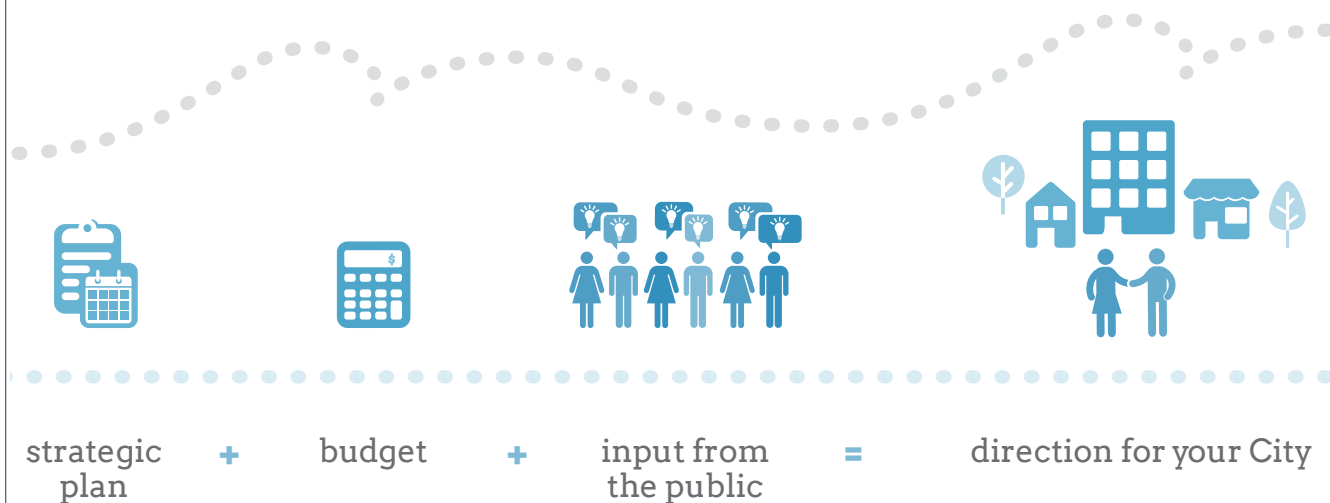


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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

City of Victoria

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Executive Summary

Throughout March and April the City of Victoria engaged a record number of residents on the City's draft budget and strategic plan.

The main focus for engagement was to provide clear and accessible information on the draft budget and strategic plan as well as to try new engagement tools and techniques that would attract and engage people who previously did not participate in the financial planning process.

A traditional Town Hall was hosted attracting a record number of over 250 attendees. Aside from the election, the Town Hall was the highest viewed meeting the City has webcast receiving double the amount of online viewers of any other Council or Committee meeting to date.

For the first time, the City introduced an electronic component to the Town Hall, an e-Town Hall, which gained high community interest allowing individuals to participate in the event remotely. Over 100 comments and questions were directed to Council or staff collectively through social media, web submission and phone.

An online survey, composed of both a short and long version, was also available which collected input from 1,527 respondents.

In comparison to previous years, public involvement in the financial planning process significantly increased. Last year a total of 15 people attended the information sessions held at City Hall with 38 people watching the webcast remotely and 47 completed surveys were submitted.

The spike in interest can in part be attributed to providing better information to the community around the financial planning process and the new tools introduced to make it easier and more attractive for people to participate and submit feedback.

What We Heard

When asked about the importance of the draft strategic objectives, the objectives that ranked the highest were:

- Complete a multi-modal active transportation network
- Strive for excellence in planning and land-use
- Steward water systems and waste streams responsibly
- Enhance and steward public places, green spaces and food production
- Engage and empower the community

In regards to where to direct the \$4.5 million of unallocated funding, the community identified the following objectives as to where they would like to see the funding directed.

- 1) Complete a multi-modal active transportation network
- 2) Enhance and steward public places, green spaces and food production
- 3) Create prosperity through economic development
- 4) Strive for excellence in planning and land-use
- 5) Make Victoria more affordable

53% of survey respondents stated they agreed with the tax increase and the majority of survey respondents were moderately (52%) to very satisfied (13%) with the programs and services they receive for their tax dollars.

Introduction

The City of Victoria has traditionally developed an expense-based budget that focused primarily on the dollars allocated to each department. Limited context regarding services and service levels and details on capital projects was provided in the Financial Plan.

The City has undertaken a new approach to the financial planning process, moving away from expense-based budgeting and towards budgeting by priorities, outlining services and capital projects including the costs, revenues and benefits of each. The new format enables the City to better demonstrate the value residents and businesses receive for their tax dollars.

In addition to improved information, part of the City's new approach to financial planning includes more actively engaging the public in the financial planning process. The engagement conducted this spring was the first phase of two phased engagement approached. The goals for phase one were to:

- Provide the community with clear, accessible information on the budget and financial planning process
- Engage stakeholders who previously have not participated in City engagement initiatives through the use of new, innovative engagement channels
- Provide residents with the information they need early on to participate in a more collaborative budget process in 2016
- Solicit feedback on the draft budget and strategic plan
- Begin a conversation with the community around a more collaborative approach to the financial planning process

To achieve these goals several new practices, tools and techniques were introduced this year including:

- Aligning the draft strategic plan and budget
- Inviting input on strategic plan before it's finalized
- A comprehensive financial plan document outlining details about each business unit in the City of Victoria budget
- A Mayor's update video was created to launch the engagement process, explain the tools and resources available to citizens and how to get involved.
- A "budget at a glance" package that provides an high-lever overview of the draft budget
- Inviting input on how to allocated an estimated \$4.5 million in funding from new assessment revenue and 2014 surplus
- Improved materials, including a budget explainer video and "Understanding Your Municipal Budget" document, to assist residents and businesses in understanding the City budget and how it impacts them
- Responsive to public feedback, communicating holistic impacts to tax payers in terms of increases to taxes and utilities and forecasting for next five years
- Hosting an e-Town Hall to make engaging in the conversations easier and more attractive to demographics we may not have heard from in past
- Providing an American Sign Language Interpreter for hard of hearing guests attending the Town Hall.
- A new online survey tool was utilized to improve the administrative compilation and reporting of the public input received

Phase two, which will occur in the upcoming year, will build on the new tools, techniques and information as well as the foundation developed in phase one. The focus of phase two will be to move towards a more collaborative financial planning process through the introduction of participatory budgeting for a portion of the City's budget.

Engagement Approach

In order to meaningfully engage the community on the City's draft budgets and strategic plan a large focus was placed on developing tools to help break down the complex financial planning process and comprehensive budget into formats and information that was accessible to the community.



Mayor's Update Video

A Mayor's update video was created to launch the engagement process, explain the tools and resources available to citizens and how to get involved.

Budget Explainers

A budget explainer video was developed to visually and simply explain what a municipal budget is, how the budget gets invested in the community and how the City's budget and strategic plan impact citizens.

In addition, a document titled "Understanding Your Municipal Budget" was created to provide some further context into what a municipal budget is, and the process involved.



Budget at a Glance

The draft operating and capital budget along with the draft strategic plan – over 1,000 pages combined – was made into a high-level, condensed document to provide a more accessible options to the community.



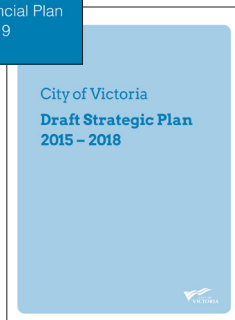
Draft Financial Plan

The financial plan document itself was more comprehensive than seen in previous years, offering details about each business unit in the City of Victoria budget.

Draft Strategic Plan

A strategic plan is the road map for Council's decision-making. The draft strategic plan that has recently been developed includes 13 strategic objectives and associated actions and outcomes, to guide the next four years. This is the first time the City of Victoria has consulted the community on its strategic plan, which was developed by Council during strategic planning sessions that were open to the public. It is also the first time that the strategic plan has been aligned with engagement on the City's draft financial plan.

In an effort to make engaging in the conversations easier and more attractive to all demographics, including those we may not have heard from in past, a variety of input channels were used both in person and electronic. Some methods were more traditional and others were introduced for the first time this year.



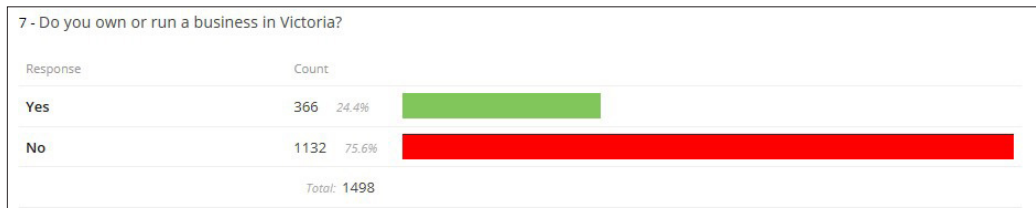
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The majority of the 1,527 who participated in the survey chose to complete the short survey. Approximately 800 people continuing on to the second portion of the survey and selectively answered questions based on interest. Each question in part two received an average of 300 responses.

Who We Heard From

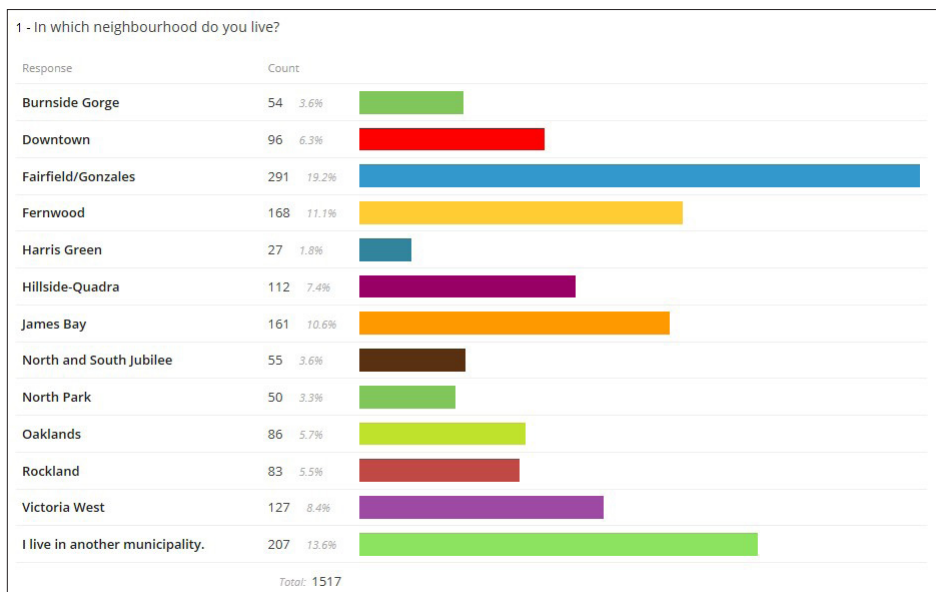
Of the 1,527 people who completed the survey, the majority (86%) indicated that they lived in a neighbourhood within the City of Victoria. 14% indicated that they lived in another municipality. Of that 14%, 10% indicated that they owned a business in Victoria.

24% of all survey respondents indicated that they either owned or ran a business in the City of Victoria.



Responses were received from all neighbourhood areas, with Fairfield/Gonzales, Fernwood, and James Bay showing the highest participation rates.

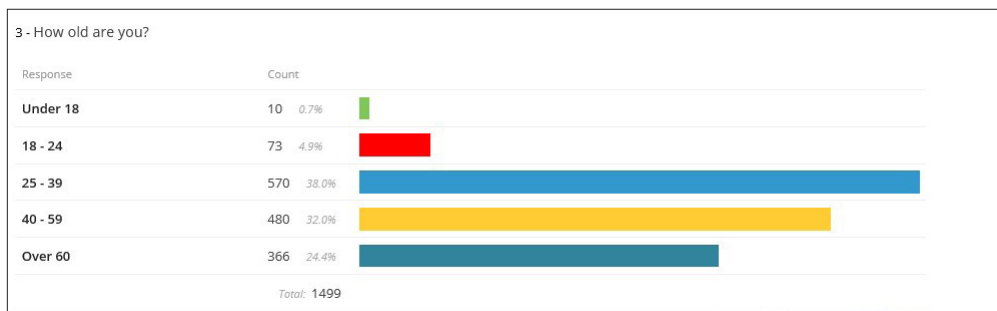
- 19% Fairfield/Gonzales
- 11% Fernwood
- 10.6% James Bay



There was a fairly even distribution of female to male respondents, with the majority indicating that they were between the ages of 25 to 39 years old, followed but 40 to 59 years old.

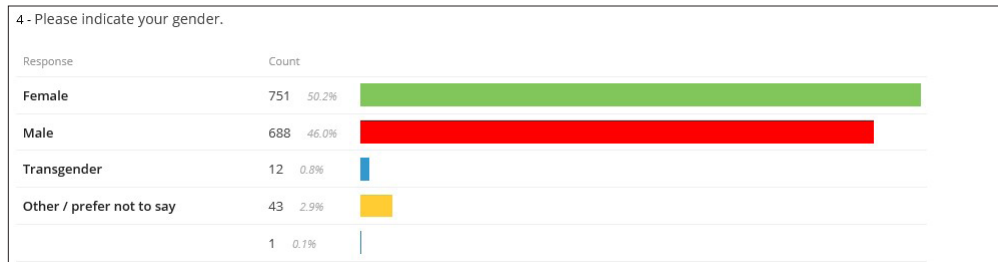
Age breakdown:

- 38% 25–39
- 32% 40–59
- 24% over 60



Gender breakdown:

- 50% Female
- 46% Male
- 4% Transgender/Other/Prefer not to say



52% per cent of people surveyed indicated that they owned property in the City of Victoria. 40% indicated that they rented property.

Discussion Guide

A discussion guide was developed for community groups to use to stimulate conversation around the City's budget and priorities. The guide was based on the survey questions and incorporated background material throughout to provide information that would allow participants to provide informed feedback.

The intent of the guide was to encourage community members to stimulate conversation around the budget in an informal and relaxed setting from a group of friends around a kitchen table, coworkers in a coffee shop or neighbours at a community centre.

Correspondence

Email and written correspondence addressed to Council was also collected as feedback. In total 152 emails and letters were submitted.

Outreach

A variety of outreach channels were used to ensure as many people as possible were aware of the opportunity to provide feedback.

Print media

Two media releases were issued explaining the improved financial planning process and the various ways to get involved.

Ads were placed in both Victoria News and the Times Colonist.

Printed rack cards, outlining how to get involved in the financial planning process, were distributed throughout City Hall and to Mayor and Council to distribute through their networks.

Media Coverage

Stories on the financial planning process were covered through all forms of media. A summary of coverage is outlined below.

Victoria mayor says new team will help city save money (Mar 8) – <http://tinyurl.com/lqg7kws>

New collaborative team to work on Victoria's strategic plan (Mar 12) – <http://www.vicnews.com/news/296116371.html>

Mayor Helps on CBC On the Island (Mar 19, 7:10 AM. Clip unavailable)

Victoria holds first e-town hall, enabling input by phone, online (Mar 21) – <http://tinyurl.com/o33oplz>

CFax (Mar 21): City of Victoria Town Hall meeting

Mayor Helps on CFax (Mar 20 at 3pm, starts at 7:45) – <https://soundcloud.com/terry-moore-cfax/march-20-3pm>

City of Victoria holds first e-town hall meeting (Mar 23) – <http://www.cheknews.ca/city-of-victoria-holds-first-e-town-hall-meeting/>

Reinventing democracy at #VictTownHall (April 1) – <http://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/op-ed/comment-reinventing-democracy-at-victtownhall-1.1810195>

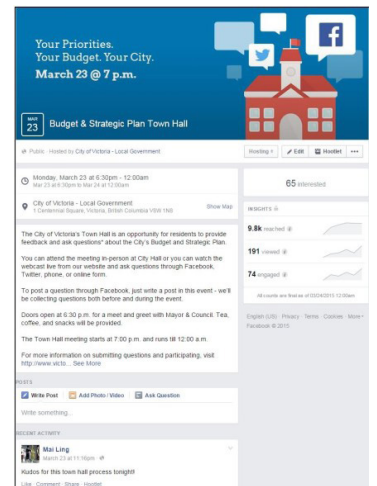
Electronic media

The City's website was updated regularly to provide clear and accessible information on the financial planning process through the events calendar, Latest News and budget pages.

Social media was used extensively for promotion through Facebook posts (both paid and unpaid) and Twitter posts.

A Facebook event page was also created to generated awareness around the engagement process and was used to collect questions for the e-Town Hall.

In addition, a stakeholder email was sent out to 400 contacts encouraging their participation.



What We Heard

Below is an overview of the information received from the online survey.

How important is each strategic objective?: (1,165 responses)

When asked about the importance of the draft strategic objectives, each of the 13 objectives received a high rating of either “very important” or “moderately important”. The strategic objectives that were selected most often as “very important” were:

- Complete a multi-modal active transportation network
- Strive for excellence in planning and land-use
- Steward water systems and waste streams responsibly
- Enhance and steward public places, green spaces and food production
- Engage and empower the community

The City has an estimated \$4.5 million available that is unallocated and can address community priorities. Please rank your top five objectives on a scale of 1 to 5 in terms of where you would prioritize spending the \$4.5 million (1 being most important and 5 being less important) (1,114 responses)

1. Complete a multi-modal active transportation network
2. Enhance and steward public places, green spaces and food production
3. Create prosperity through economic development
4. Strive for excellence in planning and land-use
5. Make Victoria more affordable

Others, in order:

6. Steward water systems and waste streams responsibly
7. Engage and empower the community
8. Facilitate social inclusion and community wellness
9. Nurture our arts, culture and learning capital
10. Plan for emergencies including climate change, short and long term
11. Innovate and Lead
12. Build financial capital of the organization
13. Demonstrate regional leadership

Do you have any additional comments on the draft strategic plan? (463 responses)

Common themes included:

- The high cost of living in Victoria
- The need to encourage more sustainable transportation, including biking and walking
- Issues related to homelessness
- The need to support downtown vibrancy
- Concern regarding cost of sewage treatment
- Amalgamation
- Support for a new library
- The need to increase density downtown
- Support or concern regarding safe consumption site located in the City of Victoria

Part Two of the Survey

Part two asked citizens to comment on the proposed 2015 operating budgets for Engineering and Public Works, Legislative and Regulatory Services, Parks and Recreation, Sustainable Planning and Community Development, Victoria Conference Centre, and Victoria Fire Department.

Following the operating budget, questions were posed on the proposed 2015 capital budgets for Complete Streets, Downtown Beautification, Parks, Street Infrastructure, Facilities, and Underground Utilities.

The survey concluded with a question around Council's coverage under a Health and Dental plan, City spending related to economic development and grant programs, overall satisfaction with value for tax dollars and feedback on the proposed 3.09% increase in property taxes.

What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for Engineering and Public Works in 2015? (352 responses)

Common themes included:

- Support for bike lanes
- Support for current and ongoing work taking place
- Concern around rising costs associated with the Johnson Street Bridge
- Too much information to read, comprehend and provide input – comments asking for an executive summary of 334 page PDF
- Support for finding energy efficient ways to save money through LED lighting
- Need to replace Victoria's aging infrastructure
- Less money to beautification and more towards maintaining assets and infrastructure
- Concerns that salaries take up a large amount of dollars spent

What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for Legislative and Regulatory Services in 2015? (239 responses)

Common themes included:

- Support open government and increased transparency
- Bylaw enforcement needs to be more consistent, find more innovative, proactive ways to enforce them
- Need to update bylaws to ensure they remain relevant
- Seem to be too many bylaws and not enough enforcement
- Support for bylaw enforcement in parks
- Important to enforce bylaws on the Selkirk Waterway
- Some support, some against pipeline intervenor status

What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for Parks, Recreation and Culture in 2015? (298 responses)

Common themes included:

- Consider changes to the boulevard program to allow for citizen-led maintenance
- The need to replace or renovate Crystal Pool
- Opportunity to allow for more food production
- The need for more bike paths or separated bike lanes
- Support for more festivals to support vibrancy in Victoria
- More support needed for arts and culture opportunities
- Mentions of the need for a new library
- Decrease spending for hanging baskets or seek other ways to fund through partnership with businesses
- Support for moving forward with the plan for David Foster Way
- Improvements needed for Begbie Green
- Support for moving forward with Greenways plan

What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for Sustainable Planning and Community Development in 2015?
(250 responses)

Common themes included:

- Move ahead quickly on local area planning, OCP implementation, more resources may be needed
- Speed up service delivery relating to permits, inspections, approvals
- Continue to develop policies/programs to support affordable housing
- Support for general direction regarding sustainable development
- Need interdepartmental approach for many initiatives: i.e. land use planning and transportation, public art, parks
- Support direction of bringing more density downtown, more vibrancy
- Create stronger relationships with neighbourhood associations
- Have seen improvements over the past few years

What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for the Victoria Conference Centre in 2015? (218 responses)

Common themes included:

- Need better promotion, more events, more revenue
- A valuable community amenity – should be more available for free community events
- Should be self-sustaining
- If not self-sustaining it should be sold and operated as a corporate entity or a not for profit
- Should revitalize Crystal Gardens, it is an underutilized gem
- Shouldn't be subsidizing the VCC through taxes, this is basically a subsidy for the tourism industry/corporate interests
- Need to find more tenants to increase revenue and revitalize the area around the VCC
- Comments on naming rights – divided with some responses in favour and some against

What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for the Victoria Fire Department in 2015? (210 responses)

Common themes included:

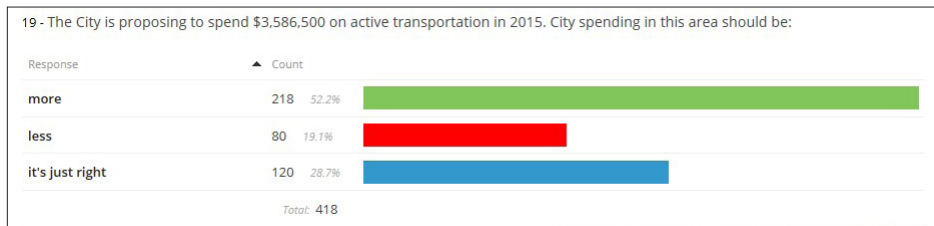
- Exploring the possibility of amalgamation to reduce costs to tax payers
- Greater support and awareness is needed for Victoria Emergency Management Agency
- Some concern over the cost of salaries and benefits for staff
- The importance of a new Fire Hall

What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for active transportation? (305 responses)

Common themes included:

- High level of support for proposed initiatives
- Want more action, faster
- Needs more funding, double or triple from \$1 million a year to \$2 or \$3
- Protected bike lanes most frequent request
- Need dedicated City staff position for cycling infrastructure, more training for staff, limit use of consultants
- An interest in having biking infrastructure built on quieter streets and not main arteries – will be more comfortable for newer cyclists
- Need a safe, comfortable and complete network
- Make cycling more convenient than driving
- Interest in closing parts of Government to cars, temporarily or permanently
- Waterfront routes are desired: David Foster Harbour Pathway, Dallas, etc
- Requires a One City coordinated approach – prioritize walking, cycling, transit and then driving in all City work – multi-modal planning – shift resources from car infrastructure towards biking and walking
- Cyclist and driver education needed

The City is proposing to spend \$3,586,500 on active transportation in 2015. City spending in this area should be: (418 responses)



What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives under complete streets? (228 responses)

Common themes included:

- General level of support for complete streets
- Active transportation most supported element:
 - Focus more on bikes and pedestrians, separated, protected bike lanes
 - Decrease focus on roads for cars – move to streets for people approach
- Some interest in car free streets, less parking
- Definition of complete streets not complete: this sections seems to focus on more traditional road improvements: the concept is around building streets safe for all users, needs to be updated: should not be just about traditional road projects – include placemaking, cultural elements, storefronts, greenways
- Need to shift attitudes of City staff, a new way of planning projects, needs an interdepartmental approach
- Safe streets seen as important priority, healthy vibrant communities
- Need complete streets policy, then pilot projects, then longer term projects
- Appreciation for whole system planning approach, including doing all underground upgrades before road work is done
- Support for LED lighting upgrades, importance of having well lit streets but dark night skies
- Plan for people with disabilities

The City is proposing to spend \$4,481,200 on Complete Streets in 2015. City spending in this area should be: (383 responses)

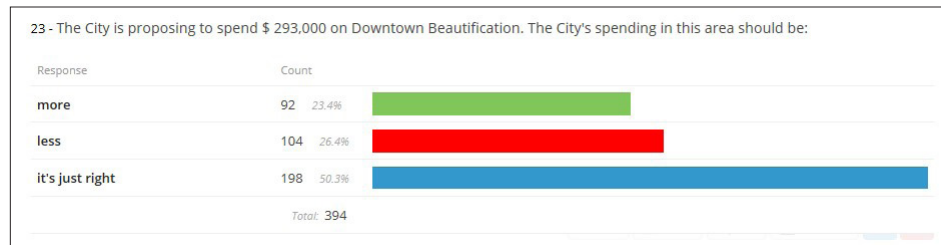


What are your thoughts on the proposed Downtown Beautification initiatives? (217 responses)

Common themes included:

- Many felt that downtown beautification was important for the economic development of downtown
- Concern regarding social issues and panhandling
- Many comments on the need for downtown vibrancy
- Some concern about vacancy downtown and the need to do more to support businesses staying in the downtown core
- More downtown beautification was needed for Douglas Street
- Some noted that businesses should be encouraged to participate in downtown beautification initiatives
- Some noted that less funds should be spent on Christmas decorations
- Questions on the need to spend funds on planters for downtown
- Comments questioning the need to spend money on the Royal Theatre parking lot
- Some felt that the focus should be on placemaking, rather than beautification

The City is proposing to spend \$ 293,000 on Downtown Beautification. The City's spending in this area should be: (394 responses)

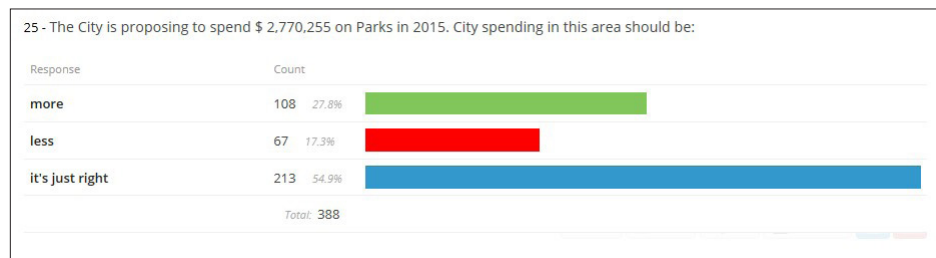


What are your thoughts on the proposed Parks initiatives? (195 responses)

Common themes included:

- Generally supportive of initiatives and budget that is allocated, some asking for more funds
- Parks and green space are very important for quality of life in Victoria, key attraction to live in Victoria, important for kids, adults, seniors
- As density increases, park space should also increase, consider park downtown
- Vic West Park has lots of potential, needs engagement and improvements
- Beacon Hill Park important community asset
- More edible landscapes, food gardens, fruit trees
- Need to address homelessness issues in parks: find long term solutions to reduce homelessness, while creating park spaces that are inviting for all to use
- Interpretive signage/education elements are important
- Better lighting needed
- Need to plan for long term maintenance of parks and new purchases
- Creating a connected greenway system linking our parks is important
- Walking and cycling infrastructure is important
- An integrated City approach is needed for many projects
- Ensure that engagement drives new parks and improvements

The City is proposing to spend \$2,770,255 on Parks in 2015. City spending in this area should be: (388 responses)

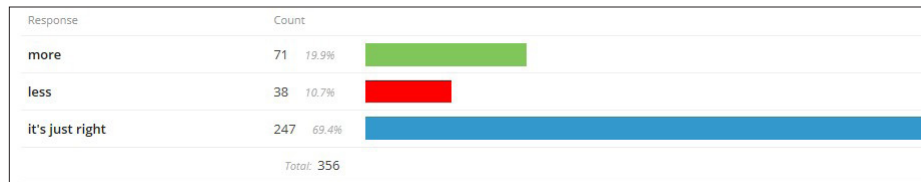


What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for street infrastructure in 2015? (128 responses)

Common themes included:

- Support for maintenance of the Gate of Harmonious Interest in Chinatown
- A desire for more underground infrastructure
- Comments in support for public art
- Support for continued downtown beautification
- General support for the ongoing infrastructure maintenance in downtown Victoria

The City is proposing to spend \$122,000 on street infrastructure in 2015. City spending in this area should be:
(356 responses)

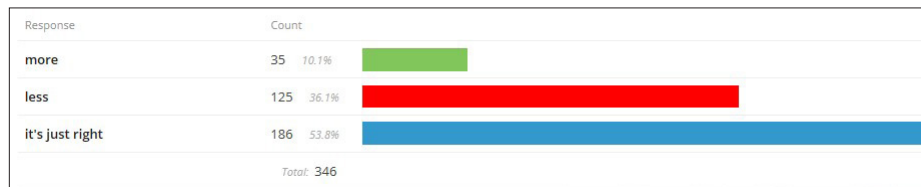


What are your thoughts on the proposed facilities initiatives for 2015? (162 responses)

Common themes included:

- Support for the redevelopment of Centennial parkade by a developer that could include commercial/residential space
- General comments about the parkades throughout Victoria and support for a review of how they can become more viable
- No concerns regarding the proposed facilities initiatives
- Support for facility upgrades that create energy savings
- Approximately 50/50 split on support for and against updating Crystal Pool
- Desire for more infrastructure that promotes cycling (more bike racks, assigned parking for bikes in parkades)

The City is proposing to spend \$6,010,500 on Facilities in 2015. City spending in this area should be:
(346 responses)

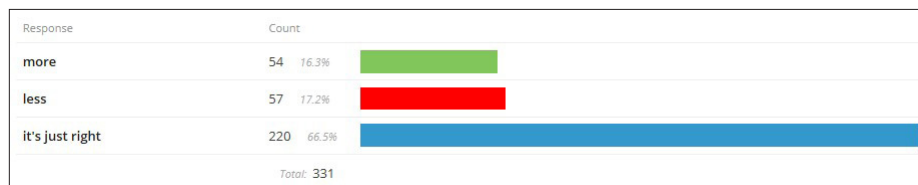


What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for 2015? (138 responses)

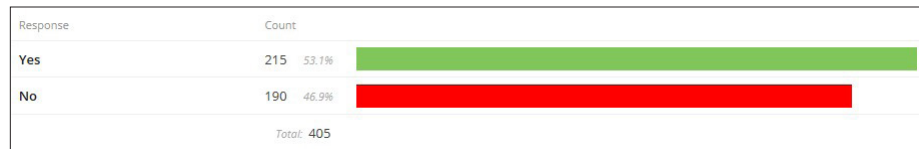
Common themes included:

- Sewage treatment is important and needed
- Upgrades to underground utilities such as sewers and electrical needed
- Need to modernize and manage stormwater
- General support for facilities work – public sees this work as essential and important
- Majority of community members who completed this question acknowledged they don't know enough about the City's facilities to offer comments

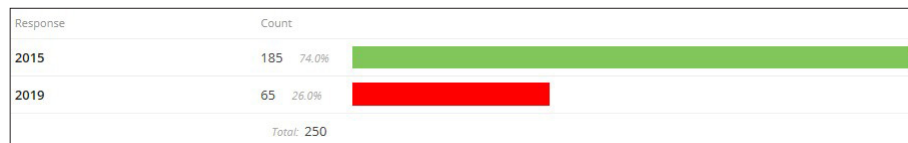
The City is proposing to spend \$11,082,506 on underground utilities in 2015. City spending in this area should be:
(331 responses)



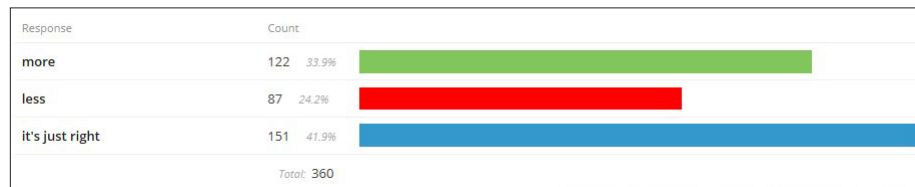
Do you feel that \$15,000 annually for a health and dental plan for Councillors is a reasonable expense?
(405 responses)



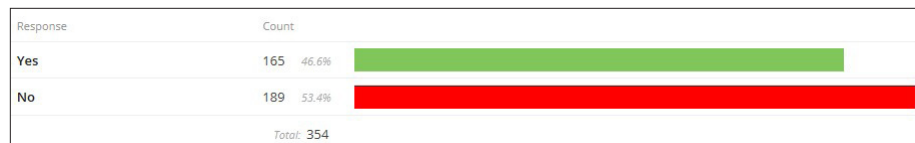
If yes, do you feel it should be applied to the current Council in 2015 or in 2019 for the next Council?
(250 responses)



The City is proposing to spend \$250,000 on economic development in 2015. City spending in this area should be:
(360 responses)



Do you think the City is doing enough around economic development? (354 responses)



We're at a pivotal point in the City as we look to further grow economic development. Do you have any specific recommendations for enhancing economic development locally? (244 responses)

Common themes included:

- Reduce red tape for business owners
- Increase support for small business, IT, green, and technology companies
- Need incentives to attract investors/businesses
- Lower property taxes
- Consult with local business owners
- Concern about high vacancy rates downtown due to unaffordability

Do you have any general comments on the City's investment in grants? (184 responses)

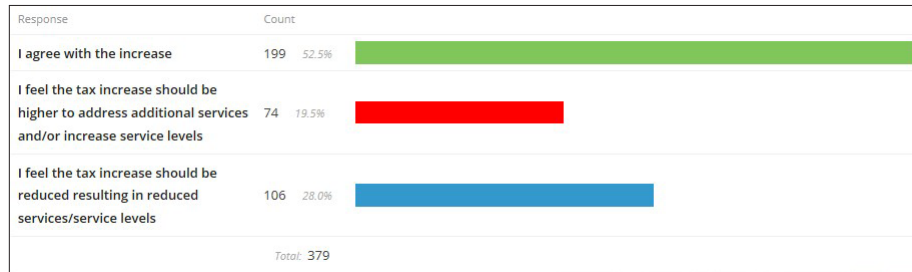
Common themes included:

- Increased oversight of grants and who gets them is needed
- Support for grants that support arts and culture
- More details of these grants are needed – the public isn't aware of how these dollars are being spent
- Too much money is directed towards grants – they should go towards City services
- Increase scrutiny around the awarding of grants

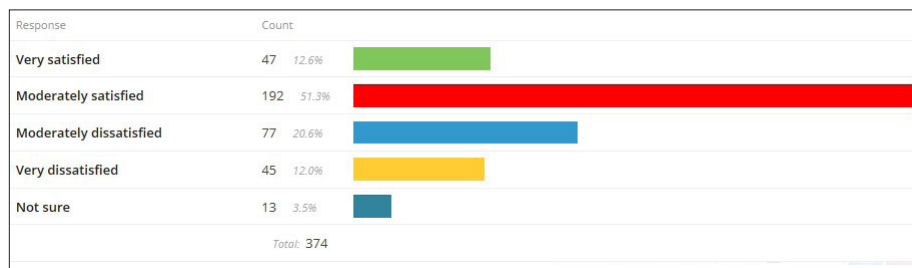
City spending in this area should be: (344 responses)



How do you feel about the level of taxation? (379 responses)



Thinking about all the programs and services you receive from the City, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for your tax dollars? (374 responses)



Do you have any additional comments on the draft strategic plan and budget? (195 responses)

Common themes included:

- Concerns about increased and rising property taxes – too high, too fast, should be tied to inflation
- Concerns around policing and staffing costs
- Appreciation for being given an opportunity to provide input into the planning and budget process
- Some concerns regarding restrictive nature of survey questions and response options.
- Concerns about controlling spending and the rising cost of the Johnson Street Bridge
- Comments around affordability and Victoria being an expensive city to live in
- Concerns around homelessness and calls for a safe injection site
- Support for other transportation infrastructure – rail, bikes, transit

Town Hall

Below are the top themes presented at the Town Hall both in person through the e-Town Hall component.

- Active Transportation
 - a. More Cycling Infrastructure
 - b. Crosswalks and Pedestrian Space and Safety
- Public Spaces and Placemaking
 - a. More Crosswalks
 - b. More Downtown Washrooms
- Public Engagement Process
 - a. General Comments and Praise
- Safe Consumption and Harm Reduction
 - a. Support for Safe Consumption Sites
 - b. Support for Harm Reduction Initiatives
- Food Security
 - a. Support for Community Gardens
 - b. Support for Local Food Production
- Homelessness
 - a. Affordable Housing for Homeless Persons

See Appendix B for a full summary of the comments and questions received in person at the Town Hall.

See Appendix C for a summary of all comments and questions directed to Council and staff through the e-Town Hall component.

Discussion Guide

One completed discussion guide was received from the City of Victoria's Youth Council. The main areas of focus were around parkades (better signage); exploring more uses for Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre and Downtown Beautification (improved wayfinding, making better use of empty storefronts and exploring innovative ways to attract people to downtown such as a scavenger or passport program).

See Appendix D for a summary of the information presented in the discussion guide.

Correspondence

In total, 152 emails and letters were received as feedback. The majority of emails (72) were in relation to increasing support for active transportation. 67 of the 72 were specifically supporting cycling infrastructure. 26 emails focused on local food systems and nine focused on supervised consumption sites.

The remaining emails addressed the following topics:

- Police Budget feedback: six emails with various concerns or questions
- Councillor Benefits: two against
- Victoria Community Association Budget Request: three in support of using funds to support VCAN
- Miscellaneous which included First Nations engagement, relationship with other levels of government, funding for tennis courts, paying City debt, Clover Point improvements and placemaking budget

See Appendix E for all correspondence received.

Evaluation

Goal	Strategy	Measure of Process	Measure of Success		
<p>Provide the community with clear, accessible information on the budget and financial planning process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Created a budget explainer video• Developed a “Budget at a Glance” document• Created a comprehensive draft financial plan• Communicated holistic impacts to tax payers in terms of increases to taxes and utilities and forecasting for next five years.• Earlier notification of Town Hall dates.• Longer consultation period than in previous years	<p>How many times people watched the video</p> <p>How many times the link to the video and information was shared</p> <p>How many visits to the website</p>	<p>The Budget Explainer video was the City's second most viewed video on the City's youtube Channel (followed by “Victoria Council Meetings Online. Anytime.” Introducing webcasting to City Council meetings.)</p> <p>Visitation to the victoria.ca website was up 15% on the day of the Town Hall over typical days.</p> <p>Two week notice of Town Hall date.</p> <p>Consultation period was three weeks.</p>		
<p>Provide residents with the information they need early on to participate in a more collaborate budget process in 2016.</p>				<p>Engage stakeholders who previously have not participated in City engagement initiatives through the use of new, innovative engagement channels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tried new techniques to attract new stakeholders (e-Town Hall, short and long survey option and better information on the budget to attract interest and engagement)• Simplified complex information on the financial planning process to ensure it was clear and accessible to community members.• Broadly promoted engagement opportunities.
<p>Engage stakeholders who previously have not participated in City engagement initiatives through the use of new, innovative engagement channels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tried new techniques to attract new stakeholders (e-Town Hall, short and long survey option and better information on the budget to attract interest and engagement)• Simplified complex information on the financial planning process to ensure it was clear and accessible to community members.• Broadly promoted engagement opportunities.	<p>Participation in 2015 compared to 2014</p> <p>Participation at Town Hall</p> <p>Participation at e-Town Hall</p> 			

Goal	Strategy	Measure of Process	Measure of Success
Feedback on the draft budget and strategic plan.		Number of completed surveys	1,527 surveys
		Number of speakers at the Town Hall	57 speakers
		Number of questions/ comments received through e-Town Hall	102 comments/questions received and answered through e-Town Hall
		Number of letters and emails received	152 letters and emails received
		Number of completed discussion guides	One completed discussion guide

Next Steps














All of the feedback received will be shared with Council on April 9 for considerations as they deliberate the budget. The budgets and the tax rates will be set by May 15, 2015.

Appendices

Appendix A: Survey report

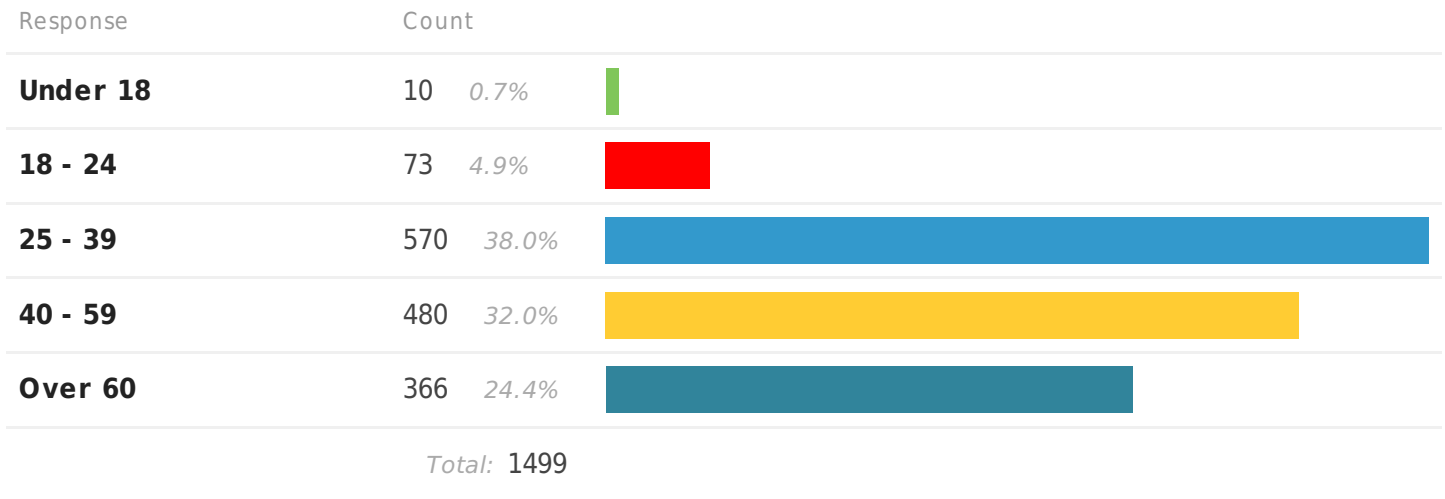
Budget Report

1 - In which neighbourhood do you live?

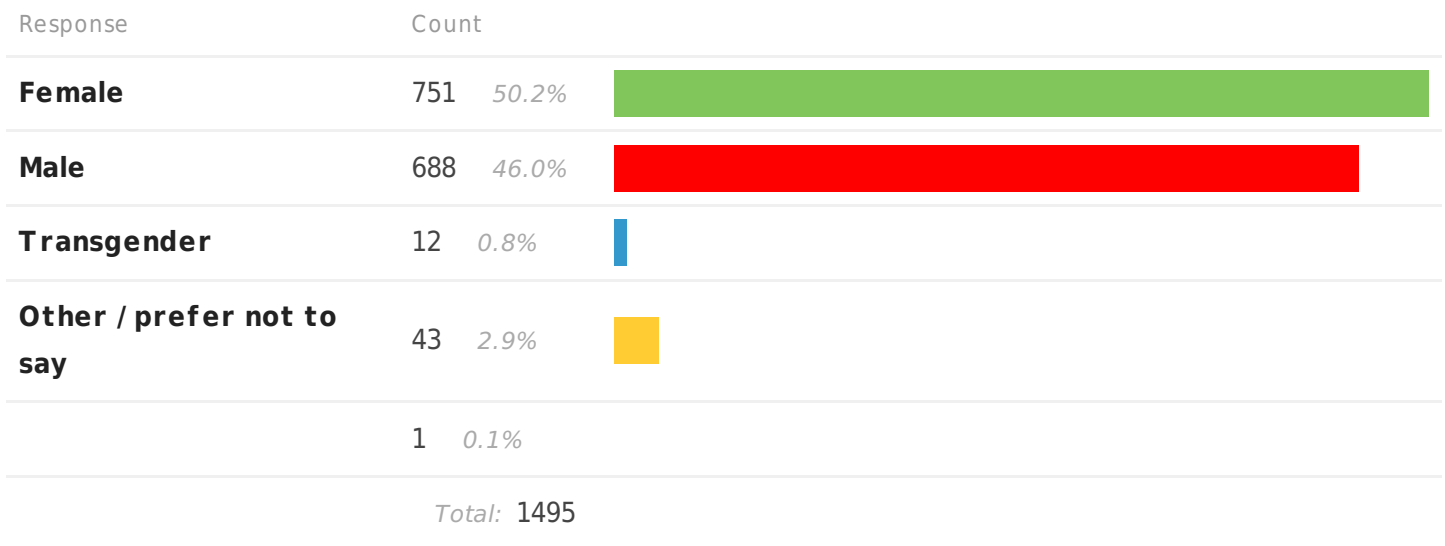
Response	Count	
Burnside Gorge	54 3.6%	
Downtown	96 6.3%	
Fairfield/Gonzales	291 19.2%	
Fernwood	168 11.1%	
Harris Green	27 1.8%	
Hillside-Quadra	112 7.4%	
James Bay	161 10.6%	
North and South Jubilee	55 3.6%	
North Park	50 3.3%	
Oaklands	86 5.7%	
Rockland	83 5.5%	
Victoria West	127 8.4%	
I live in another municipality.	207 13.6%	
<i>Total: 1517</i>		

2 - [edit title]

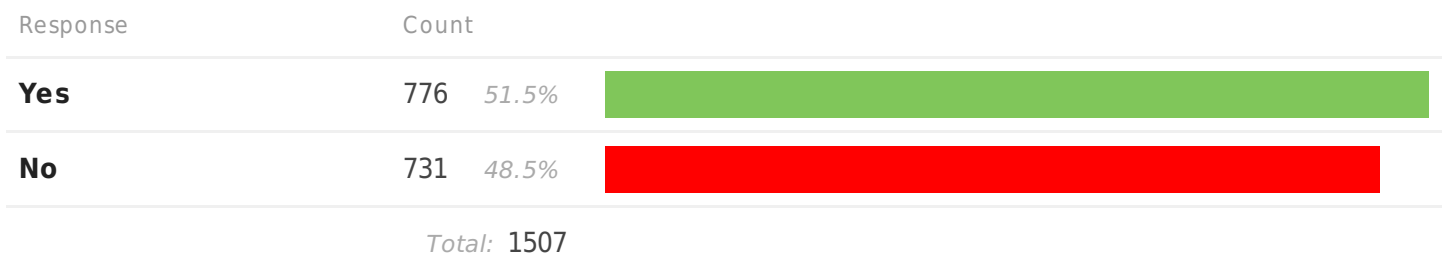
3 - How old are you?



4 - Please indicate your gender.





5 - Do you own property in Victoria?



6 - Do you rent property in Victoria?

Response	Count	
Yes	634 43.6%	
No	820 56.4%	
<i>Total: 1454</i>		

7 - Do you own or run a business in Victoria?

Response	Count	
Yes	366 24.4%	
No	1132 75.6%	
<i>Total: 1498</i>		

8 - Here are the draft strategic objectives. In your view, how important is each one?

Variable	Very Important	Moderately Important	Neutral	Not important at all	Not sure	
1. Innovate and Lead	398 34.6%	420 36.6%	247 21.5%	67 5.8%	17 1.5%	<i>Total: 1149</i>
2. Engage and Empower the Community	581 50.4%	373 32.4%	161 14.0%	32 2.8%	5 0.4%	<i>Total: 1152</i>
3. Strive For Excellence in Planning and Land Use	754 65.4%	302 26.2%	79 6.9%	11 1.0%	7 0.6%	<i>Total: 1153</i>
4. Build the Financial Capacity of the Organization	384 33.7%	424 37.2%	265 23.2%	39 3.4%	28 2.5%	<i>Total: 1140</i>
5. Create Prosperity Through Economic Development	445 38.7%	430 37.4%	216 18.8%	44 3.8%	14 1.2%	<i>Total: 1149</i>
6. Make Victoria More Affordable	574 49.8%	298 25.8%	201 17.4%	74 6.4%	6 0.5%	<i>Total: 1153</i>
7. Facilitate Social Inclusion and Community Wellness	531 46.0%	347 30.0%	203 17.6%	70 6.1%	4 0.3%	<i>Total: 1155</i>

Variable	Very Important	Moderately Important	Neutral	Not Important	Not Sure	
8. Enhance and Steward Public Places, Green Spaces and Food Production	663 57.1%	333 28.7%	124 10.7%	58 3.3%	3 0.3%	Total: 1161
9. Complete a Multi-Modal Active Transportation Network	764 65.6%	243 20.9%	103 8.8%	50 4.3%	5 0.4%	Total: 1165
10. Nurture our Arts, Culture and Learning Capital	403 35.2%	450 39.3%	232 20.3%	58 5.1%	2 0.2%	Total: 1145
11. Steward Water Systems and Waste Streams Responsibly	664 57.7%	346 30.1%	106 9.2%	31 2.7%	3 0.3%	Total: 1150
12. Plan for Emergencies Including Climate Change, Short and Long Term	483 41.9%	427 37.1%	201 17.4%	33 2.9%	8 0.7%	Total: 1152
13. Demonstrate Regional Leadership	328 28.8%	374 32.9%	306 26.9%	105 9.2%	24 2.1%	Total: 1137

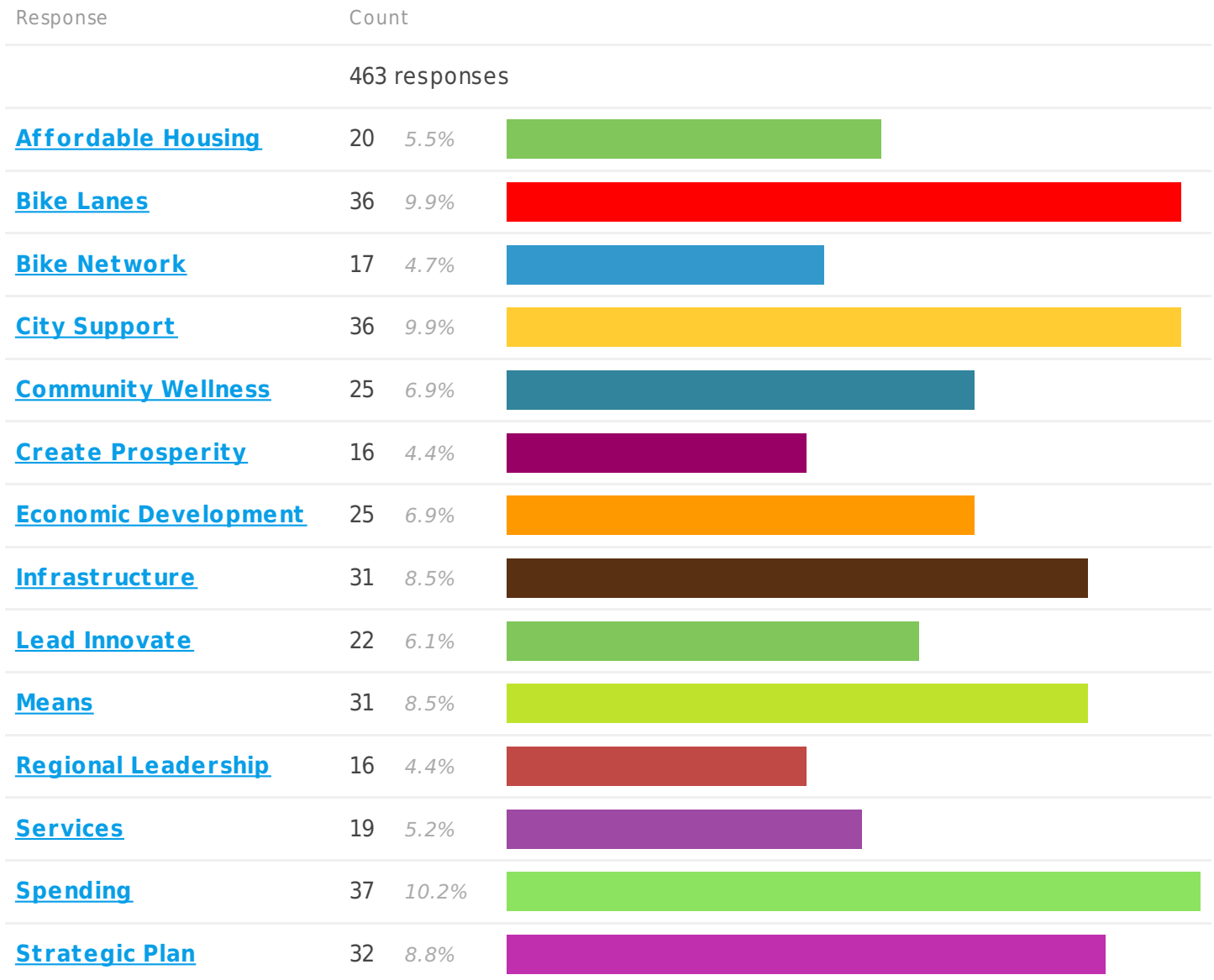
9 - The City has an estimated \$4.5 million available that is unallocated and can address community priorities. Please rank your top five objectives on a scale of 1 to 5 in terms of where you would prioritize spending \$4.5 million (1 being most important and 5 being less important).

Variable	Priority #1 for spending	Priority #2 for spending	Priority #3 for spending	Priority #4 for spending	Priority #5 for spending	
Innovate and Lead	57 21.4%	48 18.0%	50 18.8%	53 19.9%	58 21.8%	Total: 266
Engage and Empower the Community	74 17.3%	91 21.3%	92 21.5%	80 18.7%	91 21.3%	Total: 428
Create Prosperity Through Economic Development	113 28.1%	93 23.1%	80 19.9%	61 15.2%	55 13.7%	Total: 402
Strive for Excellence in Planning and Land Use	88 15.0%	130 22.1%	158 26.9%	105 17.9%	107 18.2%	Total: 588

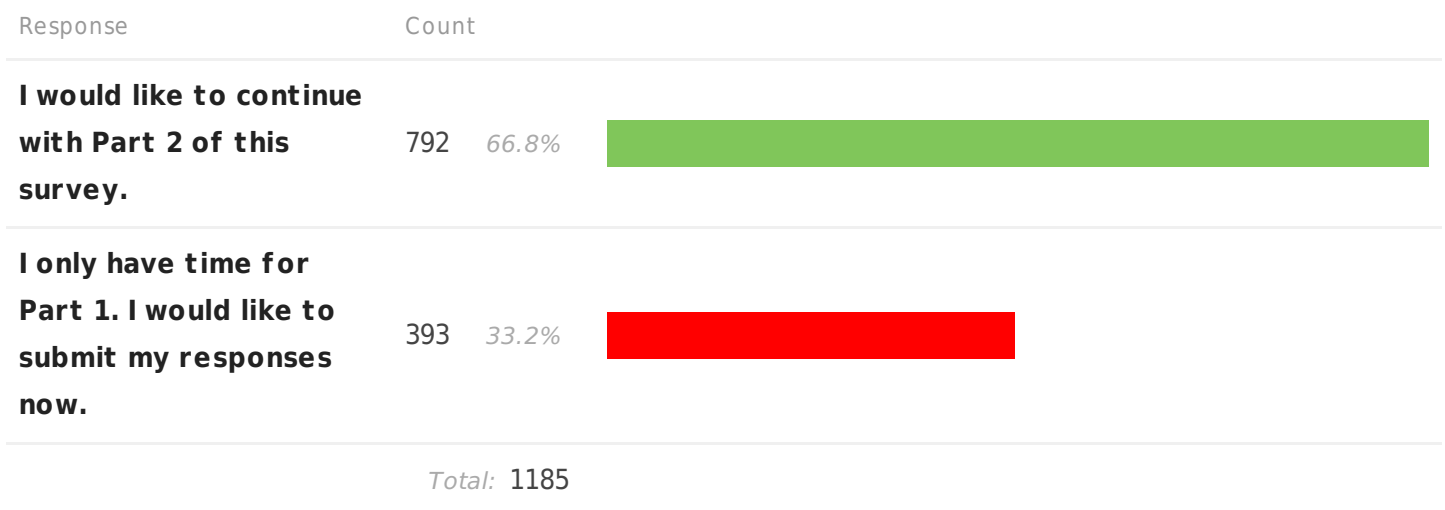
Governance and Priorities Committee - 13 Apr 2015

Build the Financial Capacity of the Organization Variable	34 Priority #1 15.3% for	52 Priority #2 23.4% for	44 Priority #3 20.8% for spend ng	50 Priority #4 22.5% for	42 Priority #5 20.9% for spend ng	Total: 222
Create Prosperity Through Economic Development	spend ng 42 22.1%	spend ng 33 17.4%	spend ng 37 19.5%	spend ng 44 23.2%	spend ng 34 17.9%	Total: 190
Make Victoria More Affordable	166 31.7%	118 22.5%	107 20.4%	64 12.2%	69 13.2%	Total: 524
Facilitate Social Inclusion and Community Wellness	76 18.3%	80 19.2%	81 19.5%	103 24.8%	76 18.3%	Total: 416
Enhance and Steward Public Places, Green Spaces and Food Production	94 14.9%	127 20.2%	139 22.1%	141 22.4%	129 20.5%	Total: 630
Complete a Multi-Modal Active Transportation Network	286 39.2%	162 22.2%	93 12.8%	99 13.6%	89 12.2%	Total: 729
Nurture our Arts, Culture and Learning Capital	12 3.9%	41 13.3%	69 22.3%	79 25.6%	108 35.0%	Total: 309
Steward Water Systems and Waste Streams Responsibly	55 11.9%	94 20.3%	103 22.3%	115 24.9%	95 20.6%	Total: 462
Plan for Emergencies Including Climate Change, Short and Long Term	30 10.6%	40 14.1%	51 18.0%	75 26.5%	87 30.7%	Total: 283
Demonstrate Regional Leadership	18 15.0%	18 15.0%	14 11.7%	26 21.7%	44 36.7%	Total: 120

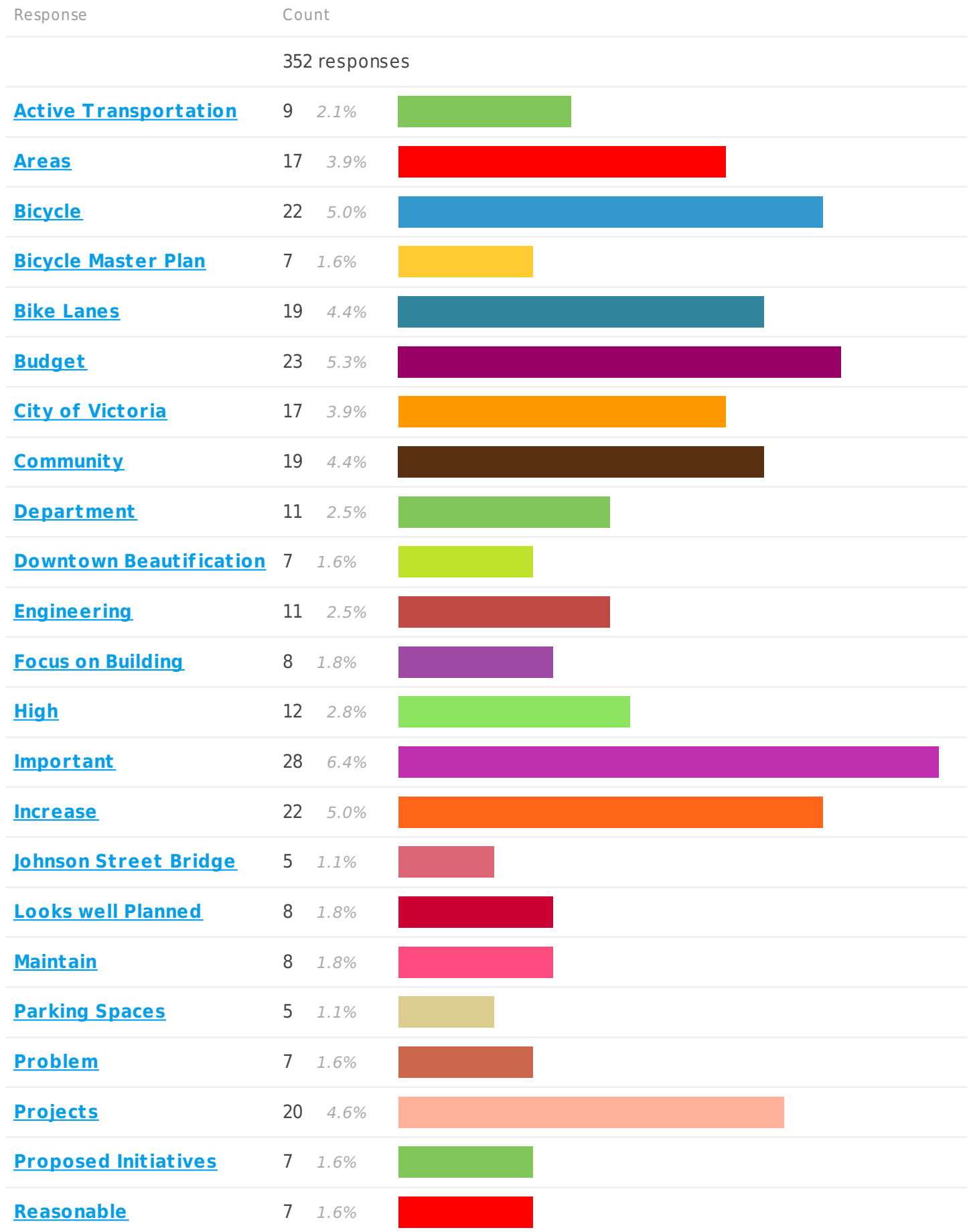
10 - Do you have any additional comments on the Draft Strategic Plan?

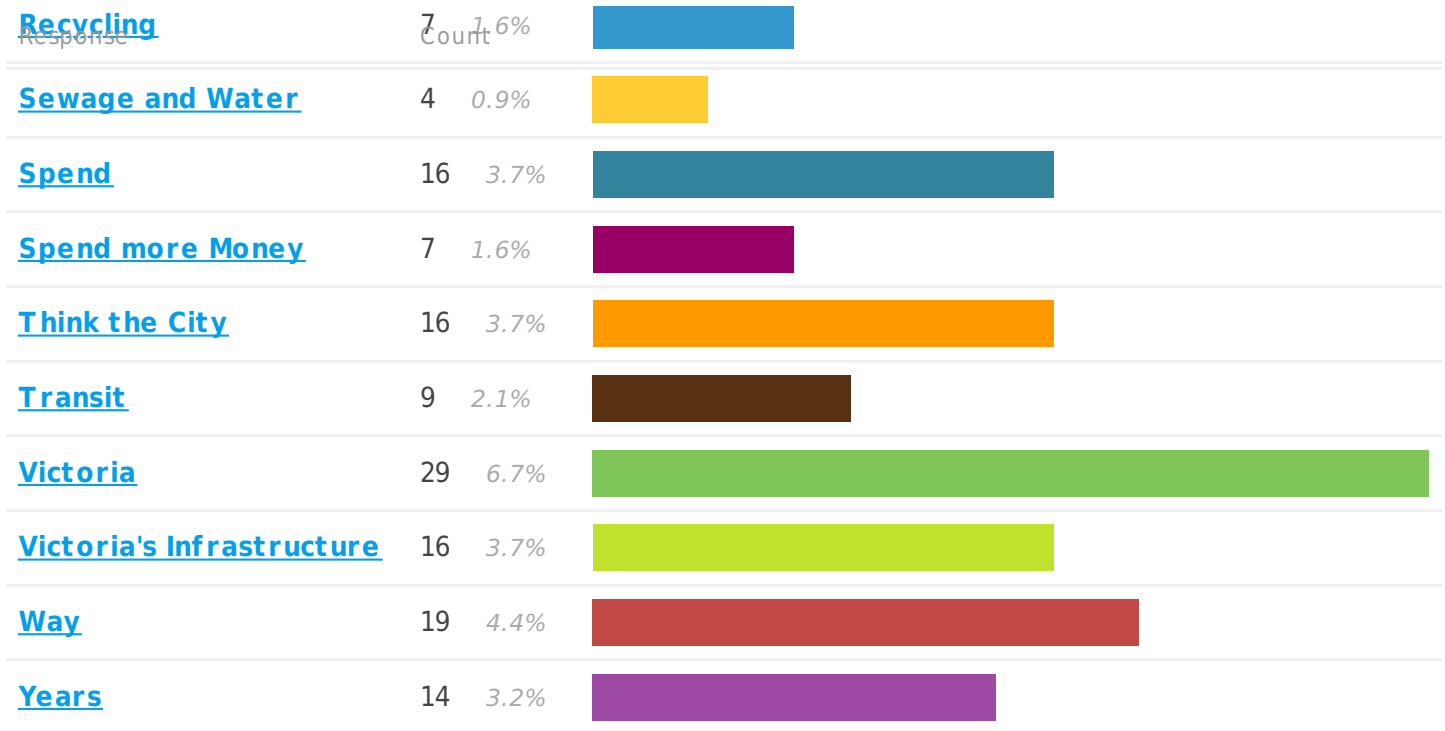


11 - Thank you for completing the first section of this survey. If you have time to continue on to Part 2, you can choose to do so here.

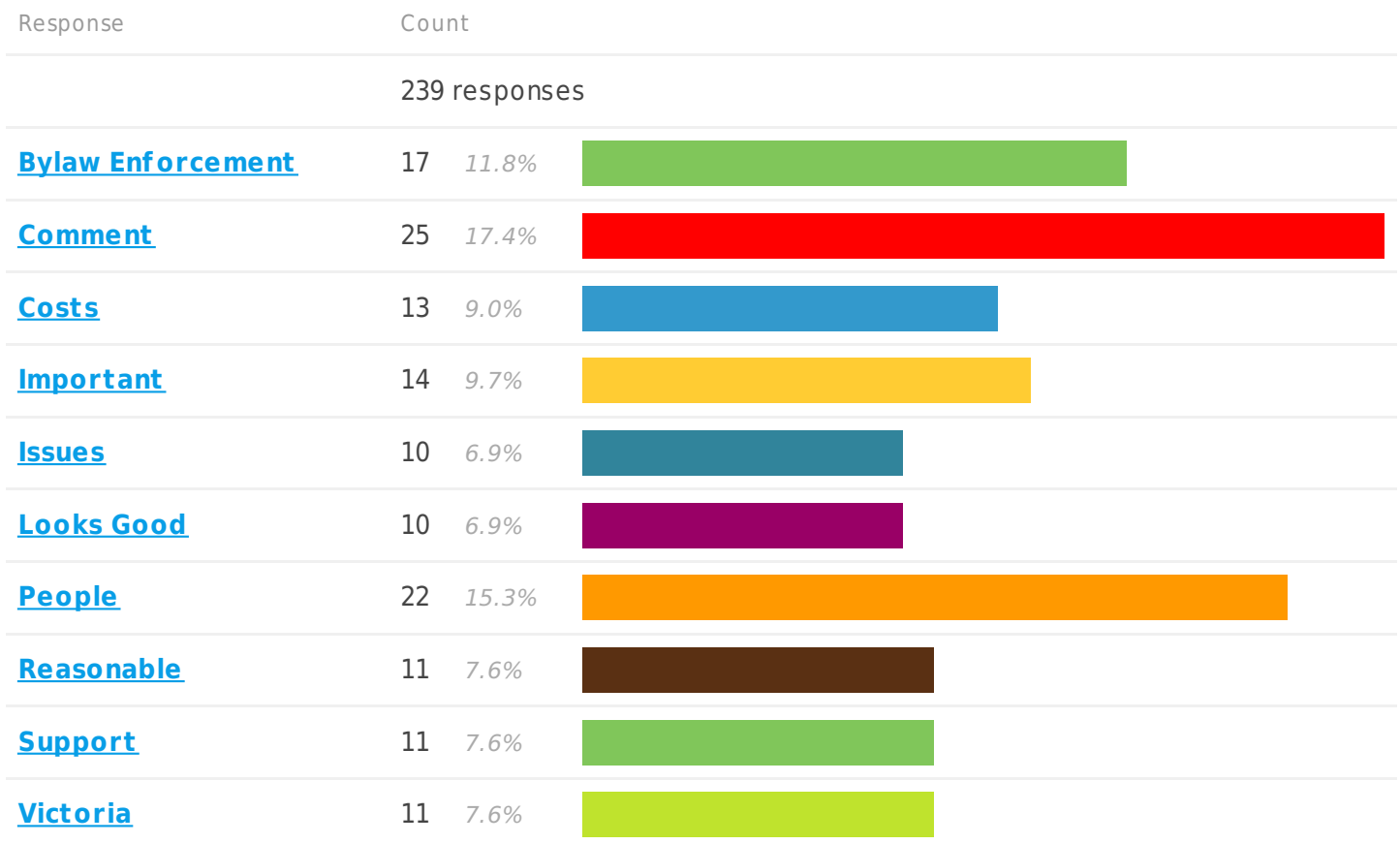


12 - What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for Engineering and Public Works in 2015?

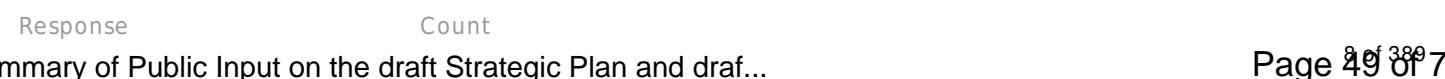






















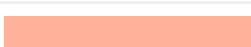












13 - What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for Legislative and Regulatory Services in 2015?



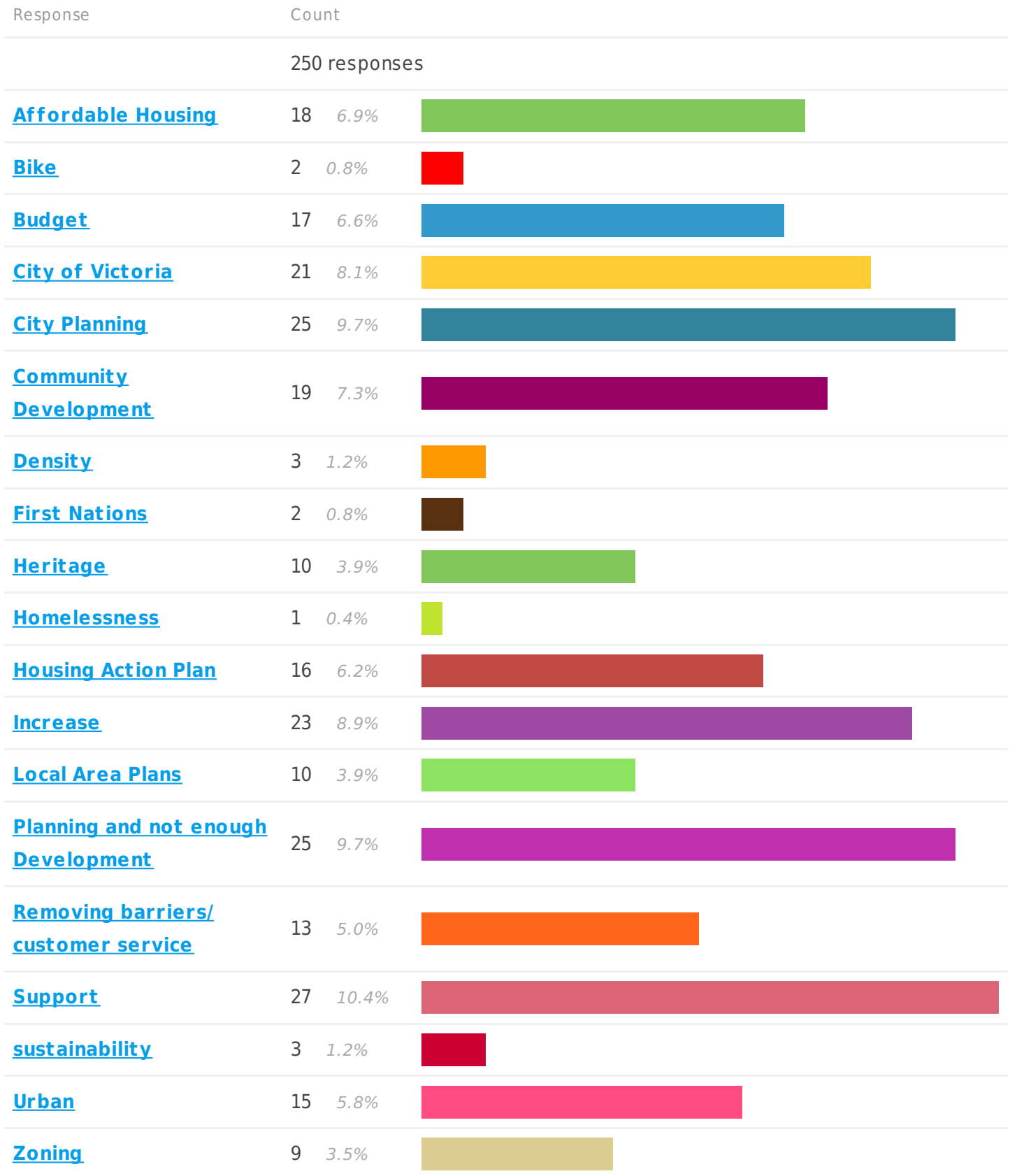
14 - What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for Parks, Recreation and Culture in 2015?













Response	Count		
	298 responses		
Arts and Culture	10	3.5%	
Beacon Hill Park	9	3.1%	
Budget	16	5.5%	
Building	10	3.5%	
Car	5	1.7%	
Crystal Pool	26	9.0%	
Culture	16	5.5%	
David Foster	8	2.8%	
Expenditures	5	1.7%	
Food Gardens	15	5.2%	
Good Job	5	1.7%	
Great City	9	3.1%	
Green Areas	6	2.1%	
Grow Food	5	1.7%	
Harbour Pathway	4	1.4%	
I'd Like	6	2.1%	
Increase	27	9.3%	
Leash Dogs	4	1.4%	
Local Neighbourhood	3	1.0%	
Looking Forward	5	1.7%	
Looks Good	8	2.8%	
Low Income	4	1.4%	
Money well Spent	4	1.4%	
Public Art	14	4.8%	
Public Spaces	10	3.5%	

<u>Public Spaces</u>	10	3.3%	
Response	Count		
<u>Reasonable</u>	5	1.7%	
<u>Recreation and Cultural</u>	15	5.2%	
<u>Recreation Centres</u>	5	1.7%	
<u>Special Events</u>	3	1.0%	
<u>Year after Year</u>	27	9.3%	











15 - What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for Sustainable Planning and Community Development in 2015?



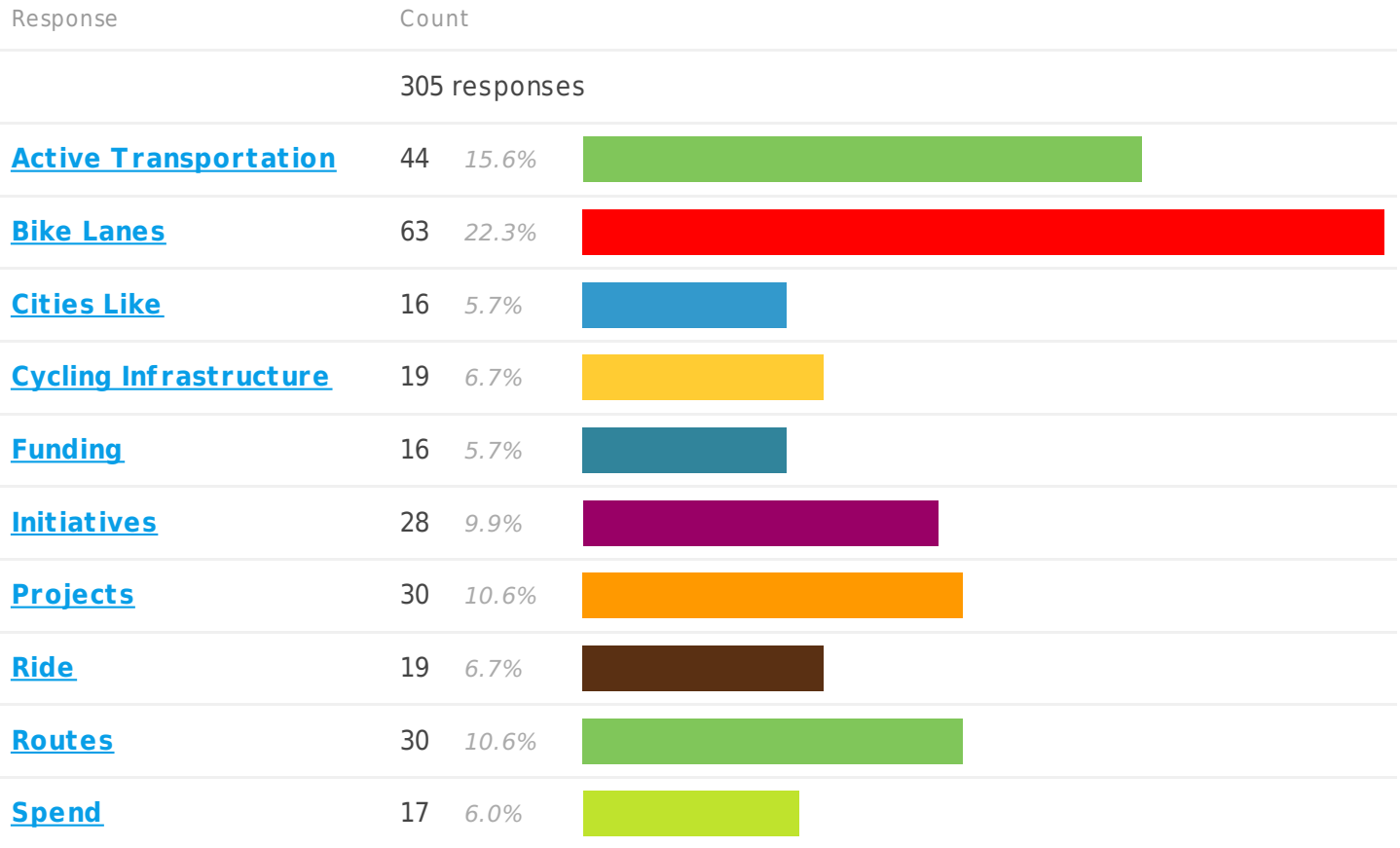
16 - What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for the Victoria Conference Centre in 2015?

Response	Count	
	218 responses	
Better	11 7.9%	
Building	11 7.9%	
Comment	13 9.4%	
Crystal Gardens	29 20.9%	
Events in Victoria	11 7.9%	
Important	10 7.2%	
Naming Rights	16 11.5%	
Space	11 7.9%	
Supporting	11 7.9%	
Victoria Conference Centre	16 11.5%	

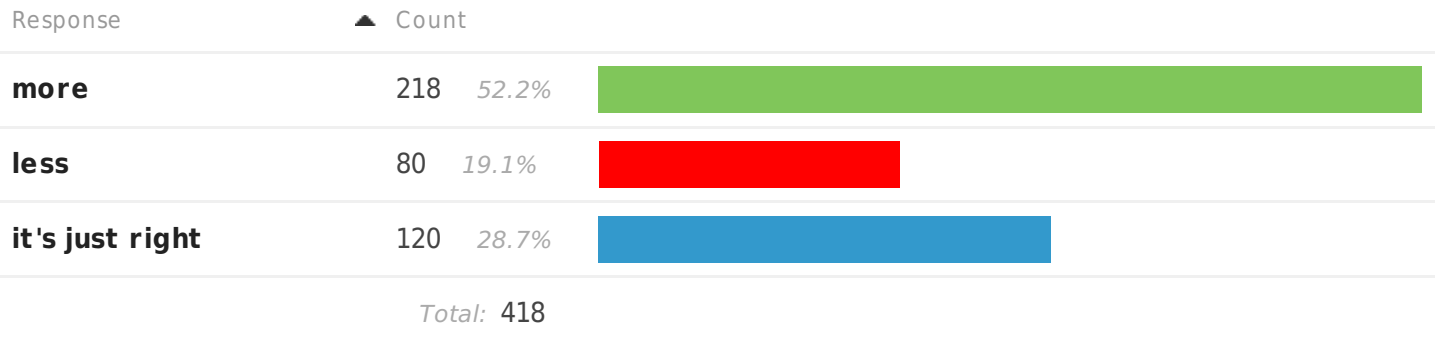
17 - What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for the Victoria Fire Department in 2015?

Response	Count	
	210 responses	
Area	10 9.9%	
Comment	14 13.9%	
Excellent	9 8.9%	
Firefighters	7 6.9%	
Job	10 9.9%	
Municipalities	9 8.9%	
New fire Hall	8 7.9%	
Police Budget	13 12.9%	
Support	12 11.9%	
Victoria fire Department	9 8.9%	



















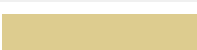
18 - What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives?



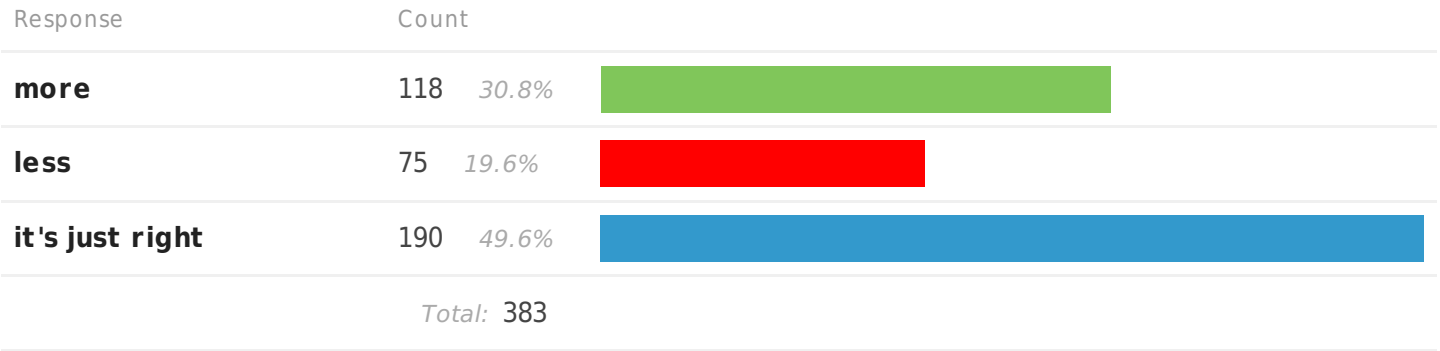
19 - The City is proposing to spend \$3,586,500 on active transportation in 2015. City spending in this area should be:



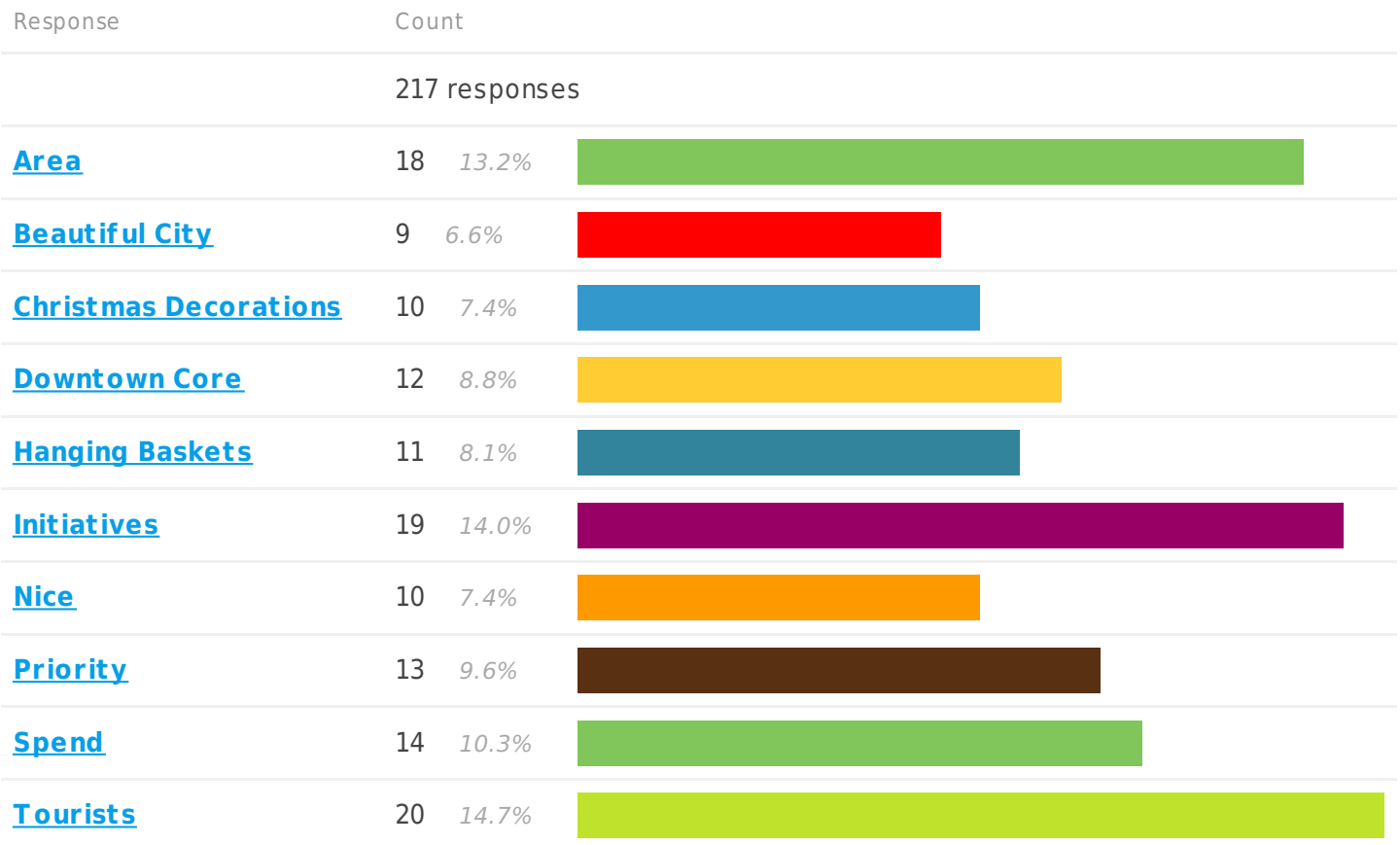
20 - What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives under complete streets?

Response	Count	
	228 responses	
Areas	9 6.4%	
Better Lighting	5 3.6%	
Bicycle	6 4.3%	
Bike Lanes	13 9.3%	
Complete Streets	10 7.1%	
Cycling	7 5.0%	
Excellent	5 3.6%	
Important	8 5.7%	
Know	4 2.9%	
Looks	17 12.1%	
Looks Good	5 3.6%	
Necessary	9 6.4%	
Parking	5 3.6%	
Previous	5 3.6%	
Replacement	8 5.7%	
Safe	7 5.0%	
Sounds	4 2.9%	
Support	9 6.4%	
Taxes	4 2.9%	

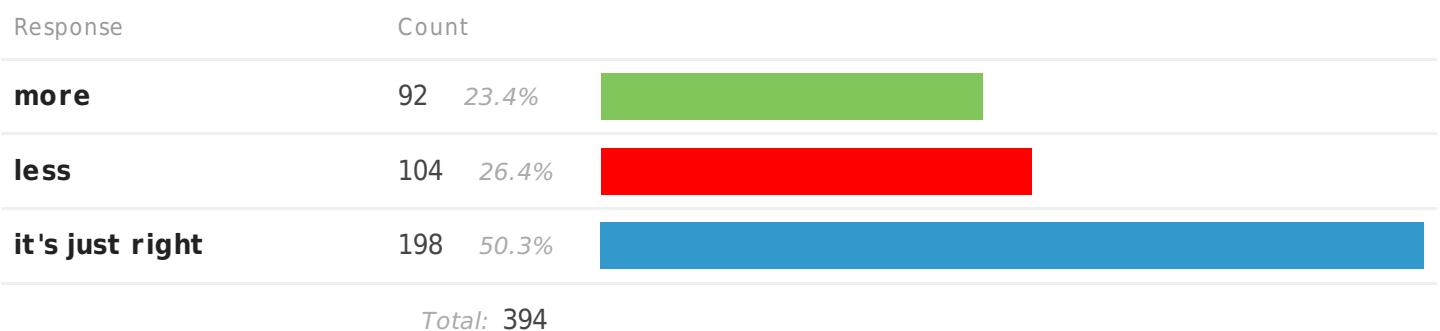
21 - The City is proposing to spend \$4,481,200 on Complete Streets in 2015. City spending in this area should be:



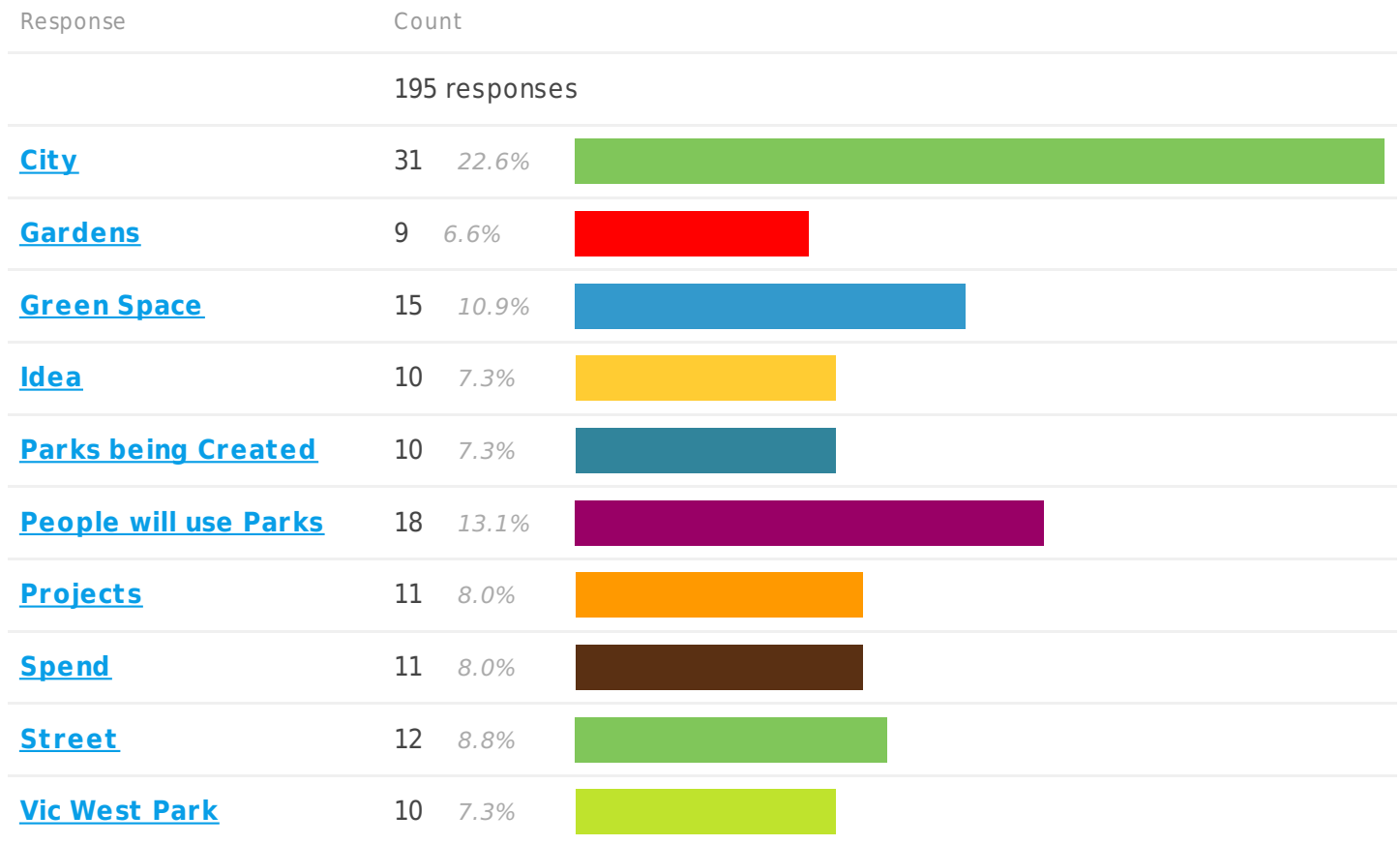
22 - What are your thoughts on the proposed Downtown Beautification initiatives?



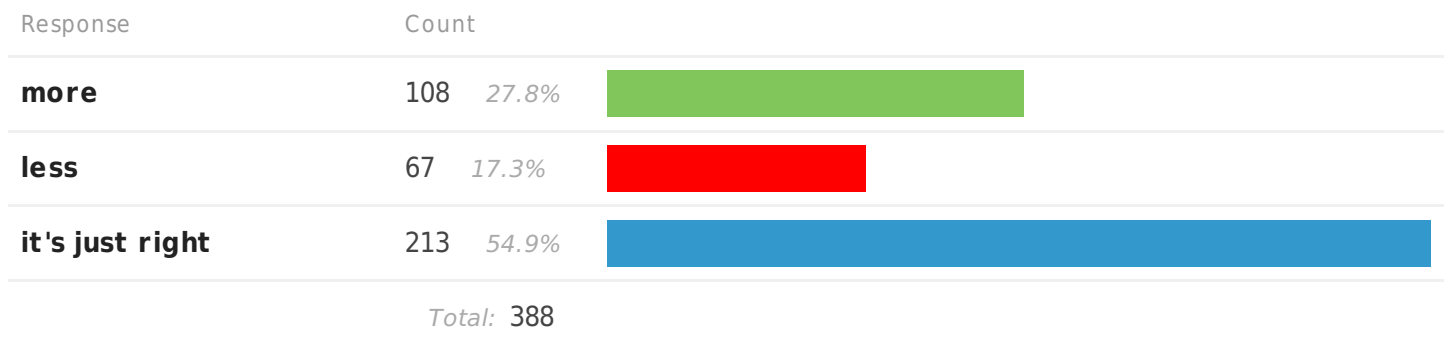
23 - The City is proposing to spend \$ 293,000 on Downtown Beautification. The City's spending in this area should be:



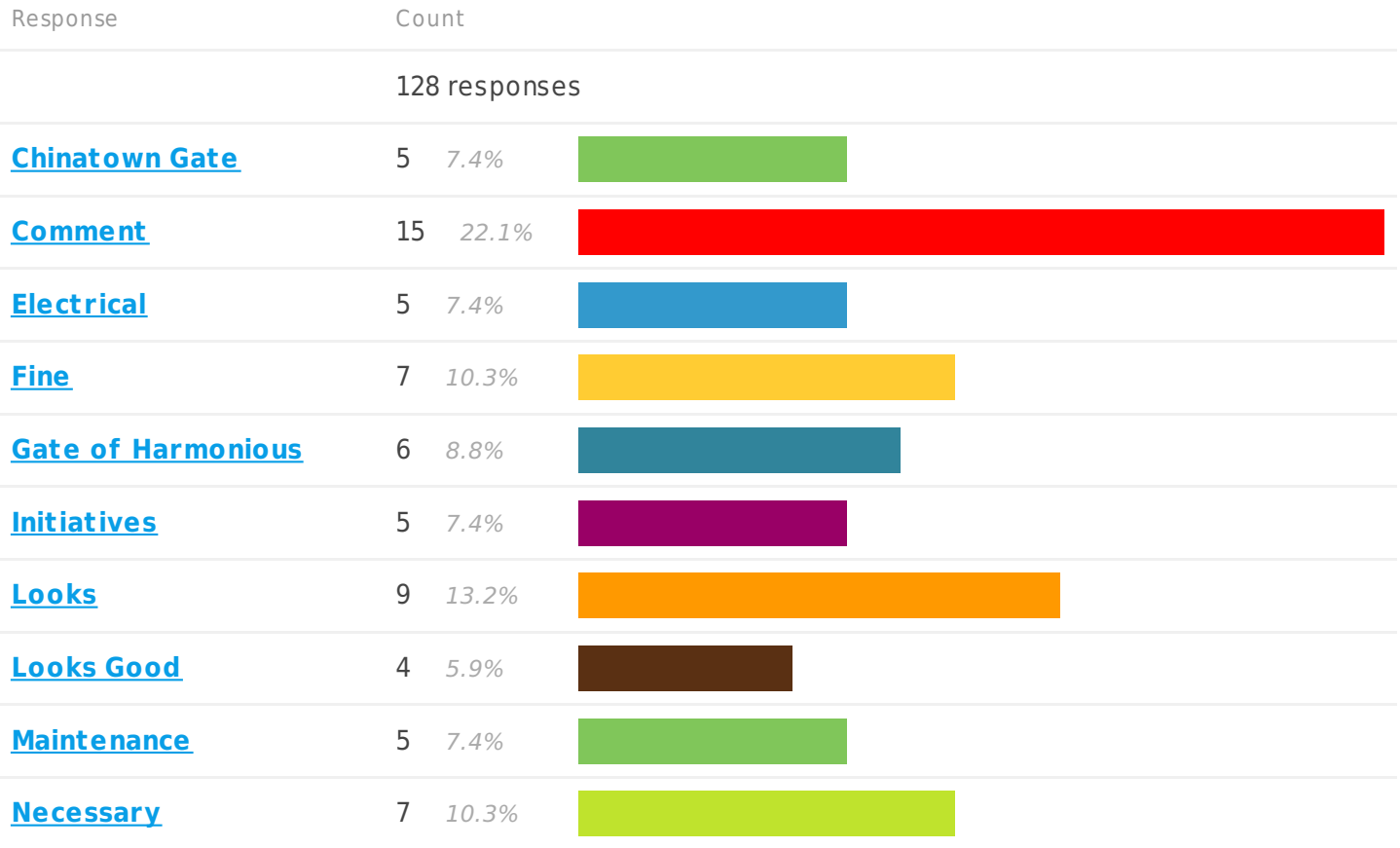
24 - What are your thoughts on the proposed parks initiatives?



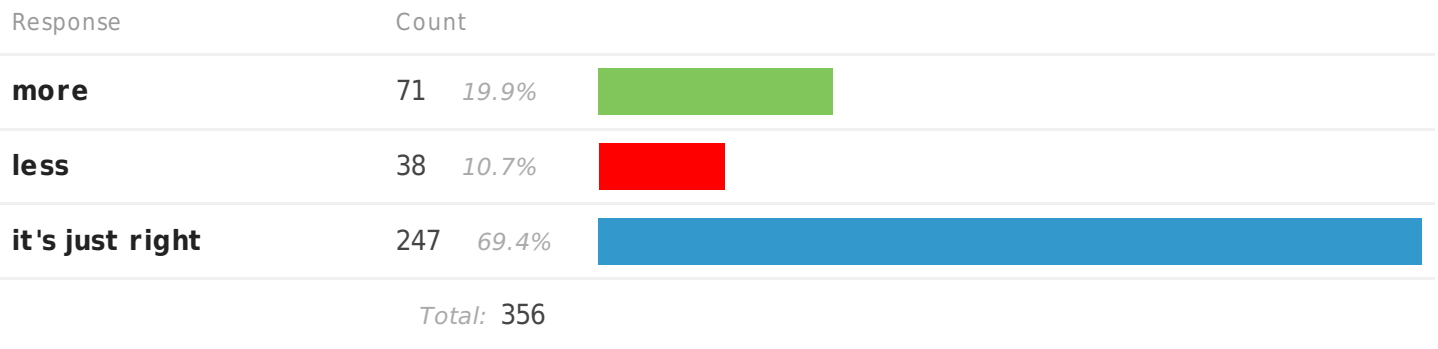
25 - The City is proposing to spend \$ 2,770,255 on Parks in 2015. City spending in this area should be:



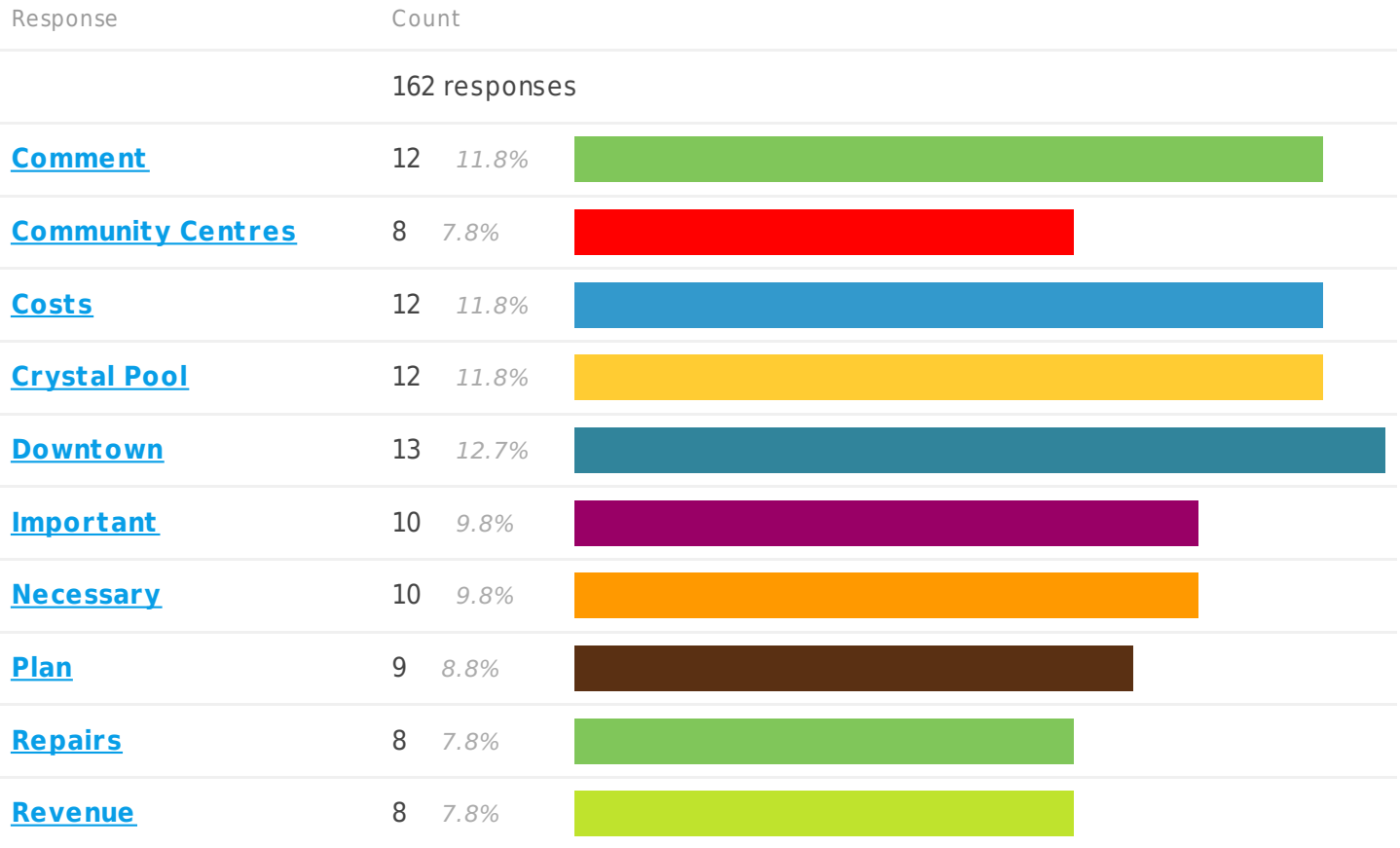
26 - What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for street infrastructure in 2015?



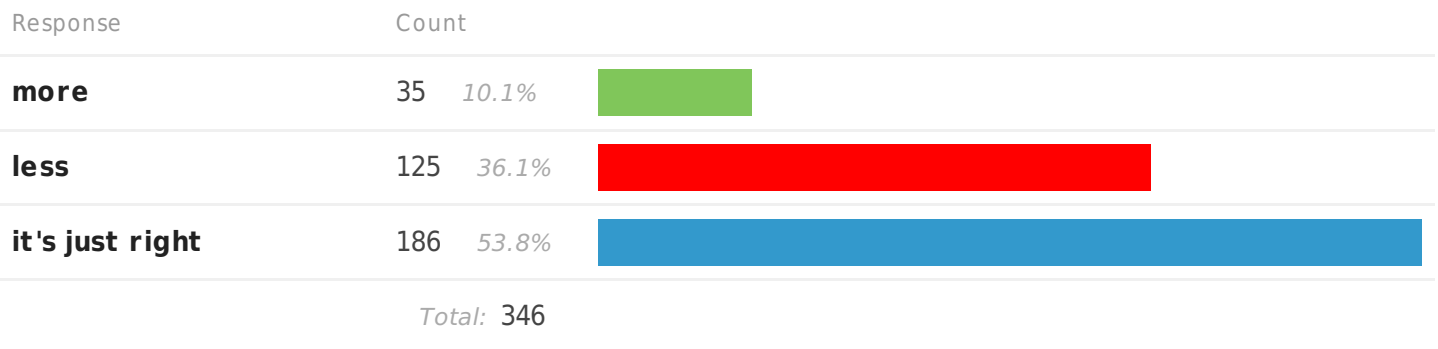
27 - The City is proposing to spend \$122,000 on street infrastructure in 2015. City spending in this area should be:



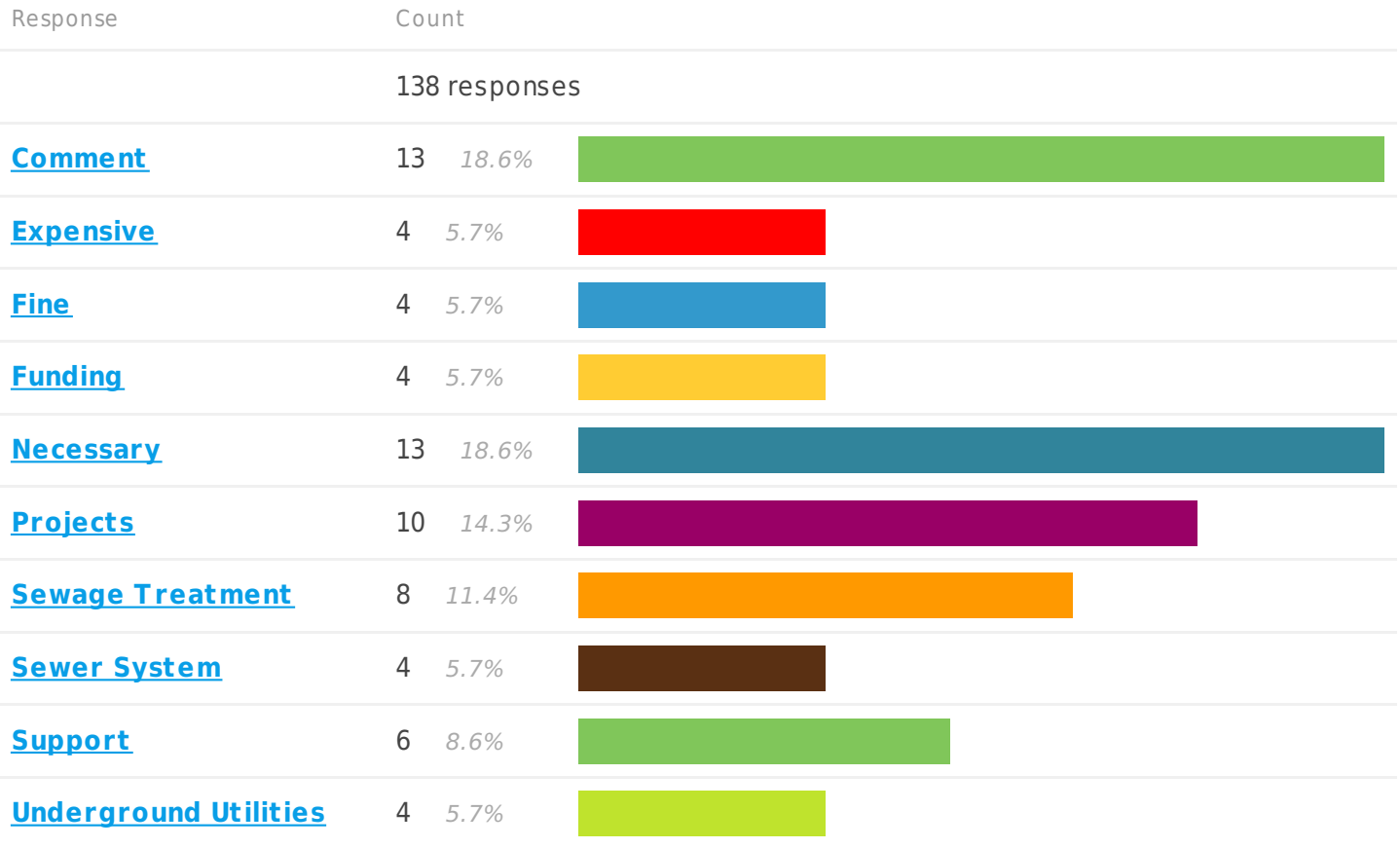
28 - What are your thoughts on the proposed facilities initiatives for 2015?



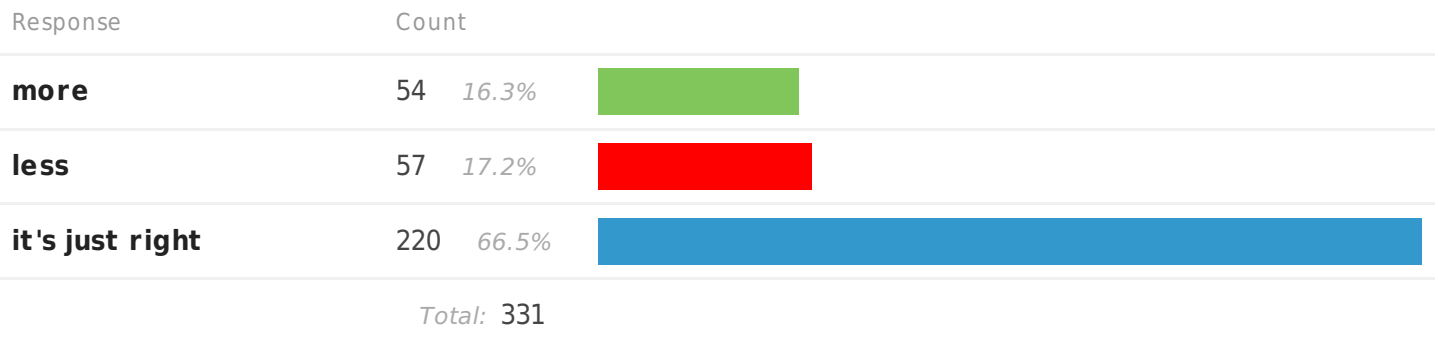
29 - The City is proposing to spend \$6,010,500 on Facilities in 2015. City spending in this area should be:



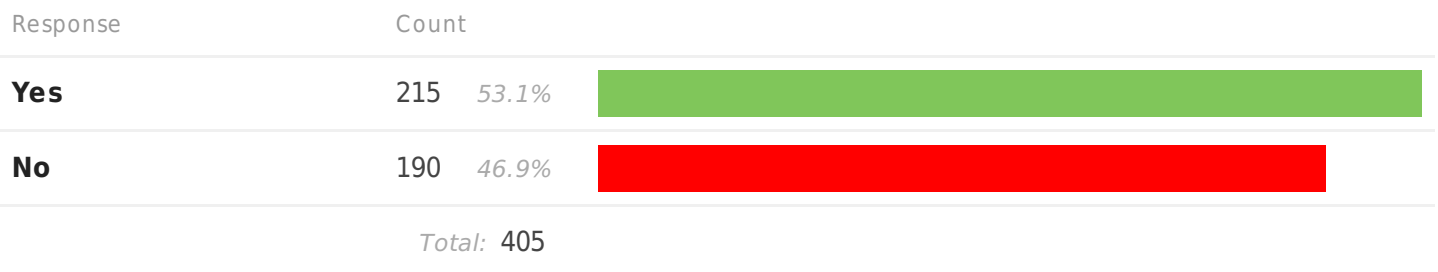
30 - What are your thoughts on the proposed initiatives for 2015?





31 - The City is proposing to spend \$11,082,506 on underground utilities in 2015. City spending in this area should be:






32 - Do you feel that \$15,000 annually for a health and dental plan for Councillors is a reasonable expense?





33 - If yes, do you feel it should be applied to the current Council in 2015 or in 2019 for the next Council?

Response	Count	
2015	185 74.0%	
2019	65 26.0%	
<i>Total: 250</i>		
















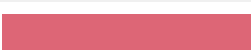

34 - The City is proposing to spend \$250,000 on economic development in 2015. City spending in this area should be:

Response	Count	
more	122 33.9%	
less	87 24.2%	
it's just right	151 41.9%	
<i>Total: 360</i>		

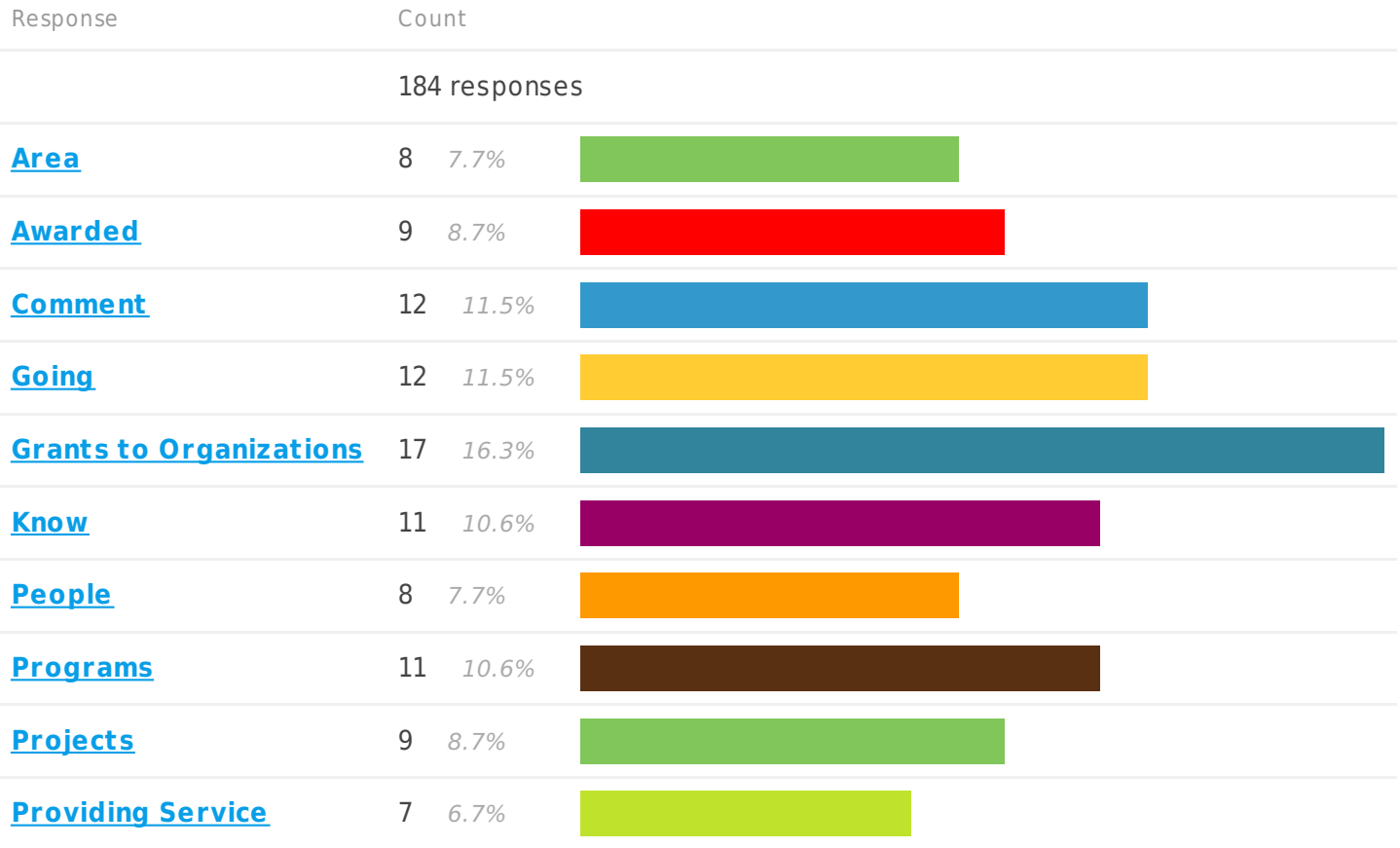
35 - Do you think the City is doing enough around economic development?

Response	Count	
Yes	165 46.6%	
No	189 53.4%	
<i>Total: 354</i>		

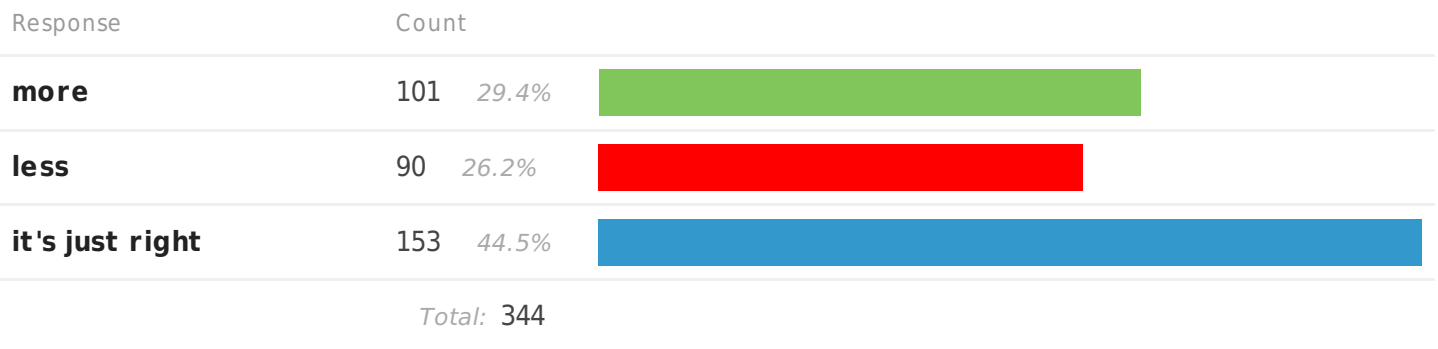
36 - We're at a pivotal point in the City as we look to further grow economic development. Do you have any specific recommendations for enhancing economic development locally?

Response	Count	
	244 responses	
Area	16 5.2%	
Attract	23 7.4%	
Benefit	16 5.2%	
Downtown Core	12 3.9%	
Economic Development	43 13.9%	
Encourage	17 5.5%	
Grow	14 4.5%	
Growth	15 4.8%	
Local Local	27 8.7%	
New Businesses	12 3.9%	
People will want to Live	12 3.9%	
Residents	10 3.2%	
Small Business	26 8.4%	
Support	23 7.4%	
Support Businesses	16 5.2%	
Tourism	13 4.2%	
Tourists	15 4.8%	

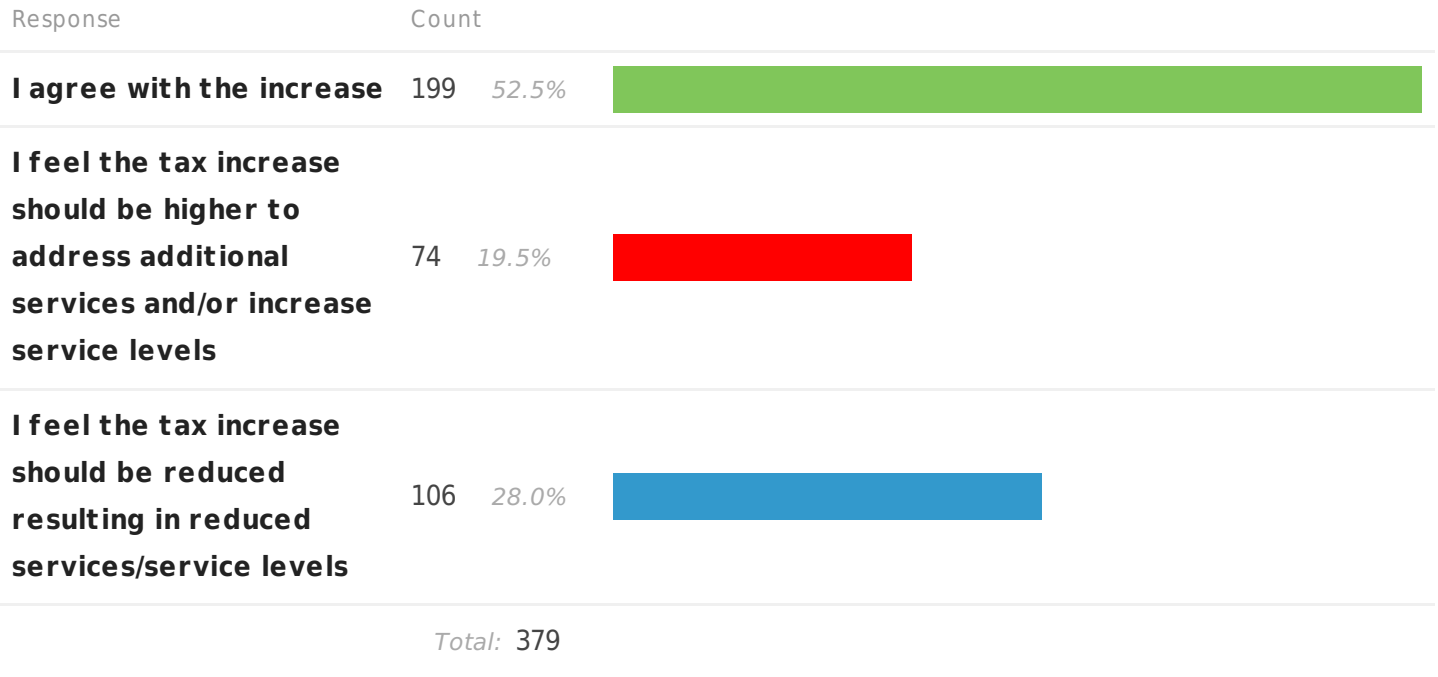
37 - Do you have any general comments on the City's investment in grants?



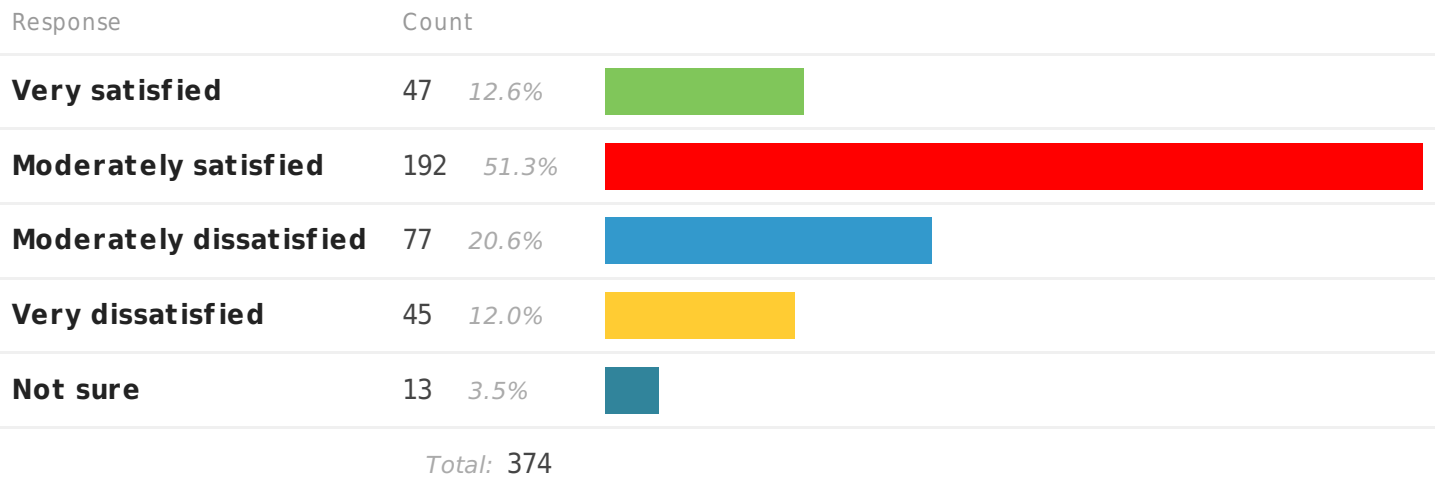
38 - City spending in this area should be:













39 - How do you feel about the level of taxation?



40 - Thinking about all the programs and services you receive from the City, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for your tax dollars?



41 - Do you have any additional comments on the draft strategic plan and budget?

Response	Count	
	195 responses	
Benefits	10 6.5%	
City of Victoria	19 12.3%	
Council	19 12.3%	
Feedback	8 5.2%	
Increase Taxes	29 18.8%	
Police	14 9.1%	
Staff	16 10.4%	
Strategic Plan	12 7.8%	
Survey	19 12.3%	
Think Victoria	8 5.2%	

Affordable Housing **Services** Keep the city focused on where it has the most powers and ability to make an impact (planning authority, parks, basic services, affordable housing policy). Other issues are important, but the cities impact is diluted and other forces (e.g. the economy) make outcomes outside of the city's control. Stay focussed!

I would like to see the city, in cooperation with others, bury more power lines. As well, address the vacancy rate downtown.

Services **Spending** **Strategic Plan** Only read the Budget at a Glance, some notes
 - Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning - 21% increase in spending seems excessive
 Having debt elimination as part of the plan is ideal as well - would be great to have our money spent on the city rather than debt financing.
 Reducing Legal services would help too.
 Overall like the way the city is moving. Reduce expenses to balance budget

Infrastructure Bank the money for infrastructure replacement

repair our relationship with Ikwungen and hulquminum speaking peoples- give title of unused public owned or potential park land to these nations, for example: maltby lake, the boys and girls club building across from central middle school

Focus on the needs of many instead of pandering to vocal special interest groups who are only concerned with their own myopic viewpoints.

Bike Lanes **Infrastructure** Build bike infrastructure to encourage biking.

Extend traffic-free physically-separated bike paths from the G.G. trail into downtown and beyond.

Remove car lanes if needed to create north-south and east-west crosscity bike corridors (physically separated).

Community Wellness Get back to basics and stop wasting \$'s on silly pet projects.....A vibrant healthy community is not one where they are taxed or social engineered into wellness.....a vibrant community is where we have business creating jobs and in turn generating a larger tax base which in turn creates affordability.....empower small business don't hinder it....

Lead Innovate **Means** This is ridiculous. What on earth do you mean by innovate and lead?

Allow the city to grow and enable the downtown to spread with higher density outside of old town. understand modern development can live with heritage where necessary.

reduce taxes

Bike Lanes **Bike Network** **Means** A lot of these terms are ambiguous; do they refer to anything more specific? For example, what does "Complete a Multi-Modal Active Transportation Network" really mean? Bike lanes? Light rail?

too lofty

Reallocate a significant portion of the police budget towards homeless housing and addictions support would be a wise use of resources. Homelessness and addiction should be treated as social and individual illnesses rather than criminal problems, and the police could use a few less fancy toys.

Strategic Plan I lost the questions I had already completed by clicking through to read the draft plan. The plan is very high level and doesn't seem particularly strategic.

Allow increased height density west of Douglas St for developers -there is NOT that much heritage commercial property worth saving!!

Like Vancouver, we are a Cascadia, West coast city, and it is 2015, it is time for meaningful change and as a capital city we are meant to be leaders, so let's show people how to live in balance with nature and with each other.

It's a collection of meaningless catch phrases, with no real objectives and no way to evaluate progress on those objectives.

"Politically correct bafflelab"

Where's:

Repair roads and sidewalks

Replace aging water and sewer lines

Light all crosswalks

Improve our terrible recycling and garbage collection programs- how can we pretend to be concerned

about our carbon footprint when the solution to most disposal and recycling questions is "Drive it up to Hartland and pay a fee" .. ?

Stop transferring taxes from property tax to 'user fees' on our Water/Sewer/Garbage bills

I am concerned about homelessness in my neighbourhood and would like to see the city find better ways to deal with this.

Include financial accountability in your list

The proposed increases in 2016 - 2018 are too high and should be capped at 3% or lower.

City Support **Strategic Plan** I agonised over prioritising these objectives! I didn't include it here, but Objectives 1 & 2, Leadership & Community Engagement are super important. Particularly relationships with the local First Nations. This could be incorporated into other elements of the Draft Strategic Plan. For instance, in Objective 8, "Enhance and Steward Public Spaces, Green Spaces, and Food Systems", the Songhees and Esquimalt have an ongoing stewardship relationship with this specific, unique land. They are the original "place makers" of Victoria in that they shaped the inlets with their clam beds over the centuries, changing the ecology and nurturing a rich coastal ecosystem. Also, the T'Souke (Sooke) First Nation have a completely Green economy -- they use solar power exclusively, and generate revenue for their community by selling extra energy back to the BC Hydro grid. Perhaps the City could liaise with them, and become a world leader in collaboration with F Nations -- a Reconciliation capitol. The Nu-Chah-Nulth in Port Alberni and Tofino have an incredible language revitalisation programme. Perhaps we could support something like this in Victoria, in conjunction with UVIC (which has one of the best Indigenous Studies departments in the world). Maybe we could have "stream keepers", student stewards, in all of the schools involved in the sewage project when it rolls out. Thank you!

Community Wellness **Spending** I think that involving and empowering the community is essential. Victoria is not an unaffordable place to live. People are apathetic and have an overall victim mentality. Empower them to get off their ass and use their creative mind to create more income for themselves. Wellness is also key. Someone who spends \$100 on pot a week, drinks microbrews with their buddies 2-3 nights a week bitching about how things are unaffordable, need to make different choices in their lives or move on. The city should look to recapture some of the losses in the run down, unmaintained SFD in Victoria. Like on Cook Street, Chambers, and on Yates by the firehall. These buildings could be purchased by the city perhaps at a loss YET the overall improvement to the city with ROI multi-fold. Continue to take action and raise the standard of living for Victorians, don't lower it because the loud voices with victim mentality are persistent. Offer value and solution through empowerment not pandering.

I'm impressed with the openness and collaboration of this initiative. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute.

Create Prosperity **Economic Development** Create Prosperity Through Economic Development was listed twice. :)

City Support **Community Wellness** I am increasingly concerned by the growing gentrification in Victoria. I would like to see the city financially commit to helping families realize wellness through innovative addictions treatment, community supports, and mental wellness so that the province's focus on housing is not in vain. Thanks.

it would be great to remove these so called legal weed stores and replace with something more publicly acceptable as in our area our house price fell as soon as this access canabiss shop opened its destroying the neighbourhood

Create Prosperity While a useful excursive, so many of these things are interdependent. Where would money come from for capital expenditures if the city did not have a plan for generating revenue through growth? How can we resolve issues like making the city affordable without innovation? It is challenging to balance those priorities that can complement each other (such as striving for excellence in planning with social inclusion), and those that can contradict each other (such as creating prosperity and making the city more affordable). Ultimately it's not what you choose as a priority, but how its executed.

Emphasis should be placed on creating rules by which the community thrives.

LOWER TAXES ON FIXED INCOME SENIORS

Services **Spending** My income is \$1,000 a mo. or less half the year and over \$2,000 a month during the summer cruise ship season. We are told that you should never spend over 25% of your income on rent or housing-not possible if you are poor. Half the year, I have to spend over 80% of my income on housing. We need that 50% correction in property values-screw the dream value of property and get real. It's also an eye opener to see that rip off phone, cable and internet services almost equal the cost of property taxes. Internet shouldn't cost more than a dollar a day.

Local area plans, corridor plans must be expedited. The time lines for OCP planning implementation are far, far to long. Corridor plans should be in place in 18 months, They need the budget allocation monetarily and resource wise.

Lets work on running the city, not making it some sort of hippie socialist utopia.

Economic Development I would like more information about what is meant by "economic development". If it's to help create a better ecology for local eco-social entrepreneurs, great! If it's attracting multi-national corportations, not great. I would love to see and "8 Forms of Capital" as outlined in Regenerative Enterprise used as the measure for all kinds of capital and capacity.

City Support **Lead Innovate** **Means** Victoria need to stop catering to the wealthy and business classes. They will be here regardless. If parking was cheaper downtown and homeless people were housed more people would go downtown, period. Build tiny houses on the boulevard down Pandora and stop wasting money policing poverty. Invest in wellness. The city needs to support and help the low-income people, homeless people, low-income families, etc. Also, the term Innovate & lead is very ambiguous....it's like "we need to look forward"...it means nothing. It's annoying.

building a multi story car parking at the Save On Food's Manorial Arena lot. Will help with events in Victoria.

Bike Lanes**Infrastructure****Spending****Strategic Plan**

No sense in including aspirational items that are politically correct but virtually impossible to achieve (like "Make Victoria more affordable").

I am offended that this "plan" (which is more a wish list than plan) says nothing about the financial strain that both home owners/renters and businesses are experiencing due to excessive municipal taxes & fees. Every one of these strategic targets is justifiable, but MUST be balanced against the citizens' ability to pay. For example, I am supportive of dedicated bike lanes but truly disappointed that, for 2015, the \$1M capital expenditure was not offset by other reductions (simply deferring other infrastructure work has been the refuge of Victoria politicians for decades and was truly unimpressive.

In this vein, has anybody considered simply not spending the unallocated budget funds - I'll bet THAT "strategy" would resonate with many beleaguered tax payers and business owners.

Every effort should be made to leverage external funds with extra budget. Also, where does sewage treatment fit? Are costs associated with loosing federal and provincial grants considered in budgeting?

City Support**Spending****Strategic Plan**

I agree with the general direction of the strategic plan. I'd like to see fewer objectives, so that the city focuses on doing a few things well, rather than lots of things in a mediocre way.

I also feel like that the city should set a goal to hold property tax increases at a lower level than 3.25%. I think a better percentage would be around 2.5% or the rate of inflation. This questionnaire (so far) only asks where we would prioritize spending, but does not provide an opportunity (so far) to allocate some of that money to reduced taxes or debt reduction. While I support some increased spending, I feel that this should be an option as well.

Thank you for seeking input on the strategic plan and budget.

City Support**Infrastructure****Means****Regional Leadership**

The goal of inclusiveness in communities can be inexpensively accomplished by making Leighton St. and Brighton St. connecting streets for non-vehicular traffic during daylight hours for those walking, cycling, on mobility scooters and other non-motorized modes of transportation. This would give a sense of connectivity with other parts of the city and provide healthy lifestyles away from traffic. Planting trees (nut and fruit) would also be an effective means of cutting down air pollution, providing shade for future hotter summer days and support food security for the city. Road or sidewalk surfaces could be replaced with semi-permeable blocks in order to absorb increasing amounts of rainfall, saving money on storm drain infrastructure as the excess water would flow into the ground providing more moisture for plants and trees. More electric car charging stations would promote incentive for citizens to switch to non-CO2 emitting vehicles and a charge for Internal Combustion Engine-powered vehicles to enter the downtown area would give an incentive to switch to non-polluting, low or alternative-powered vehicles in the downtown Victoria area showing the goal of regional leadership.

The tag lines are too general, they really do not give clear guidance and can be interpreted in many different ways. I suppose this is the way of politicians so this is as good as it gets.

Economic Development**Lead Innovate****Regional Leadership**

Your plan is a pie in the sky dream of intangibles. You were elected to innovate and lead not be lead by a committee of bureaucrats. You cannot "make Victoria more affordable" and accomplish any of the other goals you have in mind except through economic development an expertise I do not believe you or your committee possess. Your naivete is clearly demonstrated by your goal of "Demonstrate Regional Leadership". You have to state that? Isn't that your primary function? Stop wasting time and money talking about this stuff and just do it because it is what your job as mayor and council is.

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is very important for the community.

Economic Development**Services****Strategic Plan**

Keep tax increases to less than inflation + 1% ie 2-3% range

Focus on economic development initiatives that will diversify our economy, expand the tax base and raise average incomes

Align strategic objectives with operating plans and departmental budgets - be careful about agenda overload and unmet expectations; consider reducing the number of strategic objectives (ie prioritize)
Improve customer service

Services

Encourage walkable neighbourhood hubs with services (Quadra Village, North Park - upper Cook St, Cook St Village, etc). Increased density downtown.

Community Wellness**Create Prosperity****Economic Development****Lead Innovate****Spending**

As a local small business owner (in the tech sector), I'm acutely aware of the fact that there's no "free ride" when it comes to government spending. We all pay for it, one way or another. So with that in mind, I'd like to suggest that creating prosperity via economic development and fostering innovation should be of paramount focus.

As I'm sure you're well aware, the tech industry in Victoria has recently outpaced tourism as the leading industry. This represents a significant tax base, and it brings fresh professional talent to the island - which of course, directly drives (or makes possible) economic development.

Focusing in these areas, predominantly, can further create liquidity for the more community-focused aspects of the budget (green spaces, multi-modal transit, etc.), and it can do so in a sustainable way.

Regarding community engagement - you're doing a great job so far. This survey is case in point - and this doesn't need to be an expense-heavy initiative. It doesn't cost much to engage a community.

Thank you.

Spending

Some things are very important but can be done with a relatively low budget. That's why my top five spending priorities don't exactly match with what I deemed as "very important". Less important things that CAN be done on a relatively small budget should be considered. Also, my thinking here is that building

our financial capacity shouldn't be expensive so not a lot of budget needs to be put towards it, but it is still very important.

City Support **Infrastructure** **Means** I believe that we are on the cusp of a new trend in cities.

New technologies such as virtual reality systems are about to explode onto the scene in a few short years. I am not joking. I believe that our city planners have no idea that this is going to happen. But it will.

The costs of office towers as well as the infrastructure to bring people into the city are unsustainable. These facilities are only used a few hours each day and the costs are formidable to support them. People will not need to commute and will not need to live in tiny apartments and super expensive, old, and grossly outdated homes with lead solder in the pipes, two by four construction and suspect wiring and insulation. With no commute necessary, I believe that people will abandon expensive and cramped city life and move back to the suburbs because they could live in a modern home that costs more than half as much one in the city and pay much less taxes.

No commute would mean no daycare needed, no expensive second car, no huge gas bill, no wasted hours every day in rush hour.

Also: The businesses that embrace this idea will save billions in office buildings and other expenses.

The taxes are already too high. The young people will be stuck paying the back taxes left by this older generation who can't possibly pay the taxes now. (This should be a red flag that taxes are too high and totally unsustainable.)

The answer is less government.

Pick up the garbage, put in pipes for water, take away the sewage, Get out of peoples way.

The country could never have been developed with the interference we have today.

You need a permit now to pass wind.

I know that my comments will be seen as odd. But time will prove me right.

Affordable Housing **Infrastructure** As Victoria is one of the most desirable cities to live in within Canada, there will always be unrelenting upward pressure on housing costs to live here. It will be almost impossible for Victoria's municipal government to keep the cost of living (incl. housing) 'affordable'. It will be a never-ending drain on municipal funds to try to make Victoria 'affordable' to any member of the public who wants to live here. Just as I could not afford to live in Manhattan, or Newport Beach, or desirable neighbourhoods within walking distance of downtown San Francisco, or even Vancouver or Toronto these days, so Victoria should not be expected to be cheap and 'affordable' through taxpayer-funding from the municipality. Yes, it is expensive to live here.....we know.....we're paying for our expensive housing AND paying our high municipal taxesand would not like to see a significant proportion of those taxes go to programmes that would make the city 'artificially affordable' for others. It seems many local politicians and social advocates talk a lot about making the city more affordable, as if it's a great way to equalize social injustice; but we already have a system for that, it's called the tax system. Isn't that the 'great equalizer'? I don't like to see our municipal taxes going towards that as well. Our tax dollars are so precious that I would prefer to see them spent on infrastructure, transportation, and paying down debt.

If the City tries to accomplish affordable housing by approving high-rises, greatly increased density, micro lofts, housing in shipping containers, garden suites, turning a blind eye to unapproved/uninspected

secondary suites, or any number of alternative ideas, then we'll just get bad planning and an ugly city.....and it'll still be unaffordable for most people.

It is depressing how long it takes the City to get around to doing the simplest things. For instance, there was talk about a bus lane 20 years ago when I got out of university. It took 20 years to paint a line on the road. Contractors have been complaining for decades about the sloth when it comes to get a projects approved. Anything to do with fixing a heritage building, even if it is in private hands, takes forever. It seems that only now Council is addressing this.

The way merchants were treated in Fernwood was particularly stupid. These people spent a lot of money renovating buildings and asked for some 2 hour parking because of all the tickets. Yet the City chose to do nothing. The City hired Sage Baker to drum up business for the City. Yet the merchants that are already here are treated like dirt. It is disgraceful.

It will be interesting to see if Council will walk the talk.

Bike Lanes 1 - I want monthly engagements like this (so well done!)

2 - Flood the property market with residential units down town

3 - Innovate through tech. Our current reps (council and mayor) are seated with dismal votes (citizens who actually use/see them as their voice in matters) and need to desperately switch up attitudes. They are the reason our city is suffering.

4 - I want separated bike lanes. The OCP seems to conflict with the actual road space when it comes to commuting. Don't just squeeze these cars out with parking. GIVE US BIKE LANES, every major roadway. STOP ignoring the obligation to follow through due to out dated thinking.

Add the question - do you work in Victoria - to the residency and ownership questions.

Lead Innovate **Strategic Plan** Why does it take so long for you to approve St. Andrews Development? It has help up strategic planning for Island Catholic Schools now for over three years. It is absolutely shocking and for development of a vision you need money and right now, it seems this city is stuck in leading in innovation and business development.

Affordable Housing It's difficult to retrofit our streets to pedestrian, bicycle and scooter convenience and safety, but I believe we must accommodate more than just cars on our roads. Improving public transit would take some cars off the road--it's ridiculous to take well over an hour to get to Sidney on the bus when I can drive there with the rest of the rat race in less than half an hour--too many of our bus routes travel all over hell's half acre instead of taking a direct line.

Pedestrians, scooters and bicycles do not all belong on the same telephone pole-encrusted three foot width of sidewalk in James Bay. New developments should include adequate sidewalk widths on their perimeters.

I would like to see the Parks department renamed the Parks and Public Gardens department, demonstrating a real emphasis on public engagement in parks maintenance and access to public garden space. As you say in

your trailer, over 50% of people now must live in cities--let's allow for a little country, a little farming and gardening, a little land maintenance, a little forest and stream management for our citizens. Land is for everyone; it shouldn't be the preserve of unionists.

Our new developments should include outdoor and recreational components. You have just allowed three new condos in James Bay that simply dump more residents onto the roads and into the parks without adding or including any amenities to the neighbourhood. You are permitting a big new development in South block, and though it brags of walkways and benches, looking at the plans, I don't see any real outdoor space: I see the illusion of outdoor and recreational components.

We have an aging population--we need thoughtful, affordable accommodation mixed into neighbourhoods. If seniors can no longer stay in their homes, they should be able to stay in their neighbourhoods.

As for the homeless, the mentally ill and drug addicted clotting our downtown streets, every neighbourhood should be responsible for providing solutions, housing and treatment. None of this NIMBY nonsense. The homeless and troubled come from all neighbourhoods and all neighbourhoods should provide, even be eager to take care of their own. Only the selfish foist their problems on someone else.

Victoria is a pretty good city to live in, always room for improvement. We must plan for increased population with new as well as old ideas. I expect Victoria's population will double in less than a hundred years. What are your plans?

Bike Lanes

Services

In regard to transportation one has to be conscious of the fact that in the whole of the CRD we only have a population of some 360,000 spread over a very wide area, roadways don't stop and start at municipal boundaries/borders. There has to be a co-ordinated approach to Transportation throughout the region. The other thing is that idealists and social engineers have to recognize the fact that for the foreseeable future the personal private vehicle be it gasoline/diesel driven or electric will be by far and away the preferred mode of transportation for the vast majority of the population. Public Transport will always services about 12% of the population and will only increase ridership through population growth not by people electing to use it as opposed to their current method of transportation. Bicycles will remain at a very modest percentage of persons who actually use the Bicycle as the main mode of transportation come rain,sleet, snow or shine. For the most part Bicycles are used for transport in the summer months and primarily for recreation and exercise. Main road ways should not be made more restrictive for private cars/trucks, commercial and emergency vehicles for the sake of a small vocal minority of bicyclists. One only has to drive around the city at anytime day or night to be totally underwhelmed by the number of bicyclist regardless of bike lanes on roads or not. The one exception may be the Galloping Goose.

Create a bylaw where there is a penalty if you leave your commercial space sitting vacant for more than a reasonable amount of time (90 days? 6 months?)

Provide tax brakes for a few years for companies wishing to move 25 or more employees to Victoria

I would prefer that you use the money to reduce debt and if there is no debt then reduce taxes. Thank you

I would prefer that you use the money to reduce debt, and if there is no debt, then reduce taxes. Thank you.

City Support **Strategic Plan** I think you have your priorities right for the Draft Strategic Plan.

For the Surplus: I'd like to see the current funding surplus used to support working artists in the City by offering display space in the Entrance to City Hall for Visual Artists. A 3 month turnaround, plus Funding for Insurance and Publicity and Administration, and an Artists' fee for providing their artwork for display. Giving local professional artists lots of encouragement and support for the enormous amount of work we currently do to enhance the Arts in the City!

Climate change should not be limited to being included in emergency planning, as that is what communities are left with if they don't plan and invest in mitigation and adaptation for climate change. If climate change had been appropriately categorized, it would be easy to view it as a community priority. However, without doing so, it is dangerously short changed in the survey.

How about using the \$4.5. Million to lower property taxes to keep the tax increase in line with the rate of inflation as promised by the Mayor during her election campaign.

Good to have the James Bay branch opportunity and resolution of the Central library branch included in Objective 10 and within the 5 year time frame.

City Support **Community Wellness** We need to attract more community into our downtown as well as enhance downtown through special event initiatives and more encouragement of pedestrian activity. Why are events like the free admission Buskers Festival, being charged thousands of dollars by the city to provide free public seating on the waterfront? Why are we not supporting free public events that are making a real difference?

Bike Lanes Stop implementing more bike lanes there are routes in and out of town enough all ready.cars and gas as well as insurance find a lot bikes are not licences generally not insured park on side walksand do not get tickets for no helmets or lights!

I sincerely hope the issue of waste water ie sewage treatment is addressed sooner tha later!

City Support **Spending** **Strategic Plan** You seem to take any monies potentially available, and try and prespend them. why not earmark them for reducing the deficit, or in this years case, pay for the ridiculous overspend on the Johnson Street bridge. Fewer businesses every year locate in the Victoria downtown area, largely due to your lack of support. Uptown came to being because city council wouldn't work with the developers (yes, there are other developers besides the Jaws) View Royal thanks you for the casino, which would have benefitted the city much more than the Bateman Art store. \$90k for signs to reduce speed limits! What a travesty of irresponsible spending, totally against your engineering recommendation. The list goes on. Instead of a Draft Strategic Plan, maybe a Draft Financial Recovery plan, or a Draft Business Lifesaving plan would be more essential. Would the last business out of downtown Victoria please turn out the lights!

Yes to the Maritime Museum being in the Streamship Terminal or similar high profile water-front space!!!
Currently it is the main venue for interpretation of the history of Victoria City!!

GVHA should contribute in kind (to advertise to cruise ship & ferry passengers & financially).

Regional Leadership I like the direction that Victoria is going. I am already seeing more leadership and innovation compared to other municipalities in the region. Well done.

This item does not work technically, it sucks, Who designed it??? I/m not a gamer.

Go back to the basics of civic government: police the streets, collect the garbage, deliver the water, fix the roads and regulate building. All of the other crap is just noise that unnecessarily costs taxpayers money.

Focus on the basic responsibilities of municipal government

Economic Development **Infrastructure** **Spending** if you focus on economic development and infrastructure, the creation of good paying jobs will generate more income for the city and ultimately make living here more affordable as the individual earning 17 dollars an hour has more spending power than the minimum wage earner.

Create Prosperity **Economic Development** "Create Prosperity and Economic Development" is listed twice.

Create Prosperity **Economic Development** Above list has "Create Prosperity through Economic Development" listed twice.

I have entered neutral on almost all the questions but am NOT neutral on anything.

A very POOR loaded survey.

For example, my priority for emergency measures would be quite high, but for climate change would be very low.

In same way, public spaces very high, food production very low.

A loaded, poorly constructed survey.

For the City to take on an economic objective when the City has no capacity (within staff or Council) or authority/power to effect any measurable change is misleading at best vis a vis public perception.

Services please consider improving the health of our city via more bike corridors for safer access to the Goose. And a new and improve Crystal Pool that would reflect the modern recreation habits of families as well as meet the needs of user groups that would "rent" space and provide services.

Strategic Plan I believe any societies' most precious resource is its' people. I think strategic planning for creating healthy, happy, educated citizens is our best shot in reducing costs, such as the amount needed to go to the police force. Also, we need to put people and our environment first , far before any commercial enterprises. Industry can co-exist with sustainability. Our people, air, water and animals need to come before money.

Bike Lanes Let's create a protected bike lane on Wharf Street

Please make sure to properly fix and maintain the Crystal Pool, and please fix the tennis court at Topaz Park,

which has been left in disrepair for years: what a shame, especially since you are building a new play ground for exercise right beside it.

City Support Victoria has the lowest average household income and the highest property taxes among the 13 colonies that make up the CRD. It also bears all of the extra central city costs. This is ultimately untenable. Victoria must support the detailed cost-benefit analysis work, to be led by the province, that is an essential requirement if amalgamation, together with a ward system, is ever to be pursued, regardless of the shape (who's in, who's out) that it takes.

Create Prosperity **Economic Development** **Spending** Hmnn "create prosperity through economic development" is listed twice in you spending priority puzzle. Hmnn doe that spoil the result a bit?

Priority: more bike routes for safe travel! Access to the Goose improved.

Crystal Pool: a new one please that reflects the needs of residents and user groups.

Lead Innovate **Means** A couple of sub-set comments

Under innovate and lead....as is common knowledge cities are the economic engines in the province and country, I would like to see council advance with both the province and the federal government discussion in sharing of other tax revenues.

Under Planning and land use.....I would like to see some advance to being less car centric, and that surface parking ought to be discouraged by some means such as significant higher taxes, or insistance that the land area be covered with solar panels above the cars as is common in most european cities and this particularly applies to land that has higher and denser uses already zoned but the owner is just sitting on the land using parking to cover carrying costs.

Spending Spend more money on execution of plans not just on the planning process. Coalition to End Homelessness seems like a poor example of City's use of funds.

Land use planning has to be key as it will foster economic growth, facilitate transportation, build economic capacity.

If you fail to plan you plan to fail.

Do not let sunk costs drive priority.

Infrastructure Just \$6.6M (as given in the tax infograph) is slated for "transportation infrastructure", but that does not include preparations for an E&N terminal at or near the Johnson Street bridge, or for engineering plans to put rail on the bridge and place the terminal near the corner of Pandora and Douglas St. That would meet the stated objective for "Complete a Multi-Modal and Active Transportation Network".

Allocating at least \$1M for enineering studies and subseuent construction funding would negate the parking changes that are currently on the "wish list" because, with commuter rail operations in the next two to three

years, there will be no need for additional parking downtown; in fact it should be discouraged now to improve city livability objectives for the downtown area, such as "Enhance and Steward Public Green Spaces".

There is lots of jargon and not much about actually getting on with things. Regarding the #1 priority above, pedestrians should be at the top of the multi-modal list.

Infrastructure Where are the priorities around updating and maintaining vital infrastructure such as roads, water mains and sewer mains?

I would suggest that Victoria needs to decide whether it wishes to be the commercial and business center of the region or this happy community based on 60's values and principles. You cannot have it both ways.

I think we need to start thinking long-term environmental sustainability and the amount of community engagement and education that will be required to achieve that shift in perspective. I think the biggest threat to the BC culture and way of life is environmental degradation from mining and oil companies taking their profits and prioritizing them. There is so much wealth already, but the distribution is as always nonsensical. But if the majority of British Columbians were actually more concerned with money than living in a green beautiful environment, we would all be living in Alberta. Environment should take precedent here. Better for tourism (which brings in more money than mining and oil ever did to the actual citizens living here).

Economic Development Although many of the titles of the objectives sounded important, when I actually looked at the actions under each one I changed many of my rankings to a lower importance ranking. The actions were generally not what I would consider priorities for the City or the best way to achieve the stated objectives (e.g., none of the "Economic Development" actions seemed worthwhile. Why create an Economic Development office when we already contribute to the GVDA? Why another task force when the City just used one to develop an Economic Development strategy?)

I'm very much interested in a library in the James Bay area

Bike Lanes Please make separated bike lanes
Record all meeting for the public to review

I am a strong supporter of the proposed inclusion of a library bunch in the new Capital Park development.

So glad to read about plans for a new Central Library! This is long overdue (no library pun intended) and Victoria is a city of avid library users. We need and deserve something better than the current shabby, leak-prone "temporary location" (which has been temporary for going on decades now).

City Support PLEASE support the library in opening a branch at the Capital Park development in James Bay, (and if the library board does not provide the funding, keep it as an amenity space for James Bay.) The residents of James Bay need and deserve this branch - and many others downtown would benefit from it. The Central Libray branch is outdated and stuffy and I rarely take my child there. I speak for my family and friends and neighbours in letting the city know that we really want this library! Thank-you.

Affordable Housing **City Support** **Services** A crucial problem facing Victoria in recent years is its lack of affordable housing and social/community services for low income residents. As an under 30, long term resident of this city (and former student), I have seen the majority of people in my age group and financial bracket struggling to survive, much less succeed in Victoria. The cost of living is far beyond achievable for those of us making less than a living wage in the service industry. The primary industry of employment for my demographic. This of course is nothing in comparison to the struggles of Victoria's homeless who are virtually without support in a city filled with affluence and luxury. Affordable housing and social services (food banks, sexual health clinics, shelters, higher minimum wage, job creation) seem like the number one priority at this time.

Community Wellness Please consider including a new branch of the district public library in the Capital Park development in my neighbourhood, James Bay. I am a parent and live across from the lot to be developed and would appreciate a library branch in the neighbourhood that has a strong selection of books, a robust children's section/program, and enough space for community events for adults as well. I understand the developers have allotted space for a library on Menzies between Superior and Michigan. A new branch would be a terrific improvement to James Bay's culture.

Victoria needs to turn the downtown core into something that can flourish again. There are too many vacant spaces and too many business owners are contemplating moving out of Victoria because of the feeling that mediocrity is OK. Victoria feels stale. There were a few years of growth, mostly in the tech sector, but that has since slowed. Victoria cannot rely on the floundering tourism industry. Something needs to happen now or else in 5 years Victoria will be the washed up drunk uncle no one invites to holidays or wants to see.

Everyone is looking to Lisa Helps to do something BIG with the state of Victoria and so far she hasn't said anything that gives confidence, mostly by-the-books political speak.

Please Lisa, do something.

Affordable Housing Focus on creating affordable and supportive housing options. The definition of affordable housing should be directly linked the realities of current income assistance levels.

In regard to Transportation, a Regional plan is paramount! roads of all types do not stop and start at municipal boundaries, co-ordination is vitally important.

Notwithstanding the idealistic vision of the "Social Engineers" amongst us, the fact is, that the vast majority of people in our Region will for the foreseeable future use the private passenger vehicle (gas, diesel, or electric) as their primary source of transportation. Public Transit accounts for about 12% of the population and will only increase in physical numbers as the population increases. Bicycles are used by the people who have them primarily as recreational exercise not as their principal mode of daily transportation. Very few people (relative to the population) actually use the bicycle as their regular daily, come rain or shine, mode of transportation. To prejudice the efficient flow of vehicular traffic by narrowing traffic lanes to accommodate bicycle lanes on main roads is not in the interests of safety or common sense. Trails such as the Galloping Goose and Lochside should be encouraged for the use of walkers, joggers and bicyclists.

There are obvious deficiencies within the region that require fixing and have done for years, the bottleneck at

McKenzie being a prime example that certainly effects the efficient flow of traffic during "rush Hours in the a.m. and p.m.

Another prime example is the gross and total mismanagement of the E&N rail corridor. The section from the West Shore to Victoria should be taken over and used as a commuter Transportation route. It would be relatively simple to have possibly two commuter cars running between the West Shore and Victoria on the single track. If that is not feasible for some reason remove the Train tracks and use the corridor for Transit Buses. Not being able to make use of this existing corridor is folly indeed.

All categories are important, and at the same time, the highest regard must be given towards our citizens' quality of life! Our own citizens come first!!!

Focus on density along transit corridors. Allow developers more density if they contribute to transit development etc. build regional cooperation and amalgamation opportunities

City Support I would like to see the city:

(1) Shift focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants. For example, allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to growing, purchasing, distributing, and/or planting food-bearing plants and trees, including natives, perennials, and fruit/nut trees (all across Victoria, and especially to enhance and maintain our urban forest);

(2) Provide City assistance with coordination of food-growing resources, including:

- materials pooling / depot (leaves, mulch, soil, cardboard, wood, irrigation materials);
- increase grant funding for existing and emerging food systems initiatives;
- support neighbourhood-level and city-wide food coordination;
- reduce water charges for irrigation of food plants;

(3) Implement a mechanism for increasing social justice in the distribution of local food supplies (e.g. additional City support tied to "food sharing").

Community Wellness I think that by making Victoria more affordable more business will come to the area. Why are there so many empty shop fronts in the downtown? Because of the outrageous rent.

Further, engaging and empowering the community by facilitating social inclusion and wellness is innovation/leadership and will encourage these other aspects to fall into place naturally. Without a healthy and dynamic community economic prosperity does not matter.

Community Wellness My friend had to move away to Vancouver because he is disabled and support structures there are better. He is smart, young, and well-educated. Please incorporate consideration for the disabled in "Complete a Multi-Modal Active Transportation Network" and "Facilitate Social Inclusion and Community Wellness".

Affordable Housing **City Support** **Community Wellness** **Infrastructure** It has been proven that it is

cheaper to fully house the homeless than it is to police, hospitalize and cope with all the side-effects of homelessness on a city. Homelessness hurts people, tourism, infrastructure, etc. If community wellness and affordability are priorities for council then this problem should really be of utmost importance. Perhaps a mixed use project like tiny homes with farm/garden activity on the same land? Something intentional and established with community supports in place, ie. social workers, support staff, directors etc. would be so much more sustainable than the slum camps under bridges and on sidewalks. Think of how this looks to tourists. How amazing would it be to have a solar-powered, rain water irrigated farm with container homes, tiny homes or dorms accessible to homeless people?

Looks good.

Combine municipalities. There is way too much tax money being wasted because of this. I am serious. You guys are ridiculously selfish and self-serving.

Bike Lanes Building bike lane/sea wall for Victoria, stretching from Fishermans Wharf to Clover Point or Beacon Hill Park. This should be separated from the car traffic, similar to the design of Vancouver's sea wall.

Time to license cyclists and keep them off sidewalks

Will study it later in detail, seems to be well presented so far.

Clean up the streets! Make provision for cart storage, discourage panhandlers, make Our Place live up to its promise

Lead Innovate **Regional Leadership** Innovate and lead and demonstrate regional leadership may be how you go about achieving your other objectives but they shouldn't be ends in themselves.

City Support My thought is if we create a city that is forward thinking, innovative and nurtures businesses of all kinds, we will grow the city on all levels. The tax revenue that comes from more successful businesses and more people living in our city, particularly our downtown, can then be used to fund our city's social and environmental programs and initiatives. The creation of a city that fosters and supports business and entrepreneurship of every kind keeps its young talent in its city and they in turn keep us moving forward in a dynamic way.

Avoid needless regulatory intrusions into citizens' lives (e.g. Don't lower speed limits when traffic statistics and the advice of city engineers suggest that doing so is unnecessary).

Bike Lanes **Bike Network** **Community Wellness** Please prioritize putting the additional funding into the multi-modal active transportation network. In particular, a critical mass of protected and connected bike lanes will have a transformative effect on the number of people choosing to bike vs. drive. This in turn has massive positive implications for public health, affordability (cars are expensive to own/operate), city finances (upkeep of roads is more expensive than bike lanes per km of travel), traffic congestion, GHG emissions, air quality, community wellness, tourism, liveability, and so on. Extending the network quickly will allow the city to reap the rewards much sooner. Painting bike lanes as a first, cheap, quick step can be followed later by more expensive measures such as lane dividers, new bike traffic signals, reworked curbs,

etc.

Create Prosperity **Economic Development** Why is create prosperity through economic development shown twice on the puzzle pieces?

We need to be a global leader on green energy

I'd like to see more of an emphasis on culture. More museums and art galleries, better hours for the existing ones, updating the look of the information placards on Gov't street and near the Inner Harbour. There's very little information displayed to the public about the environment of Vancouver Island or Victoria. This is our biggest resource and deserves to be highlighted.

Affordable Housing Direct investment in affordable housing has to be the number one priority. We can't depend upon the private sector.

Spending any surplus should be used to lower residential property taxes, reduce water and sewer rates, the storm drain tax shouldn't be implemented. Mayor and Council need to act responsible when spending our money! The goal should be to reduce the costs associated of owning a home in Victoria. At the rate Mayor and Council are going only the rich will be able to own houses in this City!

City Support **Strategic Plan** Please make a commitment, and allocate budgetary resources beginning in 2015, to the following initiatives (either as new initiatives within the Strategic Plan, or as detailed measures meant to help implement existing initiatives within the Strategic Plan):

(1) Shift focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants. For example, allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to food-bearing plants and trees, including natives, perennials, and fruit/nut trees (all across Victoria, and especially to enhance/maintain our urban forest);

(2) Provide City assistance with coordination of food-growing resources, including:

- materials pooling / depot (leaves, mulch, soil, cardboard, wood, irrigation materials);
- increase grant funding for existing and emerging food systems initiatives;
- support neighbourhood-level and city-wide food coordination

The unallocated money does not have to be spent and could be carried over into next year's budget

Affordable Housing **Bike Lanes** **Bike Network** **City Support** **Infrastructure** **Lead Innovate** **Means**
Regional Leadership **Services** Yes.

Re: Objective 6: Make Victoria More Affordable

1) Focus everything on building a bigger and better social housing network:

- a) do not increase property taxes on buildings dedicated to social housing
- b) do increase taxes on houses valued at over \$1 million, and by more than inflation + 1%, but allow for property tax reduction to those on low incomes

- c) work with developers to build more facilities that will enable homeless people to transition into becoming renters/property owners
- d) Incentivise creating legal suites to increase housing options for renters = excellent

Re: Objective 9: Complete a Multi-Modal and Active Transportation Network

- 1) Bike lanes good; shared bike/bus lanes bad
- 2) separated bike lanes best - with a curb-style divider allowing them to be safer
- 3) Two-way bike lanes for Yates and Pandora streets would be better than doing anything on Johnson, really
- 4) More covered bike parking! As studies have shown, better biking infrastructure means more people ride bikes and fewer drive, which means less wear and tear on roads. A safe, clean, dry place to store a bike is an obstacle - let's remove that. Also, the upside-down "V" bike racks are very awkward; the Cora bike racks are better; the "U" racks are best
- 5) David Foster Walkway - cut that money, put it towards the bridge

Re: Objective 10: Nurture our Arts, Culture and Learning Capital

- 1) The narrow objective of "working with the CRD to increase funding partners for the McPherson Theatre" is unnecessary. The theatre itself is run by an overspending Arts organization that often provides terrible service at rates that are far higher than they should be. Not to mention it is an arm of the CRD; leave such matters to them. The fact that three councillors sit on the RMTS board is likely the main driver behind this, and those councillors (and all others) need to open their eyes to this bias.
- 2) Working with the CRD to increase funding partners for the CRD's arts programs - i.e. get Langford and other errant municipalities to contribute - is an excellent alternative. More money in the hands of arts organizations that actually do production would be excellent
- 3) Working with Rifflandia is unnecessary; they are a business and should not be within the scope of the city's priorities when there are numerous struggling professional and community arts non-profits in the city; help them instead by giving larger grants
- 4) Give up on the Junos; no one cares about them unless they win one, and Victoria doesn't have a sufficiently large concert hall for the televised show anyway
- 5) Instead, perhaps set up an Arts granting program where projects are supported more rigorously, like Symphony Splash and Canada Day and the Santa Claus Parade
- 6) Is something wrong with the Central Library? Really? Maintain, yes; new one, probably not.

Unless it is solely to work to amalgamate, Innovate and Lead and Demonstrate Regional Leadership are both a waste of money at this time. Please cut these objectives.

Awesome!

Sort out the sewage and stop the international embarrassment.

City Support Support implementation of a 'car2go' type ride-share program in the downtown core. This can be implemented at minimal cost to the city. Look at the success of the system in Vancouver despite its above-par transit system

above par transit system.

Bike Lanes I'm currently concerned about our environment, and transportation. I bike to school, to work everyday, but I almost get hit by cars on a weekly basis because I have to ride on dangerous roads with no bike lanes. The 5-year bicycle project is too slow. we need to speed up the project!

Have we looked into creating a public Internet option in Victoria/CRD - create competition by opening our Island and region to a community build, purchased and owned ISP! :D

Affordable Housing Affordable housing needs to be a key priority.

Services I am a professional who uses downtown in many ways.

Downtown and Victoria need to be sparkle and be more positive, clean and inviting.

Top priorities should include

- . Belleville Street bordering the COHO-Clipper area
- . The lower inner harbour lands by getting rid of all vehicles (sceptical service vehicles as needed)
- . My girlfriend and I cannot attend lower inner harbour events due to noxious fumes from the floatplanes. These should be moved away from the ship point area
- . The old buses and the quantity of buses on Government St should be relocated and only modern tourism vehicles permitted in the area.

Spending I would like to see additional resources for libraries, as they are one of the few free indoor public places for members of the community to spend time. When I had time off from work with my son, I really valued all of the programs available to us through the library. I would love to see more libraries opened on Sundays and/or for longer hours.

City Support **Infrastructure** **Spending** Yes, I am concerned about the fiscal future of the city and more so having read the priorities document.

Somehow, in the affordability section, tax increases, beyond inflation have snuck in. Tax increases, especially more than inflation do NOT create a more affordable city.

Subsidy of businesses and of gardens should cease.

The City transportation infrastructure for public transport should be a spending priority along with the re-structure of the COHO/Clipper facility on Belleville and the public space there.

The Strategies documents suggests leadership in land -use planning - this has been a farce for decades - how can the city pretend to even be current, led alone a leader, with land use when compatible land use standards and accepted practices have been ignored for decades? The airport in the built-up area of the city is not compatible with residential use or with public realm use in the inner harbor where events are held. For arts and learning, public amenities such as libraries should be expanded while private sector should support the 'ticket-event' arts/performance venues.

I selected neutral for the EMO/Climate strategy because I strongly support one and not the other - emergency measures should be properly funded while funding should not go to the climate change game.

Would like to see all new building required to have a green roof!

stick to the knitting emergency planning and transportation are regional issues

back to the timing emergency, planning and transportation and regional issues

I view as a land use priority the conversion of parking lots at Ship Point to greenspace..as the existing condition is a blight on the harbor

Lead Innovate some of the important objectives would not necessarily cost money, so I have not ranked them above.e.g. innovate and lead
some are also not the city's responsibility. e.g. climate change

Place people at the heads of departments and committees who can operate, remain and carry out operations with open minds and forward thinking mind sets instead of those of gatekeepers, authorities and traditions.

Thank you for making it so accessible.

seems hyper ambitious

I never lose hope for flowers in James Bay at corners and the park on Menzies and Michigan . All other districts have beautiful Island planting at corners etc. I feel like James Bay is the poor cousin of Victoria.

Spending Please stop making us spend more money on our waste. As of Jan 15, our compost is now not sufficient, and now have to get a 3rd type of disposal unit - all this costs us money. The compost was good enough.

It's a good start!

Address homelessness, tho I assume this would fall under making Victoria more affordable.

Planning could be better facilitated (and financed!) by acting on these recommendations:

It is very odd that you classify respondents such as myself as 'over 60', when so many residents of Victoria are in this category. I think you would get more interesting and more USEFUL results if you were to create many categories, even with 5 yr intervals. Thus 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90 and older. I find it odd that, given the demographic, relatively little is said about housing needs of seniors.

Another major consideration which involves more than the City of Victoria but in which you could take the lead has to do with the property taxation system. It makes no sense that people 65 and older (or whatever the magic age is!) should be exempt from SCHOOL TAXES. Our future hangs on there being a well-educated (and compassionate) citizenry to ensure that our 'golden years' are tolerable, even agreeable. Cities, including this one, could be rejuvenated and public education could be saved if this tax were applied to senior property-owners..

Make cycling network a budget priority please.

This is a very impressive plan; well thought out, formatted and all important. Thanks so much for putting this forward, at this stage, for us to study. I already feel included!

forward, at this stage, for us to study. I already feel included:

Spending It is the constant spending for bicycle lanes. It is the gas tax and parking that pays for all of this for people that hate cars. Downtown can only be vibrant with good and easy parking. Thanks for taking the time to ask.

As much as possible, alternative energy and transportation modalities need to be built into a city where green(garden and park) spaces are interspersed downtown and where people can live and relax. Arts and culture are part of a vibrant community where multi generational and multicultural groups meet and share their spirit.

Infrastructure **Spending** Spend smarter money on infrastructure. The blue bridge is hugely over priced. Build a bridge not an architectural wet dream.

City hall has shown little to no capability of advancing the interests of ratepayers beyond getting better pensions for less work

this is not an easy page to use

Strategic Plan I would say that some of the strategic priorities may not be a municipal level of concern.

Affordable Housing **Lead Innovate** I eliminated 'Innovate and Lead' from the top five because I would like to choose one or the other.

Victoria must solve two crucial problems first. Parking and housing, because they are minimizing the success of businesses. Lack of parking impedes access to Victoria's business people.

Lack of appropriate housing further limits the businesses's access to customers and employees. If employees enjoyed affordable access to their employers, they would be customers also, and employers would have a greater choice of employees. Many of our employees do not shop in Victoria. I do, because I support the local business community.

I realize these are very high level objectives and any one of them will not be easy to achieve. That being said I do want to commend you on seeking the views of the citizens of Victoria. I am sorry that I will not be able to attend the meeting on the 23rd but I will be following the outcome very closely.

As an aside Lisa - I think you are doing a great job as mayor your efforts to bring people together will I am sure pay great dividends as you move forward.

Bike Network I am a daily bicycle commuter and urge Council to allocate significant resources to creating a comprehensive bike network in Victoria and surrounding municipalities. Victoria has the potential for being on the world's great bike accessible cities! Thanks.

Infrastructure **Means** I would like to see better bike infrastructure through downtown (from James bay Fernwood, and Fairfield). Better bike infrastructure means routes that are safe for children, and reasonably located. For example Vancouver St. is way too hilly, Cook is much better for cyclists. Government Street would also be good for routing people downtown.

Bike Lanes **Bike Network** I think a quick win that can embrace many if not most of the above would be to begin construction of a cheap yet effective network of protected bike lanes. By using "floating parking" principles we could have many more miles than we get by engineering expensive concrete barrier protection. Effective, safe bike lanes would signal to citizens that this council is serious about fostering equality, health and prosperity in low cost, environmentally harmonious ways.

Bike Lanes **Infrastructure** Better bikes lanes and infrastructure; more public open space; more favorable conditions for small businesses.

Please and Thank you :)

Two-way protected bicycle network, please

Be proactive, not reactive to this city's needs such as Multi Modal Active Transportation network for future generations.

Thank you and your team for caring about the people of Victoria!

Infrastructure More cycling infrastructure as an important feature of community and wellbeing.

Bike Lanes Please please please make biking more safe downtown. Protected bike lanes along the major corridors are a must

Infrastructure **Spending** Alternative forms of transportation should take a high priority. Bikes, buses, pedestrians etc. should be at the top of your list. Having cars everywhere downtown is so last century. Follow the example of most major European cities and make our city center more people friendly. Spend less money on car infrastructure and more on everything else. Charge drivers for what you do spend.

My thoughts are if Victoria is able to build a reliable economic base and sound financial capacity - such areas as planning for emergencies, nurturing arts and culture and excellence in planning and land use will be more easily initiated and supported.

Bike Lanes - I would like to see my home, work, parks, beaches all connected by safe bike lanes that I can ride on without fear for my safety or that of my small children. I would like to choose where my family goes on outings based on the destination, not based on where I can get to on a bike without risking life and limb.

Thanks for all you do, I really appreciate the consultative process Victoria City Council is taking in setting priorities.

Bike Lanes **Economic Development** **Means** Economic development will happen through making Victoria a great place - a fun, local food & business filled, bikable city. Build it and they will come. A key element of fostering a great city is cycling - we need much more bike lanes to encourage health, healthy density and the livability that today's companies want for their employees. Bikes mean business!

Community Wellness **Regional Leadership** Ranking is difficult due to the interconnectedness of some of

these areas, Making Victoria more Affordable is connected to Planning and Landuse, Multi-modal transportation- especially the goal of increased use of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure is connected to community wellness, climate change, land use and regional leadership.

Infrastructure Safe cycling is so important to me and my young family. We paid extra to buy a house within Victoria, so we wouldn't need two cars. We hope cycling infrastructure keeps improving so that we can continue our goal of remaining a 1-car household.

Bike Lanes **Community Wellness** **Infrastructure** **Means** Yes, thank you for asking. As a female business owner of a stylish bicycle accessory business in Victoria and as a daily bicycle rider, we (YYJ and other cities around the world) have entered into an era where the practicality of riding a bicycle meets fashion and style. Cycling is Victoria's fastest mode of transportation and our current infrastructure (or lack of it) is not set up to manage this. The more people that are out on bikes the more frustrated car drivers are becoming. It's really a dangerous act of heroism to cycle the streets in YYJ at the moment and this is coming from a confident cyclist who rides everyday.

As you already know, the cycling industry already brings in billions of dollars a year into the Canadian economy. Riding a bicycle as a means of transportation (not just riding to work in your spandex) has hit a record high and shows no signs of slowing down. A new carefully thought-out cycling infrastructure (with protected bicycle lanes) will benefit the City as a whole to build a first class cycling infrastructure where the other 99% of people will want to ride their bikes, not just the current commuters to work. To build a vibrant community you need to see mothers and fathers cycling with their children to school. We need to see children cycling on their own to school (when did that stop?) All ages and abilities. It will greatly benefit local businesses as well. There are many studies out there that prove the benefits to business when there is a high functioning cycling infrastructure. (please google it). Victoria is special from most North American cities in that we have this amazing climate that just begs us to be outdoors all year long. If we want YYJ to be known as the "happiest city" in Canada we need to build a first class cycling infrastructure. Using the \$4.5 million in surplus would benefit the city and bring more money into the local economy in return. You will see more tourists coming to YYJ to ride bikes, businesses will flourish, people will become happier, communities will be connected and so will people. It truly is a win, win situation. This is your opportunity to be the best in class, lets make this happen! Sincerely,

Section 22

I would like to see development of pedestrian/cyclist transportation arteries that connect green spaces, create contiguous and car-free bicycle commuter routes, while fostering safe spaces for families, pedestrians, and exhaust-free sustainable food production and permaculture space.

Means **Services** Lower Property Taxes, even if it means less services. Remember that small percentage increases each year are compounding. Cut under utilized staff.

Economic Development Always comes down to a matter of lumping and splitting. I personally believe that by enhancing our public places and green spaces we are probably doing more for economic development (through increased tourism, more appealing destination/living spaces) than can often be achieved through direct efforts to intervene in the economy.

Looking good. I would like to see wording probably under objective 2: Engage & I power the community referring to a multicultural perspective or inclusion. My understanding is that approximately 40% of the population in Greater Victoria are immigrants and refugees. Promoting our multicultural in Canada would be valuable.

Bike Network There are several models in Europe that can be used for creating a full, safe, modern cycling network by 2018 like Holland, Czech Republic and Scandinavia. A safe cycling network is so important for allowing people of all ages and abilities to feel safe riding their bike all over the city of Victoria for both pleasure and for commuting to and from work. Setting this as a priority is also creating our city's stance on a greener, healthier environment and world at large.

Spending a reality check-there is a diverse economic group in Victoria-long term residents are being forced out of their homes by taxes and spending on a lot of stuff that already many dollars has been used up in Surveys, plans, reports etc The travesty of inability to choose a reliable tender and go back to the drawing board and into the pockets of homeowners is a joke,,,
Nice work on capital projects LOL BRIDGE, transportation, etc etc
TIME to work on the things that you were elected for and stop debating on benefits for YOURSELVES

City Support **Strategic Plan** I support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
- Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods;
- Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens;
- Developing long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening (including an inventory of City-owned land for food production);
- Introducing new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land, and
- Enhancing local food systems in general.

We note that these initiatives are consistent with the food-related provisions of the Official Community Plan, found primarily in Section 17. For example, the OCP supports: innovative food production (17.9); urban food supplies (17.A); food education (17.B); connecting people to food (17.5); local food security and sustainability (17.9, 17.A); planted boulevards (8.22.4); native plants (8.58); memorable places (8.a); and adaptive management (22.1). We believe that more progress can be made pursuing these objectives by increasing financial resources for food systems in the 2015 Financial Plan.

We also ask that you make a commitment, and allocate budgetary resources beginning in 2015, to the following initiatives (either as new initiatives within the Strategic Plan, or as detailed measures meant to help implement existing initiatives within the Strategic Plan):

- (1) Shift focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants. For example, allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to food-bearing plants and trees,

including natives, perennials, and fruit/nut trees (all across Victoria, and especially to enhance/maintain our urban forest);

(2) Provide City assistance with coordination of food-growing resources, including:

- materials pooling / depot (leaves, mulch, soil, cardboard, wood, irrigation materials);
- increase grant funding for existing and emerging food systems initiatives;
- support neighbourhood-level and city-wide food coordination;
- reduce water charges for irrigation of food plants;

(3) Expand availability of City land for food growing, with a mechanism for 5-year security of tenure for growers;

(4) Implement a mechanism for increasing social justice in the distribution of local food supplies (e.g. additional City support tied to "food sharing");

(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Bike Lanes **Bike Network** Please take a strong, bold leap in thinking: what we do now will be experienced by generations to come. We have an opportunity now to grow a healthy city with bike lanes, walking continuity throughout the harbour area, excellent transportation, and especially stewardship of our environment and green spaces. What about giving grants to entrepreneurs and innovators to create small scale 'green' businesses and communities, integrated throughout an awesome greenbelt network of paths and bike lanes?

City Support **Community Wellness** **Economic Development** **Means** **Strategic Plan** I really like your emphasis on citizen engagement and democracy (especially in light of fear-mongering at the federal level via Bill C51). A health economy depends on a healthy democracy. Please continue to lead the way on this. The mayor's biweekly community drop in sessions are great, but let's explore other creative means as well.

I'd like to see the City of Victoria address the issue of climate change up front. I would have preferred a strategic objective just focused on this issue together with measures to reduce our contribution to global warming.

Under economic development, let's champion clean, green jobs and high tech in Victoria. Let's become known for diversification and green jobs, in contrast to cities in other provinces which put all their eggs in the oil and gas sector and are suffering for it now. BC, and its capital city, Victoria, has an opportunity to shine and give leadership in this domain.

I'd like to see far more charging stations for electric cars in Victoria.

The proposed expansion of Kinder Morgan remains a serious threat to our local economy, jobs, tourism and wild life, especially our orcas. I'd like the city to continue to push for an independent BC review to ensure meaningful consultation by municipalities, First nations and interested citizens. Emergency planning for an inevitable oil spill is important, but we need proactive, not reactive planning. Let's stop this pipeline!

My last comment: Victoria should support a distributed model of tertiary sewage treatment. Let's not place the burden on Esquimalt!

Infrastructure I believe the city has a responsibility to come up with a wildlife management plan since the province is not taking action. I have lost the ability to grow my own food in my yard without a significant extra cost of infrastructure(i.e.. a BIG FENCE). The deer are here to stay it seems, so now I have to build a big fence between myself and my neighbours. That is not the community plan I envisioned.

City Support **Community Wellness** **Means** Yes, I have many comments. The matching of priorities to the numbers would not work.

For this reason, I must type in the priorities.

1 is amalgamation

2 is transportation meaning the Belleville terminal. 2015 funding should be allocated to this project to move it forward.

3 is the James Bay Library - a 20 year old commitment. The library should be the full 7000+sqft and 2015 budget should allow for some of the capital budget for the project so that the GVPL can begin design work (hire an architect!)

4 is planning. The current lot of City Planners do very narrow work, directed to buildings and developers not to community development. The harbor airport stands out as the greatest failure of City Planning to ensure that land use guidelines are respected.

5 has to be a remake of the City's commitment to the citizens of Victoria.

That both the Planning and Engagement discussions in the attachment to not recognize the role of neighbourhood associations is telling, and sad.

This survey is an example of what is most wrong with the City engagement process. It is a pretense. It is not valid as the questions (groupings) are loaded with contradictions hence could not provide a sense of importance.

Priorities and strategies are important... the stickies on the board play light of the need for the City to take responsibility for decisions that affect the health and well-being of residents.

Look at Priority 7 - health and wellness is key to the topic and yet air quality (air shed pollution) and community noise levels are not even touched upon.

Last point.

Do NOT support the creation of health/dental/other benefits for elected officials. The elected officials are to serve the public, not the public support them with benefits not provided to the public.

Bike Lanes **City Support** Cycling is important to me as I cycle from James Bay to Saanich each day. I want

to see the proposed Menzies and Belleville bike lanes put in ASAP.

With the changes to Menzies, I expect Councillors to keep the commitment made to provide the building space in Capital Park, along Menzies for the library as proposed by the developer. All 700m2.

I am worried about leadership in the City. Comments seem helter skelter.

I have respiratory problems and make sure I cycle and engage in healthy activities to minimize impacts, yet the City is not doing anything about the emissions that come into my apartment at 5-corners from the cruise-ships.

In reading the information about the startagies, I noticed that the neighbourhood association which I joined this year, and all other in the City, have not been identified as key engagement centres or partners in planning.

Having a medical background, I am concerned about the light treatment facts are given in City initiatives. The City makes claims that decisions will be fact based, then offers strategies devoid of reality. Pollution from the ships, sea-planes and buses are real. Yet, the Mayor seems to think it is appropriate to take the industry's word that they will clean up their act in 2 years time. Does she want me to keep my windows closed for 2 years?

I believe affordability is important and that the property taxes are too high. The high tax rate paid within Victoria is reflected in rent that I pay and as I save for a downpayment on a condo, I realise that the property tax I will have to pay if I stay in Victoria may be too high for me to pay.

Finally, I work hard at my business, and I do not get benefits. I also volunteer in my community and get NO compensation.

I do NOT support the payment of benefits to elected representatives.

Means My wife and I home school our kids.

This means that certain things are important to me.

We need

- our children to be able to play outside and breathe clean air - this is not a sure thing with the floatplanes nearby and the buses and the cruise-ships.
- safe streets so that we can cross the street to the park. This is not a sure thing as our closest park is Fisherman's and the buses are dangerous.
- a cultural centre such as the one being proposed with Capital Park.
- affordable taxes so we will not be driven from our small home. We cannot afford to subsidise the homeless, downtown businesses, or special interest groups

City Support I would like to see the city invest in a truly "public" market, providing subsidized space for a full-time food market that would be accessible to all citizens and affordable for local farmers to set up and sell their wares seven days a week. I would also like the city to invest in the proposed Food Hub - a place to integrate all kinds of farmers, food producers, chefs, food banks, community kitchens, community and youth cooking classes, urban gardens, artists (see Toronto's Wychwood Barns for inspiration for a true community-

based project that brings fresh, local food to the city and supports the community on many levels). A public market requires public funding (and is not a lost leader for a real estate development).

City Support **Infrastructure** **Services** **Strategic Plan** Good work - many references are obtuse to those not directly involved, however (e.g. references to programs and projects that I, for one, do not recognise). Pls. consider links or an annotated glossary to facilitate broader understanding in future.

Alternatives to raising property taxes seems to be in the mix—greatly appreciated. It is misleading to state, as I have heard referenced, that renter's pay property taxes through their rents when city services, hydro and maintenance costs FAR outstrip the legally allowed rental increases. My own practice is not to raise rents annually so as to retain good tenants. But out Victoria landlords are just people who, lacking adequate civil service or corporate pensions, need to be able to earn through good land lording so as to stay off public support. There is a very fine line, and initiatives like taxing rainwater do not encourage appreciation of the city.

On that last point, and back to topic, I would like to see more transparency in the performance indicators used to manage toward objectives. These indicators should be meaningful in terms of process and outcome rather than simply easy to "count". Similarly, a reasonable discretion should be afforded compliance such that behaviours are measured relative to outcomes and causation. An example: we have a drive 18" higher than surrounding flower beds...if I stand on the drive and water beds, that's fine. If I wash leaves and debris (from City trees, btw) off the drive to compost in the beds, I am subject to a usurious fine. That's simply stupid. Enforcement officers should be empowered to see the difference between regular washing of drives into drains and watering your garden efficiently. Enforcing procedure is a case of "operation was a success! Patient died" when we should be seeking measures of outcomes—e.g. efficient use of water resources instead of same water plus electricity to blow the drive (bad back and insufficient time for sweeping).

Certain categories in the Strategic Plan include items which I strongly support along with others I might if it was possible to gain a more detailed understanding. This may skew findings somewhat but is inevitable in surveys. I caution against the notion that "best in Canada" requires "most expensive for a similar infrastructure". Hiring criteria should require some exposure to civic development in Europe, Asia and North America.

I applaud this initiative, council and staff, as an important step in bringing Victoria to its rightful place as a world-class city of human scale. All the best in your work!

We need to set limits on development or we will become another Vancouver and eventually another LA.

Want budget surplus dollars spent on:

- (1) James Bay Library branch at Capital Park, and;
- (2) Belleville path work as part of Belleville Terminal renewal.

I believe that transportation planning is the foundation for urban planning and that allocating resources toward it should be a priority.

We need to have more bicycle lanes in Victoria to have cycling as a major mode of transportation throughout the city. We have the best climate in Canada and we need to have the best cycling routes in Canada.

Tax relief , what is the point in buying a house , paying taxes on it for many years , only to end up at retirement with a reduced income and taxes that force you to sell your home ? For many years taxes were stable , now they are not , if I can keep a budget why can't the city ?

These are all important to me, so it was hard to put in order.

Spending It upsets me to drive by the docks in front of the Empress Hotel in June to see that they are empty. I feel that the reason for this is that the moorage is overpriced for the facilities provided e.g. 15 minute walk to the washroom facilities, limited water supply, insufficient power outlets if rafted up. Why not attract visitors to stay and spend money in the city by lowering the moorage rates? This helps businesses and the taxpayer. If this is not within the City's jurisdiction, could the Harbour Commission not be encouraged to lower the rates?

It all looks amazing!

Community Wellness **Create Prosperity** **Economic Development** I dont see food as related to green spaces and public parks - I see it as related to planning for emergencies, engaging community, community economic development and community wellness.

create prosperity thorough economic development is WAY different if its in general or LOCAL terms.

I think it is essential to make the inner harbour a 'public' space..remove parking (why cars there??!!) Erect a smallish covered and properly wired (acoustically and well lit) band shell/stage that can be used for performances..with covered (nicely, low profile) stands/bleachers.

There should be a wide, well lit walkway going all around the harbour from the Gorge to Beacon Hill Pk...This would be a HUGE boon for locals and tourism. There should be a separate (off road) bike trail around the harbour too..and all around Dallas Rd to OB border...just like the Sea wall in Vancouver....separate from the walking trail.

And I actually think that the inner harbour should have public buildings..not private businesses. Milestones' lease should be terminated when it is done and that place should be a public art gallery (not a Bateman center) or library...or a real tourism spot..Lease out a small coffee area but let it be more for the everyday person and family...IT is too precious a space/view for one business to profit from...IT belongs to us all. Did you know that a pamphlet for a small art group event can't be placed in the tourism center there--unless the event sponsor is a member of the Chamber etc..it's the Old (white) Boys' Club...So clean up the Tourism center so that it is really for everyone, not just promoting a few businesses.

(the above drag and drop doesn't work on Chrome Version 40.0.2214.115 (on a Mac)).

I would order my top 5 priorities as follows:

Items #8, 9 3, 11, 12.

I'd like to see leadership lead to actual change and progress more than see it be a model for perfect

I'd like to see leadership lead to actual change and progress more than see it be a model for perfect leadership.

Lead Innovate If you say 'innovate and lead' you need to explain what you intend to 'innovate and lead' in. If it's pollution, highest taxes or largest homeless population, count me out. I also think too much energy is put towards digital innovation these days when going back to basics and making sure the sewer system is working well might be a better idea.

Community Wellness **Means** **Spending** Balancing budgets and paying off debt loads is BY FAR the most important and it's not even on the list. Sometimes you have to pull back, and stop spending like a politician and take a breath. Leaders of communities have to be aware that ...well for example 12 countries are over 300% in debt compared to GDP and that debt load is crippling countries and economies. We have to be debt free when(not if) when the world economy collapses. You might snicker, but world economy is in incredible trouble. Not only should we be out of debt, we should be in the black. The world is in a negative inflation and cash will buy more and more so we need to be saving it up, not spending it on 'leadership and innovations etcetera. Debt becomes more difficult to pay off in negative inflation because you get less money coming in. 9 European countries are now "offering" negative interest rates on savings and investments. If you think that doesn't mean anything to us figure out the connections.

Creating a motivation for business to come back into town is probably the biggest city need. Look at Langford, which is attracting businesses that leave Victoria...check out the reasons...maybe poll businesses that left and business's that remain see their difficulties.

Lead Innovate All of the pieces you have teased out are important. My husband and I for years sold our

Section 22

. I have lived in the capitol region since 1970. In the last 5 years I really see the fallout from the increased population. Victoria is a gorgeous city and the surround areas are livable and viable. As we begin to infill we need to be smart and keep open public spaces and and reduce the squish factor and control malls and strip malls and high rises. I find colwood langford ugly and uncontrolled. I worry for Sooke and Mechosin. I live on an island and the clamour for more jobs more development is strong. Thank the goodnesses we have a buffer with the Island Trust. We are not tax base driven.

I am proud of Victoria it is "my" city. I can't say enough good for Beacon Hill park, Abakazi Garden and other urban greens. We are blessed with the Juan de Fuca Strait to look at every day if you wish and the wild winds and the coastal mountains of Washington. I would hope that the gratis- the gifts- would inspire us to build and protect these incredible assets. The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment. We craft and forge but we never create the ultimate building blocks of clean water, clean air. and open space that allows us the quiet air time to reflect and to manage our lives wisely.

Thank you, Saturna is re approaching our Official Community Plan and in the spirit of innovation and lead I will be using some of your headings,

Thank you for thinking and contemplating before you get going. As I am older I am getting better at fielding the fire ready aim crowd. The push to develope is relentless the desire to speak to the cornerstones that enable us to live solid lives gets lost in the dust of our beavering selves way to often.

Thanks for asking. I am part of your extended neighborhood

and every bit as concerned. My daughter lives in cook street village we source everything for Saturna

General Store in Victoria, and I have been a part of the city in an extended way for 40 years now. (I follow the Victoria Foundation and your surveys-they are the best) By the way, Lisa Helps campaign manager

Lead Innovate **Regional Leadership** Victoria needs to focus on the needs of Victoria. "Regional leadership" and "innovate and lead" imply ambitions that can wait for a future date when we're all housed, safe, healthy, and can enjoy the green spaces and cultural and intellectual offerings of our city. We need to not get distracted by tangents and just focus on making things better for our most vulnerable citizens.

Strategic Plan Making Victoria cycling friendly is vital to reducing transportation-related GHG emissions. Safer cycling routes such as greenways should be used to create active transit corridors to the core. Make parts of downtown car-free and implementing a bike share program - a feasibility study has been done in 2012. Work towards regional coordination on the transit system to make trips to and from surrounding municipalities more efficient by transit. Secure bicycle storage and/or bike share stations at strategic bus stops.

Bike Lanes Start working with other municipalities to connect bike lanes. Bike lanes that simply end arbitrarily do not encourage cycling!

Affordable Housing **Lead Innovate** **Means** Reasons for assignment of 4million\$ and for some of then neutral assignments to objectives. Many of the objectives have competing items within categories. Had there been 20 objectives, with better separation, I would have been able to respond to the question in a meaningful way.

Lead/innovate: This could mean almost anything - vague - and worrisome in that much of Council time and my tax dollars have been spent/consumed on items beyond the aegis of the City. Before Victoria can lead in innovation, it ust define its responsibilities and obligations and stick to them.

Real feedback, with thought, should be sought by the City rather than the twitter thoughts and the focus on "special" people who have micro agendas (cycling, Chamber, garden, dogs, Chinatown). City should focus on the betterment of all.

Planning in the City has been too focused on structure, while sidelining major components of planning such as quality of life metrics of air quality, noise, street congestion, and the need for more clean and accessible public spaces.

Victoria's population has a lower average income than most other municipalities in the region and only 2 of the most expensive 100 homes in the region are in Victoria. In other words, Victoria has the most affordable housing in the region. The City needs to take steps to lower costs of living/staying in Victoria by lowering property taxes.

The City could become a leader in transportation - strike that - the City is decades behind in transportation initiatives and in insisting on greener transportation by de-licensing old buses which have been discarded by more forward looking cities.

Government and Belleville Streets should be the show streets of Victoria. Streets that sparkle from Oswego to Chinatown. Funding for the Belleville strip of City property (and perhaps an easement on Provincial land)

should be forwarded at the earliest opportunity with the advancement of the special place and pathway using 2015 budget funding.

The Library in James Bay should have \$1,000,000 in Capital Funding forwarded this year so that architectural and other planning can occur in advance of the completion of the shell of the building in Capital Park.

The firehall should be a building priority.

I do not believe that the Crystal Pool should be rebuilt. The City could partner with the Y. The Crystal land could be used for a multi-use development that would bring tax-dollars and/or other revenue to the City.

I do not see the question of Councillor benefits. My vote is NO.

City Support

Means

Amalgamation must be pursued - the citizenry has voted.

By multi-modal transportation I support the rebuild of the Belleville Terminal and the clean-up of Belleville and Government Streets.

I also mean that the City should dammed well get on with having a safety study on the airport and fulfilling planning obligations when an airport is in the middle of the City. Either relocate the airport in the harbor where it is not sited so close to residences or expropriate the residences and make way for the airport. GET ON WITH OIT.

The deception and non-disclosure should have ended years ago when Woodward was doing his "relationship building" and stall on the harbor.

NO to health/dental benefits for Councillors. These are elected positions and elected reps should not have more perks than me or my neighbours who pay for them.

Strategic Plan

Although all aspects of the strategic plan are important I have always believed that with a solid financial base the city would be able to achieve its goals in almost all the categories.

I am concerned about the well-being of downtown residents. We need a better transportation network with modern transport - AND DEDICATED CYCLING LANES.

If I want to continue living downtown, the air quality must be made better (I am asthmatic).

Currently I cannot participate in many events near the water because of the bad air. The kerosene smells are too noxious. Can't the planes go elsewhere?

The amalgamation of the region is important. The region's governance is crazy.

My family lives on Ladysmith.

With young children we have real concerns about their wellbeing. Emissions from helicopters and cruise-ships are serious health concerns for us. We need the City to seriously look at what it is doing. Commercial aircraft operations, be it helicopters or float-planes, should not be a couple of hundred meters from homes. We must accompany our children to the nearest playground at all times. We live close enough and they are old enough to go on their own, but the streets are too dangerous from April through September with the cruise buses. The City should do something about this. Why do healthy Americans need an oversized bus to take them to downtown. My kids walk!

No to benefits for Councillors. My family pays for our own dental and drug costs, so should Councillors.

My family will benefit greatly from having a real library in James Bay. We are looking forward to that.

Bike Lanes **Lead Innovate** I live at Laurel Point. We contribute to the harbor pathway - it is time the City completed the CPR to Clipper part of the pathway and the bike lane.

I want a library in James Bay in Capital Park. The full sized one which we can all share. James Bay does not have a community centre open to all (My husband is elderly and so the school is not "our place" and New Horizons certainly isn't. We need the library.

City Planning has not done its job for decades and the City has been ignoring the airshed problems foisted on us by Harbour Air and the cruise-ships.

I cannot go outside when ships are in port because my health is compromised. I have respiratory problems, as do most seniors.

Clean this up before you go on to innovate and lead anyone else.

I think that our tax dollars should not be used to subsidize businesses or expenses cultural events that are not open to all. Let the Oak Bay crowd pay for the arts programs they enjoy.

The City also needs to get a handle on events. Major ones such as the Splash, Canada Day and the marathon/10krun are enjoyed by all who participate and those who watch.

But we do need need more in our area. professional cyclists and hockey players could share the passion for their sport on any street in the region - we have enough in James Bay.

No to benefits for Councillors. My husband and I pay for our own.

Community Wellness **Economic Development** **Means** I see many of these issues as interconnected. Water stewardship is connected to green spaces and can also used as a means to further food production. Poverty reduction and making the city more affordable is inextricably linked to food costs, availability of local quality foods and to issues such as transportation, community wellness, economic development and community engagement. Further phrases such as economic development must be followed by an answer to the question: "for whom?" Our city is further disparate with each year: we need to bridge the chasm between the haves and the have-nots if we are going to see less crime, less litter, less social unrest, less mental distress and addictions issues and better health outcomes for all.

I think that it's important to recognize how great victoria already is, and rather than putting the money towards a huge problem (if there is one in mind) or towards something that will make little impact, we should put the money towards building onto all the great parts of victoria, and making them even better!

Means My dad said I could write to you and ask for the library to be built in James Bay. My brother and I would use the library and want it very much.

We also want someone to clean-up the needles in the park. My dad won't let us pick them up because he

says it is dangerous for us to do that.

But that means we can't go near to that part of the park.

Thank you

:)

City Support **Create Prosperity** **Lead Innovate** The topic "innovate an Lead" is just wrong. The City is not even doing the minimum in some areas, yet proposes to lead.

Although the City should build the fiscal capacity, it will not do so with the current thoughts. It must start by cleaning house first and doing away with subsidies. A subsidy creates winners and losers. More than switching 'preferred people' should be the objective of the new Mayor.

In summary, for Fiscal health STOP THE SUBSIDIES.

To stimulate the economy, one must have a level playing field for businesses. STOP GIVING PREFERENCE TO THE "OLD BOYS CLUB OF VICTORIA".

Aside from that, do not interfere with the marketplace. Business renters in Government Street may be suffering, but their landlords aren't. Make Victoria a more attractive place for residents and the businesses will prosper. Get those dammed buses off Government Street - and get the old ones off all our streets. Amalgamation should be a top priority for this Council. Residents have spoken through the ballot.

Get the floaties out of the harbor. The emissions and noise created by the seaplanes are incompatible with the middle harbor as it is too narrow to support an airport.

Infrastructure **Services** What is missing from the plan is livability. Infrastructure (streets/roads/sewage) is the number 1 reason City Government exists. Number 2 is making the City a good place to live - a livable place with clean air and which encourages healthy lifestyles through appropriate services and infrastructure. Not through information and brochures, but through making the public realm (parks and streets) usable. Much of this is hampered in James Bay because the City has prostituted itself for the sake of select businesses in Victoria and Butchart gardens through letting the cruise-industry have its way without constraints. Our streets are overrun with archaic 30+ year old buses brought into the city only a few years ago. Our air is polluted for most of the summer period, and the floatplanes and helicopters are unhealthy for us.

I do not see the question about benefits. I have to pay for y own dental and drug needs and cannot afford to pay for other peoples. My vote would be NO.

City Support **Spending** The Belleville terminal upgrade should be done as soon as possible and the city should redo the part of Belleville between the CPR building and Admiral's Inn

The Library in James Bay is really needed.

We use exercise facility in the Grand Pacific which allows resident use of the pool etc - so do NOT spend tax dollars on redoing Crystal pool - not needed. Support the Y

Get rid of the floatplanes, they make my life hell some days.

I vote NO to Councilors demanding benefits. It is an honour to serve.

Affordable Housing **Means** Some of these priorities read like bafflegab - who knows what they actually mean? Demonstrate "Leadership" in what? WTF is a "multimodal active transportation network"? How about we just "expand public transportation and keep it affordable"?

My first priority would be to house the homeless - and in the meantime, provide a safe temporary space where they will be free from both crime and police harassment. When so many people have to beg on the streets - and are then persecuted by police for doing so - it makes me fearful for my own future in Victoria. It certainly detracts from downtown shopping and tourism!

Money spent keeping the homeless out of public parkades like the one under the library could be used to provide port-a-potties and ensure safety there. This city managed to build a huge sports stadium that will serve only the affluent. This shows that money CAN be found for megaprojects when political will exists.

The items that are most important to me include: removing the carriage horses from the City of Victoria, create more bicycle lanes, remove cars from the streets, better control and planning of land use, more emphasis on food production and food security, revitalize the downtown core with festivals and other arts' activities.

To date, I am extremely pleased with the direction and leadership being demonstrated by our current Mayor and council members - thank you!

I would like Victoria to be a dynamic and affordable city to live in, with a social conscience, and more rental accomodation and incentives to draw young, educated, forward-looking people to the community.

Means **Strategic Plan** These "strategic objectives" are nebulous. Prioritizing them depends on the meaning that the reader gives to each and those understandings may not be consistent across the test sample. The results should be treated with caution.

Bike Network Please commit most of the \$4.5 million surplus to take a giant step forward toward making the vision for a more bike friendly Victoria happen now! The current five-year cycling plan adopted by Council in 2014 is a strong start but needs to be expanded and accelerated to achieve a full, safe, modern cycling network by 2018

need more secondary suites to enhance affordability

Please build overpasses in congested areas, and work on transit reliability.

Infrastructure Think amalgamation should be looked at closely. Also not interested in public private partnership scams in new infrastructure projects. We are the public and our elected officials shouldn't sell off our rights and properties.

Climate change considerations should be integrated into planning at all stages and in as many categories as possible.

Likewise, First Nations relationships, consultation and inclusion in decision making should be considered the new 'business as usual'

Number one priority should be developing our economy...We need to create a strong downtown core and encourage local growth.

Look at scenes that are really working and try to roll with those: craft beer, technology etc...

Look at ways to further diversify.

Bike Network Victoria is the most dynamic, cultural, and liberated cities of Canada. I think it is doing well in many aspects, and needs relatively little input to make it excel in these areas. Facilitating a bike transport network across the city is one of these areas, where little increased input is needed to make it the best system in North America. Given the warm climate, and bike friendly city, it is the responsibility of this city to provide at least that much.

Cycling paths and secure bicycle parking is a main priority for me. It will transform our community. Build it and they will ride.

stick with the basics of municipal government

Strategic Plan I think we need to start with big picture ideas, dream big dreams, push ourselves collectively and work very hard and very strategically to elevate our community in an inclusive, healthy and positive way. This is a time of opportunity and potential innovation and transformation, let's be bold and ask, "Why not Victoria? Why not now?" Countries and communities all over the world are taking innovative, creative and thoughtful leaps into the 21st century. Why not Victoria? Why not now?

- 1) Bike Safety is a very serious concern for me and our family. We have been hurt and scared during our routes around the city.
- 2) Racism and homophobia are serious issues in our city that we have witnessed firsthand
- 3) Home ownership is not available for many people, tiny house living / RV living is illegal in many scenarios, and the rental options are limited and there are very few resources for tenants to ensure landlords are keeping properties to a reasonable standard.
- 4) Food prices are astronomical in comparison to most other Canadian cities in southern regions

Means when you say engage the community i wonder what community? there is a history of privileging particular communities within 'the community' and marginalizing others. business gets listened to. rich people (ie. property owners) get listened to. a transportation network would be great but will it be affordable? how about free? and disaster planning - i mean climate change

Bike Lanes Improved bike lanes would be great! I commute at least 1 hour each day by bicycle, and it can be a bit sketchy cycling on certain streets.

I support the implementation of a safe consumption site in Victoria.

Bike Lanes I would like to see a better bike lane system in Victoria. I bike often, to work and for enjoyment but won't bike on many roads in Victoria for fear of being hit. My daughter is 4 and has just learned to cycle. Thinking of her on these extremely dangerous roads (bike lanes that disappear) terrifies me.

Great work!

Bike Lanes More bike lanes on Hillside, Shelbourne, Bay and other streets that currently do not have lanes. Separate bike lanes downtown. Easier bike access for families (with bike trailers for kids) to access the Galloping Goose

Community Wellness **Regional Leadership** I am hoping that local and regional leadership, water and waste stewardship, community wellness, and excellence in planning and land use can be assumed as part of quality governance.

so glad to have the opportunity to provide input and thank you to the new city council; great job so far.

The categories are generally vague and unspecific. We need a transit system that is reliable, affordable and efficient We need sewage treatment. We need to address homelessness, drug use, and beggars. We need to address police violence and accountability.

Spending All the objectives listed are inter-related. I don't see how one can be separated from the other. Although I live in Saanich, I spend much of my disposable income in Victoria. I am a "downtown" person who goes to restaurants and cultural events in Victoria..which is also where I do much of my shopping. The vacancies on Government Street and now on Johnson are a concern, as is the presence of 7-11. What tourist wants to visit 7-11? Measures to promote location of local and varied businesses that will attract people downtown is important. Promoting downtown is important. The city needs promotion that will bring local people into the downtown core. Greenery and walkways and local food are important. I don't know where Council can begin to build downtown business and bring both local and tourists to the city, but that's what I want to see happen. I want to continue to have reasons to go downtown.

Food security is my highest priority.

Bring a supervised consumption site to the city.

Make the product from the composting initiatives available locally and encourage food production instead of lawns where applicable,

Congratulations on a forward looking, inclusive plan.

Services **Strategic Plan** I am excited to hear that Safer Consumption Services in Victoria has made it onto the Draft Strategic Plan. I think it's imperative that this continue to be recognized as a high priority for our community, and that it stay on the Final Strategic Plan. This essential health care service will serve to keep more folks in the street and substance-using community much safer and reduce the number of overdoses we have in our city. Saving folks from preventable deaths seems like a pretty good enough reason to me! Thank you so much for including it on the draft in the first place, it really shows that our current municipal

government is listening (in particular to the voices of folks that so often aren't heard).

I support the development of a supervised consumption site

Nurturing community, arts transportation and empowering individuals is essential because healthy, active, socially connected and supported citizens are the building blocks of a good economy, a healthy environment, and community preparedness for emergencies etc..

Lead Innovate Would like to see more practical/to-the-point information and less meaningless rhetoric like "innovate and lead"

Affordable Housing I know there is lots of talk about Homelessness and what can be done for these people.

My concern is that with the aging population and the "fixed income" of seniors, the economics of rental accommodation is going to force seniors to be on the streets soon. If the prediction that the percentage of seniors is going to triple in the next 15 years, you better have some affordable housing ready.

Strategic Plan I feel in order to come up with a really great strategic plan the city and its employees need to get out and talk to people. City Consulars need to get from behind there desks and take this survey and talk to people. you are going to get more answers then people taking the time to fill out this survey.

Bike Network **Create Prosperity** **Lead Innovate** **Means** **Regional Leadership** The top priority helps to achieve others: the City can innovate and lead, demonstrate regional leadership, enhance public spaces, nurture arts & culture, create economic prosperity and make Victoria more affordable all through completing a multi-modal transportation network. Bikes mean business, reduce transportation costs by increasing ridership and enhance public spaces. This is a huge leadership opportunity for the City.

Strategic Plan In addition to a Strategic Plan we will require an outcome based performance monitoring system to report progress.

I can't make your ridiculous puzzle work. Way to encourage engagement.

more fruit and nut trees

Spending The spending priorities I selected were chosen because they are key areas where a city government must excel - areas where the city holds legislative authority to drive outcomes. Engaging citizens, innovation and leadership should be part of each of these priorities. The goal should be to have a great policy that drives improved quality of life for residents. That won't happen for planning, sewage, multi-modal transportation or any other important area unless the city shows leadership, innovation, and hears and responds to the needs of the citizenry.

Community Wellness Some of these objectives are interconnected, e.g., excellence in planning and land use would involve a multi-modal transportation network, and would foster social inclusion and community wellness, while also enhancing public places and green spaces.

Infrastructure Please support cycling infrastructure strongly.

Lead Innovate **Means** poorly worded - needs to be less ambiguous.

i.e. say sewer treatment not "steward water systems and waste streams responsibly" - what the heck does that mean?

innovate and lead - that requires cash?????

We need to be growing our own food. Maintaining and improving our resources should be our #1 priority.

City Support Need to strive for innovative solutions to the exorbitant cost of living in this City. Help people become more energy efficient by supporting solar/geothermal energy solutions in private residences. This would help keep local business thriving while helping homeowners to keep ahead of rising energy costs.

Now's the time to make Victoria a world-class cycling city. We have the ideal climate and geography for such a venture. Please include cycling when considering an active transportation network.

All of the above issues are important, but some are more pressing than others.

Need to encourage alternative energy projects amongst homeowners to help affordability. Grants will help people commit to upgrades such as net/grid systems which will help defray their energy costs and be able to stay in their homes longer. The cost of living in Victoria is unsustainable and something needs to be done about it now.

Need to get people out of their cars and onto buses and hopefully, LRT to the outlying areas.

Over all the Plan looks well done - planning is difficult as the future remains to be seen, but I have confidence in you generally. Good work.

One item - I'll make it brief and to the point, I don't agree with injection sites at all and particularly not in residential neighbourhoods - the sale and possession of narcotics is currently illegal; harbouring it and enabling its use is against the law of the land. No government agency should promote illegal activities - City Hall included- even if you don't agree with the law.

I live across the street from Island Health on Pembroke. Don't even think of putting an illegal substance injection site there. Expect major blowback if you try.

Affordable Housing **Economic Development** **Means** I voted for you because I trust you, and I trust you to not always being the nice girl when it comes to steering the electorate towards difficult new realities. This means radical acceptance of new green technologies that places the burden of implementation on developers to much higher standards of energy efficiency and waste management on site. Waste management is a huge issue for the electorate and to the affordability capacity you are concerned with. If we slow down a bit I think we can get it right and, in the process, address many of the other issues pressing down on us. Economic development happens naturally in cities that are active. We need to push to eradicate the FOR LEASE signs in the downtown and I believe it is the arts community that help. If Oak Bay wants to busy itself with protesting a modern house development that's their business, but I think victoria is a truly modern city with the ability to look and see the future beyond the garden of hanging baskets.

These are difficult priorities, and many are linked. I chose based on a planning perspective with the emphasis on what needs to be done now to benefit in the future.

This is a very good plan. A very nice framework that we can all rally behind.

Victoria will prosper and all citizens will benefit if we hold firms to our vision of the City, become responsible stewards of the land, make sometimes difficult decisions to say no to inadequate development, and engage the cultural and artistic communities. The City is blessed with a natural landscape and we can maximize such benefits with thoughtful and creative decision making. I reasonably have high hopes and high expectations in this regard.

Way too much of the Victoria budget is spent on over policing our city.

With 80 percent of police calls dealing with mental health issues, we need a drastic change in how we deal with social problems. Police are not a good choice for most of what they deal with. The mayor and most of the council are sadly out of touch with reality, so most of this so-called "high level goal" is actually very small minded and a great disappointment.

Bike Lanes I live in Esquimalt, VERY close to the Victoria border, and I cycle in Victoria pretty much every day. But I suspect that my input will not be considered due to my not living within the boundaries of Victoria. Cycling should be a regional thing, but anyway I wish you well with your projects, and I am hoping for a separated two-way bike lane on Pandora. Maybe some painted lanes on the Bay Street Bridge too? Thanks!

Means My son told me this would be a place to make comment as a big problem I see facing Victoria is not mentioned in the Strategies list.

I am a frequent visitor to the City, from the mainland.

My son is posted to the base in Esquimalt and we visit often.

When normally stay at the Royal Scot as the suite situation meets our needs.

This means we use downtown and do our grocery shopping at the nearby Thrifty Foods.

As we leave Victoria, we are time and again so aware of the panhandlers who approach us on the streets and often stretch out on the sidewalks so that we have to either walk around them.

It is such a negative experience as are the too many buses during the summer.

I simply do not understand why Victoria doesn't do something about this.

Yes, this seems to be a typical classroom exercise. I hope this will not take as long and be as frustrating as the official community plan (5 years) which ended up without metrics so one can not measure anything nor have any stability in the neighbourhoods.

Strategic Plan Rationale/principles for choosing strategic priority initiatives is missing as is a. Sense of those pressing priorities that were not chosen and why

Where does poverty reduction fall in these priorities?

Very ambitious, I hope council can go the course. So great to have a Wind of Change!

Economic Development So many of these goals are inter-related. Economic development includes good

transportation networks to ensure residents can get to work, school, social spaces and other locations safely and efficiently. This enhances community development, and requires effective planning. All of these demonstrate leadership, which builds community and creates social inclusion.

Community Wellness I couldn't create the priorities on my computer (have a Mac).

1. Social Inclusion and Community Wellness
2. Excellence in Planning and Land Use
3. Nurture Arts, Culture, Learning
4. Plan for emergencies etc.
5. Engage and Empower the Community

Ambitious, and nice to have a Wind of Change

I would like to see support for cycling, pedestrian only traffic in parts of the downtown core, and support for mountain bike parks and hiking/natural areas.

Four things I would love to see happening in Victoria:

- Dutch students can live in nursing homes rent-free (as long as they keep the residents company)
- Elementary school in long-term care home a first in Saskatchewan
- Netherlands Unveils 'Starry Night' Solar Bike Path
- Garden Boulevard City of Vancouver

I would think that some of these objectives are just a part of one's job of running a city (strive for excellence, innovate and lead--what would be the alternatives?) and don't belong in a list of priorities.

Find a way to link Oaklands, Fernwood, and jubilee area to Galloping Goose and downtown that is safer for cyclists and cycling families

In part, I moved to BC from Ontario to take advantage of the year round bicycling. Trails are great, sadly, a lot of roads are not (I won't ride anywhere downtown or Quadra north).

One road dedicated to bikes, branching off the "Goose" around Tolmie, for example, would be so progressive and an example for the rest of the country. You would be amazed how many people would leave the gas guzzler at home, I am an experienced, thick-skinned cyclist. I won't ride with all that traffic.

Prioritize safe and comfortable streets for pedestrians and cyclists. With enhanced public transit this city can become a great place (more so than it already is).

I think victoria has a chance to a great city for multi-modal transport. Moving cars off the streets is really the root enabler of Many of the priorities that are listed.

The time is right to get ahead of this issue and lead other cities by example.

Regional Leadership **Strategic Plan** Great work thus far on the strategic plan. I will suggest though the effort to offer a broad range of objectives is noble but diluted. There are too many listed and most of them

are ambiguous and vague. For example, "demonstrate regional leadership" - why are you asking this to be ranked? It is expected of any council and hardly an objective with any measures in the current municipal system.

Childcare is a problem at all levels of government. Spaces for children, quality care, affordable care, education for caregivers (cost and availability), pay for caregivers equal to their worth in society, are all equally important to everyone wanting to make a positive impact on the quality of life in an urban centre.

Long-term thinking!

The Plan has an Outcome for 2018 of "Rebuilding trust with public

Strategic Plan Objective 2 states "rebuilt trust with public in term of meaningful public engagement" - Outcome 2018. The city should be looking for an outcome for this objective in 2015. Without trust of the public it will be challenging to engage the public thereby making it very difficult to achieve any of the Objectives in the Strategic Plan.

Land Use Objectives - Need to be considered looking at ALL aspects of any bylaw changes. For example the problems that occurred when "Backfill" houses were allowed. However, no requirement was made for parking. Further, no consideration was given to the possibility that a high % of "Backfill" houses would add an illegal suite causing further problems within the neighbourhood.

Affordable Housing **Economic Development** I have lived my entire life on this island.

I feel very privileged as a settler to be able to call this place my home.

I feel this local government has a duty to further work with and foster economic and social capital for members of society.

This should be done through community led and developed enterprise and a bottom up approach to development which helps create a more just and equitable city for all those who live in it.

Councils main priorities should be affordable housing, food security, fostering local businesses start-ups, creating more open and accessible public spaces, and homelessness.

As a young farmer who plans to start his own business in the coming years. I look forward to working together with members of council to create a city we can all feel great about and feel included in.

thank you.

Spending I understand ticking the boxes above will provide a nice neat statistical analysis but it is misleading. The spending if any needs to be based on plans that will produce a return and are effective. Spending a bunch of money in an area with little or no outcome would be a waste.

Being able to access most places by bicycle is the thing I love most about this city, being able to expand on that further would be like a dream and could encourage bicycle tourism.

Considering principles feels like an excellent starting point - thanks for doing this.

Strategic Plan I would have put "Very important" for all of the strategic areas, above, but wanted to indicate which ones I thought were slightly, slightly more and slightly, slightly less important.

Strategic Plan All of the strategic areas are "very important" to me. I just ranked them in a way that elevated the most important of the very important.

Re: the Crystal Pool. As a long time member of this facility with almost daily usage, I would like the city to seriously consider the option of a major upgrade. Neither the annual band-aid approach to repairs nor a new facility is in anyone's best interest. I have read the engineer's report and strongly recommend the middle approach: new domes, re-lining the pool, upgrading the heating system, re-arranging the floor plan layout and adding a climate controlled annex on the south side of the building for aerobic use. Thanks

Create Prosperity Leadership and innovation and prosperity are meaningless by themselves. They don't automatically create a life worth living. Create a meaningful society in a healthy environment and the rest will be there automatically.

Infrastructure I'm very impressed. There is much to love in this plan. Things that stood out for me as extra impressive were:

- the "just build it" approach to cycling infrastructure. For SO long we've been willing to "just build it" for motor vehicles, shoving active transportation to the side, literally and figuratively. So it's great that Council is prepared to fix this.

- I'm not familiar with what does or not constitute an "Outcome" in this strat planning process, but I'd like to see Council commit to a measurable gain in active transportation mode-share by the end of the term. That's the point. Sure, it's well established that the biggest obstacle to increased mode-share is a lack of safe, accessible and comfortable infrastructure; hence, "just build it"; but if we "just build it" and hope people use it, we may be missing an ingredient that keeps the ride share from going up significantly. I'd like us to chase a # as part of this, not just a status of "leader in Canada"

- On the waste side of things, the strat plan is understandably focused on sewage. But I'd like a few more ideas here. It's a bit sparse. I like the idea to push for a "one bin" recycling model, because it makes recycling more convenient. But I'd also like the option to save money on garbage collection if I'm not using it. We intentionally produce little garbage, but are paying the same rate as if we were filling a bin every collection cycle.

Great plan. If you do everything in this plan I'd be proud.

Create Prosperity there are two blocks for "create prosperity ..." I'm sure it's a mistake, but think it creates a bias. Also, it's hard to vote for some of these without details. There are many ways to meet a goal that is vague.

Community Wellness **Economic Development** It's hard to rank these priorities. I intentionally left economic development off of the list of top five priorities because I think by addressing any or all of the choices I've ranked (public spaces, transportation, art, community wellness, and land use) prosperity will follow. Healthy, engaged cities produce and encourage prosperity, not the other way around!

Lead Innovate **Means** i did not read the plan but the objectives listed here seem very unspecific. 'innovate and lead' doesn't mean anything. innovate and lead what?

Bike Lanes I live in Sooke but commute to Victoria every day to work. In this region of mild winters it is possible to cycle year round. I believe I'm not the only person in the outlying communities who would love to leave the rush-hour traffic behind by cycling the last stretch into town. What we need for that is well-placed park-and-cycle facilities and bike lanes that provide real safety even during the darker rainier winter months. Thanks for the opportunity to comment!

It seems like there are too many objectives. I think the City should focus on its core responsibilities.

Services There are too many objectives. I believe the City needs to focus on core services.

Bike Network A bike network is very important to me, and it would support all the other priority objectives I've listed here.

Bike Lanes **City Support** **Services** House the homeless and create jobs by constructing fully structurally separated and traffic controlled bike lanes on boulevards and wide sidewalks throughout the city. Create social services jobs by creating more supportive housing for mentally ill and addictive meets of our community with a particular focus on concurrent mental illness and addictions. These people need help! Hire more social/ cultural/ medical/ mental health support staff for public schools. Tax unleased/ unrented/empty property within the downtown / business core to encourage rents being LOWERED. I personally know of no less than 5 small businesses people that had to leave downtown due to high rents. Also encourage mixed use rentals - ie renting unused office / retail space at subsidy for business start ups and artists / creative professional studios. Hire the economically disadvantaged people who collect bottles and cans around town and pay them a fair wage to do the same work for the city.

It looks good, but there is little mention of the Harbour and it's much needed upgrades and reconciliation with the economic requirements of a Capital City.

I am not pleased to have several thousand \$ spent on dog convenience. People should control their dogs and not have special areas given to them for dogs.

I don't like the assumption that property taxes are inevitably increasing every year, and above the inflation rate.

There seem to be too many chiefs and not enough Indians in the plan - this is not a racist statement - just an often used analogy - - why can't city staff do some of the jobs you are budgeting for special consultants?

Bike-priority street network and safe, awesome places for children to play please.

Focus on the small businesses and ensure they are the backbone of the city.

Cyclists risk their lives everyday in Victoria just trying to get around. It's ridiculous how many people I know who have been seriously injured in cycling accidents with motor vehicles in the last few months alone! We need a create a transportation system that is safe for everyone. I shouldn't need a car to live in Vic West and

WORK DOWNTOWN!

Economic Development **Services** Use the unallocated funds to support social housing to make Victoria a leader in social housing and effectively end homelessness. Cool aid has a project along with the coalition to end homelessness that will enable this amount of funds to drastically reduce homelessness. It would have a knock on effect of freeing up municipal services that would have savings for the whole region and would kickstart economic development through construction work. It would also allow The newly house residents to become economic contributors to the region.

Tax on empty buildings.

I believe in a fully bikable city.

Do the first five and the rest will follow in a healthy manner. Do9 the rest and you have a divided city with chaos.

Lower taxes. enhance bike/bus incentives. green incentives. support locally produced products. education on emergency preparedness. engage communities in feedback process before decisions happen.

Means If you fail to plan you plan to fail. The current schedule for completion of Plans for Large Villages in particular with completion ten years out means the OCP is a failure. Future growth is plan for areas with no plan, that makes no sense and needs to be addressed.

Spending If you ensure that Victoria is a city that functions for its residents, prosperity will follow. I do not believe the city has influence regarding affordability. I question the need for so much attention on leadership and empowerment. Follow appropriate democratic principles and you should not need to spend significant sums in demonstrating that you are doing so. Be strong enough to say no to development that is not in the long term interest of the city at the cost of precious harbour front property and potential public space. Be bold in making such decisions.

Infrastructure **Regional Leadership** Regarding "Demonstrate Regional Leadership", I would like to see council lead regional discourse on the amalgamation of Greater Victoria municipalities. I feel Victoria taxpayers are unfairly charged with infrastructure and policing costs associated with Victoria being the centre of our broader community. Regarding "Nurture our Arts..." I see no mention of support for the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. This is an important cultural institution in need of support, and I think it would be short sighted to discount it's position as steward of substantial cultural heritage in Victoria.

recently move to victoria few months back. found that victoria downtown is bit too sketch area and not very safe..

I encourage Council to build economic, social and physical health by investing resources in a network of safe multi-use streets and vibrant public spaces. If streets, plazas and green spaces are safe, healthy, and inviting they contribute to the health of businesses, individuals and our physical environment.

Bike Network Build the bike network and improve funding and support for the arts.

Infrastructure Cycling infrastructure and revitalization of down town creating NO TRAFFIC ZONES as in European towns.

Improve transportation by improve cycling, walking and transit systems.

Objective 3 has this: "Hire the best City planner in Canada to lead our Planning Department." We don't need the best in Canada; let Vancouver or Toronto or Montreal have that person. Let's not have grandiose, unaffordable objectives.

Objective 9 has nothing about maintaining our new bridge. But that's exactly why we're getting this new bridge: previous councils were negligent and didn't pay to have it painted. Let's ensure we don't repeat that part of our past.

Objectives 8 and 9 have nothing about burying all utility cables and removing utility poles, like leading municipalities in Europe and the U.S. Victoria has had a program to do that downtown. Now let's get rid of all those "wires in the sky" that mar the appearance of our neighbourhoods. Buried utility cables actually cost less than maintaining existing telephone poles.

I have read Happy City by Charles Montgomery and I believe that making Victoria a happy city, with fair and equitable transportation for all, and making inclusive public spaces and events to create a happier community, where people felt like this was their home and that they had a place and responsibility to look out for one another would bring about the other changes the city is looking for, like economic stability and environmental and physical health for us all.

Create Prosperity **Economic Development** You have "Create Prosperity through Economic Development" listed twice in this list. Kind of leads to skewed survey results, no?

Infrastructure Bicycle infrastructure will pay off in so many ways. Health, economics, environmental.... Not to mention a great incentive for tourists to come explore the city on two wheels.

There are a lot of high goals this council is striving for. It is nice to see the transparency and change, and I hope Victoria does everything possible to support this change.

Thanks for doing such a good job of soliciting feedback!

Get on with the Sewage Treatment system and create a park around it at Clover point.
The Outfall is already there, expand on it, and the surface area would be a great look-out, and the Kite flying friends can still play in the sea breeze.
I am getting extremely tired of Money being wasted on Study after Study, it's been going on for over 20 years.

pay down debt.

HOW ABOUT USING THE 4.5 million to pay for COST OVERRUNS ON THE JSB AND SHUT DOWN THIS WASTE OF MONEY YOU CALL A SURVEY .. THERE IS NO I REPEAT NO SUPPLUS

The City of Victoria should step in the vacuum of leadership on climate issues in BC and in Canada. Pursuing fossil fuel divestment on a municipal level is a great place to start. Kudos to Councillors Loveday and Isitt, and Mayor Helps for advocating responsible divestment of municipal funds from fossil fuels, arms/munitions and GMOs.

Affordable Housing **Bike Lanes** Create safe bike lanes so more adults & children feel safe enough to use this healthy form of transportation for getting to work/ school.
Create some new pedestrian posters about courtesy & awareness while walking because electric vehicles & bikes are quiet - stop & look before crossing, don't just step out onto a crosswalk as a given right, stop talking on your phone when crossing a road, assess the situation.
Create affordable housing through building permit restrictions-people do not need expensive interior finishings! Less housing debt creates more liquid cash for other expenses.

Strategic Plan \$4.5 million doesn't seem to go very far in City budgets, especially when factoring in the cost of consultation and deliberation, which is why I selected my top 2 options as things that can be done rather quickly and without much need for strategic planning.
The arts can always use a boost.

Invest in creative problem solving for the long term rather than simply addressing the symptoms in the short term. Also- why isn't homelessness on this list of priorities?????

City Support **Spending** There are several important issues, which should be priorities, that have not been mentioned such as emissions and noise, the overtaxation of Victorians, the outdated approach to tourism (my family does not use downtown on the summer season while I must since I work there).
I see and smell the float planes daily - a major accident may be needed to push the City into action.
The City is not qualified, nor does it have the jurisdiction to develop the economy. That is not its role. It must ensure a level playing field through policies. This is NOT done through subsidies.
The City needs to gauge public acceptance of programs and policies in a sound way. Surveys are fine for gathering viewpoints, but not for gauging public license to proceed. Independent not biased surveys are needed to do that. This survey, though its penetration isn't scientific in any way. It is a PR exercise.
For priorities during the next four years, The Belleville Terminal should be forwarded ASAP with the City advancing its part of the rebuild of Belleville promenade.
sewage needs to be resolved.
Duplication and inefficient advice delivery must be tackled. How can the city rationalize spending over \$2 million on Crystal Pool while also funding a major recreational facility at VicHigh? they are close to each other. Crystal Pool property should be developed, multi-use for the community (taxpayer) benefit while supporting a refit of the Y pool facility.
Finally, I do not support health/other benefits for Councillors. This type of survey is not where support for such a matter should be measured. An independent survey (Ipsos?) is needed.
Even a Malatest randomized survey could suffice.

Bike Lanes **Services** I'd like to see Council focus on the nuts and bolts of local government rather than

Bike Lanes **Services** I'd like to see council focus on the nuts and bolts of local government rather than whatever is popular or sexy (as put forward by narrow special interest groups--like food security). Roads and pipes need maintenance, bike lanes should be constructed, neighborhood plans should be completed. Ever extra or new service area has a long term impact and cost. At the very least I'd like to see a business case prepared (by outside experts) as part of the proposal for a new service before council jumps to provide that service.

not only do we need a consumption site, we NEED an managed alcohol facility

Co-ordinate and harmonise ALL harbor businesses around the David Foster walkway. This should include water fountains and clean and safe public toilets.

Bike Lanes More bike lanes, protect green spaces

Your online program crashed while trying to move these pieces around - this needs to be fixed if you want to engage the public. Why make it so complicated? This is not demonstrating efficiency!

Regional Leadership It is my expectation that the priorities I have listed are approached with innovation and community engagement and that regional leadership will be demonstrated through actualizing these priorities.

Please include a plan for homeless people to put their shopping carts

Economic Development A complete multi-modal transportation network coupled with a clear locally focused economic development strategy will contribute to many of the things identified in this list.

Community Wellness Within the current scheduling of the Local Area Planning (LAP) process, Fairfield, as well as several other areas of the City would be waiting until 2022-2042 for its implementation. To expedite this much more urgently needed aspect of the Official Community Plan, the Board of Directors and CALUC of the Fairfield-Gonzales Community Association urges the consideration of allocating a portion of the \$4.5 million surplus for the hiring of additional Planning Department personnel.

I support the establishment of a safe consumption site and the continued refusal to target consenting adults when applying the new laws against prostitution.

Strategic Plan Too many important priorities!!! You guys have a tough job. These strategic objectives are a little bit vague, I feel many initiatives can and should be designed and approached with the question "how can we synthesize and meet as many of these objectives in one project as possible?" Taking a systems approach, looking at how the parts can create synergy together, designing for mutually beneficial relationships between all initiatives and objectives.

The majority of your outcomes are vague and cannot be measured. If you can't measure it, how do you know if you achieved it. Your planners, and this common, don't understand how to write an outcome statement. An outcome should be on a vector. The outcome must either decrease, increase or sustain something. Once you have the statement you determine the baseline then set some reasonable targets over the years. For

example: Your outcome "Build capacity of neighbourhood/community associations." , if written Increase capacity of neighbourhood/community associations, then set a base line and a target. enough said!

Community Wellness I feel that community wellness needs to be a financial priority above all else.

Infrastructure I think the region as a whole and Victoria specifically needs to increase funding priority to provide safe bicycling infrastructure for all levels of cyclists.

Affordable Housing Yes. The city has many social needs, particularly affordable housing. Creating and encouraging the development of affordable housing needs to be priority one. For those who are currently homeless (including people who are in substandard or insecure housing) there is a great need for a storage facility for their belongings, especially folks who are obliged to carry all their worldly goods in shopping carts. Secure storage facilities for carts is desperately needed NOW.

Fix the sewage delay. Make better mass transit.

We need space for homeless community to keep their belongings

Economic Development I believe that empowering the community and investing in excellence in land use planning (ie Local Area Plans) will have a positive effect in many of the other categories such as economic development, preserving greenspace and affordability. The current situation with outdated land use plans is resulting in one-off planning with bad results for all. I would also like to see DCC charges increased for larger developments, and those developments be used as opportunities to develop complete streets and innovative public spaces.

These objectives are all well and good, but tend too much towards high-concept objectives that are too ambitious or open-ended for a (small) municipality to meet in the short term (4 years). It may be preferable for Victoria to set out more focused, specific and achievable goals. It seems the Council-led process led to a situation to try to be all things to all people, and so it's virtually impossible to say none of these goals are 'unimportant.' Why not zero in on tasks & objectives that are the mandate and/or responsibility of local cities: land use, public spaces, active transportation?

Create Prosperity We have to create prosperity so we can address the social needs of our society.

Bike Network **Infrastructure** I feel like we could make big strides by investing more in a connected bike network with more physically separated paths like those proposed for Pandora, and others included in the upcoming 5 year plan - though I believe this plan could be much more ambitious with more money dedicated to it and on a shortened time scale. In the long-run, I think this is such a smart fiscal investment too as it saves costs on road infrastructure and creates healthier and safer communities. Plus, if we had serious vision to create an even higher percentage of trips by bike (or by foot or transit) we could actually live up to our rep as "Canada's cycling capital" and help other cities envision a path for themselves.

It's difficult to rank & prioritize, because these are all important! A problem Council has too, I'm sure!

Bike Network **Means** This community wants a full, safe, and modern biking network by 2018. A full, safe

and modern biking network means that people of all ages and abilities can: bike safely to and from downtown Victoria; bike safely to and around all of the city's neighbourhoods; and bike safely to all major destinations in the City.

Community Wellness I fully support and strongly encourage you to ratify plans for a Supervised Safe Injection Site in Victoria, and should be a focus of Objective 7 - Community Wellness.

City Support **Strategic Plan** Arts IN CULTURE: support this and City support many of the strategic objectives by acknowledging the economic driver that cultural work provides.

several items are missing from eye strategies.

I was just approached, in past 10 minutes by 2 panhandlers.

the City needs to end this activity - it scares away visitors and residents.

Complete streets are a great idea - I want to walk, and jog without fear of getting wiped off my feet. Or being overcome by bus exhaust or float plane fumes.

Let's make Victoria a truly walkable City.

other types of transportation are important, the COHO facility is an embarrassment.

I need to pay for my own medical dental coverage and cannot afford to pay for counsellors to have benefits I do not have.

I would like to see an extensive and safe Victoria bike system

We need to have better bike paths along roads and paths

Infrastructure Please focus on cycling infrastructure in Victoria to change fundamentally the way the city operates and feels.

Bike Lanes **Bike Network** Victoria is blessed with great weather and is a good fit for an all ages cycling network. Help make the sustainable and healthy choice easy, while positioning Victoria as a vibrant and bike friendly tourism draw: invest in bike lanes separated from cars.

Regional Leadership I put "Demonstrate Regional Leadership" as last, however if there is active discourse and negotiation happening on the other four issues I've signaled, you will already be demonstrating this leadership in a way that collaborates with integral issues for Victoria residents, particularly in my region which is North and South Jubilee.

Affordable Housing **City Support** Though I indicate my support for making Victoria more affordable, I fail to understand why your plan includes considering incentives for more garden suites and secondary suites. How would that make Victoria more affordable? I live in an area with many, many rental suites, all of them renting for "what the market can bear" or more. I have no problem with either rental suites or people's commitment to charge as much as they can - and sometimes given as little as possible, given that's the nature of the capitalist system we live in, but I thoroughly object to my municipal taxes going towards supporting these money making proposition and/or increasing my neighbour's property value. YOU ARE JUST appealing to people's greed!!! Yes, this city needs a supply of social housing, but that's not going to be provided by individual landlords/homeowners.

Lead Innovate **Regional Leadership** **Spending** I have a hard time wrapping my mind on Regional Leadership/innovate and lead as spending items. Regional leadership will be established when the budget plan priorities has been set and the city has demonstrated that they can follow through with the budget.

Bike Lanes **City Support** **Services** I greatly appreciate what the City of Victoria's direction. The residents of this city are eager to make it their own, and I believe there are many cases where a little city support would go a long way to mobilizing and energizing out neighbourhoods.

As a community developer, areas were I have seen particular potential are:

- the local food movement, including urban food production, farmers markets, growing food at schools, boulevard gardens
- innovative integrated community centres, such as neighborhood houses, community centres, Cool Aid's medical clinic, Our Place, Rock Bay Landing

Some other things I'd love to see more of in the city

- bike lanes and designated bike routes
- community arts
- community consultations
- flexible service provision for those who are marginalized, such as a storage facility where people who are homeless can keep their belongings, street outreach through AVI and Dandelion Society, services that specifically address the needs of Indigenous people and youth facing hardship

Thank you!

City Support **Create Prosperity** **Economic Development** **Lead Innovate** **Means** **Spending** I think this feature is kinda broken... so I'll answer here.

What does innovate and lead even mean? Innovate and lead in what? How do you even spend money on a thing like that. What does a public place have to do with food production? Conflating Prosperity with Economic Expansion is seriously biased. This is ridiculous.

This City needs to stop benefiting the wealthy and white. We live on occupied territories. We treat folks with mental illnesses or addictions as less than human. And the only jobs people of colour can find are in gas stations and as security guards. (Of course there are always exceptions... liberals love to point this out).

The police must be de-funded. Teams need to be established involving street involved folks to support people facing living on the streets, mental illness and addictions. We need a SAFE CONSUMPTION SITE yesterday. And resources need to be provided to Lekwungen and Wsanec people to restore these territories. Developers gentrifying our neighbourhoods need to be stopped. Community centers created and facilitated by real live people who struggle in our communities not by business owners and homeowners only. And the city needs to support folks in growing their own food.

Bike Lanes **Bike Network** Build a safe cycling network.... safe for all ages and abilities....protected bike lanes

Regional Leadership **Spending** Most of the above "puzzle" pieces are not concrete, but rather ideals. Hard to get behind spending on an ideal or principle. Next time, have concrete options for input on spending. i.e. how does one spend money on "Demonstrating Regional Leadership?" You demonstrate regional leadership by spending on something concrete that shows where your priorities are, and where you think others should follow.

City Support I would like to see a local food plan like they have in Vancouver that places heavy emphasis on local and accessible hubs for processing and cooking. I would also like to see the municipality try to make locally and organically produced food less expensive and more accessible for more low-income and disadvantaged citizens, give more support to farmers and urban growers, and create more access to and support for community gardens and commons areas.

Although I didn't chose it in the top five priorities, I think better and more accessible transit and initiatives like wayfinding and placemaking are also incredibly important for the health of our city. I would like to see less of an emphasis on cars and more pedestrian-centred spaces along with more vibrant public spaces that can serve everyone year-round (i.e. covered/warm spaces for the winter).

Means I apologize, this may be a repeat as the wifi cut out when I was almost finished. Complete streets are a priority, and will be difficulty to achieve in a balanced way. Pedestrian needs are as important as cycling and will be more difficult to achieve, especially near where I live, 5-corners, where elderly are often forced to use the roads due to poor sidewalks. Amalgamation is important and necessary to permit Victoria to be sustainable as the centre of the region. Panhandlers and transients were not mentioned in survey, but more are moving into residential areas, This is bad for residents and gives a bad impression to tourists. As an asthmatic, I am worried about helicopter and floatplane emissions. I have been unable to participate in Ships point events due to fumes. Finally, friends who had small businesses downtown a closed and moved away. Cruise ships are driving away adeients who need to become the customers downtown. people avoid downtown during the key summer months. Cruise tourists buy gelato and t-shirts but otherwise crowd our streets. We need downtown to be great for locals, open up government street - meaning close it to vehicles.

Bike Network **Community Wellness** **Regional Leadership** **Strategic Plan** Many of the priorities outlined in the strategic plan are related to one another, and therefore it should be possible to address many of them together. In my opinion, the highest priority should be getting people out of their cars and onto bikes - i.e. creating an active transportation network. This would address at least 4 of the priorities set out in the strategic plan: 1) plan for short- and long-term effects of climate change (decreasing the use of fossil fuels); 2) engage and empower the community (cyclists acknowledge and engage with each other in way that motorists do not, enclosed as they are in their own little bubble of steel and glass); 3) contribute to

individual and community wellness (physical activity increases physical and mental health); 4) demonstrate regional leadership: based on its climate and topography, the CRD should be a model in sustainable living through active modes of transportation. Victoria has the opportunity now to take the lead on this, and what a wonderful, long-term contribution this would be to our city and the CRD more generally!

Strategic Plan The Strategic Plan offers one of the best tools for engagement I can imagine, and goes far in building trust with this Council.

Create Prosperity Why is "Create Prosperity ..." listed twice in the above priority choices? Is it purely poor editing, or ??

In engaging and empowering the community and in striving for excellence in land use and planning, it is vital that the local area plans be completed immediately. The neighbourhood associations, which democratically represent the community, were disenfranchised in the writing of the OCP; therefore, the local area plans are the community's only avenue when it comes to real participation in what changes may occur in neighbourhoods.

Waiting until developers have made as much profit as possible in our neighbourhoods before the neighbours have a chance to discuss what kind of change is appropriate or desirable shows utter contempt for the citizens of Victoria.

Bike Lanes Downtown core a perfect opportunity for a grid of bike lanes and street cars that limits cars to industrial/commercial access

Affordable Housing **Bike Lanes** A key draw that makes Victoria for technology, government, and tourism is the liveability of our city. Enhanced and fully synchronized bike lanes, affordable housing for middle and lower income families, and continued encouragement of the arts (festivals and neighbourhood events) provides Victoria with a competitive advantage. It also makes Victoria a great place to live and work.

Is excellence in planning and land use in direct opposition to affordability. Can you demonstrate how the policies currently in place and proposed to be put in place are compatible with both goals?

Can Victoria's new council not manage to get the CRD to incorporate the views of the experts at UVic, UBC, and the University of Washington incorporated into the Greater Victoria waste water debacle?

Supporting local food production and food security for low-income folks is super important. In a non-gentrifying manner. Top priority: safe consumption site!!!!

Most people in Victoria own a bicycle, but are afraid to take it out for safety reasons. Please, Victoria, be a leader and build the proper infrastructure for our residents to use their bikes in a safe environment. We should be the Canadian leaders for this type of initiative. We are a community that cares about the environment, healthy living and I am sure that cutting on transportation costs would help many local families. This would be such a positive investment for our community. The current situation is scary for both drivers and cyclists. I see close calls on the road too frequently.

Spending Reducing property rental costs for businesses would improve occupancy rates in the downtown

core.

Relocating the transition house downtown would help reduce criminal activity in that area.

Possibly raising minimum wage to help lower income individuals.

The resulting improvements should attract more out-of-Victoria residents to come spend downtown. And the higher wages would be spent directly back into downtown. This would in turn increase occupancy rates, which would increase property tax income.

I'm concerned that this survey is a waste of money and effort... far to "wishy washy..."

We should seek ways to do more with less, and that means finding solutions that meet multiple objectives with the same actions. For example, we can improve the transportation options at the same time as reducing city expenditures on roads.

Build a safe segregated biking system that will safely allow bikers to cross the city. Also, I am not clear on why 'Demonstrate Regional Leadership', 'Plan for Emergencies...', 'Create Prosperity..' etc. is part of a Capital Plan. Are these not ongoing expenses?

Excellent plan! I congratulate Council on it.

Objective to: "Enhance and steward public places, green spaces and food production" combines too many elements. While I think that enhancing green spaces and the public realm is a very high priority, I don't think food production should be a high priority in the City of Victoria. I did not want to exclude this a priority, but am concerned if food production is lumped in with the others.

need more public parks. Do not place allotment gardens in parks. That carves out a piece of city land for the use of a few.

Monday night should have raised alarm bells for all Councillors.

The town hall was full of people, not it was not a group which reflected the diversity and demographics (meaning age, socio and other) of our City.

The input received was mainly from single interest lobby groups, namely the cycling coalition and groups of individuals who were seeking gains for themselves. - but using "apple pie" politically correct slogans and concepts for personal gain at the cost of public resources, including financial and land.

Was the gathering left over "campaigning" only directed to the benefit of those who campaigned last fall?

Regarding the strategies. Proposed, they are very poorly categorized, with sometimes conflicting elements within a category. The City is having significant difficulties managing its basic infrastructure needs (need anyone point out the blue bridge) and yet the strategies, rather than address these basic city responsibilities, are focussed on social services and give away of public goods to select special people.

Even staff must be embarrassed about what transpired on Monday night. And more so about the kindergarten approach to managing the City.

No to benefits for Councillors. No to give away of rights and funding to special interest groups (allotment gardens, place making, people who want to be paid to coordinate residents).
return to management of resources for the public good, not for select friends.

I work in South Block and hope to move to Capital Park in a couple of years.

As a father with young children, parks and green spaces, and the promised library in Capital Park are very important to me. Even if I do not find a home in Capital Park, South Park may become our school of choice, with library programs and access still being important to me.

The Belleville Terminal is important, and the City should do all it can to facilitate its renewal.

My biggest concerns with relocating the family to the area are emissions from float-planes and the many old buses on Government Street. Are residents concerned for their children's well-being?

Being close to the Legislative Building, I am aware of the many marches and groups with entitlement attitudes in Victoria (or at least the region if not Victoria). Before moving into James Bay (for this survey I indicated as my residence since I work here) I will need to make sure that my family is welcome here. Civil servants often receive abuse from special interest groups.

My financial concern is the residential tax rate. I have been told it is much higher than elsewhere in the region.

In the strategies list I did not see anything related to the lowering, or capping rather than increasing, taxes. Nor did I see any strategy directed to ensuring the streets, particularly Government, become more open and pedestrian friendly, and hopefully free of panhandlers whose legs are often directed to ensuring we have to walk around them or otherwise trip.

I wish you well with the survey. I realize it is not a representative survey but merely an input survey. Nevertheless, these comments may assist in taking Victoria forward.

Transportation is important to me. I work at UVic but chose downtown to purchase a condo because I like the vibrancy. But, as a relatively young homeowner I am concerned about taxes, and the panhandlers downtown. I also support the closing of Government Street to make it a Pedestrian Mall but do not see it on your list of priorities.

I have been walking through many of the nearby parks and hope they do not deteriorate further. I wanted to join the ecological group volunteering to rid Beacon Hill Park of broom and other invasive species but understand that the City has now banned volunteerism. This is strange. How can a City create community while prohibiting volunteers?

It is difficult to prioritize these kinds of objectives...platitudes really. I know that this kind of language is big in business planning but I have always found it pretty useless. I would much rather be asked if I prefer money to be spent on bike lanes or improving recreational facilities, for example.

many of the goals and strategies are intertwined. The best transportation plan is a good land use plan so those two priorities should be implemented together. A multi-modal transportation network that prioritizes people when they walk, bike or take transit will bring economic prosperity, social equity and inclusion, health and more.

We can learn from other cities instead of wasting money trying to be innovative.

Knowledgeable scientific specialists don't think there is an issues with our sewage so why is the city wasting time and money dealing with this.

The earth has been warming up ever since the last ice age. If we as humans think that we have caused this we need to open up our minds to the reality that we don't have this much power.

Abusing the earth is another matter entirely and recycling, reusing and reducing are great. Starting kitchen composting without having a suitable disposal site is very poor planning.

If the city of victoria employees and council started being more responsible for their actions- financial and otherwise, many issues could be avoided.

What happened to the affordable housing that was purchased with out tax dollars and is still sitting vacant?

Perhaps repairing the road surfaces should be a priority. Certain areas are horrible

Many of these issues are cross-jurisdictional. I think creating productive partnerships for the key issues across the region should be front and centre. This includes transit, waste management, and affordability.

I struggled to remove creating prosperity through economic development, which is really as important as innovating and leading and preparing for climate change.

Rockland needs assistance for an updated community plan, which is long overdue. Too many heritage houses are being torn down. Yet these are what the tourists come to see (go figure!)

...increased incentives are need to protect and preserve these houses.

Look at Vancouver's history, and planning initiatives to preserve houses built before 1939.

Planning needs to look at the street & neighbourhood context, before approving permits!

Rockland's neighbourhood community plan needs to be updated this year. The City needs to assist through financial support

Our city/neighbourhood is beautiful. Help property owners maintain it by keeping taxes to a minimum and addressing directly the deer overpopulation problem

Please be fiscally responsible and do not waste our hard earned money

Transparency in all these things is key. Keep with these technologies (like this web survey) and strive to be on the cutting edge of technology for democracy.

focus on providing core municipal services

The first information provided states that cities are "hubs" for creativity, innovation, arts and culture. My major interest is in enhancing a facility that provides for ALL of those important components of a healthy "hub" ---- the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Some years ago the city's capitol plan included the amount of \$36,000,000 to be spent at some future date in a multi-year plan. I suggest that the old plan be resurrected and at least a part of that proposal be put into action. Now is the time when good work is being done on a plan for a renewed Gallery.

suspend capital projects with a regional context

suspend key human resources hires with a regional context

increase tax mill rate for residential

increase revenue from single-occupancy vehicular use

increase revenue from recreation parks and facilities

build mutual agreements with regional mayors related to the advancement of stronger regional governance

Be aware that you can plan the perfect city, but you cannot plan the community, especially from a top down approach. You can't manufacture vitality

Fix traffic problems to Colwood/Langford

We should be engaging in projects and initiatives that achieve these objectives simultaneously. For example, a project that implements innovative and practical bike lanes would make Victoria a leader, bring attention to climate change and our responsibilities, stimulate local businesses and engage and empower community members... among other things! I hope to see projects that are beneficial in multifaceted ways.

Dear Mayor and Council,

I find some of the wording and the concepts a bit unfocused. Terms like "Innovate and Lead" are so vague as to what you mean by them. And what's "Learning capital"? I've listened to local talk radio since the 1960s and have never heard that term, or seen it in a newspaper, book or on CHEK6.

And sentences like "Facilitate Social Inclusion and Community Wellness" could be interpreted in so many ways. Kim Jung Un could argue that he's doing that. Does it mean "Annoy the homeless until they move to Langford and Sidney"? Because we've slowly been doing that already.

Or does it mean bringing more "no fun zone" to Victoria. We've abandoned so many vibrant community events in Victoria simply because the police are so afraid that someone may drink a beer outdoors where a child might see such evil behavior.

And the suggestion that you can "Steward Wastestreams Responsibly" is laughable considering the situation with sewage treatment in the CRD. LOL!

streets clean, and pave the way for business, so to speak. We're not paying you to pretend that you can stop global warming!

And if you want to "Engage and Empower the Community" then find a way to make it so that the largest budgetary item in Victoria IS NOT the police force.

So that is why I put "Neutral" besides so many of the objectives, because they don't even give me enough information to select "Not Sure".

I hope you folks won't run me out of town for this. I've been here since 1957 and can remember so many good intentions gone bad out of City Hall.

Section 22

Sadly this survey seems pretty useless. I answered VERY IMPORTANT to all the first questions because they all are. There was no opportunity to add other criteria that should be considered. To rank the five most important is a pretty daunting task without more information and dialogue.

Respectfully,

Section 22 Victoria Resident.

please renew grant program for new secondary suites

Although I feel your overall strategic goals are strong but the outcomes and actions are a joke. ESPECIALLY objective 11 - where is that actual environmental stewardship of our urban stream ecosystems - creek restoration, tree cover, habitat for animals, invasive species removal, anything??? The care of our waterways is more than just sewage - what about runoff, contamination of our waterways from the industry in downtown, Cecilia creek is an absolute mess.

Nurturing Arts is tied at #5 with Transportation

No to the benefits question. A survey (polling firm at arm's length) needs to be done to measure community acceptance or not. This survey is only a snapshot or input of those who use the internet a lot i.e. not statistically valid.

City needs to focus on infrastructure, not social issues.

City wouldn't exist without the infrastructure, that is its role.

Residents can create their own social structures.

Recent directions are worrisome with the City showing favouritism to special interest lobby groups rather than the public interest. the City Hall event last Monday was evidence of that.

The City should not be even considering funding private groups and granting public land (they asked for tenure) for private use.

Support volunteers, not lobby groups.

Library in Jaems Bay needed,. It, and streets should be priorities.

Belleville Terminal needed - meaning the pathway on Belleville.

Harbour mess needs to be resolved. Air and noise icreated by float planes are not compatible for nearby public use of lands (residential and events).

The City currently offers only two arts grants, both with very limited funding and scope. Our arts and cultural contributors are in deep recession and decline, with only it's most recognized and financially secure organizations (AGGV, Open Space, Opera) benefitting from ongoing City support. We lack all comparable innovative arts grants seen in Vancouver, Nanaimo, Kelowna, and Kamloops, and currently have no City resources allocated to fostering, building, or retaining independent arts organizations. I believe the City needs to drastically revise its arts granting policies to make what arts contributions it has more effective, visual, and capacity building.

The safer the bicycling infrastructure is the more people will use and the more the local economy will grow. People will of course be healthier, less car on the roads = less pollution etc.

The City needs to focus on walking just as much as cycling and significantly more needs to be done to improve transit service and pricing, especially for children and seniors.

I support focussing on parks and green spaces: many playgrounds still need to be upgraded.

Finally, I'm surprised recreation services wasn't on the priority list. Services in Victoria are abysmal. Most families I know are using facilities in Saanich or Oak Bay. Crystal Pool desperately needs an overhaul. With the exception of Burnside Gorge and James Bay, community centres are not doing a good job of this. The Fairfield Community Centre almost exclusively caters to children enrolled in their after school programs. It drives me crazy that I pay such high property taxes and have to send my kids to camps and programs in other municipalities! I really can't understand why Victoria can't get it together and offer high quality programming for parents like Oak Bay does.

I would like to suggest that this survey, the draft strategic plan, or even just the basic knowledge that councilors will be making decisions on unallocated money should be advertised to the public somehow. If I hadn't known someone who is 'in the know' about this, then I would've never found out about this survey.

Please consider ACTIVELY engaging the public on such issues. You have 'Your Priorities. Your Budget. Your City.' on the home page, which is great! One easy cost-effective step would be to also write clearly here that people can do a survey regarding the budget. This might have an effect of more people clicking on the link, rather than it just saying 'more information'. 'More information' is great and I'm sure lots of keen folks will click to learn more, but you might get more engagement from others if they know they can have a say by going down the internet rabbit hole.

But if there are surveys where public input is required, people should be made aware of these things outside of your website as well.

Thanks!

I would like to see the Downtown Community Centre funded to the same extent as other community centres. I would also like to see more dollars contributed towards the Housing Trust Fund as I have heard that ending homelessness is a city priority.

Transportation should be priority #1, 2, and 3. Adding more buses is not a solution

A multi modal active transport system is needed if it means rapid transit/ rail out to the ferry, airport and western communities. Not just meeting the needs of the cyclist lobby.

How do you propose to encourage economic development.?

It is a great phrase but nobody can point out how it can be done.

I think that there needs to be some thought around the types of economic development in Victoria. Although there are many short term visitors for part of the year, I think there should be a cap on the number of tacky tourist shops in the downtown core. They are an embarrassment.

I also think that if the city is going to embark in earnest, on innovative projects, that they are far more transparent and open with the public, than has been the case with the blue bridge replacement.

Lastly, I think that this city could well be the "Copenhagen" of North America. Why we are not forging ahead with multi-modal transportation is beyond me. We have the climate and the right sized city to accomplish this, particularly when it comes to creating a truly bike friendly city.

More & better bike lanes please. Less parking. Better public transportation.

I believe helping small business prosper and create good jobs for young people is key to making Victoria a better place to live. In my view, the other things follow when this is in place.

Get the Homeless people off the street. Legalize drugs and make illegal drugs not profitable to sell in the city. It is too noisy downtown. It is not safe to walk downtown.

Ensure property owners in downtown core are not overwhelmed by "social" issues. Ensure bylaw and policing are aligned in dealing with disturbances and disorder.

Revitalize long neglected urban forest- the value is declining with aging trees and the risk to public safety is increasing

I have lived in this city all my life and have enjoyed living here, but it seems that it has become increasingly less affordable to do so. Do the executive types who make up these wonderful strategic objective lists, feel the same pinch as I do, when some of the utilities are increased by 50% in one year?

Check out the SEWER(A) and the CRD SEWER CHARGE(A) portion of the utility bill.

I wonder if this is punishment of the citizens of Victoria for not agreeing with the 17.5 million dollar purchase of a piece of property without putting it on any strategic objectives list, for the development of a sewage treatment plan.

All in all, I am very excited about the draft of the strategic plan.

The simple fact that the City of Victoria is doing a long term strategic plan with community engagement is fantastic. I am a bit cynical that it will actually have an impact. I look at documents like the Harris Green Charrette and ask, how much has actually come to fruition.

In my mind, (true) innovation and leadership in the creation of a multi-modal active transportation network will go a long way toward: spurring economic development that will bring prosperity; be excellent planning and land use that stewards and enhances public spaces & green spaces; make Victoria a more affordable place to live and demonstrate regional leadership.

If we have an active transport network that looks to take Amsterdam to the next level rather than aspiring to be like Amsterdam, then Pixar lands here and Microsoft doesn't pack up and leave.

I know that "affordability" is in the forefront of a lot of conversations and rightfully so; however, we must recognize what is driving the affordability problems in Victoria, what reasonable expectations are and what the city can actually do to impact things. "Relief" projects are great for rallying around, but are often more destructive in the long run (see "Dead Aid" & "When Helping Hurts"). Continue to support The Mustard Seed, Our Place, Street Link, and other organizations that work with and for the homeless community, but the best thing that Victoria can do to resolve affordability issues is put punitive taxes in place for non-resident owners. This will keep our house prices from soaring. As a home owner, I'm not thrilled with the idea of my house not appreciating in value; as a city that derives income from property taxes, it's a short term revenue hit; however, in the long run it will make for a stronger and healthier economy.

- Empower the community through the C/N Associations, not through special interest groups
- Empower Volunteers - do NOT pay volunteers or pay for the single interest lobbyists who are seeking personal benefits either through income or public realm.
- Need Local Area Plans to be done ASAP
- protect the public realm, safeguard it from private interests. New gardening should be on reclaimed land or as done in Vancouver near Science World in movable boxes on the parking lot.
- transportation modes, should be centred around pedestrian needs. People should be able to walk to and from downtown easily from most of Victoria
- I was harangued 3 times today within a 2 block area by panhandlers, two of whom with stretched out legs over much of the width of the sidewalk and the hat further out. No one should have to worry about tripping over hats and debris downtown.
- Council needs to let the finance department decide investments without Council imposing restraints which may lower the returns.
- social networks do not need to be created by the city - people do that - not paid employees. Want neighbours to create their own support systems.
- Serving as a Councillor is a calling, a public service. No benefits - should not consider themselves employees.

-

The engagement for this year's budget has been interesting.

However, the City needs to carry out a survey (statistical) to determine citizen priorities, as committed during the election.

The survey was hi-jacked by specific groups.

For example, I do not believe that the majority of citizens consider food security as an issue.

Also, most people, if not led by targeted questions, would be more likely to identify then bridge or sewage as the highest priority for infrastructure. Cycling would be seen as important, but not the top issue as suggested by the open forum

In James Bay the Library, proposed for the Jawl development is needed. It will fulfill part of the promise of the Victoria Accord.

James Bay is seeing more and more drug dealing and panhandlers on the streets. The residential areas need even more attention to this problem than downtown as children are more likely to be on their own in residential areas than down town.

Quality of life issues were not identified in the [priority document but they are very much important in James Bay where noise and pollution from cruise-ships, seaplanes and buses are problems.

Thank you for opportunity to place these matters before Council.

I would put in first place on your list programs to minimize climate change and other negative human impacts.

I would like to see the City question the assumed positive goals of achieving 'economic development' and 'prosperity' which virtually always are at the expense of the good health of the planet and the non-human inhabitants.

Focus on energy efficiency, renewable/recyclables, environmental friendliness, bikeability etc

revitalize downtown especially Govt st.

I can't complete this exercise b/c I can't drag the options....

Victoria can help to innovate and lead, tackle climate change and sustainability issues and promote business downtown by making it easier to get around the city on a bike. Investing in a strong active transportation infrastructure can have a great positive impact on a lot of the city's priorities. It's already been shown by the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition that people who ride downtown support local businesses, which supports our local economy. It seems like a investment that will have a number of positive impacts echo throughout the city.

Good start; nice to see

Please renew grants for secondary suites

This seems like a very simplified discussion and plan so far. I understand simplifying the message will hopefully engage more, but I hope that the final plan will be much more concrete and have regular targets for each section that are tracked over time

for each section that are tracked over time.

The City needs to be open and honest about sea level rise and the impacts that will have on the community. At least show that it is being acknowledged and considered.

"Hire the best city planner in Canada?" ridiculous statement. Hire the "right" city planner, stop wasting money on hiring for prestige and hire people who care about the community.

The City needs to stop running everything through the communications department.

I fully support building an active transportation network that prioritizes a safe, protected network of bikeways on existing roads. The Pandora track is a good start, but I think the City could do much more to facilitate a faster implementation, and a more ambitious plan than what is contained in the original 5 years/\$5 million dollar target for an All Ages and Abilities network. I would like to see the full amount of committed funding dedicated to a more ambitious connected bike network - with the overall amount quadrupled or quintupled (from \$1M/year to \$4 or 5 M/year to create the network). Generally, I think in the long-run this is a fiscally responsible choice because it can lessen the amount of City funds dedicated to supporting car use. Plus, there are obviously significant improvements to road safety, community health (through social cohesion - ie. 'livable streets' - see Donald Appleyard's studies), public health (i.e. reduced air pollution, obesity, etc), and addressing our emissions from transportation (already a significant chunk of our carbon footprint).

There is way too much bafflegab / diaphanous happy talk in these priority assignments. There is no discussion of tactical funding models, specific outcomes (social housing / safe injection sites / downtown business redevelopment) or realistic barriers to funding / program. success. What does \$4.5 million represent of the total budget. Overall budget allocation priorities are important (less management / pr folks / more housing) for example.

Please prioritize safe cycling within Victoria. Bike lanes with safe perimeters should be implemented through all regions of the city. In Vancouver, bike lanes ran parallel to main thoroughfares, but offset by one block for safety and lower traffic volume (with dedicated push-button crossing lights at higher traffic intersections). This helps improve safety for both young and old cyclists. Thank you!

Local Area Plans are critical to guide development and redevelop and resilience. Vic West's plan is 30 years old.

Food security is an essential element for the future priority should be given to all sorts of food security initiatives including boulevard gardening, community gardens, allotment gardens, city planting fruit and nuts trees vs ornamental trees, etc.

More cycling infrastructure is needed. Every major street should have bike lanes noted so that it is clear to both vehicle drivers and cyclist where bikes should be positioned. Right now bikes must "claim the lane" on many streets where lanes are too small for both a bike and a vehicle which causes conflict and a dangerous situation. Paint and planning are relatively cheap compared to divided bike lanes. I would prefer having 10 times more painted bike lanes over a couple of "divided/protected bike lanes".

Speed limits on all major roads in Victoria should be 40 kph. Immediate priority should be the major roads in

Vic West since these roads connect to Esquimalt roads which are already 40 kph (40 kph road should include Esquimalt Road, Bay Street, Wilson Street, Tyee Road and Skinner Street).

Bay Street Bridge need attention - congestion, bike lanes, turning lanes onto Tyee, maintenance, etc.

- A radically improved, world-class active transportation network that includes many protected bike lanes should be the top budget priority. This council has the opportunity to make Victoria one of the most bicycle-friendly cities on the planet.

- Council should commit to the design and construction of a world-leading, all ages and abilities cycling network by 2018.

- The proposed level of funding for cycling infrastructure should be tripled or quadrupled.

- The bulk of the unallocated \$4.5 million should go towards building separated bike lanes.

- Building a world-leading cycling network will support many of the objectives in the strategic plan.

Complete ALL community plans and keep them updated. Vic West's plan is over 30 years old.

Bay Street Bridge needs attention re: bike lanes, congestion, left turn lane onto Tyee & maintenance.

Make all major roads in Vic West 40 kph so they integrate with Esquimalt roads that are already 40 kph (i.e. Esquimalt Road, Bay Street, Wilson Street, Tyee Road, Skinner Street, etc.)

More painted bike lanes that clearly show drivers and cyclist where cyclists should be. There are many roads with narrow lanes where cyclists have to "claim the lane".

Spending illogical to connect some goals to increased expenditure, Excellence doesn't necessarily mean spending more.

It is important to listen to people who pay the bill.

supervised consumption services need to be a priority issue in Victoria - the approach outlined in the strategic plan is an important step towards this.

This city is too small to keep up with urban growth when automobiles are the main source of transportation, but if we had bikes-only sections, or a no-car sunday, or just no cars at all, community well-being would be enhanced. Victoria needs safer bike lanes and bike infrastructure, including ways to encourage less active people to switch to bikes as their main form of transportation. I love Victoria!!

Spending This City has both a growing infrastructure deficit AND a propensity to spend taxpayers' money on "feel good projects". That there is a surplus is commendable. But, if you cannot GIVE IT BACK to the taxpayers from whom you extracted this surplus and if you MUST spend it, please either invest it initiatives that are likely to (a) reduce annual operating costs, (b) develop revenues without increasing tax loads on individual residents or businesses, or (c) put it in reserves for ESSENTIAL infrastructure (which does not include parks and bicycle lanes).

If anything, I would prefer to see a good portion of those funds invested in a Core Services Review -- this City doesn't have a revenue problem, it has a spending problem. The operating budget is consistently increasing at a rate that is absolutely not sustainable.

Spending I noticed a reduction in grant spending and do hope that the Greenways grant amongst other matching grants stay active and with current unused fund allocations. I know our community is actively pursuing design of part of the Greenway system across Margaret Jenkins School. We were counting on pursuing the existing Greenways grant knowing that it had accumulated funds for a couple of years and would make this Community Project financially feasible. These matching grants are a fantastic way to encourage quality community projects.

I see the plan as very ambitious for a city the size of Victoria. Not that we should not be but if to have so many strategic objectives sets the city up for failure to achieve enough of the objectives this could be a disappointment to the residents of the city and council.

Spending cycling infrastructure, enact a complete streets lens for all transportation infrastructure planning/spending, implement an open-by-design mandate for City operations, expand/deepen citizen engagement in City operations that includes participatory budgeting, local decision-making, greater mechanisms to feed-in contributions.

As we need more affordable housing, what are your thoughts on being a bit more lax on we homeowners renting out our suites or spare rooms to university students?

Spending Rather than spend a little bit on a lot of things, I would like to see Victoria use most of the \$4.5 million surplus to make a major leap forward to building a world class, safe and complete bicycle network by 2018.

Spending "Engage and Empower the Community" and "Steward Water Systems" are very important to me but since the plan indicated that these wouldn't need additional resources I didn't include them in the ranking of spending priorities.

Thank you for your bold vision for a complete and safe network of bike lanes by 2018. Please ensure staff have the necessary resources to implement this goal. The draft strategic plan and budget documents were impressive: by linking the budget to the priorities you showed competency, by publishing the documents in plain language you demonstrated that you really value public input. Stay on track and keep up the great work!

Economic development should always have the environment and social health at the front. i.e. a economic development should be carbon neutral or better.

I selected "Complete a Multi-Modal Active Transportation Network" as my highest priority for the unallocated amount, because the key word is "NETWORK". A network with gaps isn't a network at all. As Victoria is starting nearly from scratch with regards to creating an active transportation network suitable for ALL AGES AND ABILITIES (parts of the Galloping Goose and Lochside Trail, while "AAA", do not constitute a "network"), a minimum connected network must be built *without* gaps before it will function at all. (The only good

minimum connected network must be built -- "without" gaps -- before it will function at all. (It's only as good as its weakest link.) Therefore, a push must be made to build this network *up front*, rather than trickling out bits and pieces over the next decade, with full usefulness years away. And that, Victoria, would be a great example of innovating and leading.

Bury more power lines.

I am being told that the folder is empty when I try to open it.

Budget **City of Victoria** **Downtown Beautification** **Increase** **Proposed Initiatives** **Victoria** Only thought is that the Downtown Beautification function should be tied closely with the City's proposed Economic Development office and Placemaking initiatives. Economically, we live on the core and I have always been surprised at how little Victoria puts into the maintenance, upgrade and enhancement of the physical plant in the downtown. We need better sidewalks, a coherent signage and wayfinding system, consistency in street finish and furniture design and materials, and undergrounding of powerlines in Harris Green and other core districts not officially part of the Downtown neighbourhood, but widely seen as such by residents and visitors. We have been living on our capital downtown and for a city that claims to live on heritage and good looks, we devote very little to building on this quality of place advantage. I would significantly increase the capital budget and shift the function into an integrated Downtown Office that combines economic development and placemaking and beautification aims for downtown.

Community public spaces downtown need to be more comfortable and welcoming for all community members -this means removing environmental/building design components that make it difficult for people to live outside.

Bike Lanes **Spend** **Spend more Money** spend more money on protected bike lanes

Focus on Building **Maintain** aging infrastructure needs to be updated and maintained. i'm not sure the focus on building new facilities when we are having trouble maintaining what we have.

Projects Pandora protected bike infrastructure is a great project. Should be linked to G.G. trail on the west end and linked to future bike projects on the east end. Should be more projects like this to establish north-south and east-west protected bike options

Bicycle **Bicycle Master Plan** **Community** **Important** **Looks well Planned** **Transit** pretty much all of these look important.
two in particular,
Douglas Street Transit Priority corridor lanes (Phase 1 / 2)
and
Bicycle Master Plan community engagement and plan development
are dear to my heart.

Reasonable Looks reasonable, but I have no idea how you came up with the list. I can only assume that you have good reasons for each of the items so it's hard for me to comment on if they're good or bad.

Maintain **Transit** Streets are expensive to maintain. Putting street maintenance funds into public transit and making public transit free or more affordable might help save money on road maintenance.

Focus on Building **Spend** **Spend more Money** **Years** This is an excellent place to spend money to build fiber-optic and other new economy infrastructure. Please put more of a focus on renewing infrastructure for the future. New Westminster's plan to completely lay fiber-optic over the next five years is an excellent model to follow.

Bicycle **High** Give bicycle infrastructure a high priority.

Wow 334 pages? Um. What am I supposed to be thinking about?

Budget **Increase** I don't feel that tax increases should be considered unless maximum efficiency has been achieved in the service delivery under this program. There is too large a divide between the hard work and tight budgets of our local entrepreneurs, and the services provided by our unionised public sector employees. Business owners need higher quality returns for their tax dollars.

Department This department seems well planned, the goals are realistic and practical.

Few specifics and a lot of vague ideas.....

I support the Pandora cycling track.

Seems appropriate

Pretty good

Budget **High** *A lot of the budget concerns road repair, fixing traffic lights and so on. While parking lots and parking meters do bring in revenue for the city, does this revenue offset the costs associated with cars? *If you consider the real estate value of those parking lots, could they generate more money for the City if they were turned into high density housing for seniors, or a retail or commercial centre, or leased to a business owner? What if they were turned into an urban orchard? *Perhaps existing parking lots could gradually be phased out & turned into car - free centres or micro - zones within the city, little pockets of residential & commercial activity

Bike Lanes **Budget** Cut this proposed budget down to >\$55000000. The bike lanes for Pandora are a waste of money - invest half that in promoting and facilitating existing parallel neighbourhood routes on either side of Pandora.

Do less investment in parkades.

Think the City I think creating a system in which someone has an option to compost 100% of their scraps and live zero waste - the city should pay them the cost of these services and have a city monitor to insure that proper care is taken not to invite more racoons and deer into our neighbourhoods, yet if someone is composting well and has little to no waste, they should be rewarded - as that is the direction we all need to be heading. Stop all the waste and shift the infrastructure to support what is truly needed not simply what

has been done.

Budget **Community** **Maintain** **Projects** **Years** It looks like it takes big bucks to keep things in shape. It would be progressive to see a yearly beautification project in each neighborhood, so that each year a neighborhood can identify direct results from the city. These projects could serve as opportunities to build community--city relationships. Community parks, boulevard enhancements, traffic control improvements are some of the opportunities for relationship building. How can the city workers become community bridges to enhancing relationships with people who live in the places that are being maintained? The spin-offs might be: instigating greater empowerment within neighborhoods could result in a smaller budget down the road, as people will be empowered to care more, participate more, and appreciate more the places within which they dwell, and not simply rely on the city to sweep the sidewalks.

Engineering My thoughts are - I had no idea that Engineering and Pubic Works did all that, but it makes sense. The PDF is extremely detailed and I only got through the first 20 pages.

Engineering **Spend** i feel they spend to much on wages and not enough on real engineering having filmed these guys working in the summer they put about 3 hours in on a 8 hr shift which my taxes pay i find this disgusting

Projects A good list of ongoing and new projects.

It would be quite nice if additional water fountains could be added along beacon hill, in particular along the water. Also, along other places on the waterfront. (Adding water bottle refill taps as part of this would also be greatly appreciated).

:)

Would like to be able to drop off garden waste weekdays, or at least be able to use the green bins for some of it - that would be helpful - Saanich allows it.

GET MONEY FROM THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. DO NOT BE SHY.

Victoria I woul like to see skytrain and sewage treatment in Victoria.

Parking Spaces Better cycling infrastructure. Better parks infrastructure. Better public spaces.

Sewage and Water RAISE THE DAM FOR MORE WATER STORAGE. FIX THE DRAIN WATER AND SEWAGE SO THAR IT DOESN'T CONTAMINATE THE OCEAN. GET OAK BAY TO DO THE SAME

Active Transportation **Bicycle** **Community** **Important** Completing the active transportation network is very important for our community. Yes, let's build it! The city should add to its capacity to plan, design and oversee the construction of our bicycle and walking network.

Important **Reasonable** **Think the City** **Way** Far too much data to digest. If you want constructive input from a reasonable cross-section of the public, you need to find a way to summarize certain details whilst retaining the critically important content.

Specifically - "bringing coin counting in-house" raises a red flag for me. Obviously a non-critical task, you should not even be thinking about having this kind of work done by city employees (with their healthy pay and benefits). In fact, a courageous leader would be examining the process of outsourcing non-critical and low skill jobs (despite howls from the union).

No thoughts on this part.

Bike Lanes **Spend** **Victoria** Spend less on bike lanes and less on road closures. Spend more on downtown Victoria. Spend less on climate change.

Department **Engineering** There is nothing really too exciting in there, the issue is one of how one can get more out of the department from a human resource perspective. I know an engineer there and he actually boss that he works no more than 4 or 5 hours a day. This is disturbing for a full time employee.

I appreciate this will not change as the culture is embedded throughout city hall and the CRD.

Cut out the frills and luxury items and concentrate on the necessary items. Stop pandering to small special interest groups like bicyclists and bus riders.

I cannot get the PDF to open

Active Transportation More money could be spent on completing the active transportation network faster, including shifting funds from non-bus route streets to building bike and walking infrastructure.

Active Transportation Great to see active transportation highlighted. I recommend hiring a dedicated active transportation specialist who can advise on promoting cycling and walking.

Increase Ensure that the proposed Stormwater Utility does not result in an increase in the overall tax burden or create burdensome or intrusive reporting by property owners

Areas **Sewage and Water** **Victoria** I would like to see more innovative solutions being considered for sewage and water management in Victoria. Traditional solutions are based on on technology developed for areas with far more separation from developed areas than we have in the Greater Victoria area.

Active Transportation **High** **Projects** pilot projects, placemaking and active transportation projects are a high priority

Engineering **High** **Years** Too much government. Too high taxes. Totally unsustainable. I'm totally serious.

Cities are going to implode because people can't even pay their taxes now.....that is why we are not paying our house taxes and have no choice but to offload them to the next generation which will mean they will not only have to pay their own taxes, but will also have to pay around twenty or thirty years of our "side stepped" taxes.

First and foremost goal should be to slash taxes.

You can't buy an old house or old building and renovate it today.

Every time you go to do anything, you are confronted by demands asking for engineering plans etc etc. I

Every time you go to do anything, you are confronted by demands asking for engineering plans etc etc.

I hear it all the time from builders who actually know what they are doing and yet even the most simple task becomes bogged down with heavy handed inspectors demanding excessive and silly solutions. This is why no one wants to rent or buy the old buildings because the costs are staggering and crippling. And so they become parking lots or sit empty because the costs of bringing them up to a nice condition is impossible. I used to renovate old buildings Now....it is so much better and cheaper to buy a new building. I feel that the system has gone mad and has paralyzed dreams.

It seems good.

Way **Years** I would like to suggest that management investigate the efficiency of their work crews.

Within the last year, I had to replace the sewer line at my house. I hired a private company to do the part of the work on my property. It was done in 4 hours, and included taking down my front fence, removing 3 shrubs and two apple trees, digging a 5 metre-long trench with a small backhoe, and putting it all back exactly the way it was before.

The City came later to replace the sewer hook-up to the municipal line, from the property line at the sidewalk across the boulevard to the street. It was approx 3 metres of pipe. It took a long time to do the job (about 2 weeks to complete), and seemed to involve at least 6 different vehicles making 10 different trips. There were separate visits for dropping off the road-closure signs, then another truck to drop off material, then a backhoe, then gravel drop off, then another truck with someone to do the pipe fitting, then another truck with several guys to shovel in the gravel, then another truck with a bit of topsoil, then another truck to pick up the road-closure signs, and one week later another truck with 2 city workers to simply scatter grass seed. At one point, I counted 8 men at the sight, all of them standing around talking on the boulevard for a long time, with only one man actually 'working'. The others could be clearly heard talking about the new backhoe driver and how he's not very good, and about hockey. (This was not a coffee/lunch break, because they took those too at other times).

This was just one job, one homeowner, who happens to work from home and sees what's outside the window. Multiply this example by every other job throughout the City. Is there good control of work crews by management? These are well-paid jobs (union jobs?), and these costs add up. Can workers be fired for not working very hard, or are their positions protected by the unions? How can a private company put in a longer-length pipe in a half-day with 2 guys, and it takes the City two weeks, multiple truck visits, and a dozen different guys at different times?

Ratepayers need to know that their taxes/fees are well managed and kept to a minimum.

Bicycle **Bicycle Master Plan** **Bike Lanes** I really like a few of the initiatives:

-energy efficient streetlights (is this solar?)

-bicycle master plan - I like to ride my bike to work, but have been hit by cars a couple of times, and really

appreciate bike lanes!

-move towards carbon neutrality

Parking Spaces One of the things that screwed the Crystal Pool was the lack of parking. The Oak Bay Rec as 225 parking spaces. The Crystal has 25.

Women and seniors will not go there if they do not have safe and convenient parking. Full stop.

Unless this issue is address the Crystal will NEVER share the degree of success enjoyed by the Oak Bay Rec.

Ok?

Victoria I would like to see a reduction in salaries or a wage freeze.

Is there any precedent for prioritizing Victoria residents as our work force?

There are a lot of initiatives which is to be applauded. Too many to assess thoroughly without the backstory. However, I would place priority on transportation, underground utilities, and facilities.

trim 10%

City of Victoria **Downtown Beautification** **Victoria** A greater emphasis needs to be placed on Downtown Beautification. This is really where Victoria lets itself down as the Provincial capital. I doubt that an additional "five heritage cluster lamps" and "12 planters" will make a significant impact. In all honesty, the street furniture downtown is dated and shabby. It is possible to introduce contemporary street furniture that is compatible with the heritage assets of the City.

Bike Lanes **Budget** **Community** **Focus on Building** **Transit** **Victoria** The budget for capital expenses should be used towards more low income housing and helping rebuild downtown. Rebuilding downtown will generate more tourism and bring money to victoria from other places. Rebuilding downtown will also create more jobs for locals. We need to focus on the essential building blocks of our community (does all our citizens have food? Shelter? Employment?) before worrying about upgrades to transit or bike lanes etc.

Years Keep them operative only for a few years until the income is built up

Engineering Will council continue to ignore recommendations from Engineering and Public Works?

Priority needs to be given to alleviating congestion along the trans Canada both in and out of the city centered on the McKenzie intersection.

Areas Work with other municipalities in the region, create best practices and share resources and equipment, like good neighbours do. Be a leader in this area.

Problem They seem well thought out and I have no problem with this propoed initiatives.

High **Maintain** Looks like the city is doing an excellent job of maintaining and updating infrastructure - the

High **Maintain** LOOKS like the city is doing an excellent job of maintaining and updating infrastructure. The typical tax seems to me to fall within a norm and is not high. A well thought out list of initiatives.

Bike Lanes **Transit** Bike lanes -- safer and more! with bike storage at transit terminals (Airport, city parkades, inter-city bus station, Ferry terminals, Ogden Point).

Active Transportation **Areas** **City of Victoria** **Downtown Beautification** **Focus on Building** **Think the City** **Victoria** I like the direction. Focus seems to be on building a city for people. Active transportation and downtown place-making (beautification) are two areas of investment that I think will bring Victoria significant return.

fine

Expenditures appear to outpace revenues by 1.75%. Instead of asking for more money, why not create efficiencies and find the savings? You could probably find the \$900k just by switching the brand of toilet paper that the public works yard buys.

Budget **Victoria** I would like to see more budget/resources go towards serving developers in an efficient and timely manner to help attract more investment in Victoria.

sorry the pdf had an error upon opening. could not view entire document

Bike Lanes **Budget** **City of Victoria** **Looks well Planned** **Spend** **Spend more Money** **Think the City** **Victoria** **Way** Not sure the city should be involved in car share program. If it is a feasible business the private sector should be offering that service. Also I question the city's plans to reduce green house gas by making the downtown core unattractive to vehicles. We have to ensure we will not be detracting from tourist traffic.

Can Victoria look at the Dartmouth geothermal model in terms of harvesting energy from the harbour for cooling buildings and reducing greenhouse gas.

I always look at wages and benefits. An efficient operation does not spend more than 75 per cent of its operating budget on wages and benefits.

Not sure about bike master plan. It seems to me when you dedicate lanes for cyclists the hardcore lobbyists move to the next street where there is no dedicated lanes so that they can reclaim more lane ways. I think of cyclists were licensed and required to obey the traffic laws there would be no need to spend the kind of money we are spending. In some countries they simply do not elevate sidewalks but make these lane ways accessible to pedestrians, bikes, mobility scooters.

Areas **Downtown Beautification** **Projects** Beautification and Downtown Coordinator projects should be deferred in order to provide funds for other areas of City responsibilities.

Sensible and comprehensive.

Active Transportation **Bicycle** **Engineering** **Focus on Building** **High** **Important** **Projects** **Way** **Years** Am trying to go through the screens.

Very slow/difficult to do. Somewhere the number of pages in the pdf should be indicated.

The format is also not consistent

The format is also not consistent.

Some programs give fte numbers, others don't, so difficult to assess efficiency regarding expenditures

Projects comments

2077 - Monitoring GHG/Carbon etc - need to make the program real and reduce costs (\$90K salaries !)

The City buildings and practices are minuscule compared to GHG/C created elsewhere.

So, rather than announce the minute progress the City is making, be honest about where the real pollution/GHG is coming from. See quote re cruise ship passengers which suggest one cruise-passenger night is equivalent to 12 hotel visitor nights. The City needs to support less environmentally damaging tourism and discourage the more damaging.

"Greenhouse gas emissions from international transport contribute to anthropogenic global warming, yet these emissions are not liable under the Kyoto Protocol. International attention is being given to quantifying such emissions. This paper presents the results of research into international cruise ship journeys to and from New Zealand. CO₂ emissions from such journeys were calculated using an activity based, or "bottom-up", model. Emissions factors for individual journeys by cruise ships to or from New Zealand in 2007 ranged between 250 and 2200 g of CO₂ per passenger-kilometre (g CO₂ per p-km), with a weighted mean of 390 g CO₂ per p-km. The weighted mean energy use per passenger night for the "hotel" function of these cruise vessels was estimated as 1600 MJ per visitor night, 12 times larger than the value for a land-based hotel. Using a simple price elasticities calculation, international cruise journeys for transport purposes were found to have a greater relative decrease in demand than plane journeys when the impact of carbon pricing was analysed. The potential to decrease the CO₂ emissions per p-km was examined, and if passenger accommodation was compacted and some luxury amenities dispensed with values similar to those of economy-class air travel were obtained."

Also - could not figure out who gets the grants. Can they be cut?

5210 - Downtown Coordination:

Was stunned to see the salary devoted to the downtown decor coordinator.

Noticed that all coordination with downtown was with businesses, not residents.

So much of the coordination is so poorly done now.

Suggest change of staff.

5211 Late Night Strategy

Save \$300K by changing bar closing hours to match those in Oak Bay.

Get rid of Late-night or make it cost-neutral through late night business licensing charges.

More savings may be realised since Police costs have not been identified

2150 - utilities - underground

As a purely admin program, seems a bit high \$, but can't comment until I see other categories.

2165 Parks underground

Aside from the central office, I had no idea that parks buildings had dishwashers fridges etc. or that there are 42 buildings. Where are they?

2170 Parkade

2170 Parkades

0.5 fte = \$57K !

Need to lower classifications of this kind of position.

2175 - 8 Comm Centers

Weekly inspections for lighting/ heating etc. Could be shifted to monthly with more focus on response rather than routine visits.

1 fte at \$100K.

Need to rethink this program.

2180

wage too high.

Service essential.

2185

No comment..

...

4000 ... - parking admin

Street Cleaning - VERY IMPORTANT

Special Events should be costed separately.

Also cleaning etc attributable to Late Night Strategy

Also needles

Garbage Cans for ChinaTown should be separated and taxed to local businesses which are not being responsible corporate citizens

In summary, the million \$ spent is not been reported in a transparent way.

General Comments on a couple of sections:

~ Need to get the city out of the grip of the unions if City ever wants to contain expenditures

~ City is so focussed on bicycle coalition that it is ignoring pedestrians. Fix the sidewalks first.

~ Parking changes made in last year are excellent. yes, need better elevator - but not if you will be knocking down the parkade within next few years.

~ 4410-4430 ...3745 ...

Most engineering programs should be considered as essential.

Main issue with many programs would be the inflated salary levels.

Budget Not enough time provided to review 200+ page budget.

I am worried about what appears to be a growing infrastructure deficit and no long-term plan for fixing it.

Active Transportation **Department** Overall this department is still very clearly operating from a "car-first" perspective, as is evidenced by the structure of its business units. I would hope that the administration is continuing work on moving the mandate towards enabling active or multi-modal transportation.

No particular issues with the amounts.

Bike Lanes Not a lot that you are doing on the bike lane front. Top priority should be a protected bike lane (cycle track) on Government and Wharf Streets.

Bicycle **Johnson Street Bridge** Johnson Street Bridge public realm needs to be examined. Proposal for green space identified by the VDRA should be implemented. More focus on and faster implementation of segregated bicycle lanes.

City of Victoria **Important** **Problem** **Victoria** **Victoria's Infrastructure** Victoria, like many other cities, has a problem of financing infrastructure replacements and repairs. This problem is called the infrastructure deficit. Doing more to close the deficit gap, and finding the means to finance this re-investment, is a crucially important function of civic government.

Way Would you have someone check up on the efficiency or lack thereof, of the mechanical street sweeping operations. I ask this because I often watch the operators when they occasionally come through my neighbourhood (Jubilee) and I come to the conclusion that they are just wasting time as they are travelling a way too fast resulting in street debris just being spread thinly across the street surface rather than sucking it up....so two things the job is not being done properly and we are paying for said job. If they slowed down and did the job completely in the first place they probably could cut down dramatically on the number of times they would have to return to the neighbourhood.

Maintain **Think the City** I think expecting people to read a 335 page report is a bit of a stretch. The introduction felt a little like maintaining the status quo. You need to put some emphasis on making the city a fun place to live and work, a few planters or banners is not going to cut it. Please show some creativity or ask the cultural sector for help. There is a sense that planning is driven by a 'sky is falling down' mentality, there is no end to possible disaster preparation that can take place.

Spend A lot of detail to assess. Might want to strategically assess expenditures as a percentage of asset value. You are by my calculation spending 2.9% which may be low compared to what others are spending. Suggest you consider comparing our percentage with others in the region and the trend line with respect to percentages over time.

Increase **Parking Spaces** **Transit** Reduce the parking spaces that exist as soon as the first phase of designated bus lanes on Douglas are completed. The objective for more livable and green spaces and less traffic congestion downtown must be met by limiting parking spaces, and increasing parking fees can be achieved with prompting all downtown travelers to use public transit instead of POVs

Gains: same income from parking and less square footage for maintenance; i.e. some paved parking lots can be converted to green space or alternative use and city land sales revenue.

Budget **Proposed Initiatives** I looked at the pdf but also read the detailed budget. Most of the proposed initiatives make sense. At some point the City should consider whether it should be in the business of owning and operating parking garages and parking lots. What are the costs and benefits of selling or leasing

them to the private sector?

Think the City Where is the funding for the restoration and rehabilitation for the awful road services throughout the CoV? You only plan on replacing 3kms of sewer lines in a city that was built in the 1800's? I think I understand why it is you are pushing for amalgamation, you want the others in the region to pay for your neglect.

Department **Johnson Street Bridge** What is there sounds fine. As far as I am concerned, the highest priority initiatives for this department should be the Johnson street bridge and working towards a solution for sewage treatment.

Important **Way** I don't know if it was suggested by mayor Helps, but it seems important to revitalize the downtown Government street corridor. By stopping vehicle traffic along Government (except for Fort/Johnson - to act as arteries for traffic flow through the downtown core) it would allow for a much more diverse and pedestrian friendly downtown (which other cities have used to their advantage). The quaint cobblestone streets, trees, and roadside gardens and hanging baskets already suggest that the section of Government from Wharf to Yates should already be pedestrian only. Car exhaust, vehicle noise, and one way traffic are not beneficial. Food trucks (please promote these!), night markets, performers etc would create a much bigger draw for the downtown core than a basically unusable vehicle road.

Projects **Transit** Douglas Street Transit Priority corridor lanes and something for Fort Street are essential.

Also, let's get the ball rolling on sewage and sewer projects!

Seems pretty regular.

Community **Important** **Increase** I am sure a list has been made identifying the various properties and ranked in relation to their importance to the community i.e. emergency service, infrastructure requirements, recreational facilities and the like. Cost estimates for the replacement, upgrading and renovation of these and a total cost estimate established. The task then is to determine the time horizon for the the work and how the cost is to be amortized and funded without a massive increase in Taxes.

Spend **Spend more Money** **Years** Please spend more money to keep our roads and sidewalks in better condition. Roads and sidewalks funds have been diverted for some time and it shows - our streets and sidewalks are in poor condition!

It appears that parks are not getting the attention and care of years past - please keep our parks in great shape!

Also, in the past several years fall clean-up has been severely lacking - please return to the former schedule of fall clean-up of leaves - when this is left undone, street drains get blocked and cause flooding.

High Belleville St. sidewalk (alongside ferry terminals) should be high priority. People could easily trip and sue the city.

Also, parking along that side should be eliminated and the sidewalk widened. More room for cycling would be created as well.

Comprehensive and realistic.

None at this time.

Community **Looks well Planned** **Spend** It looks quite thorough from what I can tell.

I am wondering if there could be some kind of public input for prioritizing the items, and hope this survey will inform this if time and attention is taken for careful planning for spending based on community input.

City of Victoria **Spend** **Spend more Money** **Victoria** **Victoria's Infrastructure** **Years** Regarding transportation and parking services: I feel that there is enough infrastructure for cars as it is. There needs to be encouragement to leave the car at home. On beautification, Victoria is already a gorgeous city leave it alone and spend this money elsewhere. Not sure how much money is actually spent on snow and ice removal but considering the almost total lack of snow in the passed 4 years, it might be time to free some of that money up.

Budget **City of Victoria** **Department** **Engineering** **Proposed Initiatives** **Victoria** While I'm very satisfied with the maintenance of the existing CRD water system, spearheaded by Nils Jensen over the last decade, I'm VERY worried about the City of Victoria's engineering department. David Broadland at Focus has done a terrific job of revealing the extent to which the Engineering department has colluded with private engineering consultancies to deliver a bridge that is wildly out of spec with the original design, the approved budget, the mandated seismic requirements, and the vision ultimately approved by taxpayers in the bridge referendum. In light of this, I do not trust that city staff are being fully honest with the public or with Council, and I do not place any faith in the initiatives they propose for 2015. Given what I've been reading, I'd encourage Council to launch an investigation with an eye towards cleaning house in this department.

Recycling Generally approve or no opinion. Downtown recycling bins will not work -- take it from someone who has been sorting trash from recycling in the service industry for a decade.

Department **Johnson Street Bridge** **Projects** One must only look at the Johnson Street Bridge project to conclude that this department does not encourage taxpayer confidence.

Bicycle **Bicycle Master Plan** **City of Victoria** **Important** **Proposed Initiatives** **Victoria** I feel that the proposed initiatives are all needed to keep Victoria running smoothly. We cannot underestimate the importance of simple things like keeping the storm drains functioning.
I feel very strongly about the bicycle master plan because I believe it is time to make Victoria an even more cycle friendly city.

Department Some thoughts:

-I suspect that these departments are admin/management heavy

-stormwater management should be a top priority

stormwater management should be a top priority

Approve all of them.

Community **Projects** ensure community centres are supported in maintenance and accessibility projects as public buildings

Spend **Spend more Money** Spending too much money on **Section 22** for the cyclists

Way Seriously - this is the document you want me to read and comment on! It's huge and way too detailed.

City of Victoria **Victoria** overall not bad as mentioned before the stormwater utility fee should not be implemented. The Sat garden waste drop off program definitely needs to be reviewed to ensure that only City of Victoria taxpayers are taking advantage of the program.....wouldn't object to there being a small fee \$3 to \$5 for this program.

Projects I'm supportive of the Dallas road rehab project and the Johnson St. bridge replacement. I'm not supportive of additional initiatives for cycling. I believe the current infrastructure is sufficient.

High Need to work with smarter, smaller crews - sometimes I see 3 people doing the work of 2 (2 survey, 1 sits in the truck). Or a whole group of people stand around watching 1-2 people dig a hole. Other times I see admirable efficiencies (1 person truck waters city trees or 1 person gardens traffic island). Some senior administration pay is too high for the quality of work performed.

Usual bumph.

This is what interests me:

1. Get a garbage skip back in use at Garbally Road.
2. Sort out the sewage treatment.

Reasonable Reasonable

More money should be put into water storage and rain retention to prepare for summer droughts

Lower taxes

The city compost scheme needs to be worked out. It makes no sense for citizens to sort their waste into separate bags if it just ends up in the same place.

Also, water used for gardens should not be counted as sewer charges.

no major concerns

Active Transportation Good. More for active transportation.

Budget **Engineering** **Important** **Projects** **Victoria** **Victoria's Infrastructure** Most engineering projects are important Victoria's ageing infrastructure demands a lot of attention

projects are important. Victoria's ageing infrastructure demands a lot of attention.

Transportation engineering is vital, as is safe street projects such as mid-lane islands for pedestrians, needed on Douglas south of Superior near Beacon Hill Park.

Salary budget lines appear inflated - perhaps there are too many unions involved?

duh provide an executive summary even half the councillors won't have read the 334 page report

Budget **Johnson Street Bridge** generally make sense.... but some heads need to be chopped off for the failure to keep the Johnson Street Bridge within budget

Areas I didn't read all 334 pages (you were right to suggest we only do this part if we had the time!), In the initiatives, there seem to be a lot of "reviews" of different areas. Is this because things aren't working well, and if so, why??

Budget **High** salaries and benefits needs to be fixed, it looks much too high and eats up far too much of budget.

Maybe one example of unnecessary benefits, if classed as such, is a minimum payment for staff parking, say \$1 / day, would incentive to staff to use other means of transport.

So little goes into actual operating costs, that is crazy

Looks well Planned Looks good. I'm glad to see Climate Action and Environmental Planning in there.

Areas **Department** **Increase** **Projects** Can't read through all of it but I see expenditures increase at a good clip for most departments. Hope there is a plan to get required tax revenue. My little bldg. has declining revenue from tenants and I would love to sell but so far no one has wanted to build condos here, although that seems to be the ultimate plan for this area. Hopefully someone else can pick up the slack and fund all these projects.

Sewage and Water Faster rollout of cost saving measures such as LED lighting, solar heat and electricity on city properties, which should free up operational funds over the longer term. Get innovative with natural gas -- make us a leader in BC, the West and Canada. With bridge, sewage and water pipeline renewal, prioritize and build a solid infrastructure to support growing city core.

Areas This is too complex and area to give any useful comment.

Have the Blvds looks nicer by having the weeds cut back, as well on all streets.

Too many pot holes in Fairfield neighbourhood - would like to see them fixed, and our roads look better in our neighbourhood. Damage control from the caterpillars, where the workers use clippers to take down and dispose of nests. Have a phone number where people can leave their address for this to be down. So many of our trees get eaten to pieces and it's not "green" nor does it look nice.

Sorry, too much info. for me & I have some dyslexia with numbers so find it overwhelming.

Increase The increase in costs appear justified.

Very important

Important very important

Bike Lanes **City of Victoria** **Increase** **Victoria** **Years** The CRD and its costs must be controlled somehow. Garbage pickup is excellent, City staff are friendly and helpful. The 3 percent increase sounds great, but then there are so many more costs that Victoria has no control over. Hydro along with the CRD are two big costs no one seems able to control. Under Mayor Dean my little 850 square foot house saw a \$100 increase every year. And again I stress that more thought be spent on savings and less on making more and bigger bike lanes.

Way They need to decide on one main road for upgrade or repairs before going to the next main vein of the city. Cook street from maplewood to quadra has taken way too long, yet they are now congesting Douglas.

Areas **Bike Lanes** **Recycling** As much as possible, move toward using solar energy in buildings downtown, waste water recovery and other green initiatives, such as enhanced bike lanes and bike parking. Green bins for food waste pickup downtown is a great idea. Open up more areas for music making and cultural events, including buskers who have quality acts. A review of water use calculation needs to be addressed as a lot of water is going on vegetation and not going into the sewer. This system needs to be overhauled. Garbage and green waste recycling are okay right now, but a permanent composting site needs to be established where people can buy back finished compost.

I don't have a week to read all that.

Projects In keeping with staff abilities, this page comes up with an error so that it is not accessible, much like projects the so-called professional staff has bamboozled council with.

too much to consider for this survey I will take the survey again after I have a chance to review the 380 pages of the PW Eng document

Areas Consider speaking to province regarding asset management as initiatives are underway in this area.

City of Victoria **Important** **Problem** **Victoria** most important - UNDERGROUND SERVICES. This city is ancient, and perhaps, crumbling.

If the foundation ain't sound, the building collapses. Road surfaces should be improved (beautiful job on Cook St.), for locals and tourists.

Handcuff the CRD. We do need to remove toxicants from our effluent into the oceans (human excretions NOT one of them). The CRD is from the school of Premier Glenn Clark.

"Let's build it. We will make our place in history." Mon Jesus Sacriste Tabernacle.

New bridge, a good thing. Badly handled and badly financed, but let's remember the joke, although true, "Crime wouldn't pay, if government ran it."

I hope you, Mayor Helps, are a 'breath of fresh air', badly needed after the two previous Mayors.

I did not support you, Mayor Helps, because you favoured homes for the homeless. My view on that; give all homeless a home and the word will spread throughout N. America, and beyond; go to Victoria; they will give you a home

you a number.

Back to the issues.

Local businesses need support. They need customers and employees. Customers need parking, employees need affordable convenience to their place of work; then become customers.

These problems are easily overcome, - with the right 'Innovation and Leadership'.

I have not as yet had time to study them.

Engineering **Way** Engineer less, create more. Find simple, cheap and effective ways to create the infrastructure we need. See what Curitiba, Brazil has done with their visionary planning and implementation approaches - driven by designers, not engineers.

Bicycle **Bicycle Master Plan** Glad to see Bicycle Master Plan in there. Hope it becomes a priority. I would benefit greatly from it.

Victoria **Victoria's Infrastructure** Transform Victoria with more cycling infrastructure.

Overall they look okay. I don't really have time to read the whole thing, but I don't see anything objectionable in the summary.

allocate more resources to cleaning gum from side walks

Budget **City of Victoria** **Important** **Victoria** **Victoria's Infrastructure** Multimodal transportation seems to feature mostly in the Public Works budget as signage and safety.

These are important, but they are not enough. Creating better infrastructure for cycling will require more than paint on streets, it will require some further constructions. Maybe it is elsewhere in the budget. There also needs to be further work done to enhance the walkroute between Ogden Point and the city centre.

Elsewhere there should be work done to enhance the knowledge of Victoria as a walkable city to Cruise ship passengers who make their decisions before arrival in Victoria.

Active Transportation **Looks well Planned** Glad to see the emphasis on active transportation. Look forward to seeing the Pandora avenue cycle track implemented. Planning should be considered for a similar cycle track on Government

Bike Lanes **Sewage and Water** I didn't read all of the 300plus pages, but would like to see improvement on the following:

- proper waste water management (not dumping sewage into the ocean)
- extended network of bike lanes

Increase Here's a thought. Make do with what you have for a change. If you really believe that you need to always increase taxes you have lost the plot. We do not need everything to be shiny and new. Initiate some user fees for all public recreation locations and only improve if they make a positive cash flow.

Areas **Budget** **Department** **Projects** **Way** I like the looks of this. I can easily recognise that there are going to be quite a number of projects that will deliver direct benefits to the public so I'm happy.

A general comment about the budget - and I fully appreciate that you are never going to please everyone but I wish there was a short department roll up that was in the Goldilocks spot between the 2 page summary and the 334 page Business Unit level summary. This would perhaps include a slightly more detailed org chart so that I could more easily track business units according to the main categories - some are pretty obvious, others, less so. (perhaps attribute all of the business units according to the Core Services/Service Areas and then provide a summary of salaries, benefits, contracted services etc at that level) I also found it a little challenging to figure out how many staff were assigned to different units. I recognise that I may be looking at it in the wrong way but I'm curious where WO refers to staff salaries from private companies/ service providers and where (if at all) it applies to staff assigned to complete certain jobs.

Perhaps a one or two pager that essentially walks a reader through the document and helps to explain key elements would be a worthwhile investment in terms of public engagement.

City of Victoria **Looks well Planned** **Victoria** To be honest I don't have time to read the 334 page draft financial plan for Victoria but I did a quick over view and have to trust that the team at the City of Victoria are doing their due diligence. I certainly have trust in the new Mayor Helps and the new style of governance being implemented. One cannot just look at the numbers but you need to assess the integrality of each item and how it is approached from a financial perspective. For example, it may be cheaper to contract out services but then how is quality control managed? What are the long term impacts. Just look at what happened when Gordon Campbell tore up contracts for the hospital employee workers, contracted out essential services including food, cleaning, etc. where the services are cheaper but the result is a total lack of quality control resulting in an alarming rise in nosocomial infections costing the health system millions of dollars not to mention the negative impact on the population's quality of life or loss of life from this.

Bicycle **Bicycle Master Plan** **Budget** **City of Victoria** **Increase** **Parking Spaces** **Reasonable**
Victoria **Victoria's Infrastructure** **Way** As a whole, I see the initiatives and 2.26% increase in budget as reasonable.

Let's be Canadian leaders and be a model to all of Canada in building extensive cycling infrastructure.

As more and more residents of Victoria move away from excessive use of motor vehicles, of course I want to see more funding being made available for alternative transportation in the way of cycling pathways priority on very, very safe cycling lanes on our roadways (take example from the European models). Committed attention to the Bicycle Master Plan is also needed.

A safer cycling infrastructure will help in eventually reducing the funds needed to support parking, the need for rooftop parkades and the ever increasing parking facilities.

The above, combined with committed increased attention to enhancing and creating more green spaces in the city makes it an environmentally friendly, safe and attractive city for both residents and visitors alike.

Areas **Bicycle** **Bicycle Master Plan** **Community** **Engineering** **Important** **Looks well Planned**

Problem **Projects** **Recycling** - Seems like there is a comprehensive diversity of initiatives covering a broad scope of important public works and engineering initiatives. There are many impressive initiatives.

-I am particularly impressed to see that there will be a "downtown recycling bins pilot project including green waste" because I think this is important for making the downtown area more sustainable and responsible in terms of recycling and waste, considering it is a place of consumerism where recycling and waste is sold/created.

-I am also looking forward to the "exploration of wastewater treatment options", because I think preventing our wastewater from entering the ocean is very important for mitigating negative impacts of wastewater contaminants (i.e. pharmaceuticals) on our local ocean ecosystems and biology.

-I like that a "climate action program" is included because I think it is very important to be prepared for what lies ahead with climate change.

-I like that "sharing economy" is included because I think sharing items such as cars, tools, etc. is important for reducing our impacts on the Earth, but decreasing the need to buy more and for everyone to have the same thing, that they only use sometimes. Makes sense to share - saves money and Earth's resources.

-I like that "compost processing" is included in the list because I have heard a lot of controversial things about the compost system, and I really hope everything gets sorted out and that all of the kitchen scraps collected can be properly processed and turned into soil that can then be used to grow more food locally.

-I like that there will be monitoring and reporting of annual Greenhouse Gas emissions, a "climate action revenue incentive program" and a "carbon disclosure project" because I think GHG emissions is a serious problem in BC, Canada, and the world. We need to monitor and decrease our emissions, and provide incentives as well as mandatory regulations to households, businesses, corporations etc.

-I like that there will be a "green business certification pilot" because I think it is very important for businesses to be green, in order to mitigate their negative environmental impacts (especially if they serve a large number of clientele) and to set examples within society/community for other businesses and their clientele to learn from.

-I like that there will be a "bicycle master plan" with community engagement because I am a cyclist and think it is important to have bicycle infrastructure that is effective and safe, that takes the community's needs into play. (ie. cyclists, car drivers, businesses etc).

-It seems to me like there are too many parking services initiatives, and maybe this is because I don't have a car or drive often (I definitely do not drive downtown because of traffic and expense of parking), so maybe these things are important to other people, but not to me.

-Also the improvements to downtown, ie. new seasonal decorations, planters, etc, don't seem as important to me as reducing GHG emissions, coming up with a wastewater plan, protecting cyclists by creating cycling infrastructure etc. So I am not as supportive of these, but like I said before, maybe they are necessary or important to other people (ie. businesses located downtown).

Years that by switching out columns in the plan to have past years first then current years first it is hard to read.

There is no listing of who is providing outside services nor the date that that started.

Our garbage collection is too costly-----the green waste system is not working---the bins are too large. I don't know what the answer is.

Also, give breaks for low water usage. Encourage tax credits for installing grey water re-use systems, low flow toilets, etc.

outsource as much as possible, it is cheaper than doing it yourself

Budget Most are vital maintenance and upkeep items which must be continued. The one thing I wonder about is the budget for new banners - do we really need those?

Engineering **High** **Important** **Projects** All engineering projects are important. The City's infrastructure must be a high priority.

I agree with all above initiatives and have nothing to add.

Increase **Projects** **Proposed Initiatives** **Way** Thoughts on the proposed initiatives:

- in general, the initiatives are supportable. Some of the terminology requires explanation (e.g. pavement groove lane).

- an ongoing concern is that funding initiatives draws upon an ever more difficult burden for taxpayers. Home owners who are retiring represent a different demographic from those non-Victorian's who sell off elsewhere and retire here in comfort. Local retirees find their homes increasing in value, and hence an increasing tax burden that seems to rest on shoulders ill-equipped to bear that burden. (Renters, contrary to popular opinion, do not pay a fair share as landlords are not able to raise rents consistent with increases in taxes, hydro, oil, etc.) I'll develop these thoughts further if the survey invites that in a more appropriate section. For future reference, it would be helpful to have a map of the tool placed up front as a graphic with explanatory text because the respondent, faced with only a dialogue box, cannot know whether a comment is more properly made elsewhere.

- the list of initiatives does not, of course, detail how the work is done—nor would I expect the City to welcome micro-managing from a somewhat disengaged public. However, it is an expectation that smarter ways of achieving work be identified. A business model in which the city managers contracted services necessarily costs more as the contracted services must be profit making enterprises. There are times when this is wise, but as a continuing business practice, it is simply an abuse of funders, the taxpayers.

- the list of initiatives is lacking an ongoing evaluation of the current and projected cost effectiveness of developing staff over contracting out with costs savings and tax reduction in mind.

Questions:

- why so much spent on renting equipage? Is there a long term cost benefit to renting versus ownership when the usage is in the tens of thousands?
- what is the relationship between "contracted WO regular time" and "salaries", and how is the extensive WO breakdown reflected in the summary pie chart?
-

Increase some good work done here and forecasted, but look at the pies and see that labour is your biggest cost, I question production from the Team. Need to get the production increased. cannot just keep putting taxes up its not sustainable.

the pdf is dense and w/o index or table of contents... scanning is tedious. my thoughts are that if you're really committed to getting feedback make the material more digestible and to the point.

Bike Lanes **Increase** We need to increase the number of bike lanes available to cyclists, including covered bike racks.

What I see in my neighbourhood is, unnecessary work in parks, city worker are slow, I would suggest to give work to privat companies.

Bike Lanes **Important** **Recycling** Excited to see some really great initiatives captured here. I fully support the separated bike lane on Pandora and the cycling plan! I think that engaging with higher Ed including Camosun is important when considering the cycling plan..not just uVic. Furthermore, ahappy to see recycling station roll out .. Might also be a good idea to talk with uVic and Camosun who has rolled out these systems in the past ..why not have similar bins so folks around the region understand. Source separation can be difficult, lots of contamination..talk to regional partnered about what they have learned.

334 pages? How is the average person supposed to digest this volume of material?

Spend **Transit** They're all tiny little things. Huge issues with commuting lined and no mass transit. Only gets more expensive. No one cares if s planter gets installed. We all hate the 40km limit, don't spend another 100k on that please.

- Areas** **High** **Johnson Street Bridge**
1. Garden waste drop off needs to emulate other municipalities such as the Saanich Yard, and Oak Bay Yard, where these facilities are open to the public Monday through Saturday (if not Sunday). A Saturday only drop off day is not conducive to the high demand exhibited by Victorians - seen by large line-ups on Saturdays, where most simply leave and go to another yard. This practice is specifically discouraged by other yards, and is prohibitive in terms of the time spent to go to another yard. The demand is high in other municipalities (massive # of landscape and yard maintenance businesses, as well as a large # of older (retired) residents who have time to garden during the weekday.
 2. All municipalities need to share in the cost of the Johnson Street bridge. Collect a toll if necessary from non-Victorians in order to recoup costs!
 3. The Oaklands area requires a transportation audit, looking specifically at the volume of traffic on Hillside

Avenue, esp at peak hours when it coincides with school-related issues: children on sidewalks, the lack of speed enforcement, lack of adequate pedestrian safeguards such as safety railings on the south side, and inadequate location(s) of pedestrian crosswalks/ped controlled t/c lights.

Better streamlining of land use applications, such as secondary suites and renos

Reasonable It seems reasonable.

Parking Spaces LED streetlights elsewhere have helped reduce energy use, thereby reducing CO2 emissions and money spent. It's a good idea. Do it.

Regarding parking: do we really want to encourage more cars in the downtown? Do safety upgrades only, don't bother with cosmetic stuff or expanding capacity.

More bike parking would be a good idea, with maybe some spaces intended for bike trailers. I've been seeing more and more of those around town and I don't remember seeing any designated parking for them.

City of Victoria **Maintain** **Think the City** **Victoria** **Victoria's Infrastructure** What a lot of infrastructure to Maintain. I think that your survey is extremely useful to give interested people an idea of simply the magnitude of what the City of Victoria does to maintain infrastructure.

Bicycle **Bike Lanes** **Focus on Building** I do NOT agree with all the emphasis on bike lanes. They put bike lanes near my house on Pandora Avenue. I drive that road every single day and there are almost never bicycles on it - all those lanes have done is take away a lane of traffic and make it extremely difficult to get out of my driveway. Bike infrastructure is NOT a panacea for improving health or getting more people downtown. It is catering to the whims of a small but vocal percentage of the population. Works that serve the greatest number of people and that are essential, like sewer systems, roads, and repairing buildings, should be the priority. Focusing on things like bike lanes is like putting fancy icing on an unbaked cake. Bake the cake first!

Overall well thought out. My comment would be why is Land Development admin not revenue neutral with the costs being covered by the applicants.

Bike Lanes **City of Victoria** **Proposed Initiatives** **Victoria** Specifically, I support the transportation initiatives that are proposed. I'm also a firm believer in the car2go carshare model and use it a lot when I'm in Vancouver. Would love to see that type of program in Victoria along with continued commitment to expanding the city's bike lanes.

Department **Reasonable** Roads and other infrastructure are the reason that City Council exists. The most valuable department in the city, and the most responsive.

As seen by the sewage debacle, the City has too many generals, and not enough foot soldiers. The leadership of some of the generals is also questionable, but most of them have now departed.

Budget **Increase** With the dollar at 78 cents American this small budget increase realistic?

Bicycle **Bicycle Master Plan** **Community** Re: Bicycle Master Plan Community Engagement and Plan

Development. I would like a cost/benefit analysis of the number of cyclists using the paths to commute vs the hundreds of thousands (millions?) of dollars being spent on studies and implementation. If the City proceeds with construction of more bicycle lanes, then I strongly urge the implementation of a biannual license fee for cyclists to help defray costs.

If half the energy of the bicycle lobbyists was used for public transportation--especially for seniors--I believe the money would be far better spent.

Looks well Planned Looks well planned

Bike Lanes **City of Victoria** **Problem** **Victoria** I don't have a problem with lower speed limits in neighbourhoods, but there are a number of streets on which we should work to SPEED up traffic. Victoria is a city that seems to be intent on stopping drivers every block or two. More time spent stopped in traffic is more time spent polluting our environment; more frustration for drivers; more sedentary time for an already unhealthy population; more temptation to be distracted by texting and surfing. I see it on the road EVERY day, and I'm one of the lucky ones who drives against traffic. (live downtown, work in View Royal)
40km/h is too slow for commuters on roads that are flanked by businesses, or even apartment buildings. Revisit transportation plans, and get traffic moving.
AND encourage people to get on their bikes. NOT two-way cycle lanes, but protected lanes that move with traffic.

What I'd like to see are seismic upgrades - we know an earthquake will happen, what is the city doing to protect infrastructure and public buildings?

Way 1. Stormwater work, particularly in the Bowker Creek watershed must reflect CoV's commitment to the Bowker Creek Blueprint.
2. Emphasize rain gardens, the stormwater utility plan and any other ways of slowing and cleaning the flow of stormwater to the creek.
3. Consider a rain garden at the eastern end of Begbie St. along Begbie Green as a way of putting water into the Begbie Green land while providing a beautiful separation between Begbie Green and the busy street.

Victoria **Victoria's Infrastructure** From a layperson's perspective it looks like a good balance between the "not very sexy" infrastructure, big picture/forward thinking and supporting what currently makes Victoria "Victoria" initiatives and expenditures.

Community More climate action work specific to ghg mitigation target and objectives and more climate preparedness work for flooding, storms, etc., both actions related at decreasing impact of municipal operations and building resiliency of city assets and don't the same across the community and private sector.

Areas **Bike Lanes** **Years** There needs to a focus on core services, such as paving the streets (Douglas from Hillside to Finlayson comes to mind; forest service roads are in better condition). There needs to be a focus on the less trendy residential areas. The City (white hats in white trucks) have been telling us for years

that they are going to fix the sidewalks and do something about the parking overflows from apartments and condos, but nothing in more than 20 years. It seems that the only time we see the street sweeper is at tax time and elections. Somethings have been improved such as use of LED streetlights.

The bike lanes on Pandora are an absolute failure, turning the street into a moving parking lot for almost no use by cyclists (including me).

I would like to see alternative modes of transportation (such as biking) take a higher priority.

Way It is comical to ask for feedback on the way the contents are presented. A list of initiatives, not in any order or magnitude back by a document over 300 pages. I can't answer because of that.

got to page 52...I am pleased to see the plans, initiatives and figures are public. no specific comments on the content.

Expand public yard waste drop off to Sunday as well.

Areas **Bike Lanes** **Recycling** **Transit** **Victoria** **Victoria's Infrastructure** I don't think it's fair to ask survey respondents to read a long PDF document.

My priorities for Victoria's infrastructure would be better transit systems, especially to the ferries, airport and UVic, and safe, separated bike lanes connecting neighbourhoods with downtown and shopping areas. Enhanced recycling services, including soft plastic pickup, would also help a lot.

looks well thought out

Community **Victoria** Mostly necessary but I think if Victoria was a friendlier, more socially inclusive community the 'beautification' piece would take care of itself.

Facilities Management, Building Services, Asset Management and Land Development as well as Climate Action and Environmental Planning are all services provided by the provincial government. Have any discussions occurred between the two levels of government services which would create some type of synergy? Can some services be included with contracts awarded by the provincial government; certainly there are greater economic benefits to be had.

Increase **Recycling** Decrease landfill garbage. Increase recycling and reusing so garbage does not wind up in the landfill. Stop putting sewage in the ocean!

Its good.

I realize I am not well enough informed to answer this question.

good question.

we need to keep public resources geared to wards exclusivity, public ownership and not-for-profit.

personally, i would like to see our public facilities prioritized with an emphasis on the above criteria. Also we must be ferociously addressing the issue of downtown poverty and drug use and work towards the creation

must be seriously addressing the issue of downtown poverty and drug use and work towards the creation of supervised consumption services

NA

Downtown Beautification **Problem** Why is so much money being put into the "beautification" of the city? The "Downtown Coordinator" has superficial tasks that are subtly directed at "cleaning up" the city, and ultimately, hiding the City's HUGE problem of homelessness. Shame.

High Some of the goals are pretty high

Parking services - I do not personally drive, but in my office I constantly field complaints about onstreet parking; these have reduced since the new plan was introduced, but Commissionaires need customer service training or a mandate that encourages more forgiveness.

Budget **Community** **Department** **Downtown Beautification** **Reasonable** The budget for the public works department looks reasonable. It would be nice for the city to take the downtown beautification and get the community involved which could cut down on costs. A great example of people coming together is HEROWORK. They Ask for help and it comes by the truck load. For Down Town beautification The city should be looking at talking to business owners and seeing what they need as well as putting together initiatives which give people a purpose or create to our food security. Planting more community gardens with produce.

Areas **Important** This area is crucial, but I would keep the focus on practical applications rather than just window dressing (beautification). It's more important to create vibrant public spaces through infrastructure. We also need to watch salaries and see if any efficiencies are to be gained through partnering with other municipalities (eg. fleet procurement/maintenance).

Focus on Building focus on what is needed not what would be nice, build bike network

Important **Maintain** Not bad. It's very important we maintain our cities infrastructure. I just spent time in the USA and you can see how poor the roads, and sewer system is after large scale privatization.

Projects A lot of the sidewalks a in serious need of repair, especially in James Bay. Maybe some of the available funds could be set aside for such a project.

Budget I'm excited to see dollars budgeted for the design of the Pandora cycle track and the Douglas Street priority lanes.

Conversion of city vehicle fleet to alternative, carbon-neutral fuels key. Preferably with fuels generated on the island or in BC.

Implementation of solar to supplement grid power for all city facilities would be very good.

Increase **Spend** **Spend more Money** **Transit** Spending on roads should be screened according to the need to address climate change. Do not expand motor vehicle capacity for roads. Increase cycling, walking and transit infrastructure. Reduce money spent on street paving. Increase traffic calming measures.

Bicycle Make the bicycling initiative happen, make our city a world class destination. We have the goose

and loch side, finish it! Connect the whole city with a similar separated track - change our culture, it would be the best thing any city in North America has ever done. Tourism would soar as would our physical and mental health.

Problem **Victoria** Copenhagenize Victoria, it would solve a lot of problems we now have

Budget **Downtown Beautification** **Years** I understand that money is stretched very thinly. I do not feel that the downtown beautification budget is an essential service at this time. New heritage street lamps are a want, not a need. Infrastructure upgrades are needed desperately and I would prefer to forgo the beautification aspect of this year's budget - we simply cannot afford it.

It's too complicated to go through it all.

Proposed Initiatives The proposed plan appears to put essentials as priority but it would be necessary to have in depth understanding of what is required for a City to function to give genuinely thoughtful commentary as some initiatives involve matters beyond my expertise and understanding.

Important The biggest drain on our taxes is the over policing of our city, and yet you tell us you have no control over this, so we are not actually living in a democracy, just a police state where taxes are imposed on us from above to fund the police.

You are telling us the mayor and council are useless pawns that can affect no important change.

You are sick humans, very sick, looking after your paycheque, with the blinders on.

Projects **Recycling** **Think the City** There is A LOT here. Positive things that I support include. I think we should think more regionally about recycling/litter -- why not partner with institutions like uvic and camosun who separately have recycling/compositing initiatives.. have like signage across the region.

-Downtown recycling bins pilot project, including green waste

-Litter bin collection program review

Boiler replacement can make a huge different in ghg emissions. Not knowing the age of the city hall boiler the rate of changes depends.

-City Hall boiler replacement/HVAC upgrades

Inclusion of deliverables and metrics is much appreciated.

Projects Two significant items will need attention:

1. The JSB project costs - how much support?
2. Tertiary sewage treatment options?

I don't have enough time/interest to browse the whole PDF

Budget **Years** They seem ok as far as I can understand them. I would prefer the % change from last year (2014) to this year (2015) be based on the "Actual" for 2014 rather than what was budgeted.

Too much to read in the time I have, bookmarks to jump to subjects on Summary page would be good in future...

But my main concern is deteriorating underground utilities, especially delivery of safe drinking water. If we loose good water quality, big dent in how city is assessed globally, and on whether people will come/stay, with downstream effects on revenues

Areas Make graffiti legal and designate certain areas in town for it to be celebrated.

Google - 10 PLACES WHERE GRAFFITI IS LEGAL

so I'm supposed to read a 334 document to answer this question or give a thumbs up to a whole bunch of proposed reviews....

Bicycle **Think the City** I didn't read the in detail, but I strongly support investments in bicycling infrastructure. This is my nber one priority and I think it enables many of the other goals we have for our city.

Bike Lanes **Focus on Building** **Increase** More focus on building and expanding a segregated/safer bike lane network.

Increase accessibility (more days per week, hours per day) for yard waste at Garbally Road Yard, with no cost to residents. Model program on Oak Bay.

Change garbage and kitchen scraps pickup program to curbside only. Note: current pickup by city staff on residential properties and return by homeowner is problematic when homeowner is not at home (bins remain at curbside).

Areas **Maintain** **Years** There seems to be a lack of visual inspection and remedial action, in a timely manner, in regard to road maintain in the City. For example, we have lived in our neighbourhood for 30 years, our street has only been paved once in 50 years! Further, the street to the north of us (Kings Road) is more like a goat trail than a street. For, the last 10 years people living in the area have been told that "this year the City has plans to finally re-pave Kings from Empire to Cedar Hill". Areas of Cook Street are becoming a hazard. We could continue but you get the idea.

Increase Department needs to focus more on delivering the same results with an increase in internal efficiency (cost savings)

How does the stormwater work interface with the more regional plans for sewage treatment? I have just been reading (in the Winter 2015 issue of Yes! magazine) about US cities which are experimenting with rerouting and collecting so-called storm water instead of funneling it away as waste. This is called a water conservation strategy.

Think the City **Way** I am fine about the proposed initiatives. What bothers me is siloed thinking and

actions. I am not convinced that public works works in concert with other departments. Collaboration should

actions. I am not convinced that public works works in concert with other departments. Collaboration should be the norm. No one should work on any project in isolation. There are extensive 'economies of scale' that I am sure can be realized within the city. I am not convinced that people are working efficiently and intelligently. I am sure there are too many 'old timers' who have always done things a certain way and are not interested in collaboration and consultation. I am not talking about excessive collaboration and consultation. But a small organization like the city should know what everyone is doing all of the time.

Please remove any initiative related to climate change as these expenditures don't do anything to avoid climate change which is a natural process largely unaffected by humans. Pollution, however, is a different story. By removing these climate change initiatives, it will free valuable resources to make Victoria a more affordable place.

Increase I would like more access to water fountains & public washrooms in the downtown area.

I would like less lighting at night in residential areas - too much light pollution in our cities.

Glad to see that parking enforcement is being eased.

Could any Unit that has over 20% of their budget going to contractors look at bringing some or all of that work in house? Generally speaking that will be less expensive and increase employment. Depending on the contractor, it might also keep more funds in the region.

No comments

The biggest problems I see in Victoria are the lack of resources for people who survive on the streets. How about public washroom and shower facilities? It seems to me that all the engineering and public works money is for people with cars and jobs and businesses or for tourists.

Important 1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean

2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.

3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

The initiatives look reasonable and will aligned with objectives

These are core services.

These are core services.

Considering the situation with the CRD sewage project you may need more money for city staff to work on this.

More planning and building of safe bike routes.

There needs to be a safer pedestrian crossing at Haultain & Cook St. It is very dangerous with poor visibility for the multi-lane ped crossing.

FIX IT, I don't want to be hit by a car!!!

Way less things like improvements to aesthetics and focus on necessary structural projects. The proposal of a greenway/fully structurally separated bike lanes should be prioritized - why not put the pandora bike lane down the middle of the massive greenway boulevards? Keeping as many trees as possible, you could have a 10 foot wide path down the middle and keep the rest as is. This same idea could be applied to the majority of vancouver from crystal pool area all the way to south gate. also expedite the planting of food in city greenways/ urban forest a la urban farms.

Way These initiatives are good, but a reduction in personnel would go a long way to reducing the cost of this division in the City. I'm not advocating firing anyone, but the City has a lot of staff and many of its services could be streamlined. If, for example, service positions could be changed into revenue generating positions, then there would be no need to reduce personnel.

Better co-ordinate traffic lights with actual traffic. If no vehicles are at an intersection going one direction, then the light should remain red, while traffic in the other direction remains green. This would speed up overall traffic. Some traffic lights especially for left turns already use this system, but it should also be used for straight through traffic as well.

- * As many bike lanes as possible.
- * Keep Douglas from becoming a transportation strip. Make it safe and embracing.
- * Yes for sidewalk cafes,
- * No on sewage treatment. It's not solving the real problem. We're better off dealing with smaller neighbourhood facilities that actually process what's going down the drains.

Bicycle put every peeny you can spare into bicycle lanes that are not used for parking. ICBC rates will be completely out of sight if accidents with bikes keep escalating. forget beautification. Try some benches and toilets. I'm tired of nowhere to sit or take a pee.

Bicycle **Community** No mention or indicated plan for the intersection at the Trans-Canada Highway and MacKenzie/Admirals:

Transportation

- Douglas Street Transit Priority corridor lanes (Phase 1 / 2)
- Johnson Street Bridge project support
- Point Ellice Bridge structural assessment
- Bicycle Master Plan community engagement and plan development
- 2900 block Douglas Street retaining wall design and construction
- Traffic Control Procedure update
- Active Transportation projects
- Pandora Avenue cycle track design

These costs should be looked at for reduction

these costs should be looked at for reduction.

Utilities should be part of this budget in my mind. Energy/GHG reduction progress reporting based on base year is not evident. In one place comparison is with 2010. You should consider the possibility of an Energy Performance Contract for existing buildings including street lighting.

In as much as I have capacity to evaluate, the proposals/initiatives all sound perfectly reasonable as initiatives that ensure a city works.

Need to adopt a Complete Streets policy guideline that brings together the pieces of street use (eg. parking, pavement repairs, sidewalk curbs) into one holistic picture: apply the Complete Streets design to ALL work on streets in order to transform the city rather than replicating what is here now.

more bike lanes

rapid transit from Langford to Victoria

Think the City **Victoria's Infrastructure** At this time, my concerns are finding somewhere on the peninsula to deal with Victoria's compost. I feel it is irresponsible for any city to be able to dump it's compost or garbage or recycling etc far afield.

Also, as to the Pandora bike lane situation, I strongly feel that a 2-way bike lane on a 1-way street is ... insane and reckless.

As for cycling infrastructure, I think adding cycling lanes to Douglas is not functional. Douglas should be the main bus route, and perhaps Blanshard could be the main cycling route across town. I think it strange that we have some cycling infrastructure (lanes) on the east-west roads, but not the north-south roads (Wharf to Cook). I do think we should have bike lanes clearly marked on both sides of all the 1-way routes (Fort-Pandora).

Also, as a pedestrian, I find many sidewalks downtown very crowded (eg. Fort) with parking signs, parking pay stations, bike parking, trees, cafe railings, etc. I think this is an issue that needs to be looked into. There is far too much leeway given to the automobile, when I have heard that 60% of us don't drive to work. Perhaps 60% of the roads/sidewalks/parking lanes should be given over to non-car-transport. The more a city tries to ease traffic flow, the busier the roads will become. We need to begin to make our downtown less filled with cars and more accessible as a pleasant place to be.

Think the City Many of them are positive changes the city is in need of. I would like to see the recycling stations. Also litter/green waste disposal that is more difficult for seagulls to pull out and make a mess with. I also think the move towards LED street lamps is one that will ultimately save the city future costs & energy. Everything looks well thought out and necessary.

Important **Way** The list is long and rather vague to know what it actually means. I also don't have the expertise to judge the importance of all items. I would prefer that you listed some of the options and took our opinion of which of the options to support.

I see that the only part related to biking is the development and consultation on the plan. We need to speed that up. We used to be considered a bike friendly city but we are way behind many other cities in North

America and the world. We have a climate which is good for biking and if we had better separation we would have much greater use saving money, parking, pollution, improving health. It would also boost our local "villages".

Bicycle I'd love to have comprehensive bicycle infrastructure.

Bicycle The Bus lanes should be kept to the sidewalk edges of the road, for more safe access to ridership.

The bicycle lanes should be kept to the right of the traffic, and cyclists should have to take a road safety course and be licensed same as a car, as we had in Denmark, where I grew up.

The cyclist also need to remember to change lanes and signal as cars, in order to stay safe.

Hillside needs a bike right lane, as a lot of students need to get to the college as well as Uvic.

Think the City Any improvements to structures, etc should include energy efficiency modernization as a consideration. Frankfurt Germany is an outstanding example of a city that is thinking forward in terms of environmental design and efficiency.

Bicycle My concern is this groups' ability to properly develop the Bicycle Master Plan given their apparent inability to provide appropriate support for the Johnson Street bridge project.

How can we believe this group can do a better job of cycling infrastructure than the Johnson Street bridge?

I want more and better cycling infrastructure but I am concerned about the ability of city employees to manage \$5 million worth of projects.

Transportation is not a serious enough priority. There needs to be specific project goals and funds earmarked for these projects. Funds should be spent on an LRT/tram heading from Victoria out to Langford and Colwood. There should be improvements to bus service and frequency leading out of Victoria to Central Saanich, North Saanich at peak times. Improvements on separated bike lanes should connect and allow people to cycle safely to and from work.

No comment

Bicycle I am interested primarily in the Bicycle Master Plan. Specifically, I would like to see a bicycle activated crossing light at Richardson and Cook. As Richardson is an excellent cycling corridor to downtown from Oak Bay, Rockland, Gonzales, and Fairfield, crossing Cook Street to proceed to Vancouver, is risky. A bike sensed light would greatly aid cyclists going straight, and drivers turning right up Cook.

Secondly, as a parent walking to Margaret Jenkins often, zebra crossings really should be painted at the Richmond and Richardson intersection. I have witnessed too many vehicles roll through these stop signs. Drivers can physically see large zebra crossings, and students and parents will feel more confident and safe if they have a marked zone in which to cross the street.

trim 20% from this budget

Increase Such an open ended question! Could not find elaboration on Carbon Disclosure Project in document, but I support incentivizing carbon disclosure and capital investment in greater efficiency for

businesses of all sizes.

Cycling is my primary mode of transport, and transit my secondary. I do not own a car. Accordingly, I prioritize improvements to cycling infrastructure, including more bike lanes and bike-friendly intersections, over improvements geared towards reducing congestion and expanding parking space. I believe that increasing the relative convenience of cycling over driving will, in the long run, help us create a safer and healthier city.

Nothing to see here. Move along.

I'm very happy to see a block by block analysis of parking needs planned. In my opinion, parking rates should be flexible, based on time of day and use of each particular spot (as in San Francisco, I believe). Parking should also be paid automatically (via a chip in the car or other automatic billing system) and should be 24 hours. Free parking downtown causes people to drive around trolling for a parking spot, adding to pollution and congestion. If drivers had to pay to park on the street, but they did not have to pay to park in a parkade (or the cost in a parkade for an evening of parking were substantially less than on the street) we would immediately see less traffic in the downtown core.

This is a critical department and the services provided are generally what I consider to be essential. I'd rather see money spent on infrastructure than food security.

Increase The department proposes an increase of \$1.3 million. But it doesn't say why it needs this. Instead we're presented with page after page of detail, in which every business unit is to get an increase. As this info is presented, no general explanation is given to justify the increase.

Given the asset management challenge facing most local governments across the province a priority should be to focus on understanding assets and the costs of development, replacement and maintenance over time.

Increase Rain gardens, urban trees/perennial plants/soil building and water capture onsite on all public and private land can do so much to purify water, recharge the aquifer, reduce stormwater management issues and move us toward a more resilient future in the face of increasing droughts due to climate change. Water is our most precious resource, there should really be a plan and innovative incentives and bylaws in place to encourage property owners to install systems to capture and store water onsite. In particular, roofs offer a huge potential for water capture and storage. Can we envision a program that makes large rain barrels for storage more accessible for residents - including RENTERS - so that food gardens can be maintained through the summer without stressing the water supply.

Community Looks ok. I would like to see more focus on community garden space if possible.

I would like to see a focus on building improved cycling infrastructure in the city. Safe, separate bike lanes and clear traffic directives will encourage families to choose cycling as a main mode of transportation. This will decrease traffic and in turn make the city safer, cleaner, more inclusive, and a leading example for the region.

At 87% of the budget, salaries and benefits appear to be too high. But this may be an issue for all departments...

Will do

no comment

Bicycle Unfortunately I do not have time to look at this in great detail. However, it looks like a lot of emphasis on downtown, and almost none on the Larger Urban Villages such as Quadra Village that could use some beautification.

I support active transportation initiatives. I hope these will not be restricted to bicycling infrastructure but will also emphasize pedestrians and those older and disabled on scooters.

A good diversity of projects and continuing with work that needs to get done while including new initiatives and improvements on the more aesthetic end of the spectrum.

Community Engineering is a critical department within City Hall, with a very large budget, and does much good work. However, my experience and observations (and those of many business colleagues who work with it) is Engineering does not work well with the community, w the Planning or Parks department. It tends to have fixed ideas of what needs to be done, and is not open to new ideas or suggestions. This is especially true with road works, construction and bike and pedestrian improvements. Engineering would also do well to hire a new generation of engineers/planners who are more open and experienced in planning for active transportation, public spaces, platemaking and the like..

Looks good.

As a center for tourism in BC, I strongly support the initiatives for Engineering and Public Works in 2015.

Fix infrastructure. Not an option. Sewers have to function. Roads have to be maintained. However more thought should be given to greener options. Round-a-bouts are more efficient than stop lights and do not leave cars idling. Why is this such a difficult concept?

Less about the projects, but what focus is their on improving the efficiency of operations? How is the city measuring and improving the efficiency of its operations and project management?

SO GREAT

I support the completion of the Johnson Street Bridge and the improvements going on in that area of downtown and into Esquimalt/Vic West area. Proposed initiatives for 2015 should focus on improved garbage collection (expanding to soft plastics, styrofoam, etc.; yard waste, etc.). Something that may not cost any \$\$ for the City and would require little effort but would benefit many citizens: Facilities to buy 2-6 bike parking racks in bulk and make available to citizens at discount or at cost to install in their individual homes, strata, apartments, schools, etc.

Sounds pretty standard. Enough downtown beautification could maybe be downgraded from a core mandate to a less than core mandate.

A 334 page document for me to read.

I find the initiatives satisfactory.

I think the energy saving projects (fleet usage, LED street lighting) are valid and a good focus. Wastewater/sewage treatment options should be researched in a more structured manner. The proposal only calls for "exploring wastewater management options". A clear structured strategy for exploring options should be developed.

It seems to me that less money should be put into parking-related projects, and more into cycling (and alternative transportation) infrastructure. That is how we will get people out of their cars.

Important Nothing more important than readily available, safe drinking water.

Important **Victoria's Infrastructure** It's important to expend money and effort to repair and replace Victoria's aging infrastructure.

Focus on improving the mobility of citizens through improved bike lanes and sidewalks.

An executive summary would be useful for this survey. Too much to go through-my eyes glaze over.

Bike lanes PLEASE. We have been wanting this for a long time!

Think the City I think this is one of the main things a city should be doing

Enhance and install traffic calming and signage in park and school zones for safe bike and pedestrian use including crossings. Use 40 km buffer zones around these areas.

Community **Spend** **Victoria's Infrastructure** Add community high speed internet infrastructure, so Victoria can become a high-tech hub (and break the telus/shaw monopoly). This can also be encouraged by allowing access to install cabling when any roadway is under construction.

Observe traffic behaviour and consider safety measures for pedestrians or enforcement (Tye Rd + Esquimalt Rd is a dangerous intersection, both due to southbound cars turning left on Esquimalt and westbound cars turning right onto Tye). In planning process, spend more time designing welcoming spaces for those on foot.

Looks fine

All road upgrades or rehabilitation must include additions for cycling and walking. This may mean narrower road widths, which several Canadian municipalities are adopting as the new standard (Toronto, for example). Having less road surface for car travel means less maintenance and lower costs in coming years.

With such a bold and committed Biking Transportation Plan becoming underway, I think there should be a

with such a bold and committed Biking Transportation Plan becoming underway, I think there should be a 1FTE planning position created for it.

I want staff to have opportunities for professional development to make sure they are up to date with current innovations in public works and engineering.

I am not an accountant and there are reams of paper in the Public Works and Engineering proposed initiatives.

At a glance, it looks like the expenses for salaries and contracted services look high.

If capital structures, like the Blue Bridge were maintained properly, they should not need to be replaced. Unfortunately, money is allocated for construction but not for continued maintenance of structures. This needs considered as part of the cost and someone needs to be responsible! We need to be responsible home owners, why can't the city do likewise?

The city needs treat their budget, which are OUR tax dollars with respect by using the money that is collected wisely.

Amalgamation needs to happen soon. We need to be paying for city services in a logical, fiscally responsible manner.

Very good strategic plan that addresses the needs of the city.

Way It'd be nice to see the City commit more funding to climate action. Implementation of climate action measures should be promoted as a way to diversify the City's revenue streams (e.g. municipally-owned and managed district energy systems), and save the City money.

Roads and sidewalks are a priority, along with standardization of crosswalks, i.e. installation of flashing lights on crosswalks in the fort st,yates street corridor,

Restructure dept and reduce staff and salaries
Fire the head

Looks good.

I could n't find street cleaning and I need to know when it occurs on Pemberton Road.

Please do not waste any more money on traffic calming and altering the sidewalks at intersections

Think the City I think the city does a pretty good job of this, other than hauling food waste to Vancouver. Too many NIMBYs spoil the whole damn bunch.

We need more garbage/recycling cans in newer developments such as Harbour Road/Dockside green area.

Personally its time to change from hanging baskets that are tempary and extremely wasteful to plantings that can remain year round.

I am happy to see a focus on infrastructure upgrades to decrease energy usage. This should be a top priority since it will have an astounding positive impact over a long timeframe (long-long-long term planning is an asset).

Spend over 300 pages of information! You have got to be kidding! Who can make an evaluation based on this information without spending many hours. Perhaps a summary would be useful if you really want input

After going over all 380 pages (the last 100 skimmed) I am impressed at the depth of the information provided. I see that there are proposals for accounting for actions currently not measured. That may take more time than they are worth. Its not necessary to measure everything if you already know its worth doing.

We need a regional arms-length body that manages large capital projects and includes financing mechanisms. Scale back beautification projects. Encourage businesses to get involve in creating an aesthetic for the public/private sphere.

The city should focus on maintaining existing infrastructure like very old water and sewer systems and sidewalks rather than investing in things like bike lines. City sidewalks are in very bad condition in some places - 700 block Fort Street, and much of Government Street between Superior and Dallas. Support downtown beautification.

our compost program needs to get sorted out. We can't be separating at home for it just to all get dumped in the landfill.

Bicycle Glad to see work on bicycle paths and refurbishing parking garages.

Most of the headings in the pdf are pretty opaque - impossible to know exactly what they mean.
-- [and I am a Professional Engineer].

If you actually care about getting input, get your act together and provide a 1-2 executive summary that people can actually read rather than a huge review that will not be read by anyone.

Victoria's Infrastructure Looks okay, but complicated. I'm supporting bike lane infrastructure as most of us who live in other municipalities have to bike through Victoria at some point.

Infrastructure must be financed each year or the whole city will eventually crumble

Climate Action Plans are not just about energy efficiency - there are so many more elements to it. I would like to suggest a Climate neutrality pilot project of partnering on a carbon exchange with local environmental non profits and land trusts planting trees or restoring habitat, planting food gardens in the City, provide them with supplies, tools, or funding to complete projects and in turn reduce the City's air pollution, improve water quality, etc.

Spend **Victoria's Infrastructure** This is a very detailed report, and I am not sure that I understand all the proposed initiatives completely. However, in general, I support choices that improve infrastructure for sustainable transportation (in other words, public transit, cycling and walking). This is because I see significant benefits for Victoria as a liveable city. When we invest in its livability, we also invest in its economic future (Portland provides a good example of this). So, concretely, I would support spending on the cycling master plan and the Douglas Street transit corridor.

Where is the new social housing?

Community **Important** It takes too long to read this document. I would prefer an executive summary or an infographic (I want to participate, and I think this is important, but I don't have time before the survey deadline to go through it in detail...). I would like to see emphasis on energy efficiency, renewable energy, active modes of transportation, helping people get to parks and outdoor wilderness areas by public or group transit, and investment in community sports facilities.

I support the beautification of the downtown but worry about investments in upkeep of water, sewer, roads, sidewalks is sufficient especially when many sidewalks are in poor condition. This should be the focus rather than building more bike lanes, etc. Fix what we have before building new infrastructure.

Necessary

There are some interesting things being explored. Perhaps there could be additional days for garden waste drop off as in other municipalities.

Any initiatives that would revitalize the downtown area as a desirable shopping and walking area would be good. There are too many empty storefronts and not somewhere you want to walk after dark. A sad state for a potentially world class city.

Regarding parking bylaws. Multiple suites, and additional basement suites in the Fairfield area are creating impossible pressure on street parking. There should be a requirement to provide off street parking for each suite.

There are too many undefined acronyms and jargon in this document for me to offer complete feedback. Recommendation for next year is to use plain language in the budget and plan.

I like the green initiatives would like to see more work done with businesses to go green, turn off lights perhaps initiatives for saving energy?

Make sure you have a well thought out plan for all your new initiatives. Don't get sidetracked by doing the "green" thing without a solid financial plan to make it work. Things like garbage collection and kitchen waste collection are great, but if you don't have a plan for what to do with the kitchen scraps then it is a waste of time and money.

Consider additional days for garden waste drop off as in other municipalities

Require off street parking places for multi suite and additional suites in the Fairfield area. The pressure on street parking is unmanageable.

Fix the rain water system so that it does not spill sewage into the ocean. Stop the pounding noise downtown.

First we better get house in order with regard the Johnston Street bridge. I keep hearing of spiralling costs. With Six Sigma, Lean, and certified Project Management how can we swallow this and future projects without clear strategy.

They look fine. I trust in the people who decided on all of this.

strategic planning is needed to keep these costs in line.

less money on roads and parking

I wish I could engage with this better than I have time for. Generally, I'm for programs and projects that reduce/minimize/eliminate impacts on the natural/non-human world and I oppose those that enhance growth for its own sake or for economic gain (prosperity) only. If only the Blue Bridge were transformed to a crossing for emergency vehicle, non-motorized vehicle, and pedestrian traffic only. Stop widening the roads. The proactive initiatives to reduce energy use are good.

pay the piper now or pay the piper more later. The infrastructure is old and should be systematically maintained and replaced.

Community Build a real highway to reach the other communities

Like:

- Downtown recycling bins pilot project, including green waste
- Dallas Road seawall rehabilitation project

Emphasis and acceleration needed for active transportation projects - including design and implementation of Pandora separated cycling lane and other improvements to make it easier for people to move around/across the city by bike.

Important Downtown beautification is so important as it links to economic development, desirability of destination, crime reduction.

Important **Think the City** **Victoria's Infrastructure** With so much money paid on salaries, I wonder why there are not more job postings on the City of Victoria career page. Seems like a closed shop?

I think infrastructure investment is important. Not glamorous, but a sleeping dragon. I think the city needs to explain how infrastructure investment supports economic development.

There is a disconnect between vision and affordability.

Garbage collection makes me feel good, but I wonder at the expense. Where does the waste go?

I think enhancing the current transportation would be beneficial. Having a 24 hour bus service leaving downtown. If not for the entire week then for the weekend. Having more bike lanes would also be beneficial and making sure that the roads are safe from debris, well lit, and sufficient space from other vehicles.

Victoria's Infrastructure Infrastructure improvements are key, but i have no idea what the provincial / federal download is, based on previous funding. how does victoria's infrastructure / investment efficacy compare to other municipalities. the sewage boondoggle continues apace, with little ROI except big construction firms. citizens need informed consent before they can comment with authority.

Items such as cluster lamps, planters, banners are niceties but should be very low priority compared to road, bridges, transportation plans and other infrastructure.

A vision for an upgraded transportation system should be the priority. Bike infrastructure should be world class. The engineers have got to stop designing for the car only. Let's got on with it. At the Town Hall meeting, I never heard someone say NO to building a better bike infrastructure.

- Active transportation initiatives should be top priorities and funded as such.
- A world-leading network of protected bike lanes should be a top priority.
- Banner design and fabrication - and the labour cost of installation - is a waste of money. Banners look like ads and are not needed.
- Seasonal decorations are tacky and a waste of money. Downtown is beautiful as is.

Important It is important to maintain the infrastructure which we have now. Service must be delivered on a cost effective basis. It is great to offer service "in house" but it must deliver on a cost basis equal to private alternatives.

Important **Spend** I did not go through the 334 page (!) document in order to respond to this question. "Spending" seems to be more important to this city than "financial sustainability" and "tax affordability". Therefore and until such time as a Core Review is completed, I would freeze all projects that are not absolutely essential over the next 4 years. I would also freeze hiring. Based on the Summary, projects to be frozen likely include Climate Action Plans that do not reduce operating costs, most active transportation projects beyond those that can be accommodated with paint, virtually all downtown beautification projects.

We need to focus more time and money on Greenways and Public Transportation. These initiatives are not happening fast enough. One Greenway or bike lane project a a time is too slow to make the change we need. Let's get some indicative pilot projects up and running faster and make the 20 year plan a five year plan. Let's give every resident a bus pass with their property taxes and improve public transit for all.

It is my view that this is an area that should be amalgamated with other municipalities or alternatively contracted out. It seems to me that there is a great deal of money spent with projects that take many months to complete when a private contractor could come in and complete the project in a fraction of the time and

to complete when a private contractor could come in and complete the project in a fraction of the time and likely for less e.g. the redevelopment of Cook St. beyond Finnlayson. It should be a priority to work towards amalgamation of this function. Another example of unnecessary expenditure is waste removal. The City should have been more visionary by moving to trucks that only require a driver with the disposal mechanisms taking care of lifting and emptying the bins.

Important Saturday yard and garden drop-off program and parks branch collection program review - RETAIN!

Cleaning of large parking ticket machines? maybe remind whoever is responsible for London Drugs area....eastern location on Yates still has a smear of something on it for over a year now.

Important to continue with upgrade of storm sewers.

As always, most expense is wages. Do not hire any more people, and hold the line at current wages.

Take a look at how many employees required to fill one pothole.

I'm looking for REAL leadership, creative and forward thinking about sewage treatment. No more stalling and leaving to the CRD. I want a closed-loop system with the latest technology, cost recovery, and no sludge, and wastewater for toilets or farmland.

Perhaps putting projects out for bids would save the city some \$. One often sees a lot of workers on a project not doing much - except standing around chatting and texting.

Stop the wasteful project of having a street sweeper zig and zag between parked cars - attempting to clean the streets. If you want to clean a street, especially in the fall, then advise the street when it will be done and do it on that day...all drivers would have to park their vehicles in driveways or on other residential streets in the neighbourhood.

Have a schedule that workers follow. Ever year our household has to call the city many times to get our back lane (which is adjacent to a park) wiper sniped. The grasses and weeds grow every year and why should we have to call the city every year !

no comments, just curious about how the city decides it is time to replace certain things like seasonal decorations or gardens, as opposed to, say, aging equipment or infrastructure

Create a triple bottom line lens that each department can use to help make decisions that maximize social, ecological and economic benefits to local residents. Every decision of the Engineering department creates a social impact; the lens will ensure it is a positive impact.

The projects seem beneficial and balanced. Very much looking forward to modernized street lighting if it means LED lighting.

Keen to see policy reviews regarding parking. Updating these so that good urban design isn't hindered by outdated parking requirements would be great.

I can't believe a 334 page PDF proposal is being attached to a survey. My thoughts are overwhelmed with lists and charts. Making me unable to submit a comment relative to this topic.

Maybe save some money here?

Comment No comments.

Support I support open government

needs to be kept up to date (i.e permuting and building requirements)

Important the initiatives listed do not directly address replacing the horrible system currently in place to provide access to council meeting schedules, agendas and related documents.
the initiatives listed are less important than this and frankly are bland.

People **Victoria** The City of Victoria has grown much harder to deal with in terms of building permits. Perhaps less regulation would actually make things easier to deal with and help people save money on their projects.

Support This is a great place to cut. I highly support the 10% budget cut.

Um. What if I don't want to pay the \$47?

Reasonable This department seems to move very slowly, it is time our bylaws reflected public use better. For example the Sidewalk Café bylaws have been under review for longer than is reasonable.

Again, a list of 'objectives' with no mechanism for assessing achievement of those objectives....
Example: Squatter boats and derelict boats in Gorge waterway dumping feces and urine directly into the waterway....this has been on 'the list' for several years. Progress to date=ZERO

Bylaw Enforcement **Support** I support continuing cooperation between Bylaw and Police regarding campers in city parks. I live across from Haegart Park and we require ongoing enforcement to keep this greenspace available for use by children and families who live nearby.

not bad

Would the City consider going 'paperless'?

Victoria we need more regulation on illegal suites in victoria and the clamp down on parking on residential areas from over rented property's that are not conforming with the law

Comment No comment.

People HIRE PEOPLE FOR LESS MONEY IN THE OFFICE. GO BACK TO WINNIPEG IF ONE CAN NOT AFFORD TO LIVE ON LESS THAN \$ 300,000.

Costs LOWER THE COSTS

Why is this group involved in environmental remediation?

Don't spend too much money on improving transparency of Council business, just do it.

Comment No comment. This is was it is and is essential.

None

Bylaw Enforcement Be more innovative and pro-active to enforce bylaws in the downtown core to ensure compliance with expected community standards

Reasonable **Support** This seems reasonable for home owners but less so for businesses, as not only do they have to pay more, there are more bylaws that they have to navigate to earn the money to support the Leg & Reg Scvs

Costs **People** **Reasonable** Too much much regulatory intervention. Businesses feel choked to death already.

We have destroyed initiative and the system has become paralysed.

Solution: Fire half the staff in upper management and a good chunk of city hall staff.

Cities are going to shrink with new technology just around the corner. People will be able to move to cheaper, more modern and larger homes in the suburbs when "Virtual reality" office becomes the standard. No commute needed. Benefits are huge both to the worker and to the employee. No office tower needed. No second car, no fuel costs for the commute, no hours wasted back and forth to work.

This technology is already being tested and refined. It will be a game changer.

The only reason cities are growing right now is because people have no choice.....they can chose to commute at great expense or live in tiny, overpriced space in the city.

Virtual reality is going to allow people choices. They will have total freedom to live where they want without the massive expense of commuting.

Cities should be aware of this change coming but I don't think they have a clue what is about to happen. They have bought into the idea that cities will keep growing forever when in fact the pendulum always swings back.

I predict that cities are building a ton of infrastructure which will become white elephants with no tax base left in the city to pay for it.

Bylaw Enforcement I agree with the review of Parks bylaw enforcement.

Support Not sure what the "trans mountain pipeline intervenor" means

I support proportional representation in voting - is that being considered?

Issues I am impressed by the speed the City does an FOI request. Time and again I have heard reporters make constructive criticism on CFAx because they can get the documents they need. Well done.

My only complaint is the amount of time it takes to process a building permit. A friend of mine was a contractor and he says he has clients pass away before he can get a permit. I understand Ms. Helps is addressing this issue.

STOP mailing thank you letters and such.

100% of public meetings webcast live and available on website within 24 hours ... our council are our agents of the public, hence all meetings with mayor and council should be publicly accessible .

Bring animal control into a sannich municipal cooperative effort.

Support Support strongly.

Victoria This past January when I had to renew my business licence I asked the fellow who was doing this service "Why do I pay this \$100 fee each year? Where does the money go?" And his reply was "I really have no idea. I don't know." Maybe educate the government employees on what they are doing? \$100 from each business in victoria is a very large sum of money. Where does it go? I still don't know and assume the fellow at city hall still doesn't know either.

None

Have no qualms with suggested initiatives.

Good!

Comment No comment.

Print shop seems like a very 20th century idea - given the digital world we live in, is it really necessary to have an in-house print shop?

Bylaw Enforcement Double the number of bylaw enforcement officers. Otherwise, half the number of bylaws. Not enforcing bylaws such as for dogs, bicycles, outdoor signs downtown, it simply fosters contempt for the law. The corollary - it becomes even more difficult for the City to manage.

People We don't need to waste money intervening on the Trans Mountain Pipeline. For PETE'S SAKE, this is why people think City Hall are staffed with morons.

Issues I would like to see more enforcement of public nuisance vagrancy issues. it is a substantial problem for tourism and downtown businesses.

Looks Good looks good

Licensing services are extremely poorly managed by the city and represent a material hindrance to economic development. I applied for a fascia sign permit and was directed to fill out four separate applications with contradictory information, while the processing took 13 months to complete. Licensing deters businesses, is a public embarrassment, and must be made more efficient.

Comprehensive.

Lowering of budget by \$400K is interesting.

Not sure if 100% of meetings are webcast.

The usual ones are, but there are sometimes other meetings which are referenced months after the fact which do NOT appear on the public calendar and do not appear anywhere with minutes etc.

2360

Believe this whole area should be revamped. Public interest is served when process is more open, less behind-doors agreements and more RFPs etc.

Too tied to old boys.

Stop "Trans Mountain Pipeline intervenor" project. It is a waste of City Funds and employee time. This should be addressed at the CRD level. Reduce budget appropriately.

Delighted to see this expenditure diminish YoY.

Good to deal with those derelict vessels at Selkirk.

Looks Good Initiatives identified look good.

Issues **Support** **Victoria** At least the legislative and regulatory doesn't have to serve as elections regulator and returning officer in 2015, as it did in 2014. The branch, along with land use and planning, needs to really respect, and support, the work of neighbourhood associations in dealing with land use, environment, and transportation issues in their segment of Victoria. This is particularly the case with respect to James Bay, which has on its table: the Capital Park development, the Belleville St. terminal, the old motel site adjacent to the RBCMuseum, and Ogden Point. Operations at the last of these have long been non-compliant with the James Bay Neighbourhood Plan, and are likely to become more so as GVHA works on its long-delayed Master Plan.

Comment no extra comment

Comment It is outside my scope of knowledge to comment on this.

I think they do good work but have no reference point(s) to judge.

iii

There isn't really anything to argue about in this area.

Bylaw Enforcement **People** Intervenor status in a pipeline? What about enforcing bylaws that protect people walking on the downtown sidewalks? Like ticketing people who skateboard or ride bicycles on city sidewalks? How about removing the aggressive panhandlers from the city streets? What about open drug use, alcohol consumption and public urination?

Looks fine, but seems like a pretty slim list after first reviewing the Engineering budget.

Again, fairly regular

Costs **Reasonable** Relative to the overall cost to the taxpayer this is a reasonable expenditure.

n/a

Necessary but always seems like a large use of revenue.

None at this time.

One thing that jumps out is the amount going to conferences/travel. I hope that the City is giving serious consideration to web-streaming and innovative conferencing tools to decrease spending in this area.

fine indeed.

Important **People** I'm very glad to see that Legislative services is planning to be an intervenor in the TransMountain pipeline review. It is important that municipal governments are heard in this process.

I'm also interested to find out more about the management of boats in the Selkirk waterway. I am in favour of finding a solution that allows them to continue to anchor in this area; I was a resident in the area a few years ago and never found them to be a bother; moreover, these people are our neighbours and are literally forced to the margins of our community by circumstance. Allowing them to live in peace on the waterway affords them dignity and independence in a city with few low-income options.

Costs First, I would suggest that the public must know ... how efficient, and cost effective, this function is.

sounds logical

Nothing stands out.

I endorse them.

Support ensure Selkirk waterway is cleaned up and derelict boats removed
support non powered boating in the Gorge and inner harbour

-

Support I have no concerns with the proposed initiatives. I'm not supportive of the city's current initiative

on composting.

Less of this bureaucratic stuff the better.

Good

Lower taxes

no major concerns

Leg/Reg services have been lacking in effective leadership.

The department has been avoiding decisions for years.

I would hope that the bylaw section will become effective.

Rob Woodland led a "pretend" 2 year negotiation about the float-plane intrusions about 15 years ago. It was a way of avoiding responsibility.

The City is responsible for compatible land use.

Woodland moved quickly on the derelict boats to the north of VicWest, it is time for him to deal with the float-plane to the south of our homes.

no thoughts

looks fine.

here the budget seems in line with common practice, good.

Looks Good Looks good. Nice that you actually reduced the budget on this.

Sweat the expenses with more zero based budgeting vs inflation or incremental increases to previous year. Would like to see more city workers as local taxpayers. May not be able to legislate police/fire/city workers living as our neighbours, but how about incentivize or help them afford in creative ways, if you can make loans to yourselves how about loans/ down payment loans -- play with it - innovate.

Comment **Costs** Again hard to make useful comments. I would encourage working to put all City information on the Internet to make it accessible to the public and to ultimately reduce costs.

Comment same as my last comment

OK

Issues No issue

Add this number of pages, and the following, and we are getting far too much to respond to.

I grumble with my thoughts on your aforementioned 'initiatives'.

You do not enforce them.

What's the point?

Nothing there grabs me.

I'm not a fan of forced regulation. I think that's better served by the private sector.

Costs If the number of FOI requests were reduced could the administration costs of FOI's be reduced?

Bylaw Enforcement **Comment** It is good as far as it goes. For bylaw enforcement there needs to be some review. Can property owners use the boulevards for food or other gardening? In some areas this is simply being done by residents regardless of bylaw restrictions, and I am contemplating doing so as well. I would prefer not to be in violation of the bylaw, but currently will be due to an inability to obtain enough signatures to cancel city bylaw care due to the number of non-local landowners on our city block. I also do not have the right to plant a fruit tree in the boulevard. I get that this probably should not be approached in a chaotic fashion where anything goes, but the current bylaw also doesn't work. This needs to be reviewed. Sorry if this comment doesn't fit in this block.

Costs Publish just how much the individual salaries are for these services and what the actual savings to the city have been. Like any job there should be justification for the cost. Reference to last year as a benchmark is misleading and if any budget amounts are to be published give it a 20 year comparison. Don't forget to include all ongoing costs for the perks given to previous employees.

Looks Good Looks good -

I have nothing to add.

Reasonable I have no discrepancies with that budget and believe it is reasonable.

Important **People** -I think enforcement for parks and waterways is important to monitor and prevent/mitigate negative environmental impacts from people, boats, boaters, etc.

-I think having an intervenor for the Trans Mountain Pipeline, and for any large project such as pipelines, mines, fracking etc., is important for protecting the interests of local people.

-I think environmental remediation is very important and should be done in many more places.

little top heavy in some areas

Costs There appears to be good management of salaries, staff, and supplies, which have not increased a large amount. I did notice a large amount for postage and wonder if increased use of email and social media could reduce this. Postage has become a large item in most budgets these days. As a former Records manager the costs for records management, archives, etc. are not out of line. These are needed to comply with FIPPA and other provincial requirements and often cut down on possible expensive legal actions.

Bylaw Enforcement **Victoria** Bylaw enforcement has been poorly done.

As a dog owner, I am disappointed at the number of dogs using the off-leash and not off-leash park areas when not under control of their owners.

Why are the very old buses, discards from American cities, being brought into and licensed in Victoria?

I agree with the proposed initiatives for the above budget, with the added hope that any regulatory review of local parks be fully transparent and allow for neighbourhood input.

Costs more production for the costs

Comment see previous comment. I would add that it might be valuable to include the percentage that each service represents of an average household's property tax bill.

Cut down staff.

People Nothing again on gorge Selkirk floating shanti town. Boats are sinking, people throwing feces overboard.

People Postage seems like the bulk of the expenses of this area. What can we do to reduce this? Most people these days spend very little on postage...

I'd like to see extra public consultation on the parks by law and VicPD initiatives.

I don't honestly know enough about this to say.

My thoughts are the same as the previous response. This is far more oversight required than I thought I am also struck as a small business owner how much more in annual tax a small business pays. I am not sure why they are so much more taxed than an average household.

Bylaw Enforcement **Important** **People** I would like to see bylaw "enforcement" to focus more on bylaw education. More of a conversation between people who have broken bylaws and the officers about why those bylaws matter and why they are important. I do not want to see us become militant and end up being like Singapore where you can be fined for dropping your gum on the sidewalk!

Bylaw Enforcement **Costs** Would giving online and email options for tax notices, advertising, minutes, etc save printing, postage, labour costs

Bylaw enforcement costs versus revenue appears to be disproportionate. Is there any method to recover more revenue by increasing penalties?

Could we save money by sending property bills etc electronically instead of by mail?

Issues The deception and games undertaken by legislative services vis a vis the airport have been unconscionable.

Leg Services has acted on the derelict boats, it is past time to redo the job that Woodland started on 15 years ago.

The harbor airport issue must be dealt with.

When the crash occurs, the City will be liable since it is responsible, fully responsible, for land use planning and compatible land use

Victoria Why is the City involved as a TransMountain Pipeline intervenor? Better to spend the money on air quality studies of Victoria Harbour, due to the increased flight traffic.

He who lives in glass houses....

People The city makes \$185,000 a year on dog licenses. Let's have some fully-fenced, safe areas in neighbourhoods where people can take their dogs legally.

There are working people, seniors, and people living with disabilities who need to exercise their dogs close to home, so they break the law by taking them to parks that are not designated off-leash areas. This results in confrontations with other park users, and unwanted interactions with people who are afraid of dogs.

Important Eliminate paper where possible. If we're truly "TechToria" we need to move as much administrative tasks online. Everything from buying a dog license to property taxes to important city notifications.

Without more information to understand the fine print of each initiative, it sounds good.

Why is there not a move to ebill option for utility bills?

Important **Issues** These issues are of little importance to me currently except for the improvement of transparency.

Comment Again, just a list without orders of magnitude. For example, "improve transparency of council business". It is hard to believe that in this day and age, that it would not be transparent. I can't begin to believe that it has been secretive.

Then, improve the property management plan.....too hard to assess what that all means.

Cannot comment therefore.

see previous

Issues **Victoria** Again, it's not fair to ask busy survey respondents to read a long document. My own suggestion for Victoria would be to engage greater voter participation by lowering the municipal voting age to 14, and working with middle and high schools to encourage study of municipal issues that would include actual voting and participation in surveys like this one.

keep a tight rein of supplies and continue to make efficient use of staff analytical skills

Some of this is unnecessary in my opinion. For example I know of instances when a by-law officer showed up on a person's doorstep to remind them they had not yet renewed their dog's license; what a waste of time, energy, and money.

similar to my first response, the Property Management could be done by another level of provincial government services.

People Increase people who watch and report off leash dogs. These dogs can hurt children.

Important Very important.

as far as the options presented are concerned, i would prioritize a review of By-law enforcement of our parks

NA

I have HUGE concerns about the City facilitating any kind of relationship with the Trans Mountain Pipeline. Again, shame.

Reasonable Seem quite reasonable.

Bylaw Enforcement **People** **Victoria** personally I feel the City of Victoria spends too much on Bylaw enforcement. Too often I see them doing nothing and getting paid to good of a wage. We need to hold people accountable for the jobs they take on.

I can appreciate the work in this area, though it's not always front and center. It would be nice to know how much savings in this area could be found with amalgamation.

Important Improved transparency is important.

Bylaw Enforcement **Important** Bylaw enforcement seems to become more and more important each year. There are an increasing number of dangerous animals off-lease on the streets and in the parks; making it feel less and less safe to go to a park, or walk, particularly in the periphery of the downtown core.

Same goes for illegal camping in the parks - these green spaces are for everyone to use for recreation and enjoyment - they are NOT for camping or residing in.

It would improve the business climate of downtown (and the health of the businesses there) to vigorously enforce anti-loitering statutes, anti-smoking statutes and to keep the streets clean and safe.

Get rid of the boats in Selkirk. What a joke.

OK

Bylaw Enforcement Bylaw enforcement needs beefing up. There is a rise in inappropriate behaviours throughout the city makes downtown an unpleasant place to visit. If laws are in place, they need to be enforced and there are simply not enough bylaw officers to do the job. This is worth paying for. I go out of my way to avoid downtown as it is a threatening and intimidating place for single females to walk. I do not feel safe and many others feel the same way.

Reasonable The proposed initiatives appear reasonable.

Important The biggest drain on our taxes is the over policing of our city, and yet you tell us you have no control over this, so we are not actually living in a democracy, just a police state where taxes are imposed on us from above to fund the police.

You are telling us the mayor and council are useless pawns that can affect no important change.

You are sick humans, very sick, looking after your paycheque, with the blinders on.

Bylaw Enforcement Just want to note that having the council meetings live and historically available on the webpage are extremely valuable -- and I sincerely appreciate this. As a mom of a toddler, leaving the house at 7pm is just not doable under normal circumstances, however, I do like to be informed. SO thank you for this.

Speaking of which I did recently watch the council meeting which related to the passing of the bylaw to deal with the boats in the gorge waterway. I am interested to see how bylaw enforcement deals with this. I think that updating the public on this process would be valuable as it is/was such a community dividing topic.

Expense reduction here is good first step - more needed (except in relation to transparency and public accountability considerations).

Need to codify and publish all City bylaws on the website to be accessible.

as previously stated

Comment They see, ok as far as I can understand them.

It was surprising how 2014 Actual in some departments were so much more than what was budgeted.

Example Property Management: The 2014 Actual was 915,500 and the Budget was 683,000. Dial it down!

And my overall comment is that it would have been better to show the % change from 2014 to 2015 based on the 2014 Actual rather than Budget.

Go digital, less paper!

Allow homeless to camp overnight in parks.

Bylaw Enforcement VicPD should not be engaged in bylaw enforcement in any manner and particularly should not be engaged in the policing of poverty.

As a former Policy and Legislative Analyst for the Province I can not even begin to describe how lacking Legislative and Regulatory Services for the City are!

Print shop should be outsourced.

Comment no comment

Comment Efficiency through extensive communication, collaboration and consultation. As mentioned in my previous comment. The point is I almost don't care WHAT each department is doing. I am concerned with

previous comment. The point is I almost don't care WHAT each department is doing, I am concerned with HOW they are doing it.

People 555 illegal shelters! We need to find a way to accommodate these people!

Comment No comments

People Some of the city's by-laws need review. Like the ones that say people can't congregate on the streets or put their backpacks on the ground.

I would like to see regulations developed to tax owners of vacant properties who are just sitting on the property as speculation.

I would like to see regulations to prevent landlords from getting building permits when the purpose of their 'repairs' is to evict tenants so the rents can be increase.

Excellent priorities. Especially intervenor status application for trans mountain project and records management.

Important 1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean
2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.
3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

Reasonable Looks reasonable.

Is it cost-effective to run a print shop or is this something that could be outsourced for less money? I am not a rabid outsourcer but ...

It seems the City has some problems with FOI and information release and providing appropriate materials and advice to Council. I would like to see that addressed.

The Legislative Services budget seems rich in terms of conferences/travel, car allowances/parking, salaries and benefits. I work for the provincial government and these types of expenditures have been heavily curtailed. Perhaps it is time for the City to consider some restraint as well.

Costs **Issues** From what I can tell you have some issues with FOI and the quality of advice and information provided to Council. I would like to see these addressed.

The Legislative Services budget seems rich. Examples include travel/conferences and parking. I think there is room for some cost trimming and exercise of budget restraint.

People Need to address the off leash area along Dallas. It's becoming unsafe for non-dog users (children and elderly included) due to people not paying attention to their animal, throwing toys for the animal along

the path, letting their dog run along path instead of grass etc. Also there is a lot of accelerated degradation occurring to grass, trees and cliffs from people letting their dog dig or play in the dirt.

Looks Good looks good. Recycling bins are needed for downtown, and more bike lanes are very necessary!

The animal control officer needs to be replaced.

Issues Transparency and governance are key issues and this branch of the City has a key role to play.

the budget has been reduced here by a whopping 10%?? Outrageous. this council seems more interested in beautification than in the archives. Which are invaluable and do not go out of season.

Review of property management model and environmental remediation should be with works department in my mind. Consider shifting accountability and responsibility to those more accountable and who should be more experienced in these matters.

Reasonable In as much as I have the capacity to evaluate, these seem reasonable.

People I honestly don't understand why the management of boats in the Selkirk waterway is such a high priority. Are we talking commercial or private? If it's commercial, ok. If it's private, unless there is clear pollution happening I think there is already too much regulation on people's personal lives in this province. I also think there is too much regulation on how the average person uses parks in this city. Maybe it's because of the homeless people sleeping in them. I do not think there should be locked gates at Thetis lake every evening and that people who are enjoying the park have their vehicles get towed at the end of the day. It's like you're punishing people who are enjoying the public space their tax dollars go towards, whether they are young future tax payers or current long-term ones. I honestly feel like this province is far too regulated from liquor laws, to park use, to driving regulations. All of these are not necessarily within the city council's jurisdiction however consider that the more freedom people have to choose their own behaviour the more likely they will put more energy into good and positive initiatives within their own community, because they want to.

Comment My only comment here is to adopt office procedures so that FOI requests are minimized. The best way to do that is to plan to make virtually everything available online. If you plan to make it visible, then you don't have to redact material and take a huge effort to find stuff. If it is second nature, you can virtually eliminate FOI requests as the needs are filled by what you publish. All this takes is a strategic shift to the approach.

Victoria We should let food trucks roam the streets of Victoria freely with no charges.

Too complicated to go over

Looks Good Looks good

Comment No comment

trim 35% from this budget

Important As a top priority is affordable housing, I think it is especially important to look at and make more flexible bylaws related to secondary suites. Many old houses could not conform to current bylaw specificities and therefore could not legally have a secondary suite but nonetheless have space enough for multi-families and are in solid and safe condition. Somehow opening up more options in this regard could help towards housing affordability.

8% budget cut is steep. I hope that, with fewer resources, Legislative and Regulatory Services is able to perform its crucial duties as comprehensively and attentively as in past years.

I want to know more about this point:

Co-enforcement initiatives with VicPD

Please specify as I was unable to see where and what and why of this.

Why on earth would you have a pipeline intervenor for a pipeline on the mainland. Can't Burnaby take care of its own?

Comment **Issues** I am not knowledgeable enough about budget issues to comment on this document

Propose to lead amalgamation of all municipalities

Again, where's the overall explanation for the proposed change? It looks like the main change is that this department will have two fewer employees. But why? What service area does this affect?

Victoria Victoria needs to provide a STRONG VOICE as an intervenor in opposition to the Trans Mountain Pipeline.

People I would like to see by-law enforcement focusing less on moving people along. Public spaces are for all citizens, whether housed or not. There is unnecessary harassment of street entrenched citizens, for instance ticketing for panhandling which is regressive and ultimately non-enforceable. Prioritizing space for non-housed citizens to gather safely, making community spaces more friendly (upkeep of benches in community spaces - undivided benches so people can lie down on them if necessary)

Hard to understand but if it included by law enforcement - leave the homeless alone except to give them more aid.

Comment no comment

Looks Good This looks good. I have been impressed with some of the changes in transparency already. Like the council webcasting. I am glad to see a review of Property Management. Perhaps there are increased revenues that could be captured.

Bylaw Enforcement **People** The proposed initiatives are fine. I am unclear what, specifically, is meant by "Identify Bylaw review priorities with Council" - whether this will simply be a reworking of existing bylaws or an exercise in reviewing the effectiveness and outcome of current bylaws and enforcement policies. If it's not already being considered, I would suggest a review of the 'complaint based' approach to bylaw

not already being considered, I would suggest a review of the complaint-based approach to bylaw enforcement that's resulted in regular violations across the city as people are often reluctant to participate in the reporting process involved in having to 'snitch' on others. There must be a more innovative way to compel/encourage people to uphold the bylaws without relying on the general public to 'police' their neighbours.

Pipeline intervenor highest priority.

Parks need to be better protected from 'campers' by bylaw

Important The City needs to continuously review and update bylaws to ensure they don't become onerous, irrelevant and draconian. This is important work that affects citizens and business owners.

PRETTY GOOD

Comment no comment

Looks Good Looks good.

Bylaws need to stop targeting the poor. The laws actually make living poor a crime. Standing out side a building is not an inherently bad thing, nor is sleeping, nor is creating shelter, or asking for help. Racist, colonial and classist laws make them criminal.

Looks Good The listed initiatives look like good steps for Legislative and Regulatory services

Support I support the proposed initiatives that I read about in the PDF.

Comment No comments.

Im indifferent

Budget should not go up

Looks fine

i agree with proposed budget.

Support Necessary. I support good policy making and the best advice for our elected officials.

I have run out of time, sorry.

Comment No comment

Reasonable Seems reasonable.

An area that needs to be reduced as well

Ok

Adequate

I'd like to see a decrease in the amount of bylaws.

Is this the section of the survey when I mention amalgamation?

Get rid of the boats at Selkirk!

People People need to realize that parking is not free. And the city needs to make sure that people are paying the fines they receive... Sad but true.

RE: Identify Bylaw review priorities with Council - Noise bylaws and late night operation shutdown times (e.g. nightclubs) should be reviewed.

In terms of noise bylaws, It is one thing to be loud at 3am but it is another thing when a BBQ is considered too loud at 8pm at night.

ok

great initiatives

Bylaw Enforcement **People** The City could well invest in more bylaw enforcement on skateboards on city sidewalks (people are getting injured by skateboards) and cyclists not obeying traffic law.

There seems to be no budget item in archives for acquisitions, which seems short sighted to me.

Looks fine.

Looks Good These priorities look good to me.

Didn't read it - would rather have this as an executive summary or infographic. Don't even know what "Legislative and Regulatory Services" is supposed to mean --> too much jargon. Is this like auditing/policing the municipal government?

Bylaw Enforcement There needs to be more enforcement of property standards bylaws. The "I Voted" stickers were a silly waste of money which should have been spent better elsewhere. We don't need silly stickers to remind us of our democratic duty.

Important All important services.

Skip the Trans Mountain Pipeline Intervenor activities. Worry about what happens within our own municipal borders, that is what we elect councillors to do.

There has been talk of simplifying business licenses in the CRD. Separate licenses for each municipality are a waste of money for businesses and don't do anything but raise a small amount of money for the municipality. Keep the money in the pocket of the business owner.

All essential services.

Stop wasting money

N/a

develop ways for affected neighbours to be consulted beforehand when development on adjacent properties affect them or the neighbourhood

Costs **People** I wish I could engage with this better than I have time for. A few items come to mind. The FOI restrictions, delays, and costs could be minimized; maybe make FOI requests free so that citizen participation, community input, and transparency aren't just terms of rhetoric. At least try to depoliticize some of the focuses of law enforcement - street peoples' tents, vehicle speed limits...; perhaps research addressing problems with actual harm related to them, not just to perceptions of harm.

Comment don't know enough to comment

Great that city will engage as a Trans Mountain Pipeline intervenor.

Comment No comment

Costs **Victoria** My concern is value for cost of salaries. Are the citizen's of Victoria receiving excellence? Again, how do we rate / compare the city's performance on this expense against other municipalities? What has it been historically?

Allow for recreational use of the Selkirk Waterway.

I have little first hand experience in this area, however, I am amazed at the number of parking enforcement personnel. Who enforces the by laws, if any to deal with the beggars on the streets? The police do not appear to exist downtown.

I would prefer to see an independent assessment of the City's Property Management function. Are taxpayers getting best value for money OR would we be better served by contracting these services out to property management professionals?

More deregulating like the skateboarding initiative. More "yes" let's make this City great. Less "no you shouldn't do that" vibe. Rollerbladers, food carts, parklets, "yes"

It seems this is a necessary service and the initiatives for 2015 appear to be of a consolidation / improvement nature. Once again a service that could be handled by one Department for the whole of the Capital Region.

FOI is a joke. And the saga of FOCUS wanting info on the Johnson St bridge riles me and many others, still. Why should an FOI process be required for regular city business matters? Mayor Helps promotes transparency, so I expect to NOT hear of any more stalling on providing info to investigative reporters (with the exception of personnel matters).

Necessary to have but there are probably many services that could be amalgamated ie. fire dept, police dept., engineering and road works.

Reasonable seems reasonable

Good job reducing this budget.

Fund for a kind of vicpd overseer - the new police chief is coming down heavy. Can the city direct the police to be more in line with the city's objectives of community health and peace?

none

Comment As an average citizen I am finding these proposals too complex. To make a proper comment one would need to review the information in a group discussion - not as an individual.

Building **Crystal Pool** **Recreation Centres** Crystal Pool has turned into an embarrassment of a "recreation centre." Completely demolish it, and build something nice, or sell the land, and allow it to be developed by others.

Budget **Year after Year** The greenways plan has been on the books for years with very little to show for it on the ground. I see that it is proposed to be updated. Rather than focus on updating it, I suggest a focus on implementation, with actual capital budget allocations tied to the annual street improvement budget so that greenways streets get priority ranking and when they are rebuilt and redesigned, they have distinctive signage, paving and landscape treatments so that anyone can tell they are on a greenway. Right now, they are more often than not, just lines on a map.

spend more money on food security

Crystal Pool **Recreation Centres** what are we going to do about crystal pool? the regional recreation centres need to be amalgamated. it's frustrating to plan when each system has a different schedule

Car More and better quality summer concerts at band shell.
More Rockland & Quadra type greenways. Close downtown streets to car traffic where a quiet greenway for bikes and pedestrians would be similarly successful.

I'd Like I'd like to see more detail about how we're going to expand our recreation offerings in the city.

Important and well - done on the city's part.

Crystal Pool Give priority to linking greenways with bicycle infrastructure.

Continue to fund and support Crystal Pool.

Beacon Hill Park **Public Spaces** I think a Beacon Hill park is poorly maintained and there needs to be more graffiti management in public spaces like the west song walkway.

This is an important part of our City's identity, but again, services providers need to be monitored to assure efficiencies that measure up to those of the private sector.

Arts and Culture**Culture**

Although Parks and Arts can be seen as quality of life issues, there is justification in a city our size and with culture becoming a driver in the new economy to give arts and culture a distinct voice within our city which has been recognized as cultural capital when the arts were given more importance.

Budget**Crystal Pool****Increase**

Very unimpressive...

Where are the increased public washrooms which are sorely needed??

Crystal Pool - politicians and the 'development and construction lobby' are continually talking about 'the end of the line' and need to demolish and privatize the Pool. How is the city addressing this? I expect another set of false budget numbers like the ones we were given about the blue bridge (\$60 million to repair, etc etc...)

Building

Love the idea of art in parkades.

Regarding parks, I would like to see improvements to Haegart Park to discourage ongoing camping there. There is a 6-unit family apartment building adjacent to the park. There is no yard for the children to play except for the park, which is often occupied by campers during the day so the children cannot play there. It is entirely inappropriate for campers to be allowed to sleep in such a small neighbourhood park.

good variety

-Would you consider taking money from 'boulevards' and applying it to 5080? You can encourage city volunteers to garden the public boulevards through adopt - a - block initiatives. We need more emphasis on re-wilding our city, turning boulevards into corridors for pollinators.

-Synthetic fertilisers are unnecessary, pollute water ways, deplete the soil over time. Compost can be used as an alternative (a thin "top dressing" that is raked into the soil will suffice). Port Moody is one district that has gradually phased out sythetic fertilizers, and it's been a success.

-Would Victoria consider using hand tools in place of electric or gas - powered tools for landscaping? Hand tools are actually faster, cost less to repair, are noise free, and more fuel - efficient. A small group of trained landscapers can work very quickly with sharp tools. We could be a noise - free city!

Budget

A seriously underfunded area. The City's investment in the arts should go up. Some of the transient beautification budget items in all budgets could be trimmed and added to the arts - say for permanent sculptures in the DT core, like Portland.

The non-profit arts societies in Victoria could benefit from a more thoughtful funding package from the City itself. The other locals fund via the CRD Arts Development has stagnated and has failed to support smaller non-profits with a minimum operating funding philosophy. Why not have the City's Arts funding become an alternative source for the base workers of the arts sector?

More for Festivals.

Building**Great City**

The city could look to invest in the Target building at Hillside and create a massive indoor/outdoor children's museum (like the one in Portland). Reclaim some of the parking lot and make green

space, incorporate outdoor features and learning and play stations for kids for the general admission of say \$10 THAT would be great for kids and the community.

I did not see a mention of the Higgins Street Improvements Project. The retaining wall upgrades are still outstanding in cost analysis and community approvals. The community is waiting to hear back from Engineering and Parks. Higgins Street Community would like to have a greater voice with the city in order to develop progressive enhancements within our neighborhood. A unilateral approach by the city to implement changes in this community is not working out.

Green Areas so little is done in this area we need more green areas and keep the homeless off them they ruin every thing they touch including the nice parks and green spaces

Arts and Culture **Culture** **Recreation and Cultural** I would like to see Arts and Culture a separate initiative from Parks and Recreation. The parks, recreation, culture initiative diminishes the importance and potency of arts and culture.

More incentive to get and keep young people active.

THEY NEED MORE MONEY

Car We could use a lot more bike lanes-I'm sick of everything being for the car when there is a large fraction of us that could never afford one.

Budget I would note I could not find a parks aquisition budget.

Special Events Push the special events licenses in a transparent manner, not just based on a popularity context to obtain it.

?

I completely support the initiatives to improve our parks and waterfronts, and to support urban agriculture.

Fewer, rather than more, hanging baskets downtown. Possibly fewer flower beds in medians. Both are cost reduction opportunities.

Have property owners cut the grass in the medians in front of houses when they do their own lawns and reduce city staff & equipment.

I'd Like **Recreation Centres** I'd like to see greater collaboration with the other municipalities on recreational programming. I like how we can go to the other recreation centres, but they all have separate guides and separate fees. There's also a lack of recreation opportunities in Fairfield. Could the Cook Street Village Activity Centre be expanded to have a wider range of activities? This might be an opportunity to gather feedback from the community?

Could we look at having more adult skating lessons at the arena (assuming there's enough demand)?

Stop wasting time and money on permits for trees on private land half of which have been planted by the land owner.

Budget Other than the hanging basket budget being seriously over the top, I have no comment.

David Foster Better align the Parks active transportation infrastructure with that of transportation, especially with regards to the David Foster Pathway, which will not meet the needs of bike riders as it is currently envisioned.

Great City **Increase** We need to do more to connect people in the community to recreational amenities. An active transportation function would highlight opportunities to connect parks as part of the active transportation network, as well as connect people in the community to recreational opportunities through an active and safe routes to rec program. Many children, families, and seniors lack access to recreational opportunities because they cannot afford a vehicle, or are too young or old to drive. Active transportation networks are an important part of increasing the overall experience of living in a great city like Victoria, by connecting people to what is happening in their communities.

Crystal Pool Ensure that the investment strategy and annual capital plans for the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre are cost-effective, risk-managed and affordable - be wary of strategies that are unproven or plans that are grandiose

Expenditures I am happy with these expenditures.

Year after Year Slash spending.

Live within your means.

There is a major game changer about to take place in the coming few years.

Cities are not going to grow forever.

High quality, "Virtual reality" office space will mean people can live wherever they want to.

Why live in a tremendously, highly taxed, expensive city?

The money people save on gas alone will allow them to fly to Paris, New York or London every year if they want to see plays, the arts, museums etc.

I know you might laugh reading this but our kids are already making friends globally playing video games where they are immersed in fairly simple virtual reality games. The new revolution virtual reality systems being tested now will allow you to walk around the office space as if you were there. It is an amazing system actually.

Business will drive it. People will embrace it because it will mean no commute and a much higher standard of living with more cash and time in the their pocket to spend with their families.

I would like to see more food security work into this area. Are the parks being revitalized with edible and native food sources? Are the orchards being maintained and picked?

Are we working to have some parks have natural forest elements that support the Indigenous foods of the area?

Can we plant more food and fruit trees so people have access to food?

Good Job **Looks Good** Everything looks good - - big job, and most appreciated.

More fenced off-leash dog parks

Car I'm not sure we need to give preferred parking to people that can afford 40K to buy a Chevy Volt. Nor free charging stations for that matter.

A lot of the "sustainability" stuff is nothing more than expensive window dressing. For instance, buying expensive electric cars for staff to drive around in. Then buying Ford F310s trucks for the maintenance crews. Its weird.

Public Art Start a public volunteer force to eradicate invasive plant species

Private owners responsible for street boulevard (grass mowing) maintenance.

Remove unwanted public art! - "Day is for resting" mattress "art".

David Foster Many worthwhile initiatives - priority support for the David Foster walkway, the greenways/bike planning efforts, and the boulevard/community gardens review. No backstory on these initiatives - but hope that there is more support for community gardens or connecting unused garden space with people who like to garden and support for boulevard gardens.

support strongly

The city can make due with what we are ready have. Parks and rec are luxury items, we need to prioritize and help get citizens more affordable living situations.

Public Art You should not be paying \$145,000 for the creation of public art! Let students donate their art.

Why are we not supporting FREE community events in our downtown that bring people to our downtown? One of the best new fall events in our downtown is the Chalk Art Festival that brings out seniors and children alike and its embarrassing city cash support for this event is \$2000 which doesn't even cover their chalks.

Parks and recreation are not only used by residents but also provide an overall impression for tourists which also provide income to city businesses thereby providing employment - this is not extravagant at all considering the breadth of the city

Great City With our proposed downtown density we are missing a key piece. A killer playground. All great cities have a designated area for the families living DT to bring their kids. Not only will the 10K + people need this facility but it will also act as another draw to our downtown. Do it right if you do it at all.

I also propose that it be part of the Centennial Square Redevelopment. I know it was just jazzed up and its

better but it needs to be an actual place making spot. Get rid of the water fountain and put a playground there. When 1515 is done this part of the core will start to change and this current massive space is really under utilized.

Budget **Good Job** **Increase** **Looks Good** **Reasonable** Looks good. Parks Dept is doing a great job. Budget increase amount seems reasonable.

Beacon Hill Park **Money well Spent** Money well spent here, keep up the good work. One idea to allocate more resources- instruct staff in Beacon Hill Park to report homeless settlements instead of the public having to complain to have them removed. Tourists and the public widely use this marquee park and it shouldn't be allowed to degenerate into a squatters paradise.

Beacon Hill Park **Expenditures** Closing the 900 blk of Rockland, Beacon Hill Park road closures and most of the items under greenways projects and park improvements are costly boondoggles that don't need to be done. Revenues are down and you're proposing to raise expenditures to do crap like this? I can't run my household like this, you shouldn't be able to run the City as such.

Reasonable seems reasonable at a high level

I have no issue here

Beacon Hill Park **Green Areas** if the work being done on parking in beacon hill park means creating more parking by chewing up more green space I would be opposed to spending in this area. Also while I believe a memorial for Afghanistan soldiers is a nice idea, I believe that should be paid for by the province. While there used to be a capital commission, I think the province has offloaded a lot of costs on our shoulders. Victoria is our provincial capital and taxpayers from around the province should be contributing to the beautification of our downtown. People yell and scream about the ferries but are quite happy to see Victoria homeowners shoulder all the costs in our fair city.

Public festivals and parks are a significant economic asset because of tourism. Conversely, the city's recreation responsibilities should be limited to providing wellness and fitness for our most vulnerable citizens.

Wonderful objectives, important work.

Arts and Culture **Budget** **Crystal Pool** **Culture** **Expenditures** **Increase** **Local Neighbourhood**

Reasonable Incredible that there are more exempt salaried staff than inside.
Is this one of reasons City has such high wage expenditures?

Overall, parks is bare-bones when it comes to staff working in the parks.

Our parks/boulevards are deteriorating.

Staff are among the most dedicated.

Figure out ways to let volunteers help - residents will take more pride in their parks if those who are physically able to assist are permitted to do so to rid the park of invasive species etc.

5240 Rec&Culture

Most people do not receive VIBES - eliminate program

Eliminate City sponsored lunchtime concerts in Centennial Sq.

Only those which finance themselves should occur at centennial.

Could save a couple hundred dollars.

These arts/culture programs are not widely used, same people seem to attend.

\$10K too much for poet legacy

Art creation (visual permanent should be increased. City does not have enough.

Aside from Signature Events and local neighbourhood (including block) events, all others should be self-supporting and perhaps even contribute to City finances - should definitely pay for police and cleaning (streets etc). This section of the budget should at least shadow the costs for events which are distributed elsewhere.

5300

Unsure of where salaries go, Are these City staff? Centres Staff?

This program area should be rationalised, from top to bottom.

5315 - where and when are these programs delivered?

5325 - these active living guides etc are recycled very quickly.

Could be condensed and phased out

Phase out Crystal Pool.

Partner with Y.

Save hundreds of thousands \$

The # of participants are probably double/triple etc counting. Number of people might show that only a relatively small number of residents access this facility (Crystal Pool)

Do not know RAP operations, but many people say that major cost savings could be had. Need to let food carts etc provide food services (and pay fees for doing so) instead of city staff.

Crystal Pool Close Crystal Pool and partner with neighbouring municipalities (Oak Bay) to use their facilities.

Improve Nothing was mentioned in terms of increased accessibility

Increase Nothing was mentioned in terms of increased accessibility...

Looking Forward Looking forward to this Master Plan and the possibility of more green space in the heart of downtown. As we expand and densify our core it's crucial that we make room for nature.

Beacon Hill Park **David Foster** I like your ideas for David Foster Way.

You should spend more on creating protected bike lanes, particularly on Government Street.

Spend more on Beacon Hill Park.

Harbour Pathway Harbour pathway should be highest priority.

Crystal Pool **Leash Dogs** The maintenance and renewal of parks and green-space is vitally important. Creating more dogs off leash areas is not. Does Victoria really need to replace or restore Crystal Pool? There are other facilities in adjacent neighbourhoods, and various branches of the Y, that could fill in for the absence of a pool facility in Victoria itself. MISSING FROM THE CAPITAL PLAN IS ANY MENTION OF THE BRANCH LIBRARY PROPOSED FOR THE NW CORNER OF THE CAPITAL PARK DEVELOPMENT IN JAMES BAY, WHICH WOULD BE MUCH MORE THAN PAID FOR BY THE ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUES THAT WILL ACCRUE WITH THE SOUTH BLOCK MOVING INTO PRIVATE (JAWL/CONCERT) HANDS.

no extra comment

This area is of interest to me and is a way that Victoria can set itself apart from other communities. A city of the arts can inspire it's residents to think creatively and not reactively. The arts can help us understand the important issues that are at the heart of our community and come up with creative solutions. If not people will just whine about taxes without an understanding of the collective good that can come out of this type of investment, or a realization of the benefits they receive.

Increase **Year after Year** How about a "memorial tree program" targeted to augment the 400 new trees currently programed by say 100, 25% increase. Self supporting, and if you model on others can include cost to maintain and care as part of the initial cost. In one case in Ontario the city charges \$2,500 for tree, molument with so many words, replacement of that molument once if necessary and care for ten years. At the end of ten years cost another \$500 for a further five years. One could have cheaper price to use an existing tree to honour someone for ten years, same kind of deal.

Car If those fees are charged now for rental apartments, stop or reduce them. We must encourage the elderly and limited income people to consider renting downtown rather than remain in suburban locations where car travel is necessary.

Arts and Culture **Budget** **Culture** **Expenditures** Expenditures here pay off for the whole city. A greater investment (both operating and capital budget), especially in arts and culture, has the potential to enhance the quality of life, keep young families living in the city, attract tourists, etc.

David Foster **Food Gardens** **Grow Food** I am not supportive of the proposed investment in the David Foster Pathway or the emphasis placed on food systems initiatives. While I understand and support people's

Foster roadway or the emphasis placed on food systems initiatives. While I understand and support people's interest in growing their own food on their own properties, I don't think the resources the City is putting into boulevard gardening policies or neighbourhood garden or fruit tree pilots will ever achieve significant benefits that will justify the costs.

Low Income Mentioned in my last two comments. Revitalize the Government street corridor. Promote family/youth events. Food trucks, markets etc. make the downtown core friendly for citizens and families not drivers. The last thing we need downtown is more vehicle traffic. Also, affordable housing and services for the homeless and low income population. This is their city too!

Looks Good Everything looks good!

Culture **Recreation and Cultural** The encouragement of Cultural activities, Parks and Recreation are really at the core of our sense of community.

Good Job This is a large portfolio of maintenance of our city parks, etc. which is vital and VERY IMPORTANT!!

There is room for improvement, although overall the City does a good job.

Ross Bay Cemetery needs better and more regular care as well as some of the smaller pocket parks in the city area.

A new library branch in James Bay is very important. The Capital Park development is an excellent opportunity for this.

Great City Great but I'd love to see adoption of some really innovative things I've seen around the world e.g. photography festival in Vevey, Switzerland that transforms a city into a canvas for 2 weeks.

Arts and Culture **Budget** **Culture** See my previous comment regarding travel and conferences.

I wonder if it would be more cost-effective to arrange leasing agreements to purchase equipment rather than renting for such a high percentage of the budgets.

Regarding Arts, Culture, and Events, I am disappointed there is no indication of revisiting the impact of and support for specific events such as folk and music festivals. Victoria used to be a destination for these types of events that were affordable and/or non-cost. It has been such a shame to see the ;larger events be dropped due to lack of funding.

I strongly support what is titled "Food Systems - Permanent Boulevard Guidelines." I was once involved in a group that advocated for renewing our urban forest inventory with food-bearing trees, and I'd advocate for applying that principle to our boulevards as well. Where possible, it would be amazing to lease out boulevard space to independent farmers to cultivate. Crazy as it may sound, I know several people who are making a living off of small-plot farms in Saanich. Some of our city's boulevard areas are large enough to support something similar.

Public Art Memorials and public art serve very few. Many don't like them at all. Waste of money.

No comment

Very excited about art in parkades and the Doncaster pathway

Increase I would like to see an increased focus on natural areas within the City of Victoria and more opportunities for community stewardship of natural areas. The recent debacle with Parks and the union over volunteer activities in natural areas is shameful and a shining example of the City failing its citizens.

I endorse them.

Building **Harbour Pathway** **Increase** .ensure we have a pool for community use be innovative in looking at the how

.support community association efforts to add value to their buildings and/or have increased support for partnerships in adding services to existing centres

.ensure harbour pathway becomes a reality all around the harbour and up into the Gorge

Public Art I disagree with Art in parkades and Broad Street public art project. The city should not be spending time or our tax dollars on these and other Art projects. There are lots of community members and organizations who could take these on and raise the money if they felt it was needed. Spend your time and our money on maintaining the parks and rec centers we have; that is important.

Crystal Pool **I'd Like** **Looking Forward** **Public Art** I'm looking forward to seeing some investment at Crystal Pool. I'd like to see some controversial public art a lot of our art seems to play it safe.

Allow beach fires in at least some areas.

Public Spaces I have no concerns regarding the current proposals. However, the city's on going maintenance of parks and other recreational areas is severely hampered by the homeless problem in Victoria. Many parks are rendered unsafe for children to play in because of the assorted refuse left behind by homeless people. Until the homeless problem is addressed our public spaces will continue to decline and further discourage people from visiting the city.

Great City **Increase** **Special Events** **Year after Year** 1) The hanging baskets are beautiful, as are the holiday lights. But do we really need decorative flowers in such quantities when people are begging in the street for food? And no; this isn't an exaggeration.

2) public community/downtown bike "service" station with air would be great

Re: Business Unit: 5270 - Special Events

It mentions "signature" events Canada Day, Highland Games, Symphony Splash... the Highland Games and Symphony Splash are not run by the City, they are run by local non-profits. In previous years there has been

Symphony Splash are not run by the City, they are run by local non profits. In previous years there has been money for "festival investment" but now that line is zeroes through 2019. How can these events continue without the support of the City? And why is so much attributed to salaries for this when outside groups are putting on these festivals? What exactly does the city contribute to these events?
Please bring back granting, and increase it for the large "signature" events that bring so much prosperity to Victoria - we don't want to lose them.

Building The parks department is responsible for building strong families? I don't follow that.

Looks Good Looks good

Higher taxes

no major concerns

Crystal Pool Parks have been deteriorating, more funding is needed.

The recreation department has created a system of centers which are run more as private clubs for select groups rather than community centers.

In the election the Mayor committee to seeking input from the public before committing any funding to capital projects.

I choose a firehall before any further rescue or rebuild of Crystal Pool.

No one I know uses it, nor would they use a new one..

Victoria is an outdoor City - Commonwealth Pool and the other regional pools provide enough pools.

Food Gardens More food production and urban & community gardens

Culture **Looking Forward** **Public Spaces** **Reasonable** **Recreation and Cultural** I'm in favor of the proposed initiatives for Parks, Recreation, and Culture in 2015. One question I would like to raise (and hopefully have addressed) is the lack of gender-neutral bathrooms in public spaces such as libraries, recreational facilities, hospitals, and other relatively large public spaces where having designated gender neutral bathrooms would be an easy thing to have. The reason I'm asking about this is because I'm a member of the transgender community and I'm dissapointed by the fact that the only bathroom I genuinely feel comfortable using is at the University of Victoria, and I know I'm not alone in feeling that way. As I live by Royal Jubilee Hospital, it's not very practical to take the bus to the University to use the washroom there. I would be more than happy to provide further resources to answer any questions on this matter, as I'm aware not everyone is aware that having safe spaces for the transgender community is a vital component of ensuring everyone feels respected and comfortable in Victoria. Thank you for your time, and look forward to hearing from you.

good

Crystal Pool investment strategy for Crystal pool...what does this mean??

Increase Again, salaries and benefits, too far out of proportion.

You too many managers for a small city, and their benefits are exorbitant. No wonder office supplies has increased

increased.

Please fire some managers and HIRE more gardeners, those making an actual impact residents can see for their tax dollars.

Budget **David Foster** **Food Gardens** **Grow Food** **Harbour Pathway** **I'd Like** I noticed the David Foster Harbour Pathway. It would be amazing if someday Barclay Point linked up with the TransCanada Trail - I would like to be able to bike safely over the Bay Street Bridge. I'm not suggesting it for the 2015 budget, but just something to think about for the future.

I appreciate that you have Food Systems on there. I'd love to see food growing in more boulevards. How could the city encourage residents to transform the boulevard in front of their homes into well-designed and maintained food gardens? Also, I'm curious about the Community Garden Policy Review. I'd like to know more about it.

Great City Be great to see you somehow empower the thousands of retired gardeners in the city. Neighbourhood clean ups, weed eradication etc to work with or directed by city staff. Money saved goes to secure their jobs, benefits etc. not just same old way, but rethinking how to achieve with volunteers.

Who is responsible to enhance Victoria as a place for locals and tourist to intermix. We need to start by closing Government St to traffic.

and so on

Beacon Hill Park **Green Areas** **Increase** Given continuing population increase, we need more natural, relatively undeveloped, open space, for walking and sitting (especially walking). It is unfortunate that so little space is still available. I would like the city to buy or buy back areas on the waterfront or near Beacon Hill Park/ Dallas Road or in my own area (Oaklands) to be developed as green spaces. I would enjoy walking around the Harbour if it had not become so difficult to do this. I regret that for a decent walk on unpaved earth I have to go to Saanich (to walk around the Cedar Hill Golf Course or at Beaver-Elk Lake). It will only become more expensive to reclaim land for green spaces; so a policy should be developed and the investment should start now!

Culture **Green Areas** Green meeting areas are important for all ages of people and they need to be accessible to all people. Theatre, music and other cultural events create a vibrant city and bring people together to create community.

OMG, now over 600 pages

Building We are Humans. We build Parks and Recreation for HUMANS.

Let the canine and feline lovers build Parks and Recreation for their loved ones.

I love them all. Dogs are special. But I don't want a bear crapping in my yard, or a deer eating my roses and brussel sprouts. And keep the dogs off the parks and buses, and streets.

Dogs, bicyclers, rollerskaters, skateboarders - have no business on the sidewalks. But you fail to enforce your bylaws.

do you wonder why you fail to gain my support?

Beacon Hill Park **Car** Go for simple, cheap, effective. Get the cars out of Beacon Hill Park. Allow for pop-up parks on abandoned lots. Boulevard gardens and orchards...

Include two-way protected bicycle access to parks, pools, and neighborhood playgrounds.

None

I like the consideration of pedestrian and bikeway integration. Nice!

positive

Increase **Year after Year** Victoria needs to be applauded here, despite the fact that there is much yet to be done. Victoria is a liveable city in part due to its size and geographic location. The work on encouraging recycling is long overdue and much work remains here. Increasing separate waste streams within the public places in the city is excellent planning, however the city has many visitors who may not be familiar with them, and social conditioning of current residents also needs to be encouraged. A roving team of either volunteers with a coordinator, or a senior position, something like the tourist greeters on the streets in the summer needs to be put in place to achieve greater public understanding and use of separated waste streams. Everyone should take the landfill tour, and having it twice a year should be encouraged. The programme to encourage school groups should continue and be expanded. Tours of the city of Victoria's solid waste management and water resource are inspiring, and it is a leader. Hopefully one day tours of the sewage services will be equally inspiring. Current sewage plans should be reviewed in light of plant based water treatment which appears to be effective elsewhere. Home composting should be encouraged. Currently it is penalized. We have a composter which we use for all our current compostable items, none-the-less we are required to have a green bin. We don't use it and have stored it under our house so as not to waste the time of the city collection workers. But we pay for it every month. Perhaps we are in the 1%, however, I do feel penalized, or at least not appreciated. We also recycle almost all of our waste, and have stored away a grey waste bin as well, but pay for it every month. Again, we are penalized for doing the right thing. Despite the fact that we are doing this for the public good, financial reward seems to go the other direction. How does this make the city 'more affordable'? Same is with a previous comment on boulevard use for food production. Food security is a goal for Victoria, as it should be, however use of boulevards for this needs review (see earlier comment).

David Foster Glad to see work on the greenways projects, as well as the David Foster path.

Crystal Pool Invest in assessing Crystal Pool renovations/replacement.

Put all those high salaries to work on how to bring money in the door from the actual users. The general feeling of entitlement has become too expensive. Explain to the public that everything has a cost and if you want to enjoy something at the cost of others you really need to re-evaluate your morals.

Looks Good no comment - looks good

Building **Crystal Pool** I am hoping that part of this is to do an analysis of the city parks and recreation and private ones. I think the city should respond to the needs of people / citizens who cannot access the private resources. Good to see a plan for the Crystal Pool. Is there any talk of the Carnegie building and how it could be utilized?

Year after Year Under PARK IMPROVEMENTS

I would like to see funds directed to cleaning up Gorge Park along Gorge Road. I notice it mostly because I run by it frequently and see it's Gorge Road littered with garbage that has not been removed in years. The undergrowth in the stands of trees is also in neglect and requiring clean-up. It is not an attractive park at this stage but could easily be changed with clean-up.

Arts and Culture **Building** **Crystal Pool** **Culture** **Food Gardens** **Green Areas** **Grow Food** **Increase**
Local Neighbourhood **Low Income** **Public Art** **Public Spaces** **Recreation and Cultural** **Recreation**
Centres -I think "maintaining parks" is very important. Also expanding current parks or creating new parks would be a good idea when possible, to create green spaces/corridors for both people and biodiversity. Also, remediating these parks to include native plant species and remove exotic species.

-I do not think "maintaining 500 flower and shrub beds and 1,500 hanging baskets" is important, unless they largely include native flower and shrub plant species that support local biodiversity/ecosystems (and are made for this climate ie. drought resistant), OR include edible landscapes with fruit trees, herbs and vegetables that people (and animals) can benefit from. I think maintaining exotic flower and shrub species that don't support local ecosystems or provide some health/food benefit is unnecessary and a waste of time, energy (water, fuel to drive around watering baskets) and money (to buy (plastic?) baskets, plants, pay personnel etc.)

-I also think maintaining grass (boulevards?) is a waste of time, energy (water, fuel to power large grass mowers) and money (to pay personnel etc.). It also takes space where there could be remediation of area to plant local native plant species or grow food for people.

-I think "managing the urban forest" is very important, but there needs to be more of an emphasis on planting local native tree species that are relevant to the region in order to support these species in the face of climate change and exotic species taking over. New trees were planted in my neighbourhood (Saanich) recently and they are exotic tree species.

-I love "Crystal pool" and recreation centres, I think they are important for supporting good health and community.

-I think supporting "seniors centres" are very important because they can be marginalized in society and need centres for support, well-being and community building.

-I think "public art" is important for highlighting culture in the community and different perspectives, as well

as making urban spaces more fun, desirable and I like when they have important messages regarding human rights & environmental rights.

-I think "greenways and pedestrian and bicycle plans" are very important for making cities more livable/habitable, enjoyable, safe, healthy/active and for building community and social inclusion.

-I think focusing on "food systems" is very important, including community gardens, for increasing local resiliency of food systems and communities, by ensuring there is fresh produce available to a diversity of groups (ie. low income) and building community through growing the produce. I also think strengthening local food systems is important in the face of disasters to ensure we have food available close by. Local food is also important for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions because it reduces our need to import food, which then helps to mitigate climate change etc.

Increase **Year after Year** who put in all the hydro costs and left them the same amount as prev year? It has been highly publicized the % increase or do you plan to cut out heating, lighting etc for 2% of the day to make up for your impending shortfall?

Culture **Public Spaces** Parks and Culture is important, however let's think of creative ways for communities to share spaces and infrastructure. Can we not get back our schools as community centres and put public libraries in community centres and schools? Let's get creative in our use of spaces, indoor and out.

Agree with initiatives for this department - these facilities are vital for community activity and health. My one concern is art in the parkades. I'm not sure how this really helps anything and would probably lead to damaged art. I also have concerns about private companies which have planters but do not maintain them. They are often covered in weeds and sickly plants. Is there not some way to encourage private companies to maintain these? They leave a terrible visual impression.

Crystal Pool **Culture** Crystal Pool should not be rebuilt.
All my friends either cycle or use the Y

For culture, we need the James Bay Library to be a multi-use centre,
\$ should be advanced ASAP

Great City **Green Areas** **Local Neighbourhood** **Public Spaces** As someone who lives in the North Jubilee/South Jubilee intersection, I'm hoping that the Begbie Green area can be improved, revitalized in association with the local neighbourhood associations. This is a prime location for neighbourhood activities and engagement, and it would be great to have the city assist in utilizing this public space.

Crystal Pool do not need to rebuild Crystal Pool.

We have enough parks and recreation, save money for more important services.

Ok

Increase increase funding for these initiatives

Arts and Culture **Beacon Hill Park** **Crystal Pool** **Culture** **I'd Like** **Public Art** **Public Spaces** I'd like to see Crystal Pool improvements and more invested into public, family and free or low-cost arts and culture events in the city.

There also needs to be better use of Beacon Hill Park for events. It should be a more welcoming space for events and fitness, like Central Park in NYC. Right now, it's the stuffy library of city parks.

Arts and Culture **Culture** **Money well Spent** Finish pathways that don't go anywhere to the point where they go somewhere useful, like the path beside the railroad tracks in Vic West. It doesn't extend far enough to be much practical use but a lot of money was obviously spent to get it as far as it is. Either do or do not, don't leave stuff like that 1/4 finished.

Victoria has a lot of arts/parks/cultural stuff going already. I don't know that we need to add anything new.

Crystal Pool **Recreation Centres** Renovate crystal pool and fitness centre or develop plans for a second recreational facility.

Money well Spent Money well spent

Building **Food Gardens** **Increase** **Public Spaces** I would like to see the issue of deer populations addressed as they are at odds with local foods systems. I would also like to see a stronger emphasis on building more community gardens and orchards, rain gardens and swales. Any water we catch we can use verses having it enter the storm water system which increases the costs of sewage treatment facilities. Where is there mention of rainwater catchment in public spaces. This is long overdue and there is precedent across the world.

Arts and Culture **Budget** **Culture** **Great City** **Recreation and Cultural** Great initiatives for parks and recreation but too limited in terms of direct support to the arts in the city. More funding is needed for existing arts companies (theatre, dance, music, visual) and Victoria desperately needs more small-medium, affordable performance and rehearsal spaces. Would also love to see Arts and Culture as a separate category in the budget, rather than lumped in with parks and recreation.

Looking Forward We look forward to seeing the next phase of the VicWest development of parklands in the rail yards.

Am all for urban forests and have been watching with dismay the removal of shrubs along the Songhees. Trees put oxygen into the air and the harbour area certainly needs it. (Those aforementioned float planes.)

Was talking with three young boys who were illegally skateboarding on the walkway. When I pointed out they had a boarder's facility up on Esquimalt Road they said, "That's only good if you want to learn tricks. We need somewhere we can just skate." So, what about it? Defer one of your bike paths and run a "boarder's only" perimeter path in our neighbourhood park.

I was not aware of the Afghanistan Memorial proposal. I am a Navy Cold War woman and support the military with money and volunteer time but think a new memorial is redundant. Could you not just add a tribute to an existing one?

Beacon Hill Park **Year after Year** Beacon Hill Park is woefully short of experienced gardeners on staff. With upcoming retirements, this will be an even more severe problem in the next few years. Beacon Hill Park is a unique feature of Victoria, and gardeners with experience and dedication specific to this park are essential.

Leash Dogs Need fully-fenced areas for dog owners to exercise their dogs in their own neighbourhoods.

you list 12 off-leash parks, but most of them have restricted hours and - as far as I know - none of them are fully fenced. Also, the rules state that "Dogs must remain outside of playground boundaries" and "Permitted field use has priority over off leash areas".

A fenced area just makes more sense.

Food Gardens **Grow Food** **Public Spaces** Community garden . green spaces for growing food. Give people who live in apartments public green space that is under utilized and allow them to grow food for themselves and the community.

Budget **Expenditures** 1. Begbie Green enhancement is a priority in the draft Strategic Plan for 2015, but not in the draft Budget. Please bring the Begbie Green work into the Budget. North Jubilee is the neighbourhood least well endowed with public greenspace, as Mayor and Council have recognized in prioritizing Begbie Green. Please correct this imbalance by making Begbie Green into more useful and beautiful public greenspace.

2. Leverage the Begbie Green expenditure by working with Engineering and Public Works who can provide the requested separation of Begbie Green from the busy Shelbourne-Begbie corridor by constructing a rain garden there.

Year after Year Yes! Yes! Yes! We are blessed in Victoria with a beautiful natural and urban landscape that people enjoy twelve months a year. We are also blessed with a dynamic, diverse and active community. Let's continue to provide opportunities for us, individually and collectively, to celebrate these gifts. Greenspace, urban agriculture, bike paths - yes! And there should be art and music everywhere. We need to support our artists! What they contribute to a community is so much more than art - they challenge us to think, rethink, grow, imagine, dream, relax and feel. (Anything Victoria can do to move in the direction of the forward thinking Scandinavian countries is encouraged by me, my family and all our friends who often talk about Victoria having the potential to fulfill the criteria of the happiest and healthiest city in the world!)

Arts and Culture **Budget** **Culture** **Recreation and Cultural** Why is the city in the business of providing recreation services, explore private options. The arts and culture budget is a total waste, eliminate.

green bin program needs to be extended to rental properties.

same as above

[see previous](#)

Building **Crystal Pool** **Year after Year** Start saving for a full Crystal Pool replacement. I worked there as a lifeguard for 10 years that that building cannot be repaired or updated - we must build a new facility behind the current one.

More separate bike lanes to allow users to get to parks and rec centres safely.

More funding for local arts groups, and infrastructure enhancements for local theatre and other performance venues.

Good Job **Money well Spent** Love our parks and events that happen there. Keep BHP commerce free, please.

boulevards are a huge issue for me!! And dandelions. All work I see done of boulevards is a total waste (mowing in the rain, reseeding the day before rain, so seeds are washed into clumps) I don't know what the answers might be, but the money spent there now is wasted. Either do a good job, or encourage homeowners to do it (including removing the boulevard tax)

second note: historic camus field on east side of BHP has been overgrown with grass. Because it is allowed to go to seed it has choked the flowers. Same is becoming true with dandelions taking over boulevards. It is a waste of time and money to cultivate grass and then not protect it.

This is important but can you not get sponsorship for the hanging baskets from businesses? I know tourism is important but there are so many other priorities.

Looks Good looks good

Leash Dogs more parks and beaches for kids, with no off leash dogs

Leash Dogs I think you should include parks for kids with no of leash dogs. I myself have been attacked by dogs twice.

Crystal Pool **Low Income** Of the items listed, i would say the Crystal Pool is vital for low income families and must be protected as such,

second would be to Park improvements and green ways.

Crystal Pool keep Crystal Pool running - key part - and life passes are awesome.

Need more opportunities for low-income people to participate in the community. The LIFE Pass is not enough.

Crystal Pool **I'd Like** **Special Events** As a regular user of Crystal Pool, I am glad to see you're planning to invest in it. It's the only real affordable option for a fitness facility in the area (especially as I do not drive). I'd also like to see more parks in the downtown core.

"Evaluation of social media tools for special event promotion" - this seems like either a cumbersome approach or an awkward way of phrasing 'use social media to get the word out more' ... I'm not sure which. If you're planning to spend 2015 doing a feasibility study of the various social media platforms and which suit purposes then I'd say you're wasting time and money. The City has existing social media platforms: if what this line means is that you're thinking of hiring a social media communicator, then that would make more sense to me.

Budget **Crystal Pool** **Looks Good** The budget looks good to me although one small area of concern is \$3500.00 in the area oh Photocopying which Im sorry is crazy. A cost like this could be taking down and a lot of plants or something could be purchased in place of this. The City really needs to look at small cost saving measures, areas like office supplies, photocopying etc could add up to whole lot of money when you add the departments together.

Also the City needs to look at innovative solutions to big problems. For instance the crystal pool could done with a lot of community involvement and without a huge raise in taxes to make it more of an inviting space for families and residents of Victoria.

Thinking outside the box will help our city grow and become a place to do business, live and play.

this is not a priority, maintain whats there and focus on bike network

Crystal Pool I support a new crystal pool but in no way am I open to a private public partnership to get one. Public facilities should be owned, and operated by the public - for the public.

Looks Good This looks good to me.

Many recreation options are still too expensive for families, seniors and the young who are underemployed.

David Foster **Looking Forward** **Public Spaces** Continued improvements to public spaces and multi-modal transportation are important initiatives. Looking forward to the progress on the David Foster Way.

Crystal Pool Earthquake remediation of Crystal Pool is the most important here.

Great City Clean up the Dallas ocean front from Cook street to Douglas street. The campers littering and vandalizing down there is out of control. Make camping legal - charge for a world class destination backcountry site close to the city with spectacular views instead of the beauty being destroyed lazily, and letting it become an embarrassment to this great city. The animal by-law officers are everywhere - you can't tell me we can't run a few backcountry sites. Look to the south for a great model.

Good

Budget **Food Gardens** **Grow Food** I enjoy the amenities very much (parks, playgrounds, etc), and support a robust budget to maintain them. I am not so big on the boulevard tax as we do not receive value for money. Best to encourage people to actively maintain their own boulevards. Why not use some as allotment gardens? People are keen to grow their own veg/herbs and this valuable land is going to waste.

allotment gardens. People are keen to grow their own vegetables and the allotment land is going to waste.

Grass is an ecological disaster! Please allow people to expand and enhance the growth of food on boulevards

Budget **Increase** I am surprised that relocation of Michigan Street allotment garden is identified specifically in the budget plan. It would appear that allotment gardens generally should be encouraged, consistent with strategic plan initiatives.

I am heartened to see the potential for "new" park space. With increased density (I support) in the core as well as flexible options for secondary suites our existing park space becomes vulnerable from over-use. Protecting what we have is essential and finding additional green space/park space is strongly encouraged.

The biggest drain on our taxes is the over policing of our city, and yet you tell us you have no control over this, so we are not actually living in a democracy, just a police state where taxes are imposed on us from above to fund the police.

You are telling us the mayor and council are useless pawns that can affect no important change. You are sick humans, very sick, looking after your paycheque, with the blinders on.

Crystal Pool **Good Job** The crystal pool is an important part of my community and I hope that there is a way to refurbish it appropriately to serve the community for the longer term.

What about investing in food producing plants/trees etc. ? Fernwood NRG has done a good job with creating some important projects, why not city of Victoria? The beauty of food bearing trees and plants is that for the most part they are also attractive etc. Why not work with lifecycles? Have a program where excess food from trees is donated to those in need?

Reasonable looks reasonable.

David Foster **Harbour Pathway** Good combination of initiatives; particularly support the David Foster Harbour pathway and the Doncaster pathway.

Culture Lights ON at Vic West skate park! Less crime if it's lit up!! And skateboarding at night is fun. Google - Netherlands Unveils 'Starry Night' Solar Bike Path for alternative lighting ideas. More bike and skateboard friendly paths/roads/lanes. Rooftop, back yard and boulevard gardening - encourage it. Any chance of giving up noisy leaf blowers for rakes? Better cardio for the worker, too! More recycling receptacles beside garbage cans. Then the bottle pickers don't have to sort through the garbage. Also makes people more aware of recycling and gives them more options. Keep up the good work. Parks, Rec and Culture are what is great about Victoria.

Low Income Victoria needs many more spaces, services and events geared to low income individuals and families.

Enhance Cook Street Village boulevards (re-design remaining muddy sections)

Crystal pool needs to be closed and food services operations at Royal Athletic should be outsourced

Food Gardens I feel strongly that the outdoor spaces, parks, and natural areas of the City of Victoria are indispensable; don't skimp on resources to maintain, enhance and enlarge them. I'd like to see more encouragement of and open experimentation with annual food gardens and permaculture food gardens in public spaces.

Ditto.

Increase Every effort should be made to increase food grown in the municipality. Require building include food plantings in green spaces, roofs, apiaries, etc.

Physical activity should be the default in civil design. e.g. Require that stairs be more central and visible than elevators/escalators. Non-handicap parking should be designed in a way that either makes the walk longer or requires other muscular effort (open doors, step up/down, etc.)

Food Gardens **Increase** **Public Art** How can we make access to recreation centres more affordable for low income families? \$11 for a family swim once a week = \$50/month to take the kids swimming at a "public" pool. Many families need that \$50 for food. A free for families time once a week? (Oh, I just read about the LIFE program - 3,000 participants - that is great!)

Can we partner with schools to get more kids to the pool & the skating rink more often? (ie free field trips)

I love how green Victoria is. Can we increase the number of perennials and decrease the annuals? What about a permaculture demonstration garden?

More public washrooms and water fountains in parks.

Can I just pay to have edging done on my boulevard?

Keep up the free concerts at Spirit Square and BHP!! Yay for Art in the parkades.

More exposure for First Nations, such as the First People's Festival. (Let's make it bigger!)

Encourage annual Block Parties for every neighbourhood.

138 outdoor program participants? Can we bring that # WAY up? Let's get our kids outside!

In conjunction with the update of the Greenways Plan and the initiation of the Parks and Rec Master Plan, and related to the Active Transportation initiatives within other portfolios, I'd like to see a 2015 pilot program modelled after the City of Portland's "Sunday Parkways" where cyclists of all ages and abilities (including whole families) are invited to join others on a cycling tour of City streets, parks and features, facilitated by e.g. police for traffic management.

Such a program complements plans for new cycling infrastructure and wayfinding initiatives by giving people a safe, guided experience.

More info here: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/58929>

The LIFE program is great. Crystal Pool is my favourite place in Victoria. More money to support people to use these facilities who can't otherwise afford. Less money to make everything so pretty.

Glad Vic West park is getting attention. Crystal pool remains a priority. Also good to see.

1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean
2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.
3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

Recreation and Cultural Looks good. The City does a great job in this area. The Parks dept keeps our City looking beautiful for us and for tourists. The recreation & culture depts also do great work that we as residents value.

These are core services.

Again, I question the conference/travel and parking allowance budgets.

These are core services.

Again, question the need for travel/conferences and parking allowances. It seems that the culture of restraint that the provincial government has been operating under has not reached the City. I think it is time.

Parks are important. Oswald park is a good example. Need crosswalks to make it safe to get to this park.

Summit park; that reservoir could be a bird nesting area if some islands are put into the middle.

Fence in dog park along Dallas because it has become very popular and needs some management to contain the mess and mud. Freely roaming dogs on the paths interfere with people walking and running. Dogs on leashes are OK outside this proposed fenced in area.

Keep outdoor green spaces a priority in maintenance and development.

great! Our Parks and Rec culture is what holds us together. Victorians are active people who want ease when navigating through their city.

Public Art I have extensive fine arts education (2 arts diplomas and a BFA) and I think we should make at least some high profile public Art subject to public voting. The commerce canoe is embarrassing, its just super dorky looking and conceptually obtuse. Europe manages to hand engaging public Art that Looks Cool, why can't we? Also more interactive public art would be cool. I really like the floating globe near centennial square , for example.

Year after Year The key to proper maintenance of parklands is to focus on renewable resources, not annual plantings. It is better to have plants that are deer-proof and evergreen than to focus on plants that must be installed and removed every year. Also a focus on keeping the City green and without weeds is a major priority.

Sections of the West Bay walkway are overgrown with plants that narrow the walking path. Some trimming

has taken place, but there is still more trimming required.

Keep it up. More!

Year after Year victoria has been andd continues to be beautiful ..Could we cut the intense beautification and try putting some money to make the streets safe? Just for a few years? Please please please. the beauty can stand a bit of neglect . but life and limb are hard to replace.

Increase **Year after Year** Challenge this organization to increase area devoted to growing food. First step is for them to develop a ten year plan with options.

Food Gardens I am heartened to see tree planting identified so that we are, at the very least, planting with a view to replacing existing large tree species throughout the city.

I am surprised to see Michigan Street allotment garden specifically mentioned. I prefer the notion of creative use of space in establishing or relocating allotment gardens and food gardens throughout the city so that public parks are not the default location. This item might more appropriately be considered under other strategic plan initiatives.

Recreation and Cultural Integrate community placemaking into parks, recreation and culture planning.

Public Art more public art that is fun and not not grey, black or white.

Year after Year The 2 points that interest me here are Royal Athletic Park and Crystal Pool, neither of which I have ever used in my 13 years in this city.

First, if Royal Athletic Park is not paying it's own way, I think something must change. The city should not be bankrolling it.

Crystal Pool should also pay for itself. Or close. Victoria is fortunate to have fabulous mild weather all year, unlike the rest of the country, and there is so much that people can do for free outdoors all year. Plus there are other pools in other cities nearby that folks can swim in.

Both these facilities made sense in the past, but much has changed, and these facilities have not kept up with the times.

Sounds good but I think parks should incorporate more edible plants - this could combat poverty in Victoria as well as be an educational opportunity for residents to learn about food production.

Stop homeless people ruining these public spaces

A crucial budget for Victoria to keep the flavour of the city

Let's keep the Crystal Pool open at all costs. It is a very good hub for the community!

Year after Year Green spaces are great, but there is not enough staff to maintain them, unless you use students on horticultural courses to fill in the gaps.

The Crystal Pool needs to be maintained as a very important part of this City, as it is the right size for

Seniors and young children.

The other pools are too large, too hot, and too dark.

The Crystal pool has been our Family place to go for over 30 years, and I really like the comfort of the size of the pool, the changing rooms, and the friendly and helpful instructors and staff.

the only problem, is lack of parking, so sometimes four times around the block, when coming for the Arthritic exercises 11 - 12 noon.

The medians on the roadways, are nice, but too much upkeep and not enough staff.

This area is of great importance. These areas are what make cities liveable and desirable places to live. For example, Vic West, in particular, needs improvement. There has been a lot of housing been built in the dockside green and rail yards in the Vic west area, but the public spaces in that area do not match the quality of the housing. One little touch could be an improvement to the "welcome to Vic West" sign near the Bay Street bridge, for example. We do a lovely job of decorating the downtown, but not of neighbourhoods. Our one pool is a shambles. Our artists are struggling. This area needs priority.

Recreation and Cultural Prioritize investment strategy for Crystal Pool and work to make Parks, Recreation and Cultural event universally accessible.

cut 50% from this budget

Crystal Pool is pretty great already. I don't think we need a flashy new facility that costs lots of \$\$\$. There are better uses for these dollars.

I was hoping to see management/mitigation of invasive plant species as a Parks priority. English Ivy threatens our heritage trees, edges out native species and compromises the integrity of our soils. Scotch Broom is also particularly endemic through out Victoria parks.

If you can't replace Crystal Pool, then close it and come to an arrangement with surrounding municipalities, all of whom have superb facilities. Ours is an embarrassment. They have focused on providing centralized municipal facilities while Victoria has frittered away its money on local community centres which provide amateurish programs and limited facilities.

When is Crystal Pool going to be replaced or upgraded? The lack of funding to preserve or replace an asset is shameful.

I'd love to see a city of victoria - sponsored arts building - a hub/community centre that has a gallery downtown and lots of art spaces/studios. these artists can beautify the parkades as proposed and work on other city projects and engage citizens -- more arts engagement would be great.

Food Gardens **Year after Year** Better design of parks and public space meets multiple goals: Rain gardens & trees = stormwater management & air/water purification. Diverse, edible perennial landscapes = decreased resource and financial inputs, healthy ecosystems (pollinator habitat, soil building), affordable access for marginalized communities to a more nutritious diet, and longterm food security in the face of climate change, natural disasters and economic instability. Revitalizing public spaces encourages engaged

climate change, natural disasters and economic instability. Revitalizing public spaces encourages engaged community & active transportation.

We don't need to keep pouring money into more hanging baskets and ornamental beds. These take huge amounts of resources year after year. There are many native, edible, medicinal plants that return year after year, and provide many productive uses. The Parks department should work with local experts in food forestry, permaculture design, water systems, and ecological restoration as well as First Nations and the various neighbourhoods and communities in Victoria to enhance local landscapes in this way and promote knowledge of the history of First Peoples' occupation and use of the land.

Food Gardens More parks space initiatives devoted to community gardening - food security factored into planning for future parks, providing subsidies for use of public recreational facilities for low income adults as well as families. At least one public space available for a homeless camp that can provide safe, secure and hygienic facilities.

Support Crystal Pool to continue to offer and expand its programs and services, making them more accessible and affordable to families. Expand the LIFE program to connect with Oak Bay and Saanich, and raise the income limit for the application.

Keep Crystal Pool in better shape and figure out a way to build safe access to Summit Park directly from the water reservoir area above it. If the CRD will not do it, go gently through some back yards!!!

no comment

I am glad there is a plan to invest in Crystal Pool, look forward to seeing more details.

Recreation and Cultural The proposed initiatives provide a good range of projects that would likely impact a majority of residents and users of our parks, recreation and cultural elements of our City. There are a few initiatives that will necessarily require more in-depth review and consideration due to their complexity. However, there are a few that should be acted on in much shorter timeframes - just get the job done. For example, it would appear that a great deal of work went into developing the Urban Forest Master Plan from 2009-2013. Yet we see tree stumps (spray painted neon orange) left abandoned on our city streets since last autumn, with no clear plan on when they will be replaced.

Victoria has a beautiful parks system. However, we think the City's Parks and Rec. could focus more on improving and enhancing the city's public spaces - both small and large. There are many opportunities to partner with engineering on sidewalks, intersections, parklets and be innovative and community oriented with how we utilize and beautify our streetscapes. (And I don't mean more hanging baskets, please not). On Rec Centres (Crystal Pool), please find a way to partner with local developers or others to finance and redevelop that site to include a new pool, splash park, local retail and community services....The site is under-used, and land under-utilized - creative redevelopment should be a win for all.

Ensure the David Foster Harbour Pathway is built to current disability accessibility standards or beyond. Ensure all new initiatives and major retrofits meet or exceed these same standards.

Please be sure to fund maintenance and improvement of natural areas, native species, and species at risk.

Afghan memorial belongs in Ottawa NOT Victoria - stop putting up monuments that lose their meaning because of their ubiquitousness.

Stop putting band aids on crystal pool and build a new one.

Leave the boulevards alone. They just end up looking a hodgepodge mess and no one wants to eat food that a dog has peed on. I'd sooner eat the deer. That is a real problem not 'imagined , trendy' food security.

Establishing a plan for Crystal Pool must be a priority for 2015.

THIS IS SO LONG

I love Victoria's parks and certainly approve of good maintenance, an important part of which is cleanliness, but please stop trying to look as if you hire Martha Stewart and try to "beautify" everything unnecessarily. I don't think I can afford it! Natural spaces with low maintenance planting are very beautiful too.

Year after Year Beacon Hill Park, a major landmark, historic area and attraction to both locals and tourists, should be a focus here. The landscape and patterns of use have changed over the last 10 years for both visitors and nearby residents. More and more younger families with small children are using the Park compared with 10 years ago, but there is a sense of unease when one sees personal garbage lying around under trees and bushes or even just in the open field -- from cardboard, items of clothing to syringes and used condoms. The whole Park should be open and (actually and perceived to be) safe to all, and locals and visitors should not feel the need to confine their enjoyment of the Park to a particular area or two.

Looks good. Recreation is always important. Keeps us healthy!

Park spaces are colonial.

Increase I feel like the amount of attention dedicated towards improving and cultivating the arts within the community could be increased. I would like to see more initiatives that tie our community together through art, be it simple artistic events, or initiatives such as the paint-a-pole.

I really like that Crystal pool will be upgraded. We live in this neighbourhood and truly appreciate all that crystal pool has to offer our youth and our entire community. I am happy that we will invest in this and not tear it down.

Year after Year I think it is essential that the Greenways plan is re-written to align with the pedestrian and bicycle master plan. The input of this department will be essential for helping create beautiful, functional and community oriented pedestrian and cycling networks. I also think that Royal Athletic Park Field protection equipment should be researched and the most effective/protective system be used to ensure the Royal Athletic Park remains functional for as many days per year as possible.

I support the proposed initiatives, especially better bicycle paths.

I don't see how it will be possible to "manage the urban forest" without hiring someone responsible for implementation of the urban forest plan.

Victoria is losing its tree canopy on a daily basis. The tree bylaw has such massive loopholes that it is virtually useless. We need to protect trees on private property, as that's where we're losing most of them. The process in place - of simply getting an arborist's assessment before taking down a tree- is directly responsible for the unnecessary loss of many of our trees. There needs to be far more stringent requirements before a tree is destroyed.

Also, what is happening with the Parks Acquisition Fund? While we wait, every square inch of available land is being developed. Soon there'll be nothing left to purchase, especially in the urban neighbourhoods.

I don't know if this is the place to write down my concerns about the need for both deer and cat control in Victoria. The deer are destroying the vegetation required for birds and small animals, and they are also killing off what remains of our Garry oak ecosystem. Cats kill 10 million songbirds annually in Canada. It makes no sense to require dog owners to leash their pets, while allowing cat owners to let their pets wreak havoc with our bird population.

Focus on funding festivals that enrich the lives of Victorians and develop more green space for individuals and families to enjoy.

Would love to see bike routes going downtown. It would encourage people to be more active and actually use their bikes to go downtown as opposed to leaving them in storage places because our roads are clearly unsafe for bikers, which is ironic considering that we are (practically) the only city in Canada without a winter.

Bicycle lanes should be on side streets and not busy thoroughfares that must be shared with buses, trucks, ambulances, fire trucks and commuters. Begbie Green enhancements would be very welcome in an underserved neighbourhood and a lovely wayside stop for many.

Expand volunteer work party program and dedicate more staff to it (this is excellent for community involvement and ownership).

Hoping the "Art in parkades" project employs local artists. Honestly though, the architecture of the parkades makes me think they are a lost cause.

Looks fine

The culture initiatives should include "placemaking," ensuring public spaces offer opportunities for strangers to meet informally.

Food Gardens I believe a stronger commitment and action plan is needed in the area of food security in the city. I would like to see stronger city leadership in urban agriculture, personal food growing/raising, community gardens, markets, and food-sharing systems that provide food to vulnerable communities.

Year after Year Focus on park land, enhancing and maintaining, and put the priority there and with workers on the ground. There have been too many years of cutting workers at the bottom; they are the key to nice parks. In the 1990s, worker hours were slashed and full time workers cut. Previously, workers used the winter months to reduce invasive species. When that was cancelled, our parks deteriorated. Reinstate park

worker hours and create a robust program.

Not a priority,...

Acceptable

Seems reasonable.

More focus required for parks and safe walkways for families in Victoria downtown core

These are well thought out

Good

Excellent

The number one priority for me is to get a disc golf course built in or around Victoria. For a city that prides itself on getting outdoors, it has seriously underestimated the potential use of such an outdoor space. The current choices are Bowen Park (Nanaimo - great park) or taking a ferry to Pender or SSI. That is too far to travel for a sport that hundreds of people in and around Victoria play.

It is time to invest in the greenways program. Its clear the city wants to be leaders. Its time to lead once again in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. I was lucky enough to grow up here in the 90s and I can remember the excitement around the galloping goose, the locside trail and such. It would be great to see that same kind of excitement again!

Cities are for people - Not for automobiles.

Strive to turn green spaces into food production. That way, city workers learn skills (instead of learning how to use a mower) and the cost of living in Victoria is decreased. If we're paying to have a green space maintained, we might as well pay to have it maintain food.

again a financial summary would help. without going through 140 pages it is hard to see where revenues are going down and what expenses are going up. perhaps not so much should be spent if there is less coming in?

Public Art **Year after Year** Include the publicly supported Art Gallery of Greater Victoria in promotional material about the "hub". The collection belongs to the citizens. "Creativity, Innovation, Arts, Culture"

I'm concerned about value for \$\$ -- "responsive to serving customers on taxed boulevard areas"

My property is on a corner lot and I always assumed that the city owned the boulevards. While I have been aware of the "boulevard tax" for some time, I was not aware that I am considered a "customer". I considered that my taxes covered overall services generally provided to everyone, since, for instance, leaves are blown and raked from every frontage. No watering or fertilizing has taken place for years. It appears that the department is self sustaining, but I seem to be sharing my portion.

establish more revenue opportunities
create a regional park board

I am pleased to see the Doncaster Pathway is one of the proposed greenway projects, in alignment with and bringing multiple benefits from overlapping plans: the Bowker Creek Blueprint, the Urban Forest Master Plan, Urban Greenways plan, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. I realize daylighting Bowker Creek would be a premium achievement and a challenge in the constrained right-of-way between existing buildings; however, a stormwater utility upgrade might bring a water feature or bioswale to the surface, for landscape improvements, stormwater utility benefits and a community amenity. Bicycle and pedestrian accessibility needs improvement at the entry points to the pathway.

Increase **Recreation and Cultural** This is a high priority which should be delinked from food production as a priority in part 1. Food production has nothing to do with park, recreation or culture and is a very low priority for the city.

The city should increase its support for the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria - a backbone of the city culture and an important educational tool.

There can't ever be too much spending on these things. This is really truly where we live. Our parks, community centers & cultural actives create the community connections that we desire for happy, successful lives. More money here!!!!

Ambitious! I support it.

I agree with most of it

Increase NO MORE HANGING BASKETS. 1400?! Just stop. They look stupid and make a huge mess and take up WAY too many resources. People might complain, but tell them would they rather have hanging baskets or protect important urban forest in our region.

Where are the initiatives for the 72 hectares of natural areas? How are you increasing our urban forest cover ensuring we do not lose more tree cover?

If you stopped planting ridiculous nonnative species you could save a fortune on your water bill. Native plants don't need water once established, WHY would you plant anything else?

These initiatives look excellent.

Increase **Public Art** **Recreation and Cultural** Arts and culture spending should have an economic development component and spending allocated to arts and culture groups to act more effectively as cultural producers and economic engines. While I see the necessity of including arts and culture as a whole in with parks and recreation, the City needs to assert a financial commitment to the arts, and its suffering community groups. Public art grants cater to a very small portion of existing activities, and do very little to increase interaction with the arts, or create capacity for artists and arts groups to live and work in Victoria.

This report is hideous - too much text, no maps, ugly tables and graphics, no mock-ups of what it would look like or explaining how we get from here/now to there/future! Also too much jargon.

I don't think we need as many water-hungry hanging baskets as the city currently has. And the waste that comes from watering them all the time (i.e., drips). I think they are beautiful and I like seeing them - and so do tourists - but I would prefer ways to help them retain water and to use plant species that are a) good for local biodiversity, b) native, c) pretty. I would have 1/2 as many baskets and replace the other 1/2 with something that doesn't need as much water.

I would like more emphasis on the First Nations history, current life and land use, culture, names for places. For instance, the next time that signs need to be replaced in parks, please add information about that (there are some great ones on the causeway in front of the Empress and Legislature). And consider renaming icons like Mount Doug into the local name PKOLS.

I would like more emphasis and public education on how important green spaces are for residents. Something like Montreal has for 'ecosystem services of Montreal' (www.esmontreal.ca)

Increase **Recreation and Cultural** There should be more emphasis on parks and recreation to support the fitness of children and youth in particular. On culture, the city should increase support for the city's major cultural institutions - the symphony, opera and art gallery.

Need more linear parks without dogs.

Year after Year In the Business Unit 5077 - Boulevards - Taxed, the list of deliverables does not match reality. We have paid a boulevard tax for 39 years but in recent years we have not received the services as described except for a cut in the spring and leave collection once in the fall. Green, well maintained boulevards were a noted feature of the Fairfield/Rockland area, noted by the tour busses and carriages that drive by. In recent years they are not being maintained or watered and left to brown in the summer. It stresses the trees lining the boulevards. (Perhaps this comes under parks)

Find ways to work with businesses to ease the cost of running parks and arts facilities. These are vitally important to a city and make it a better place to live. Finding creative ways to fund parks, arts festivals, sports fields etc. might be a good way to reduce the financial burden.

Year after Year In Business Unit 5077 - Boulevards - Taxed, the stated deliverables do not match what happens. We have paid boulevard taxes for 37 years but in recent years the services do not match those listed except for a cut in the spring and leaf pick up in the fall. Green, well maintained boulevards were once a noted feature of the Fairfield/Rockland area, noted by the tour busses and carriages that drive by. In recent years they are not being maintained or watered and left to brown and go to dust in the summer. It stresses the trees lining the boulevard.

Recent proposals to permit residence to grow edible crops and other vegetation on the boulevards would ruin the classic, heritage streetscapes in Fairfield. It would also make it impossible to get from a parked car

to the sidewalk.

Clean up the cigarette bitts everywhere in the Parks and recreation areas. Get the drug addicts and homeless people off the streets. The federal government should pay for this not giving money to foreign countries. Build some nut houses for the Homeless and the Conservative government. Do not start Wars.

There has always been talk of 1% for the Arts in all new development proposals. Can we finally adopt?

I would absolutely love to see a free, outdoor calisthenics space in Victoria. It could be as simple as placing a bunch of bars for hanging and swinging and a few boxes for jumping on/from. I think of it like an adult playground or "skate park", where people are able to express physical creativity and freedom through movement. See this for an example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23yJzu25llc> .

I think Victoria has an extremely diverse set of active people who would love to see a space like this exist.

Investment in trees produces social, economic and health benefits its long overdue to restore a aging, declining asset

Year after Year half a million dollars on water a year seems extravagant

Again, I wish I could engage with this better than I have time for. Lots of good stuff here. It'd be nice if parks could produce more food and less flowers and grass. Be careful that \$\$ for live music reaches the musicians; e.g., the buskers see none of the money that the City gives to the buskers' association.

Year after Year don't know enough, but like what I see during the year

too expensive

Food Gardens **Year after Year** Need for emphasis on food systems integrated into parks - Food Systems - Permanent Boulevard Guidelines, Community Garden Policy Review.

Crystal Pool needs to updated/renovated significantly, or rebuilt. It is a major asset for the city, but does not meet the needs of its residents (public gym is too small, design of pool not adequate). Is it possible to partner with the YMCA to re-develop the pool? The City should look for partnership opportunities to make this update a reality - it has been pushed off for a number of years and needs to be addressed sooner rather than later.

David Foster Harbour Pathway is a top priority and its completion should be expedited. It links to tourism, downtown beautification, transportation, reduction of Cruise Ship taxis and busses.

Parks Dept. does a great job in so many ways.

Please finalize the driving restrictions in Beacon Hill Park. Cut-through vehicle traffic could be even further reduced. The last changes to the roadway past the main washrooms have created a dangerous interaction between vehicles and pedestrians. It could be easily solved by again closing the road entirely to vehicle

traffic.

Update Greenways Plan and integrate with Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans IMPORTANT

Development of an investment strategy for Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre and annual capital improvements I FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT CRYSTAL POOL. This facility is Victoria's inner city community centre. I think Crystal Pool is the flagship, a symbol for everything the city is striving to be. Whatever Crystal Pool is, the city is. It cannot be neglected. It needs to be a vibrant, modernized, brilliant facility. When Crystal Pool is brilliant, so will the City of Victoria be brilliant.

As for the City and art. Let's get beyond Canada celebrations and find a new focal point for investment.

I believe this budget could easily be tripled (taking away from infrastructure) to engage low income families into a healthy lifestyle when they can't afford hockey or more expensive events. a community sports engagement program should be jumpstarted.

Cycle and pedestrian plans should have high priority.

Current boulevard maintenance is mediocre at best. Boulevard gardens should be encouraged.

Consider building a world class large outdoor pool facility that doubles as an open air skating rink in the winter (with retractable roof). This would be an attraction and would demonstrate innovation and leadership. Possible location, undeveloped land next to Vic High School.

This is a need for more cycling infrastructure in parks, particularly bike lockups.

As tourism is one of the economic drivers of the city it is very important to keep the city as attractive as possible. I think that you have done a great job.

I believe that the City must be responsible for "planning" and "directing and managing the delivery of parks services" but I do not believe that it automatically follows that city staff are the most effective and cost-efficient solution to cutting grass, repairing backstops, repairing paths, providing concession services at such city-owned facilities as RAP and Crystal Pool.

Referring to Strategic Plan Objective #1 -- Innovate, Lead, "Be Bold" ... SURELY City Council can be bold enough to challenge the status quo and truly ask "is this the best and most cost-effective way to spend taxpayers' money and deliver routine services?"

Public Art **Year after Year** More focus on building the greenway system now. It should be built to be visionary with plantings, separation from vehicles and public art, and the whole network should be complete in 10 years.

Crystal Pool should be prioritized. We need this local facility.

A downtown space where kids can play while parents shop. This should be the next park priority. Think Jamison square in Portland. This could be behind the maritime museum or in Centennial Square. It doesn't need to be swings, but it needs to be kid focused with benches for adults.

Year after Year As a resident who live adjacent to Clawthorpe Park I am delighted with the long over due renewal of this small park. All of the other initiatives make sense although it does seem like a great deal to do in one fiscal year. The Doncaster pathway is also a priority for those of us in Oaklands. My single biggest priority for 2015 is the work on the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre. It is most unfortunate that we replaced the Blue Bridge at the cost of this essential facility!

Public Art Forget public art expenditures.
Don't move on retiring or renovating Crystal Pool unless a fully defined economic plan is developed.
I don't mind spending money on parks as our parks and environment define our city.

Food Gardens **Increase** Shift planting budget from beautification to food - increase year-over-year
Permit and support community food planting in Beacon Hill Park
Plant boulevards with fruit and nut trees
Immediate reduction in mowing count of all parks - especially Beacon Hill park
Eliminate annual mowing of natural wildflower areas
Adopt a xeriscaping protocol for non-sport parks areas to move to fields that don't require regular mowing (mowing fields of grass is lame!)
adapt urban forest planting plans to accommodate updated climate change forecasts and emphasis on food production
Enhanced grant funding and improve process for accessibility for community gardens, greenways
Year-over-year reductions in expenditures on hanging baskets, annual plantings - replace with food!
The Parks budget for water appears excessive - identify opportunities for water re-use, rainwater capture, tech efficiencies, adopt xeriscape / drought-tolerant plantings
shift Parks resources from upkeep services such as mowing and planting flowers to naturalization and removal of invasive species

Recreation and Cultural Keep making our parks kid friendly and stop wasting money on equipment for people to exercise in the outdoors. I have only seen kids and teens playing on them...and they are somewhat dangerous and play items. Older adults are not using the equipment.

Save the \$ and put towards our much needed new pool and recreation facility (ie. Crystal Pool).

Keep supporting local cultural events that are family friendly and pretty much free.

The Planning Policy initiatives are timely and important, as is the Crystal Pool investment strategy

Recreation and Cultural The management of our parks, recreation and culture is very important. There has not been an innovation in parks and recreation for too long. The programs offered by my neighbourhood

association are of absolutely no appeal whatsoever. There is no reason why the Fairfield Neighbourhood Association could not engage residents to co-create recreation activities. Beacon Hill park is an absolute gem. Yet, there also, the stewards could engage residents in a visioning, planning and co-creation process. Engaging residents in co-creating plans is messy work and requires skilled, experienced practitioners. Please ensure you provide sufficient staff resources. It should generate amply return on investment by better utilization of existing facilities.

Pedestrian and cycling plans and improvements should rise in priority. Add efforts to improving and creating downtown parks/greenspaces. Undo the mess in Beacon Hill Park and return it to the way it was, or otherwise allow intuitive, useful access again.

Increase Would like to see the Crystal pool question at the top of the agenda. Investment in a modern fitness facility would do wonders for the downtown area and other initiatives at increasing residential density in town/ rejuvenating peri-downtown neighbourhoods.

No comment.

Density **Increase** I would go easy on increasing density downtown, especially if there are few plans to deal with the current congestion. Don't want to end up like Vancouver...

Local Area Plans **Support** **Urban** Strongly support moving ahead as quickly as possible with the local area planning program, in particular, with a focus on walkable urban villages.

Affordable Housing **Bike** **Local Area Plans** **Removing barriers/ customer service** complete local area plans in village centres

First Nations **Removing barriers/ customer service** **sustainability** needs to be kept updated.

Density **Removing barriers/ customer service** **Zoning** Foster a vibrant city core by zoning for density

Planning and not enough Development **Removing barriers/ customer service** Good planning means not making it more difficult to make a project happen. I see few examples of good planning (Blue Bridge is a case in point) and many examples of development and permit activities making things very difficult.

Removing barriers/ customer service Keep up the great work.. and do more!

Removing barriers/ customer service **Support** **sustainability** Support and encourage sustainable and development that reduces impact on the environment and reduces input to climate change.

Removing barriers/ customer service Wow. How is this cheaper than Legislative and regulatory services?

Housing Action Plan **Removing barriers/ customer service** Very good initiatives and significant improvements in service delivery can already be observed.

Budget **Housing Action Plan** **Support** **sustainability** It is 2015, this is the most important challenge for every level of government, you have my full support on all sustainability issues. On the social housing side I think we need balance or we will find ourselves dealing with a federal problem of fighting national

think we need balance or we will find ourselves dealing with a federal problem of fighting national homelessness with a population and tax budget of only 75,000 people.

Empty talk

Housing Action Plan If the Housing Action Plan includes provision or incentives to assist homeless people in Victoria find housing, I am all for that.

Housing Action Plan Housing action plan is paramount. We have too many people living in our streets/parks.

City of Victoria **Community Development** **First Nations** **Removing barriers/ customer service** If I were a developer, I would be put off by the 6 week wait - time for approval for projects, and the insistence that applications be filled out perfectly before being attended to. This strikes me as an inordinate amount of time, given that these are investors who are enriching the city. (Disclaimer: I don't know anything about this, just sharing my uninformed first impressions!)

For Community Development, we need to work together with First Nations stakeholders. They are at the heart of our city, and our understanding of who we are as a community. Reconciliation needs to happen socially, economically, environmentally in Victoria.

Budget Did not see anything for on-going community engagement for Oaklands: Higgins Street project....looking for this mention somewhere in the budget. Community engagement is intricate to progressive policy making. While it may seem time-prohibitive up-front...the outcomes are comprehensive and empowering to all people involved. Projects that entail community engagement require appropriate year-to-year projection. It is incremental in nature: relationship building.

Removing barriers/ customer service These documents are extremely thorough - thank you for the hard work. I often hear that there has been a lot of red tape to get certain things done at City Hall. Not sure of the turnaround times listed here have always been like that, but they look great! It would be really good to profile locals who access these services (i.e. developers, tradespeople, people doing renos, and new business owners) at City Hall to see if things have changed for them and if so get them to provide a testimonial.

the city must stop micro units and taking the backhanders from building companys we need no more condos in vic

Urban Whenever possible encourage urban green energy projects and permits.

More green roof initiatives.

Affordable Housing Look at promoting creative and affordable housing options, like Cohousing.

Affordable Housing STOP BUILDING EXPENSIVE HOUSING

Bike Too much of our land is wasted for the personal private car and all the infrastucture to maintain this selfish destructiveness.

Increase **Local Area Plans** **Support** The salary increase of \$84K 2014 to 2015 will perhaps support 1 only additional staff. Far, far more manpower is needed in planning to deal with all the swamp of site specific rezoning and the requirements to complete in a timely fashion the planning implementation required to fulfill the OCP.

I note that the salary line item drops by \$110K. in 2016. Where is the staffing resource going to come from? Further the salary line item drops by \$49K 2015 to 2019.

There is no adequate resources to implement the planning required to enable the implementation of the OCP.

It is interesting to note that while salaries are down over the 2015 -2019 period exempt salaries increased by \$49K over the 5 year period.

This department needs significant resources to Respond in a Timely Fashion to the OCP Implementation Strategy. The Medium Term items listed in the Local Area Planning Terms of Reference should be expedited and implemented by 2018

Focus more on broad community planning and goal setting with the community at large. and less on tying up processes with small numbers of people on residence associations who claim to represent the broader public.

CUT THE COSTS

Community Development **Local Area Plans** **Planning and not enough Development** **Removing barriers/ customer service** **Support** Yes, continue to work on neighbourhood planning to make decisions more transparent and to support our desire to grow our community and support new residences and economic development.

Heritage **Removing barriers/ customer service** Permits & inspections - my many developer friends tell me that Victoria is BY FAR the most difficult jurisdiction on the island in which to conduct their work. The horror stories of inspectors with FAR too much discretionary power to ignore their own rules are legion!

Heritage - the counsellor whose mission in life it is to maintain heritage values is so extreme in her views that she has single-handedly caused certain Vancouver developers to avoid projects in Victoria completely.

No thoughts at this time.

Removing barriers/ customer service Spend less time vetting small projects and speed up approvals, the process is taking too long and the lack of flexibility is destroying the city.

Heritage **Increase** Having had first hand experience with both heritage, planning and building permits etc, I must say I am less than impressed with any of them. My back deck took over a year to get approved (with absolutely no change from the initial application), and was caught up in a sea of inefficiency and people with no real jobs. My recent building permit took about six months to approve (with no changes from the original).

This is certainly an area where cost savings could be made as it is way overstaffed. To see an increase is disappointing. Someone needs to take a serious look at this area and not buy into the BS provided by staff.

Zoning Change the zoning to allow all townhouses, row houses, duplexes and triplexes in all single family neighbourhoods WITHOUT needing to change the zoning (ie: zoned for the use providing setbacks and massing is kept within existing zoning)

City Planning **Urban** Land use planning and transportation are so inextricably connected that they ought to be merged as one function. Evidence shows that surrounding land use (land use mix, density, proximity to parks, building setback, etc.) has a tremendous impact on whether people will choose to walk.

In turn, amenities for walkers (animated urban design, street furniture, public art) affects planning and promotes economic growth. These need to be joint conversations in order to see real change and in order to continue to build a vibrant, happy city.

Review and streamline organizational or process overlap and duplication with other City departments.

Too much interference by government. Taxes are too high and totally unsustainable as they are.

People are about to move to smaller communities because of the new virtual reality office computer programs that are about to cascade into our lives.

People will not have to commute and they will live where they want to in cheaper, better quality new homes, and no second car needed or expensive fuel costs and time wasted commuting.

I hope for more edible environments in our area and more areas where people can access the natural environment of this territory.

City of Victoria **City Planning** **Community Development** **Increase** **Planning and not enough Development**
Zoning As a homeowner, it is frustrating to see the number of zoning and OCP variances which are sought by developers and (almost always) eventually approved by City Hall. The big developers get their increased height, their reduced setbacks, their increased density, their reduced number of required parking spots....above and beyond what the original zoning or community plans were for that land.

What is the point of having zoning and community plans, if they are routinely overturned? Can't people buy their homes knowing what might get built right next to them, or across the street? I spoke to real estate agents a few months ago, looking for a family home where I could be assured that a nearby home might not be bought up and converted to a townhouse or condo.....and their comments were the same: don't buy in Victoria then (Oak Bay was recommended as a community that respects zoning).

Affordable Housing **City Planning** **Housing Action Plan** Housing Action Plan - we desperately need more affordable housing.

Downtown Area - what are the new proposed by-laws. I worry about by-laws that criminalize people experiencing homelessness by denying them access to public spaces. While I appreciate a vibrant

downtown, I do not agree that catering to tourists and shoppers overrides the basic needs of those who cannot afford housing in the city.

I have noticed that these Sustainability Projects that get traction are the ones that fit into somebody's pet project. For instance, Lisa Helps likes to ride a bike. So we get a bicycle lane on a main street when a lane on a less-busy street would be probably safer and less expensive.

Support I am in support of initiatives.

This is an area where the city needs best practices. These three visions often collide and get lost in ideology. Can we afford it? Why make it difficult for developers?

Affordable Housing **Housing Action Plan** **Local Area Plans** Prioritize the Housing Action Plan. Victoria is lagging behind when it comes to affordable housing policies. Faster delivery of Local Area Plans for greater certainty within neighbourhoods.

City of Victoria Victoria needs to reevaluate which bylaws are actually necessary for the city to operate smoothly. It costs money to reinforce bylaws. Cut out the ones that lack importance. Ex. Sandwich board issues for businesses.

None

Nice to see more developments occurring in our downtown and city seems to be welcoming this growth which is very good.

Zoning New Downtown Zoning Regulation Bylaw - What does this mean? Are we going to look at the Zoning and limit the amount of different 'Zone's DT?

Budget **City Planning** **Increase** **Support** Big increase in this budget but I support that in the short term. With the continued re-investment in our city, particularly the downtown, good planning is critical to ensure we get things right in terms of livable cities, place making and quality of life and the built environment.

Need to tie together all aspects of investment; buildings, transportation, parks, etc into a larger coherent whole. Good planning will help accomplish this.

fine.

Budget Oh my goodness, a department that actually uses metrics AND are under budget. I wouldn't change a thing, they deserve what they want.

City Planning **Planning and not enough Development** clarity and speed of service for development and building permits is an issue that needs to be addressed. I see there are targets in the plan to deliver them in a timely manner, I would like to see emphasis on this and other areas to improve how the city works with builders who put a substantial amount of investment into our city

City of Victoria Seismic risk assessment should be top priority along with building of new firehall. If we suffer the same devastation as Christchurch and do not have the infrastructure both above and below ground to withstand a significant earthquake, Victoria will cease to exist. Langford could become our new city centre.

The current permit process is a significant deterrent to the revitalization of the Downtown core and should be overhauled for efficiency.

Excellent initiatives.

Budget Core Services under Development includes section about Development and Variance via CALUC, does this mean a process will be developed?

In budget, do not see any reference to financing fro CALUC process. Where is it?

Building permits need to be processed faster.

Planning and not enough Development Would like to see this department engage intensely with the Parks dep on its Master Plan and as a stakeholder for new downtown developments.

The initiatives as listed look good, however.

Local Area Plans Need higher priority on local area plans. Many are very outdated and should be updated more quickly than the current plan calls for.

Planning and not enough Development My earlier comments with respect to neighbourhood associations and land use planning also belong here. Respect for the volunteer work that they do is essential. Consistency in the application of regulations is important. Moving planners around so that neighbourhood associations often don't know who in planning they need to work with is a problem. Respect for resident views, as opposed to the vested commercial interests of the "old boys" (most of whom don't live in Victoria), is essential when it comes to planning around the harbour. This includes all aspects of the further development of the harbour pathway.

Support **Urban** I think more support needs to be provided to the neighbourhood land use committees and this support ought to include education regarding 21st century urban environments that include higher densities and less reliance on the car so that these committees are more pro-active with respect to urban livability rather than generally on the defensive to defend the traditional single family home as the best option.

Planning and not enough Development Too much planning and not enough development.

Local Area Plans **Planning and not enough Development** If you fail to plan you plan to fail. It makes no sense to not expedite the development of all Local Area Plans (village plans). It will cost up front but the cost will be recovered over time. I live in Cook Street Village and with current schedule we will see our plan maybe in

2024/25. I may be dead by that time. The OCP approved in 2012 is a failure if the village concept is not operationalized. The village is where all the growth is to be, they have to be a planning priority.

nil

Budget **Increase** I don't really understand why this area needs a budget increase of @10%. The term "sustainable planning" makes these activities sound like they are something new when they have been happening, under different banners, for many years.

The listed initiatives seem fine, but don't seem to mesh with those in the strategic plan objective of excellence in planning.

City of Victoria **Support** Legalization and promotion of food trucks! Most successful and thriving cities support this growing industry and Victoria has so far been almost completely left behind by a lucrative and creative opportunity! Food trucks promote young business owners who can't afford the outrageous storefront rents downtown. They also bring in tourists and provide more affordable food for residents.

Affordable Housing **Urban** I'm very interested in the potential density bonus system outside downtown - more urban development is necessary for affordable housing in Victoria.

The importance of a Strategic Plan cannot be emphasized enough, however the process should not be hijacked by vocal idealistic minority groups of Social Engineers. The strategic plan has to be grounded in the realities of life as it affects the lives of the majority of the population. The strategic plan should not be unduly influenced by special interest groups and individuals with individual advocacy issues they are espousing. A very practical economically viable approach has to be taken when looking at a Strategic Plan and certainly not in isolation with the rest of the region.

Increase It would be nice to increase revenues in this section to offset some of the expenditures, or cut back some of the expenditures.

Affordable Housing Excellent as long as affordable housing remains a priority.

Community Development **Heritage** I'd like to see more emphasis on heritage restoration and enhancement of historical features to emphasize Victoria's uniqueness and community development.

City of Victoria **City Planning** **Heritage** **Planning and not enough Development** While there are tons of things we could do for this city in terms of planning, after travelling far and wide in this country I think it's worth applauding the Planning department for a job well done over 15 years. Victoria has developed extremely well for a city of its size and scale, retaining a vibrant downtown core, improving density, encouraging development in the right ways and in the right places, retaining a heritage character and continuing to promote human-scale transportation and access. More of the same please, perhaps with a bit more regional integration!

They are written entirely in jargon.

City of Victoria **City Planning** Based on the last "City Plan" ... which totally lacked initiative or plan(s) which

defined where the City must go; may I suggest that priority one should be to push the reset button and start over.

The City of Victoria must LEAD the planning process, not react to and/or try to accommodate selfish business interests.

e.g. Where are the plans and policies for a truly dynamic harbour?

The City continues to allow itself to be dictated to by both provincial and federal agencies as the harbour continues to be an embarrassment - to Victoria.

Why does the our City allow this to happen?

no thoughts

Looks good.

.clarify the CALUC process responsibilities

-

Without doing a lot of background research I can't tell what you're planning on doing.

City of Victoria **City Planning** **Housing Action Plan** The housing action plan should be a top priority for the city. At one time the city of Victoria was considered a beautiful city. The reality is downtown is run down, over run by pan handlers and homeless people and simply unsafe. Until the homeless problem is solved, no amount of hanging flower baskets are going to improve Victoria's image. I realize the homeless issue is not exclusively a local government problem and requires coordinated effort by the province and federal government. However, I have lived downtown for years the poverty on the streets continues to get worse. Police allow open drug use throughout downtown and seem unable or unwilling to enforce the drug laws. Similarly many people with mental illness regularly threaten and harass people downtown. I am sympathetic to these people and they clearly require medical attention. However, they pose a serious problem to Victoria's downtown becoming a place people want to spend time.

Probably OK

Housing Action Plan Glad to see the Housing Action Plan

Community Development **Planning and not enough Development** Speed up community development plans.

Increase no major concerns, although i note that the expenditure increase is many times larger than the rate of inflation, and only partially mitigated by the revenue increase.

City Planning I gave a low priority to this item due to the deliverables.

There are a few key points/objectives missing.

The whole planning doesn't acknowledge the use of neighborhood associations which contribute greatly to the community voice by facilitating community input before public hearing stage.

Historically, City Planning has not been about communities or about sustainability, rather the planners seem

to only care about the buildings.

The ineffectiveness of planning has been seen in the inability to fulfill the City's obligation to ensure compatible land use. The fact that the City has never used, or published, an NEF for the harbor airport to end the deception of acceptance of incompatible land use is shameful.

curb sprawling development on ecologically sensitive areas - limit development

This is a bogus way to consult - what is bonus density outside core area? how can i share an opinion on your priorities when you don't describe all of the reports in this survey are pro forma bafflegab no meat no accountability

aims could be a bit broader

Affordable Housing **Zoning** I would hope to see a streamlining of the zoning process, especially in the area of building affordable housing. Couldn't find it - but it might have been hidden!

City Planning why are salaries and benefits so high, again??
I feel many people move here for the lifestyle, we do not need to top it up with comparable salaries and benefits to large cities. We are small.
Sustainable Planning is VERY important, but often can use someone with common sense, not various degrees and big city experience.

Affordable Housing **Budget** I have you admit I don't totally understand this section. I skimmed the PDF. It includes housing policy, so is this where you'd talk about affordable housing? I didn't see much about it in there.

I like that there's a plan in place to keep the downtown as the heart of Victoria.

Also, why is the hydro budget \$0 if you're spending money on hydro each year?

Not spreading funds among all community associations, but pick notable priorities. Make meaningful long term changes in the city. Not spreading the peanut butter thinly to make all regions happy.

Who is leading the process to create the Victoria of the future. There needs to be a vision that guides projects. That has to come from the people who live in downtown Victoria and the people who visit. Not the Downtown Business Association or the Chamber of Commerce, as by design these organizations are reactive rather than pro-active..

Density **Homelessness** ditto

Heritage We ought to take steps to protect / retain heritage buildings. And we ought to designate additional buildings as heritage. Further involve the local history societies and respect their recommendations.

Think Langford council has a business friendly approach, both in taxation and in expediting building permits.

Multi purpose building seems to be the best strategy for creating community downtown, including business and residential with daycare on site; safe walking and parking downtown infrastructure downtown to create economic and social sustainability.

OMG again - now over 638 pages!!!! How do you think we can comment reasonably? Or, what is it you expect?

Develop strategies to put more money into the pockets of business people, and the tax burden will become insignifacent.

Yes!

The titles on p2 don't give a good picture of what these things are. The pages that follow are too detailed to be of use.

none

More emphasis on alternative transportation (walking, riding and buses) is required. Some ideas should be considered to motivate developers to contribute to walkability and ridability.

Affordable Housing **City of Victoria** **Increase** **Support** This is a very large issue. Some of it is larger than victoria, but maybe that is where regional leadership comes in. We would like to install PV solar panels on our roof and sell the power back to the grid, however financially it needs further support from government. Such programs helped enourmously with energy retrofits for heating and window upgrades. I realize those were federal and provincial programmes and may be beyond this section, but certainly apply here. Victoria may have to be a bit more activist to obtain these provincial programmes. These will be linked to community sustainability and climate change response as well as liveability issues. It may not fit here, however tax on non-resident property ownership must be increased to create a financial basis for low income/ affordable/ social housing. In attempting to change the boulevard use on our street we were unable to acquire enough signatures on our block due to non-local owners who simply don't care. We the residents are in a sense hostage to these non-resident owners whose interest in the property appears solely as an investment. Such ownership must be taxed to keep the city liveable and affordable.

City Planning My experience with the permit process has simply proved that because of all the liability issues, it has required more and more professionals (in the private sector) to take the brunt of the responsibility. There seems to be less need for city inspectors if the city cannot assume liability for its own people. The Johnson Street Bridge debacle is a prime example that there is something very dis-functional with this so called sustainable planning process.

no comments

I like the triple bottom line approach.

I hope that he building permit process revision includes things like mandatory contributions to something sustainable for the neighbourhood, like contributing to dedicated bike lanes, cross walk expansion, etc.

Budget The the plan and budget is reasonable.

Local Area Plans **Urban** -I think local area planning is very important because it focuses on the needs of the local people and environment.

-I think having a regional sustainability strategy is very important for making this region more environmentally friendly and sustainable.

-I think having a density bonus system outside of the downtown core is important for encouraging density building and decreasing urban sprawl into natural spaces.

good try

keep in mind that all governments use more staff than actually needed.

Get production!!!

Heritage **Increase** **Support** Over the past 10 years downtown Victoria has been sliding into neglect. There have been some good new housing projects, but the population required to fill them and build a vibrant downtown area will not stay or support downtown businesses if these keep moving out to the Westshore or shutting down all together. This is leading to a huge increase of homeless and addicts on the downtown streets, it seems to get worse every year. I have lived here most of my life and have always supported the downtown and shopped there, but I'm even starting to look at shopping at surrounding malls instead. There needs to be a lot of work done in this area. Keeping Heritage properties is very important as this forms part of our attraction to tourists.

Planning should be wholistic.

I approve.

More bike lanes.

none

Urban Look at the pie charts. This is almost all a waste. Sustainable communities allow for urban farming, fresh water collection, solar kick backs, mass transit.

Affordable Housing **Housing Action Plan** **Planning and not enough Development** I'd like to see more details on the housing action plan to build density and affordability. Parking requirements should also be more flexible, along with transportation improvements.

Diversity should be focal point of development.

Support It would be a good idea to bring back grants to support secondary suites in homes. Maybe \$5,000 per suite.

Lets keep things as simple and clear as we can in this area so requirements are understandable and meetable for people living and doing business in Victoria.

Initiatives are excellent and overdue for implementation.

Zoning We have a long, long way to go on being more sustainable as a city. European cities are miles ahead. Rainwater collection, grey water treatment, swales, green roofs, rain gardens, viable transportation options, etc. are in the infancy of development. We need to look outside the comfort zone of our very conservative perspectives and learn from other countries.

Support Brilliant stuff! I definitely support the these proposed initiatives. Am a big supporter of more densification as well.

Planning has proven it is not capable of taking on real planning.

It is time to create the NEF which will show what planning should have been doing the past 35 years. Then hire a competent planner.

Your statistics indicate 75% to 80% of permit requests are completed within 2 business days, and yet I have read that we have one of the worst response times for developments of any Canadian city.

The homeless continue to be a challenge for Victoria.

Must make it easier to build 'legal' suites. You know there's a problem when there's more illegal than legal suites in the city - it means the laws are not in sync with what the public wants / needs.

Too much regulation, in fact massive over regulation. My neighbour wanted to remove his old garage which was falling down. He spent over \$5000 on permits, inspections and testing for a job we completed in 20 minutes. Cut the regulations and streamline process.

Heritage Will heritage include first nations history? Heritage is very politically sensitive and your plan could promote colonial attitudes.

same as above

see previous

Community Development **Heritage** Allow more community development through residential structures, to encourage a greater tax base. Remove some of the archaic rules about heritage development. Give tax breaks for green design and energy retrofits.

Affordable Housing **Increase** **Support** make specific outreach to small rental building owners to help support housing affordability. Find ways to support low income earners, so they can afford the rent that housing owners must charge. Increasing taxes and utility costs have absorbed the capacity to offer rents.

housing owners must charge. Increasing taxes and utility costs have absorbed the capacity to offer rents that within the means of many renters.

This is outside my realm of experience and knowledge completely so don't feel I can constructively comment.

more playgrounds for kids. More beaches that are safe for us to play on.

Keep development really restricted.

City Planning **Housing Action Plan** A housing action plan is a must. no question.

for the vitality of downtown, and the over all livability of the city

Affordable Housing **Housing Action Plan** Housing Action Plan very important - we need affordable housing in Victoria.

Affordable Housing **Housing Action Plan** **Support** I would like to see the Housing Action Plan be recognized as high priority. Are we perhaps looking into the Housing First model? More affordable housing means less youth and adults on the street, more stability and therefore often less substance use, and less crime. We need to look at ways we can have low-barrier, affordable housing especially for youth and adults who use drugs as often a lot of housing units aren't designed to act as supportive and low-barrier. Camus housing is a good example of what affordable, supportive and low-barrier housing looks like.

City of Victoria **City Planning** **Housing Action Plan** **Increase** What is a "housing action plan"? Does that mean housing for low-income people in Victoria or new housing for middle and upper class people that will increase the levels of gentrification in our city?

Housing Action Plan I like the inclusion of the housing action plan. I make a moderately good salary, but as a single woman my rent eats up a good half of what I take home - and for a rather run-down one-bedroom apartment, it's a bit depressing to see it vanish.

Budget **City of Victoria** **Community Development** **Increase** My biggest problem with paying my \$41 dollars towards this is the amount of time it takes the city. What are people getting paid for If rezoning take 1 year and half. An example. Concert properties injunction with Jawl properties proposed a development in the james bay area. This development will have a huge impact on the city of Victoria. These companies believe in our city and we are making them wait almost a year for a public hearing. and then they will wait another 6 to 8 months for counsel to decide.

If I am paying community development, I want the city to get its act together and start processing these applications quickly. Instead of making people jump through hoops that are willing to invest in our city, We need to make it as easy as possible. I am okay with a budget increase, but if it is not helping people get there work done and things moving along quickly for people who believe in our city then I am not for it.

Heritage neighbourhood plans are a waste of money, Victoria is too small, OCP is good, heritage planning is a luxury, heritage does not put food pn your table

No comments,

Support I am completing this survey primarily to indicate my support for a Supervised Consumption Services site for Victoria BC, but I am unable to find reference to this in the survey. Please record my response in the appropriate location. Thank you.

Implementation of the Official Community Plan stands out.

No comment.

Support **Urban** Urban planning and urban containment are important goals and should be adequately supported.

More community Gardens, more safe dedicated Bike paths

As a person who has had to deal with it, your permitting system is a nightmare. It needs to be streamlined and made more user friendly as is Langford's.

The biggest drain on our taxes is the over policing of our city, and yet you tell us you have no control over this, so we are not actually living in a democracy, just a police state where taxes are imposed on us from above to fund the police.

You are telling us the mayor and council are useless pawns that can affect no important change.

You are sick humans, very sick, looking after your paycheque, with the blinders on.

Affordable Housing **Housing Action Plan** Housing action plan of great importance. Affordability is key. Working families are suffering and affordable housing is integral.

Looks reasonable.

Zoning The Seismic Risk - Building Assessment Study should be a top priority given the subduction zone we live in and events in places like Christ Church, New Zealand.

No more high-rises! They block the sunlight and interrupt the skyline. Don't let developers push you around! Bayview project. There is a limit, stay within it! :) Lowrises with green roof gardens instead.

needs much more attention to a affordable--low cost--housing action plan and a safe consumption site.

Initiate bold and innovative plans to reduce Victoria's carbon footprint - environmentally sustainable energy incentives for residential and commercial building owners, active transportation incentives/vehicle use disincentives.

City of Victoria **City Planning** **Community Development** **Increase** **Planning and not enough Development**

"Potential density bonus system outside downtown". Does this mean we're in for another poorly conceived, short sighted plan similar to "backfill" houses. Density does NOT equate to community or quality of life. Any City planner that think that increasing density has only positive outcomes literally has their head in the sand and has no ability to make fact based decisions. More is not always better. So when the City is developing it

and has no ability to make fact-based decisions. There is not always a reason why when the city is developing a new Building Bylaws please consider - does Victoria want to be another New York or Hong Kong?

Budget **Increase** 8% budget increase is too high!

Are community planning initiatives instigated by the department - or can they be suggested by citizens?

Ditto

I don't know if this comment belongs here, but I'm very concerned about the high rise buildings going up in Victoria. Go visit Toronto and investigate the living conditions of people in old high rise buildings. Remember, people will still be living in them when the elevators are broken and the structure is crumbling. For the sake of future residents, keep buildings to about 5 storeys so that stairs can be used when elevators break.

Planning needs to consider future residents on a micro basis. How will each building age through the generations?

1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean
2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.
3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

Budget These are core services.

Again, I question the conference/travel and parking allowances budgets. I think you should look to what the provincial government has done in terms of restraint -- when you are paid for by tax dollars you should be conscious of that.

Budget These are core services.

Similar comment as above re areas for budget restraint.

City of Victoria **City Planning** **Community Development** **Planning and not enough Development** There is a desperate need to retain what character and nature is left in neighbourhoods. Too many big condos, mega-houses and commercial developments (that end up sitting half empty due to foreign buyers who do not live and participate in the city) are replacing iconic Victoria buildings and areas. Plan an area in the city to be built up and keep large development there and don't let it creep into neighbourhoods. Think, build small community where people will gather and know each other and live and spend.

City of Victoria Stop letting people/companies build these ugly new condo buildings. We could be a leading green city with beautiful unique architecture that inspires rather than turns us into just another concrete jungle.

Also, why can't we have an initiative like Portland which mandates an art instillation with new buildings, or building renovations?

All this money should be allocated to creating a LRT from Downtown Victoria to Swartz Bay and to Sooke.

Connecting the communities and making it easier for us to travel. Right now using public transportation it takes 5 hours to go from Victoria to Vancouver, and that is just simply crazy!

Hire more people for all these functions. I have heard the permit process is laughably arbitrarily stringent and takes way too long. Encourage multi use dwellings as well as secondary suites. Housing is too unaffordable we need options. Why can't people live / work in retail space? Rent is so expensive so young start ups should be allowed to maximize their rent money investment. (I.e. paying SO MUCH for space downtown and also paying rent in some overpriced apartment. Incentivize landlords allowing dogs and cats as pets. It is important to the mental health of our community. Perhaps some sort of pet deposit subsidy or tax refund setup?

Affordable Housing **Increase** One good way to increase businesses downtown is to implement a vacancy tax as in Chicago. If a business building is vacant for more than 30 days, a special vacancy tax is activated. This forces land owners to make their rents more attractive.

Also, a focus on affordable housing would go a long way to getting people off the street. It would be great to clean up downtown and make it safer at night.

City of Victoria Find ways to get empty retail space up and going. Make landlords give young entrepreneurs a break on rental, a chance to prove themselves, before raising rent.

Modernize, but don't take away Victoria's essence. You lose a city one building at a time, one bridge at a time.

Bike lanes and safety are a key part of long term sustainability

City of Victoria **City Planning** **Heritage** There is little mention of heritage preservation in the proposed initiatives. Victoria's heritage is essential to the viability of our economy as well as the enjoyment of residents. I hope the city resources the heritage planning department sufficiently to enable the city to promote public awareness of the value of heritage preservation, and enforcement of heritage permits and rehabilitation agreements.

Community Development **Increase** **Urban** Explore new methods of community engagement to break away from the traditional linear model that frustrates both developers and citizens. Move toward creative co-design of community. Put increased emphasis on design guidelines for the urban villages that will define the future of Victoria: currently these exist in broad strokes but need to be refined and focused.

Affordable Housing more affordable housing options.

City Planning **Local Area Plans** The idea of the happy and equitable city needs to be applied to all city planning. Quieter, more welcoming streets in the downtown area, not overshadowed by tall (more than 5 story buildings), with cafes and restaurants along a street without vehicle traffic would be a godsend, for tourists, for locals, and for businesses.

Local Area Plans Looks good. Keep the planning approvals in accord with local area design

Lets become a leader in sustainability. In terms of mitigating negative impact on the planet, and also become more self-sufficient, less dependant on imports, and creating a model for other cities to follow.

I think that before there is more density in the building of the city, the old infrastructure of the Water and sewer mains need to be upgraded first.

Then the newer areas being developed won't need to have power lines above ground.

The commercial buildings around town should also have solar powered lights for night-time lighting, to save energy and not have to leave so many lights on.

There is way too much electric lighting left on after offices are closed, and with camera security, all the lights should be motion sensitive, and not need to be left on.

No comment

Budget Cut 50% from this budget

I've long been frustrated by the "triple bottom line" model, as it frames social development and environmental sustainability as equal in priority to profitability. I believe that we should embrace a hierarchy of priorities that holds social development to be of primary importance, second to environmental sustainability. Economic prosperity should be considered third, and only after other priorities are adequately managed, as our economy exists to service the needs of the public to help us thrive.

Isn't it about time to redo the various neighbourhood plans. They are now decades old and pretty well meaningless in today's terms.

Zoning I'd like to see a review of zoning that would allow greater density in the existing residential neighborhoods and that would allow suites in more than just single family dwellings. The size limit restrictions are ridiculous, especially in the context of older housing stock which tends to be much larger than what can currently be built.

Affordable Housing **Support** **Urban** **Zoning** Zoning, development and permits processes should support mixed-use, innovative urban co-housing developments like Fernwood Village Cohousing, densification through second suites, carriage houses, and tiny homes (ex. 100 square feet). All new developments must include a strong and realized commitment to desperately-needed affordable housing, design for active transportation, LEED and Living Building Challenge standards. There should be support for and research into alternative and natural building processes (cob, strawbale, light clay etc) that are appropriate for the climate and support responsible water management.

Community Development **Planning and not enough Development** Including safe cycling infrastructure in all planning and community development. No need to reinvent the wheel, the Netherlands have already done it.

There needs to be space included for homeless people to put their belongings

Support **Urban** I am very interested in seeing more resources put into the completion of Local Area Plans. The schedule is not adequate. However, I don't think that there should be an attempt to do all the neighbourhoods at once. I would be supportive of a focus on the urban villages.

City Planning **Planning and not enough Development** These initiatives for 2015 look good but I don't see anything that represents a 'leap forward' in terms of innovation or leadership. "Development Summit Action Plan Implementation" appears in all three work areas mentioned but there is no information regarding what this is (apart from a brief outline on the City Spaces website). Perhaps this is where we'll see leadership and innovation?

This department needs more resources, staffing and responsibility. Engineering is still too dominant a force, and planning needs more say and influence on how streetscapes, road design, parking innovations, pedestrian and bicycles initiatives are implemented...

Community Development Developers seem to be allowed to stretch and break the rules giving little back to the community. It's about time someone called their bluff and actually made them contribute. If they don't like the terms then someone else will happily develop to the City's requests. It's time the City stopped acting like small town dupes that when shown a shiny coin make a grab for it before checking out whether is genuine. Ex: The Falls development on Douglas. What did that developer do to enhance the downtown??

City of Victoria Great, but are we working with Indigenous nations on these issues? Issues concerning sustainable life and infrastructure within Victoria cannot be continued to be discussed without nations whose unceded lands these conversations are taking place on. If you don't take that into a more serious consideration, you're simply perpetuating the colonial practices by which this city was developed.

Support I am supportive of the initiatives, and have no specific comments.

Housing Action Plan **Planning and not enough Development** Seems okay. You have Development Summit Action Plan Implementation three times. Hope that plan gets implemented. Also, interested to hear about your housing action plan.

No more condos. No more shops. We need community spaces. And a youth shelter. And places to grow food.

A larger focus on solar power as a viable alternative to other fuel and power sources would benefit our local and provincial communities.

none

City of Victoria **Support** I believe that the City Of Victoria should stop supporting charities that don't limit their activities to supporting people who have resided in Victoria for at least two years. There is no reason for the people of Victoria to support people who haven't resided in Victoria for at least two years.

Planning and not enough Development The local area plans must be completed immediately. The vague wording of the OCP is a developer's dream. In the absence of local area plans, especially along the corridors, massing and densification is threatening to destabilize neighbourhoods. Meanwhile the

the context, making and consultation is threatening to undermine neighbourhood planning and residents are disenfranchised. Without local area plans, the democratic process is subverted. Funding needs to be directed to developing those plans before development proceeds - not after. Constant site-specific rezoning is disastrous for the established neighbourhoods.

Reduce the inefficiency and length of time it takes for developers to obtain approval to move forward on housing projects.

There was a sustainability department that picked up a bunch of local grant money and initiated cool shit in Victoria but somebody killed it.

Bikes lanes

I hope we have a visionary who has a view for the greater good. Spot rezoning, variances and caving in to developers is not healthy.

Community Development **Increase** Good -- keep increasing density and replacing cars with people. Significantly reduce parking spot requirements in new developments by default, and require more pedestrian space. More mixed zoning.

Improve community feedback process for development proposals/variances to be more user-friendly (current process is confusing and counter-intuitive; for example, stop asking for generic feedback before showing what is proposed)

Increase Increasing too much...

City of Victoria **Increase** There must be some way to simplify the Garden Suite development process. Densification is important to transit, cultural development, effective use of infrastructure, affordable housing, and a happy city. Garden Suites offers one tool to increase density, but the process is so bureaucratic it turns homeowners away. Other jurisdictions (Vancouver) have addressed this problem, and Victoria can too.

I would like to see more renewable energy planning and implementation,

I would like planning staff who specialize in transportation and mobility. It is important to have an interdisciplinary team for transportation and to integrate land use and transportation.

I have run out of time

This could be an area to consider additional resources. The importance of good planners cannot be understated, in meeting active transportation and climate action goals.

I feel the city does a great job in monitoring zoning and heritage designated homes. Tight review of zoning, variance is good for our city.

Support I do not support using property taxes for building affordable housing. If the province vacates that field the city should lobby to have them retain responsibility NOT taking over that responsibility

Urban Urban planning could be improved. In filling of houses, destruction of older properties to maximize the tax revenue by building high rise buildings. More care and thought needs to be taken with this

How good of a job could the city be doing? The vacancies downtown are embarrassing. I recommend penalizing any landlord that allows their business to stay vacant for longer than one year. Triple their taxes and see how the marketplace responds.

City Planning **Urban** I have a background in design and work closely with urban planners, architecture and other people in the creative design world. It is really sad how backwards the cities "sustainable planning" is - In reality sustainable planning scope is far to small. If you really want to move into the future the whole system of planning and land use needs to be reformed. But cities are organizations with people who have held positions for long amounts of time. It is time for a drastic shift in the planning department lead by experts with modern educations.

Micro-homes! As in, let people build multiple small residences on one property.

ok

Support Supporting Community Associations as they attempt to reflect citizen's views is important. Acting on the outcome of community debate is even more important.

Good to review parking requirements, and perhaps decrease them with a view to accommodating fewer cars---since public transportation is supposed to improve.

partner education opportunities with the planning dept

City Planning **Community Development** **Planning and not enough Development** The City should stop funding Community Land Use Planing organizations as these are undemocratic, unrepresentative of community views, a major cost to city development with little benefit and likely the biggest barrier to the city improving the overall quality of planning and development. The City needs the highest quality planning it can achieve - the community organization involvement as currently structured will prohibit this being achieved on a long term basis.

These seem like the concrete places where Victoria can take the lead, think outside the box & attempt brand new solutions to old problems. Why not.

Budget **Community Development** While the heritage values are a large part of what makes Victoria distinct, there are no budget items which are specific for the heritage component of the Community Development

I cannot find a single action or item in this proposal that addresses sustainability, so how is it "sustainable" planning?

Support I particularly support the Housing Action Plan.

City of Victoria **Community Development** **Increase** 1. The City would benefit immensely from

implementing a tiered property tax system for occupied and unoccupied commercial properties. If property managers and owners who maintained occupancy of their properties were given better tax consideration than those who left their properties unused for excessive periods, affordable commercial property use by businesses and community groups would be directly incentivized, properties would experience greater maintenance and remain safer from vandalism, theft and fire, and the local economy would be stimulated by increased small business activity, increased employment, and increased property values (and subsequent tax benefits).

2. "Affordable" needs to be defined in terms of affordable housing, especially in cases of public subsidies for "affordable" units. Currently they are defined by market rates, though without any mechanism to make them any more affordable than typical housing. The definition that "affordable is whatever people can afford" is outdated and ineffective, and does not address affordability. If "affordable" were defined within a schedule (IE an "affordable" bachelor unit must be less than \$550), we would start seeing actual affordable housing issues resolved. That the Hudson Mews is able to call their \$1250 studio suites "affordable" and receive the public financial incentives from the City for them is a huge problem.

3. Community development would benefit from the same financial stimulus that attracting and retaining businesses receives. Victoria is uniquely small-business oriented, and a considerable portion of jobs created locally are through small community-oriented businesses and groups who rarely experience the same economic investments that larger businesses do, despite being better economic and employment generators by most metrics.

Didn't read this, too long and boring, bad graphics, no infographics, no videos, hard to access the information.

City Planning

Community Development

Planning and not enough Development

The planning approval process needs to be greatly simplified and applications for development need to be processed much quicker. It has always been beyond me as to why we elect a city council to make decisions and many planning decisions are then passed on to unelected neighbourhood groups who in my experience rarely represent the views of the neighbourhood. The council should eliminate these groups and govern in the interests of the city as a whole. Most of my friends who live in James Bay think that the James Bay Community Association is an unrepresentative clique which the city should ignore.

The city needs to up its game on the quality of architecture in the city.

Please ensure preservation of the heritage structures that remain in the city. the heritage registry is excellent. So much was lost in the 70's.

Community Development

Planning and not enough Development

Don't let small community organizations take control of development and planning. Victoria is not that big a place, and the differences between Fairfield, Vic West, Cook Street Village, Fernwood etc are not that significant. Neighbourhood planning is great but developers are a useful resource and if they are turned off and turned down for their developments it makes us look very small town. Aim big!

Please continue to preserve the heritage buildings remaining in Victoria and the character of the neighbourhoods. There was such devastation in the 70's which we can never get back.

There is too much development now.

Lots of professional talent in the community- use it rather than relaying on consultants and staff alone

I take your commitment as sincere but implementation is sorely lacking

Again, I wish I could engage with this better than I have time for. I'd like the City to take a leadership role in opposing growth and 'development' as the seemingly necessary end of human activity. Discourage people from coming here; discourage downtown traffic; expand parks and keep vehicles out of them.

don't know enough, but have confidence in who is running the show

City Planning **Increase** **Planning and not enough Development** **Support** What do these initiatives really mean? It's not clear what impact they will actually have. Will they make it easier and faster for builders/contractors to move through the development permit process? Can the City focus on reviewing the land ownership and zoning of lands behind Vic High? The City needs to creatively use planning to ensure developers contribute public amenities and support the growth and increased density in the City's designated growth areas (downtown, village cores, Hillside mall).

No comments

City of Victoria **City Planning** **Planning and not enough Development** **Support** **Urban** High-quality, forward-thinking urban planning is key to supporting quality development and economic health of the city. The department is committed to balancing economic prosperity, social development and environmental sustainability to plan for Victoria's future.

I'd like to see evidence of this claim.

City Planning **Planning and not enough Development** **Urban** How does this stop developers from running roughshod on a small city planning department? Again interested in comparative performance data within B.C. and the rest of Canada. Which city has the best urban planning group? How do they manage development pressures?

Support Communication with and support of community associations regarding land use is very important. The CALUC process needs clarification and streamlining.

Get moving with new bike infrastructure. Action on this rather than more talk/consultations. Close off Government to car traffic. Promote walking in the city. Push forward with Light Rail to Langford.

Budget **Increase** - A substantial budget is needed to update local area plans in a timely manner.
- Community Associations must be recognized and included as key stakeholders in local area planning processes.

- Narrow neighbourhood interests must not trump the objectives outlined in the Official Community Plan, particularly when it comes to increasing density close to downtown and village centres.
- Re: Pioneer Square. Now that the road closure on Rockland is permanent, this is an opportunity to make that section of street into a beautiful, functional, multi-use public space.

It is good that there is more than "lip service" to seismic issues. I think that it is good to concentrate on different areas of the city as you suggest in the Gore area.

Budget Freeze the budget at 2014 levels and invite management to prioritize that which is not affordable.

More local area plans now! Fairfield needs one and I know other neighborhoods do too. Prioritizing this will save time and money with all the rezoning applications and make for happier communities. Put money into local tea plans now, we can't wait any longer.

Greenways and better public transit should be the second priority.

All of these make sense but I would want to see the implementation of the OCP as a high priority.

Budget **City Planning** Enhance capacity and timelines to undertake Local Area Planning across the City, including streamlining smaller/simpler LAP updates.

Enhance access to planning and permit information - including readily available online, clear understanding of status in process (and the details of the particular process), enhance public signage

Pilot a participatory budgeting process

Adopt an open-by-design stance where information is automatically accessible, public, easy to find, unless deemed explicitly necessary

Help people to jump through the hoops easier in terms of suites, garden homes and higher density, quality housing...not just for the super rich from Alberta and Toronto.

Please make it easier for car share vehicles to have on street parking in visible locations and at a very low cost. This needs to be seen as an integral part of the city's integrated sustainable transportation system.

Community Development **Planning and not enough Development** community planning agenda is ambitious but valuable. not sure I understand development services -- is that the permitting/land use process? I am rather uninformed about that.

Planning and not enough Development Firstly, every single department should be committed to the 'triple bottom line' approach. Secondly, I don't see any evidence of the triple bottom line in this departments deliverables or activities. The Cook Street Village local area plan needs to be done before the development of a 6 story mixed use building is considered. This plan is very disappointing. The plan for 2015 is a bullet list of plans. Very frustrating to see. This department needs to be more accountable and transparent and list actual impacts/outcomes of their efforts.

none

N/A

Could probably save some money here.

I would recommend privatizing or otherwise divesting the City of the conference centre. Perhaps it could be taken on by a consortium of private business, tourism, and non-profit agencies with the City continuing in a partner role. Or it could be set up as a stand-alone, non-profit business that must be financially self-sustaining.

Crystal Gardens reduce subsidy to conference centre; keep Crystal Garden

needs to be a sound investment and make money rather than suck money away from the city

Heard something about a whisky distillery near the VCC area, which would be interesting.

This should be run as a business and not part of a municipal's budget.

Victoria Conference Centre The Victoria Conference Centre ultimately functions as a subsidy to private businesses in the city. The publicly held facilities of the city including the conference centre and the gvpl would make an excellent city university and additional recreation facilities should be built with a partnership with Camosun College or the GVSD with an eye to offering more post-secondary education in the downtown core. Cheap conferences for corporate interests are counter-productive to the city's well-being and if they are going to continue should be taxed not subsidized.

What do I get for the \$6?

Important Excellent and important for the long term vitality of our down-town core.

Victoria Conference Centre The Conference Centre has never met its potential, this continues to be reflected in lowered or average expectations. Is it people or competition? Delegates who do come seem to enjoy Victoria but maybe we're a one stop town on the world stage?

Increasing event-related business sounds like a good idea.

appropriate

This should not cost the tax payer. There is something wrong in the budget if the Conference Centre can't make money on its own.

meh

Crystal Gardens Crystal Gardens needs to be sold. The city can not keep losing \$340K per year. It is a waste.

waste of money place is not used properly and has a terrible location

Comment No comment

Comment No comment

Better IT IS UNBELIEVABLE THE MESS HERE. A CHILD COULD DO BETTER.

Better We need to coordonate and better market the conference center along with community strengths to attract events to our city via a public private coordonated effort.

WHAT A MESS

Crystal Gardens It seems to me that there's an effort to try to make the VCC self-sustaining, which is good.

I feel like the Crystal Garden property is poorly used. Have we considered selling it to the RBCM? Visitors would likely walk into the next block if there was an exhibit there they wanted to see.

Victoria Conference Centre The Victoria Conference Centre should be handed over to the Hotel Industry to run.

Comment Not sure how we are supposed to comment as there are no real deliverables for the \$4 million spend. What are they doing?

None

Building Consider selling/ transferring ownership, operation and risk of the convention centre and related buildings to a non-profit society or corporation, either existing or created for the purpose.

Given the downturn in conferences for organizations based outside of Victoria decreasing because of the homeless problem in Victoria, this property should be sold off.

Too much money.

Too much taxes.

Unsustainable.

People are about to flee the city.

Supporting I don't understand why City taxpayers are supporting this conference centre.

Naming Rights I am not sure how "naming rights" are being pursued, but I believe that the VCC should incorporate an acknowledgement of the Indigenous peoples in the area

Comment No comment.

Crystal Gardens Lease Crystal Gardens to the whiskey distillery

sell it

Better Find a better more permanent use for the VCC dedicated to the arts or tourism.

Not interested

This seems worthwhile

stop subsidizing the conference centre

If the city applied the same math to large free admission festivals like the Buskers Festival in the downtown core -in terms of audience attracted to downtown and expenditures by visitors, its funding for event such as this would increase dramatically. Why is there such unfairness for what in affect is one of the biggest conferences of the year in the city? Is it just because the Conference Centre has a roof?

Fine

Tough one. I like that its being reviewed

Tough gig - good luck.

Crystal Gardens At the worse it should be self sustaining. Finding tenants should be a priority item for Crystal Gardens, it's a significant lost of revenue right now!

Divest yourself of the VCC - either through disposal of the property or contracting out the administration. A civic government should not be in the conference business. PERIOD.

Crystal Gardens crystal gardens seems to be losing money and it isn't clear what purpose it serves.

Sell it

I think the centre should be leased to the university's ocean studies dept. and married with an interactive research/museum that would draw tourists. if people want to host conferences save on foods makes an excellent venue as does the university

It is not the responsibility of the City to operate a Conference Centre, especially one that competes with local businesses (like the many fine hotels that contribute property taxes). The City should divest itself of the Conference Centre and use the funds for relevant projects.

Initiatives balanced and interesting.

Lots of planning... maybe action would be good?

N/A

Initiatives identified look good.

Crystal Gardens **Space** It is not at all clear why the City obtained the old Crystal Gardens property in a land-swap with the Provincial Government, because this will make it even more difficult for the Conference Centre to break even on a full-cost basis, but a break-even budget should definitely be a goal to be achieved down the track. Commercial vacancies along the frontage may need further leasing and/or property tax concessions in the short-term in order to fill these spaces with on-going and viable tenants.

Comment no comment

Naming Rights Obviously needs to generate income but there is no coherent strategy. Why are naming rights mentioned outside of the context of fundraising? Naming rights are an action, increased fundraising is a goal. The Conference Centre is a subsidy to the hospitality sector and should be framed that way.

Supporting Move to self supporting financially over ten years or some time frame.

This should be a business tax only and raised accordingly.

The change in budget from last year seems to be from cutting one position. Is there potential for generating more revenue from the VCC? It seems to be largely unused often.

Crystal Gardens Time to deal with the decision maker who decided to lease the Crystal Gardens. This has never been a money maker from day 1.

Naming Rights Seems fine, though dubious that Council will ever be able to make a decision regarding naming rights.

In need of renovations.

In terms of marketing the facility, I would think that the majority of our efforts should be concentrated on encouraging our US neighbours to take advantage of the favorable exchange rate of our currencies. It is surprising how many US citizens don't understand this and are shocked to learn of the difference when they arrive here. This advantage should be made known in all of our promotions of the facility to US conference organizer's.

Better **Crystal Gardens** It's a great idea to develop more and better use of the conference center and the Crystal Garden to INCREASE revenues. This center is under utilized at present!

Reduce the budget or increase revenues to offset expenditures.

Events in Victoria **Space** **Victoria Conference Centre** I believe the Victoria Conference Centre site is underutilized for events that are more community-centered and do not cost (or have a nominal fee) for people. I appreciate that the RVMarathon and other events use the space, but more commercial events that could be more community-enhancing are costly.

\$6 is quite cheap

It honestly surprises me that the Conference Centre is a net cost to taxpayers. Having worked in past with PSAV, I can tell you for certain that they overcharge by an almost absurd factor (I was once quoted a \$450/night rental fee on a 42" flatscreen TV for an event in the Empress; I found the same sized TV on sale at Future Shop that week for \$425). I'm dismayed to learn that money we could be spending on housing the homeless is being wasted this way :(

I'm concerned about the cost of the VCC to the taxpayer and look forward to how the bottom line might benefit from the reviews planned for 2015.

if victoria was truly "an exciting and viable destination for corporate and association meetings", victoria's taxpayers would not have to subsidize this function.

Crystal Gardens I love that the Conference Centre is a community asset. It would be lovely to see Crystal Gardens revitalized as well.

Crystal Gardens .Conference centre and crystal garden need to be generating review for the city

Naming Rights I think this is a great idea • Pursuit of Naming rights

Sell it

Sell it

Comment No comments.

I'm happy for part of my taxes to go to the Conference Centre.

Crystal Gardens Got to get something happening at the old Crystal Garden, it's a prime piece of real estate that's under utilized

Try to get more revanew from Conference centre

no major concerns

This will be tough.

I wish the City well.

Better Keep it and do a better job keeping the calendars full it's key to downtown

didn't read

couldn't find initiatives, just highlights...seems to me the Conference Centre is underutilized. Are there plans to improve this?? Is this what VCON is for? IF so, what are its plans??

can't access pdf, must be something with a link that is not sound

From what I've heard the plan is good

Naming Rights I like that you're decreasing the approved expenditures and increasing the proposed revenues of the conference centre. It seems like a great idea to make the conference centre self sustaining, and I'm curious if there are any down sides to this change? Are there valuable events that would have been allowed in the past, that will no longer have a place?

What does "Pursuit of Naming rights" mean? Are you going to change the name. I don't really like the name, so I'd be on board with that. But, it's not terrible, so if changing the name is a big expense, what are the reasons behind it?

Crystal Gardens I think the focus on the quality of life in Downtown Victoria needs to be kept front and Centre.

The Crystal Garden facility has been miss-managed because those in charge failed to understand the concept "quality of life".

ditto

OK, I guess.

Space Great space and great parking

An economic and social advantage to the city and its residents offers many varied events to attract locals and well as visitors.

I can't believe this! Now over 682 pages!!!

no competence

No ideas.

no thoughts on this

None

A great facility. Let's get it to the point where every major conference considers the Victoria Conference center as a viable option.

First blush: seems like a large staff

Crystal Gardens **Space** This may be a financial black hole. I doubt, for logistical reasons, if Victoria can compete with Seattle and Vancouver on this front. Other conceptualizations based on a liveable city should be applied to Crystal Gardens. If it is going to be a financial black hole, atleast let us not underwrite business meetings and use it as a public space instead. Local voluntary groups have difficulties finding enough meeting space to meet the budget of voluntary activities as it is. This issue of course is linked to affordable building- either for housing, business or voluntary activities.

The first page of the reports should show a P & L statement. Lots of smoke and mirrors, but does it actually make money for the city? If it doesn't, get out of the business and let the private sector have a go at it. No profit no need.

Comment no comment

Comment No comment. I do wonder why armoured car services are needed and this jumped 20%?

Important **Space** **Supporting** I support the initiatives for this beneficial service and facility which is an asset to our city; however, I also see the importance of maintaining a focus on maximizing tenant occupancy of the rental spaces for consistent supportive revenue and hope this will receive the attention it needs.

Victoria Conference Centre -Couldn't find the list of initiatives for the Victoria Conference Centre, just a list of highlights, same thing?

-I am curious as to how the VCC aims to be sustainable?

lack of parking still not addressed for conference goers-get some input from conference attendees on their issues going to this Center

A ton of money is generated for businesses but if people love it in Victoria but are not happy they may vote to try new venue(in another place)

Crystal Gardens **Space** **Victoria Conference Centre** It's all very well to showcase Victoria as an exciting and viable destination but the empty store fronts at both the Conference Centre and Crystal Garden tell a different story to visitors. I don't know what the answer is as many businesses have set up shop in these places but they all seem to close very quickly. The Conference Centre itself is lovely, I've attended many functions there, but to someone from outside the empty retail spaces certainly don't add to their impression of Victoria.

This will be difficult.

Not sure whether the centre will be of benefit or a "white elephant"

I approve.

big improvement, need to see some ROI, this has gone on too long and the sales have been terrible. not to work closer with the partners, and have a revamped promotional piece and everyone selling the same thing, we are all over the Map on trying to sell our city.

Events in Victoria We need to attract more large-scale events in Victoria.

none

Ok, put more into preventative maintenance and get shaw to provide free services as opposed to paying. Vic council way behind on this

Better **Building** **Crystal Gardens** **Naming Rights** Crystal Gardens needs a new vision and better use... right now it's a beautiful historic building trapped in bland conference room dead zone.

I don't care if the conference centre gets a sponsored name for revenue purposes.

Shouldn't this pay for itself? Why is the city funding it?

Important I am not sure of the importance of this facility and its use.

Well done.

Not clear why Arts and Culture staff merged with VCC... one is business development/trade shows etc. the other promotes arts.

Important The Conference Centre is important - a difficult assignment to make it more beneficial to the city.

Better **Naming Rights** **Victoria Conference Centre** Re: Pursuit of Naming Rights for Conference Centre

I have written in the past that we get more bang for the buck if we continue to call it the VICTORIA Conference Centre. Who needs a Centre named after a bank, coffee shop, airline, or who-knows-what?

On second thought, I urge you to call it the Victoria MEMORIAL Conference Centre. A far better tribute to our vets than yet another stone monument--e.g. Afghanistan.

Quite simply needs to stop losing money. Work with local business and industry to attract more conferences and events.

Space Can we make this venue less "exciting and viable" to "cutting edge, forward moving and not to missed"? It's 2015, it beginning to feel a bit stoggy in there. Can we make it more young, hip and still accessible to the clients that might want to use the space? Bring a little European or Portland flare to the amazing West Coast flavour it already has and it might feel fresh again.

The conference centre should be a private operation!!

no opinion at this time.

same as above

see previous

Better Anything is better than the current empty rooms.

Crystal Gardens Love the conference centre and am absolutely keen to have Crystal Garden revitalized. How could this lovely tourist attraction have been allowed to slide (via political and red tape bungling) into this empty hole!

SELL IT OFF to private business!!!

I don't know.

I like the idea.

i do not think the convention center is a priority at all. at least not in the immediate

NA

Should be free to use when it is not reserved for community organizations/groups.

Victoria Conference Centre Reasonable. We certainly need a conference centre in downtown victoria.

Better personally i think there are better places to spend our money at this time.

privatize operation

Supporting I have attended conferences at the centre and love the facility. I would support using tax dollars to maintain the use of this center. I'm open for sponsorship.

Comment No comment.

Make it break even. It should - use that so-called leadership and innovation here!

Dpoing fine now

Naming Rights Need more community events like Seedy Saturday in the Conference Centre.I oppose the selling of naming rights in the City.

Important The biggest drain on our taxes is the over policing of our city, and yet you tell us you have no control over this, so we are not actually living in a democracy, just a police state where taxes are imposed on us from above to fund the police.

You are telling us the mayor and council are useless pawns that can affect no important change.

You are sick humans, very sick, looking after your paycheque, with the blinders on.

Budget reduction here is the right direction. Closer co-operation with Tourism Victoria would be beneficial.

Crystal Gardens Focus on revitalising the Crystal Gardens as a City revenue generator.

Perhaps offer discounts to local high schools for graduation ceremonies.

Victoria Conference Centre the Victoria Conference Centre is useless to most Victoria residents since it is too expensive to use. It is only an option for government or businesses with very deep pockets. How about having a special low rate for local organizations, groups, initiatives?

Conference centre is underperforming and needs to be moved out of city hall to a contractor

Building I was not aware that this building belonged to the City of Victoria. Its budget allocation seems equal to that of the public library. I feel I get lots more value from the library than I do from this centre! I feel that it's tricky for me to evaluate this area because the other arts and culture programs are not included fully here.

I want to know whether any city properties operate on a cost recovery basis. Also what the larger and longer-range vision for this centre is. Is this a valuable holding property? Why are we in the business of running this kind of facility if it isn't paying for itself? What benefit does it offer average taxpayers?

Building I had no idea that the City puts money into this building. It serves business and people with money. I've never been to the conference centre. I resent my taxes being put to this use.

Important 1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean

2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.

3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

I am not sure about cost-benefit analysis of maintaining the conference centre if it is costing \$1M/year. There are benefits to hotels and the tourism industry but is that the City's role to fund?

Is this a core service for the City? It is costing \$1M/year. I am not sure. It is a benefit for the tourism industry - should they be paying for it? Should this be transferred to the private sector?

Building looks good. I love going to these buildings for events.

Encourage rentals of facilities at a reduced rate to small local arts/culture/educational/civic groups in off seasons?

Building **Events in Victoria** The purchase of Crystal Gardens was a mistake. The building has never been a financial success so why would it become one under the aegis of the City? We need to drive more events in Victoria and especially, make the public aware that the events are happening.

Crystal Gardens **Events in Victoria** **Victoria Conference Centre** Open Crystal gardens up as a place for small shops and workplaces. Keep it alive. It could still be used for certain events or meetings -- but overall make it a vibrant feature of attending an event at the conference centre, and an incubator for new business in Victoria.

Unimportant.

armored car services +21%? contingencies +41%? conferences and travel +25%? Really??
We have real needs in this city.

Crystal Gardens **Naming Rights** **Supporting** Naming rights for public institutions may inevitable at the moment but it is just tacky. Rather than naming rights, why not retain the name of the institution, such as Crystal Garden with all signage and publicity noting that Crystal Garden, supported by Purple Taxi Company. City receives a financial contribution, Purple Taxi gets credit and we do not have to cringe every time we walk past.

Crystal Gardens I think if the Conference Centre does not pay for itself, we need to find a use for it that does. Perhaps removing the Crystal Gardens portion and finding another use for that so that it does not drain city coffers.

This investment still needs to show that it yields benefits to the city and to be sure we are not subsidizing private profit-making organizations.

Building **Crystal Gardens** **Space** The Crystal Gardens should be turned back into a tea - room and have the Ball-room availability put back into the building as it used to be.

It is such a waste of empty space as it is now. It was such a relaxing place to go in the middle of downtown, with the sky-light, centre court avery, and the lovely dance floor.

There are more groups looking for a Bag Band feel and no place to go.

Better **Events in Victoria** **Victoria Conference Centre** Victoria Conference Centre MUST work collaboratively with Tourism Victoria.

I feel that Tourism Victoria is better positioned to carry out the marketing of Victoria. The conference group should stay out of marketing this destination in isolation from Tourism Victoria; they should focus on efficiently running events. If conference related labour was non union would Victoria be more competitive? VCON is a very good initiative.

Comment No comment

cut 100% as conference centre needs to earn enough from it activities not to be subsidized.

Building Doesn't this building sit empty a lot of the time?

Events in Victoria **Victoria Conference Centre** Fix the website for Victoria Conference Centre! I searched for upcoming events to inform my response to this question, and found a blank page.

Who cares.

Can the conference centre be made more affordable to community non-profit or non-business sector?

Comment no comment

Building **Important** **Naming Rights** **Supporting** The VCC is an important asset for the City and the broader community. The VCC should be managed under a viable and sustainable business model. It's regular operations should not be subsidized by the City (aka the taxpayers). Be creative, find new operating partnerships or a new model for a period of transition while building revenue and reducing expenses.

In summary, the proposed initiatives for 2015 are as they should be, but I do not support the inclusion of "Pursuit of Naming rights".

Why should we be paying this out of our taxes?

Victoria Conference Centre The conference centre should be booked solid all the time. Victoria is a destination spot. Why is the VCC so often sitting idle?

Comment no comment

Supporting Glad to see the budget is decreasing. Not sure why tax dollars are supporting the conference centre... there's probably a good reason, just seems like it could be self-financing. maybe add in some sponsorships...

Who cares.

I think something is wrong when a convention centre is costing taxpayers money. A new business model should be developed. The convention centre should be making profit not losses.

Im indifferent

I do not think this is a core competency and should be contracted out at a profit or at least revenue neutral position.

Naming Rights Do not pursue naming rights for VCC or other city properties... Save-On Foods Arena naming is foolish and confusing for visitors (google encourages you to buy groceries there). The minimal cost savings are not worth the loss in community pride; just finance it properly.

Too much... sell this property or put it under the remit of a private organization... otherwise invest major dollars and do it right as a conference destination.... current situation is not acceptable..

Supporting The Conference Centre is one of the true money-makers for the City, and should be supported.

I concur with budget as proposed

no time, sorry

To the greatest extent possible, this should be a revenue generator for the City - what alternatives will keep it filled to the point where it makes money?

Crystal Gardens **Events in Victoria** **Victoria Conference Centre** i feel the Victoria Conference centre is underused. VCC is a perfect centre for generating revenue from out of town events. The crystal gardens is a magnificent faciity but again under utilised., it too could generate more revenue for the city by holding ongoing events for residents of victoria??

Comment I have no comment

Better **Crystal Gardens** **Naming Rights** **Space** Something needs to be done with the crystal gardens space. To think of that space as a city owned facility with no major tenant using it on a daily level is sad. Anything would be better for the area and the future of downtown.

I am very interested in some of the businesses that has been proposed and ideas like this are what the city should look at. More than just the naming rights....

It would be excellent it the conference centre was made available at certain times to host community events at drastically reduced cost. For example, a not-for-profit should be given opportunity to host an event at a fraction of the cost as long as the dates booked are not set aside for a full-paying event.

Crystal Gardens get more access to the Crystal Gardens for the general public. Showcase the unique and impressive architecture.

The Conference Centre should be a major contributor to the economic health downtown and is a perpetual

The conference centre should be a major contributor to the economic health downtown and is a perpetual disappointment. A review of its operations are likely warranted.

Crystal Gardens It's hard to tell what the direction is. If it is worthwhile & is Crystal Garden part of the plan?

Important Having seen the VCC in action last summer, it is very important to keep it well funded to encourage more visitors to the city.

Looks okay

Many groups could use these facilities don't due to both prohibitive rental rates and prohibitive exclusive contracts with suppliers such as the Empress for food and bar service.

Important Very important for the tourist industry.

Important Important for the downtown.

Events in Victoria **Victoria Conference Centre** Victoria, the Capital of BC should be a world class centre for conferences and cultural events. The city centre has to also provide an attractive and safe walking area for attendees. The number of vacant storefronts, excess of souvenir shops detract from a potentially vibrant downtown area.

Sell it. Let a private business run it and try to make a go of it. Conference Centre's are not municipal government core initiatives.

Events in Victoria Victoria, the Capital City of the province should be a world class site for Conferences and Cultural events. However, the down town area also has to be an attractive, safe area to spend time. The number of vacant storefronts and excess of souvenir shops tend to detract from the visitor experience.

It is a greenhouse use it like one. I learned to swim there.

Has this been an smart investment and economic engine?

Everything seems fine!

If it makes money great but lets not use tax dollars to subsidize business they already get lots of preferential treatment

I'd like to see the City take a lead in politicizing such centres around the world as being pro-environment and not so pro-maximizing prosperity. That is, the City could market itself as one of a many communities around the world that champions the natural world.

Supporting don't support the conference centre at all

Crystal Gardens Crystal Gardens has lost its historical meaning to the people of Victoria. It has been off-limits or a wasteland for so many years now that I don't know what the solution would be. Maybe a scaled-down version of library main branch.

The conference centre has gotta be a winner? The design is dated. I look forward to seeing what will happen

The conference centre has got to be a worry? The design is dated. I look forward to seeing what will happen once the bus station has been moved.

VCC is a great venue and should be used even more and be giving discounts to community groups for booking.

Naming Rights Even though there would be economic benefits to the City, I am opposed to the sale of naming rights for public facilities. These facilities should be named in ways that celebrate Victoria's heritage.

Naming Rights - Selling naming rights is a horrible idea. If one of the main goals of the VCC is to showcase Victoria, then it must remain named after the city it is showcasing. Adding a brand name before "Victoria" would be tacky and embarrassing.

As the hospitality industry benefits from the patrons of the conference is there any way that they can help finance it? Victoria is the seat of government and this should be of assistance in attacking conventions.

Supporting **Victoria Conference Centre** I don't know what "Liaison for destination management and business development" actually means. This phrase sounds like some sort of coordination function which, in turn, suggests that a supporting process is ineffective, thus requiring "coordination". I believe that the City should consider partnering with Tourism Victoria for most, if not all, of its conference centre marketing activities and, once that step is taken, assess the residual functions of the VCC asking the following question: "Is this the best manner of running the VCC or are there alternatives that could be more cost-effective?"

Crystal Gardens **Naming Rights** **Space** Don't cheapen the feel of the City by selling naming rights to its cultural institutions.

Crystal Gardens should be a public event space.

I continue to be in doubt about the City's involvement of this facility. It may be that this could be operated by some other party and the financial benefits would still accrue to the City without the necessary expenditures to maintain and manage this facility.

Building **Crystal Gardens** **Events in Victoria** **Naming Rights** Firstly the VCON initiative is NOT new. Collaboration between hotels, Tourism Victoria and the VCC was always the model prior to 2000. The incoming VCC manager that year and his successor chose to let that relationship die. As for a 2% hotel tax that the current Council has decided upon....a percentage of the hotel tax prior to 2000 was always directed to the VCC. Economic conditions since 2008 have seriously depleted the conference business. And the VCC manager has not been present at the VCC for some time...instead working inside city hall.

The intent to increase or create 'event related' business in the form of arts/culture, special events will conflict with efforts to secure conference clients. Arts/cultural/special events usually are locally initiated, of short duration, requiring few, if any hotel rooms. Conferences usually require hotel rooms, and the mandate of the VCC is to fill hotel rooms. The economic outlook at present does not look very promising to attract large conference groups, esp from the US. And there will always be the problem of travel and travel time to

large conference groups, especially the business community, will always be the problem of travel and travel time to get to Victoria.

As for the Crystal Garden building - don't be too hasty in trying to sell off. Once it's gone, the VCC won't have any leverage. And don't sell naming rights to the VCC.....for a few hundred thousand dollars it's not worth the effort. And changing the name would not have the same cachet with potential clients.

Supporting Not sure we should be operating the conference centre. Perhaps this is something that the private sector should be supporting rather than the tax payers. Not sure that the average Victorian utilizes or attends events at the centre.

The Conference Centre should not cost the City money but should be a net revenue generator. If it is not, please sell it to the private sector. The City should not be in the business of putting on conferences.

Comment no comments

Building **Events in Victoria** **Space** I hope that this is a cause of frustration for each of you. If there is no positive revenue model for this asset, then the asset should be available to non-profits to create social, cultural and economic benefits to residents. There is a huge shortage of affordable event, educational and cultural space in Victoria. We are incredibly well-endowed with public buildings in Victoria, yet the public is not able to use them and they sit empty too often. Take leadership on this. Be innovative. Invite the community to co-design the future use of this space. Invite the CEO to resign if he or she has no ideas. We cannot simply subsidize this space year after year with little benefit to the community.

don't care

I feel that I receive great service from this fire department. Perhaps look into amalgamating all the dispatch centres in the region?

Area The City needs to invest much more substantially in VEMA, and the whole area of emergency management and preparedness, given the huge risk we are continuing to run of a devastating earthquake. We are extremely vulnerable in this area and are neither adequately resourced or prepared to deal with an event of this magnitude. As part of this, we need to give high priority to the replacement of Firehall No. 1 as soon as possible.

look for cost-savings

All good.

Why is Vema not yet known by everyone?

Once again, efficiencies need to be encouraged. Fire-fighters are renowned for being able to hold a second occupation while serving in their capacity as fire fighters. The disparity between union employees conditions

occupation while serving in their capacity as firefighters. The disparity between union employees conditions and those of the private sector who pay their salaries through their taxes is growing too pronounced. A rebalancing is required.

Job I have no thoughts on this, they seem to do a good job. I have no idea what costs should be in this field but safe fire halls seems prudent for any city, disaster relief is their job, they should be as immune as anyone to catastrophic building failure.

Regional Fire departments should be AMALGAMATED, as should Police services.
Anything else is just empire building, which doesn't interest me.

necessary investment

Could we have an online earthquake preparedness centre, where we could individually establish meeting - places in the event of an emergency, co-ordinate with our neighbours, especially seniors and people with disabilities, have a regional check-in point, or a personalised action plan? Fire fighters could be involved in an online programme of this sort, maybe featured in short video clips to educate & empower the public. Or they could design an emergency preparedness app that Victoria could sell to other coastal cities. Maybe this already happens and I don't know about it?! This could be a doorway for people to become more aware of local infrastructure maintenance, seismic upgrade efforts, food security, and community - building.

a huge waste in my view. waste of resources. total volunteer opportunity.

Job **Support** these guys do work and need support but should also fulfill more duties within their job scope

Comment No comment.

AMALGAMATE POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES

Keep focus on harbour response. Analyse when fire department are first responders. Far too often they choose to sleep when it is late and puff up their first response statistics during the day. Analyse in the context of other first responders ie paramedics and police to look at how emergency response funding is allocated in the context of who is consistently responding at all hours of the day.

AMALGAMATE POLICE AND FIRE WITH OTHER DISTRICTS TO CUT COSTS

Excellent **Municipalities** We clearly need an excellent fire department - kind of like an insurance policy. That said, how many fires do they fight each year? Do they REALLY have to respond to every accident along with ambulance and paramedic staff? I think not and wonder if there are potential cost savings in this situation?

My sense is that the "proudly independent" different municipal fire depts seldom cooperate on procurement - if this is the case, they are missing a huge opportunity to reduce costs and one strategic objective should be to implement joint purchasing on everything from gloves to fire trucks (I was purchasing manager for a trans-national corp, so I KNOW this to be true, no matter what excuses are presented).

No thoughts at this time.

Time to look at benefits and pension plans, both are too rich for the tax payers to afford.

This is a service that clearly should be regional. The only way to keep costs under control is to get command and control consolidated and centralized.

The new Station #1 needs to be built in a high-density building with other uses (public library or other non-residential comes to mind)

Municipalities Consider amalgamated models with other municipalities to achieve efficiencies while maintaining quality.

The costs are too high and unsustainable. We can;t afford the level of perfection. We need to find cheaper solutions. Not the latest toy.

Does your fire departments go out into first nation communities and help prevent fires and do education?

Comment No comment

New fire Hall Invest in a new fire hall where the historic fire hall one is with cooperation of private development in residential space being built on top. Sell the then redundant fire hall 1 to private development or social housing

Support Support initiatives.

Firefighters Train firefighters for other services as well. Nat a lot of fires these days.

Fire department always has their hand out for money they should sell their boat that was a waste of 500000 dollars before they get any more money

Make do with what they have for the time being.

Expensive but necessary

move toward a volunteer force

I have no issue with FD expenditures

Cheap investment for essential service

None.

Replacement of FireHall number One should a very high priority at Cit Hall. Public safety trumps everything (even bicycle paths!!!).

Include multi purpose initiatives

Fire Dept Headquarters is a major priority. I think a multi purpose building that includes firehall

Support Fire dept. Headquarters is a major priority. I think a multi purpose building that includes fireball, crystal pool and library would be a great idea. The city might even partner with the YWCA, whose building is dated.

I support this year's initiatives. As part of the strategic plan the city must look at what other cities are doing to address fire suppression and rescue in high rises as our population is growing vertically.

Excellent Excellent.

Why hasn't an infrastructure plan already been developed? We know it needs to be replaced....

N/A

Initiatives identified look good.

New fire Hall The new fire hall needs to be well planned, financed, and constructed. The various fire departments in the CRD seem to cooperate well, but amalgamation could lead to some cost-savings.

Area I do not think that the VEMA is getting anywhere the kind of serious consideration that it ought to be. Considering that this city is in one of the most high risk seismic areas on the planet I think the general administration and council are in denial with the low allocations of resources to training and to making the citizenry aware of the risks and what actions to be taken.

Area Not my area of expertise.

Area How do we compare in dollars per assessed value to other areas?

nil

Victoria fire Department As a taxpayer, I am happy to pay for the Victoria Fire Department.

Comment **New fire Hall** It will be disappointing if the only movement on the new Fire Hall by the end of 2015 will be development of some options. Council should be moving ahead much more quickly with a decision on this essential facility - how about trying to "be bold" on this one?

I know this comment doesn't fit here, but I see the next questions jump ahead to capital budget. Where is the opportunity to comment on the budgets of other departments? Communications? Legal? HR?

I'm pretty happy with all of this.

Firefighters What can one say negative about our Firefighting Dept. that would be like arguing against Motherhood and Apple pie. The issue is in relation to the current main headquarters building and the costs to rebuild. I was pleased to see an innovative approach to this matter is taking place with the recent proposal call for "private participation"

Victoria fire Department The Victoria Fire Department is vital for our safety and offers important opportunities for educating the public especially re: emergency preparedness.

I appreciate the mention of public education

I appreciate the mention of public education.

I hope that there is ample time and energy put toward finding out what works in other communities.

I hope there is serious thought about regionalization in the headquarter development/location initiatives.

Job Good job Fire Department, keep it up!

I'm sure they know what they're doing.

Excellent **Victoria fire Department** Victoria has excellent fire, (and police) departments.

May I respectfully suggest that the issue is not fire (and law enforcement), but rather the cost of these services.

This might be an unpopular observation, but when our country and province's inflation rates are (questionably) in the range of 2% - or less; why are Victoria's taxpayers being asked to willingly accept tax increases which routinely exceed the rate of inflation?

This is not "restraint", or "careful spending". Restraint and careful spending is when an elected body spends no more than its bill-payers can afford to pay, because their income has only risen by perhaps 2% ... if at all.

nothing stands out

Good

.ensure cost savings with review of the department

Job **Police Budget** **Victoria fire Department** Regarding the below: I do not see a problem with the mayor having only 1 vote in 9. The police should be paid well and have great benefits. Council should have little control over the police budget. The City of Victoria Police and Fire Department do a great job and should be paid well, and have all the equipment and services they need.

reduce staff 5% per year next 5 years

Job I'm sure they do a great job but how about making this consultation friendly to the average person. Oddly enough, I don't know what 'integration of FDM analytics' means, never mind trying to provide any sensible thoughts on the initiative.

Comment **Excellent** **Job** **Victoria fire Department** No comments. I think the Victoria Fire Department does an excellent job.

Support I'm for anything to support the Fire Department.

Station infrastructure is important, number one on Yates is I understand not going to survive an earthquake.

no major concerns

Police Budget Look OK

Although the police budget is not discussed, the City's disclosure for late night program is lacking. There should be a complete costing including police costs and transportation costs. Also, the City should provide a complete costing of events, separating signature events from the others and disclosure should include all costs - admin, police, clean-up, transportation.

again not enuf detail on actual initiatives - hope everything your communications people do is not this flaky - is this life with Helps?

didn't read

where do the proposed revenues come from?? and why will they increase??
I thought we already had a comprehensive public education program. I see it is included in initiatives...

Firefighters obviously too many managers again, office supplies up and huge segment of its budget. we need firefighters not paper pushers, i.e. action not hundreds of reports and memos

Area **Police Budget** This seems like an important area to invest in. I read through the PDF, and, judging by the revenue from past years, it seems like you'll make more than your estimate for your 2015 Proposed Revenues.

How is the public included in setting priorities for the police budget?

I assume "Review of Emergency Response Plan for Victoria Harbour" is code for what happens when a Harbour Air Flight slams into a major building.

ditto

OK

upgrade only as far as safety is required. What about amalgamation with other districts.

you can't be serious in asking for feedback on this massive document.

Firefighters I cannot say that the Fire department is under-funded, but give them what they need. Firefighters serve our communities well, and responsibly, and with discretion.

Give the Police more!!!!

Good

None

Municipalities Explore if efficiencies can be realized by merging services with other municipalities

I believe Victoria does well here.

Almalnamate

Amalgamate

looks good

Ok

Support Realistic and appropriate initiatives for the Fire Department and support for the very important, VEMA-EOC which is essential to our community.

However, I'm not seeing where the funds come from and distributed for VEMA-EOC in reality. Obvious they're from somewhere else in the budget as, for instance, VEMA-Communications has a "0" budget for equipment over the next 5 years yet it's important to upgrade equipment; there's also a "0" budget for fuel yet they have an emergency vehicle; "0" for office supplies, etc.

-Seems like a diversity of important initiatives.

good BUT FIX UP the method they are locating homes-maybe an enhanced GPS locator tied into city maps....

It always baffles me that even for a small accident there often arrive 2 fire trucks, 2 police cars, 2 ambulances. Overdone by my standards.

Excellent **Support** Full support for all initiatives that will help the VFD and VEMA who provide excellent services to citizens.

New fire Hall New fire hall is a top priority

I approve.

I ok with the proposed

Police Budget I find this explanation regarding the police budget to be unacceptable. Who does control the police budget and who are they accountable to?

We need to amalgamate the fire dept. police and emergency services

We don't need a fire truck, when someone died.

I saw 1 firetruck and 2 ambulances and 2 police cars, while 1 person was taken out from a shelter. Too much police, too much safety.

Cut down, especially the police!!!!!!

Ok

More fire prevention initiatives, especially ones that target transient populations in rental houses - students, working families and landlords.

Comment Ok. No comment.

Victoria fire Department Costs are excessive for Victoria's population. We must amalgamate the fire departments with the surrounding communities.
Wages are excessive

New fire Hall A new Fire Hall is important

Support Market sounding and option development for Fire Department Headquarters:

As a supporter of amalgamation, I would rather you put this on hold until all our little metros make up their minds on that question. You are putting the cart before the horse.

Municipalities **Victoria fire Department** Surely amalgamation of the Victoria Fire Department with those of adjacent municipalities would be an advantage both operationally and economically.

This is fine. I'd suggest raising revenue by creating a few permanent fire pits below the tide line on the dallas road water front - perhaps in ross bay - and charge people \$30 for a 'fire permit' so they can reserve the fire pits.

I defer to the experts here. You don't mess with the basic safety of a community.

Support Direct fire resources to support emergency mgmt planning which is woefully underfunded to prepare us for an emergency. Public safety staff should all be contributing to emergency mgmt planning and preparation when not responding to current safety/911 calls,

Area **New fire Hall** There is a desperate need for a new larger firehall. This much be the #1 priority of council. There has been discussion for many years about using the western half of the Central school field, which is not used by the school as the best site. The current fire hall is located where it is for seismic reasons, do not move it downtown; they will not be able to get out of their hall in the event of an area wide emergency.

Police Budget seems reasonable. However I do think that the police budget should be open for conversation with community members.

same as above

see previous

Municipalities Amalgamation with other municipalities may enhance the VFD's capacity far better than any city initiatives could do. Same goes for the VPD.

ensure that 'first responder' coordination is functioning effectively

PS I am absolutely and completely against the 'militarization' (by training and by enculturation) of the police. Only last week, I watched two cars stop and officers emerge with guns drawn, moving toward what appeared to be a homeless young man trying to stabilize his bicycle. This was a busy intersection (Hillside

and Cook) and I could only drive by. It was VERY disquieting.

Support They do important work and deserve our support. I had reason to be in the Yates Street fire hall last year and was completely shocked at the horrible and unhealthy conditions they are putting up with.

amalgamate services with the Township of Esquimalt

Make sure that the fire department services are fast for houses that catch fire.

Try to get smaller and faster trucks.

review of Fire station infrastructure!

NA

Comment No comment.

Again, these sound reasonable. Though they do take a large portion of the annual taxes, compared to some of the other initiatives, we need an effective fire service. Perhaps some of the emergency planning services could be combined with their mandate?

The is an essential service.

good

I feel these increases are often done at the expense of other programs. Everybody loves police and fire, but costs must be controlled

New fire Hall Is a new fire hall on the drawing board?

Comment No comment.

Get them to patrol the Dallas waterfront.

A fine Fire service keep them up to date for emergency actions.

Comment **Support** No comment - support the fire department initiatives.

The biggest drain on our taxes is the over policing of our city, and yet you tell us you have no control over this, so we are not actually living in a democracy, just a police state where taxes are imposed on us from above to fund the police.

You are telling us the mayor and council are useless pawns that can affect no important change.

You are sick humans, very sick, looking after your paycheque, with the blinders on.

Looks reasonable.

Move ahead with plans to replace Firehall #1 with a new and improved facility.

Comment **Police Budget** this is a very large budget for a city that has very few fires. why is it necessary

for the fire department to send out a truck every time there is a minor car accident? It just seems like the fire department is taking on a lot of tasks which aren't necessarily in their purview to simply fill up their hours and justify their ever increasing budget. since you choose not to add a question about the police force, I will add my comments here. It is inexcusable that a police officer with only a couple years of experience makes more than a university professor with 15 years of education. It is also inexcusable that police are used to address the medical needs of residents and to police the poor.

Review resource requirement in context of existing and future improvements in building code fire safety provisions.

Area **Excellent** **Job** Our Fire department does an excellent job - in all areas.

Too bad about the police department (see below). I feel that the region as a whole would have less policing to pay for if it gave Victoria's strategic objective #7 greater priority (as I suggest).

Municipalities How much do City of Victoria residents and businesses pay for fire and police compared to surrounding municipalities. I feel like we are shouldering a disproportionate load. This is one of the ways that I want the city to "lead regionally" is to negotiate cost sharing to relieve some of our burden.

1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean
2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.
3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

This is a core service.

This is a core service.

Firefighters Thanks to our firefighters!

Good initiatives in the planning document.

But what about regional coordination when the big one arrives? Has enough been done to prepare?

I think they should be spending more money on equipment and less on salaries.

I don't even need to look at this, give them everything they need to be an effective Fire department! Especially any upgrades to technology!

Job Our fire department needs to lead the entire region in both emergency planning and assessment. They are already doing a good job, but giving them better tools such as new software will greatly help.

Yay.

Good

What can anyone say about proposed initiatives for our fire department beyond Thank You.

Just keep up the good service

Area **Police Budget** Sounds a little pricey... Too bad that we don't have a say in the police budget. I think this is the main area where we really need to cut down costs.

Fire departments need to be kept up to date on all needed equipment.

I think that there should also be an annual inspection of multi-unit homes, duplexes, apartments, ect. so that there is less chance of large disaster fires.

I know that there are a lot of people living in multi-housing units, that have things too close to heaters, no proper venting, and lack of smoke/fire detectors, and some just too much stuff.

Some have no insurance, for lack of funds, but there needs to be a way of making sure that if that is the case, then safety measures should be in place. Not overcrowding the space.

Firefighters Would like to know more details about international firefighter exchange program and its costs/benefits to the department.

slash this budget by 40% this department is over priced.

Nothing to add, keep doing what y'all do.

Police Budget I do not agree with below point re: police budget, we need to know that police budget as we pay for it.

Thanks and all due respect, I get how its worked and, it needs to be reshaped. As we know, just over 74% of police budget is currently used for homeless, drug users and folks who suffer with mental health concerns. We NEED a safe consumption site AND social housing, until we get social housing at 30% of Income planned and built, we can use Micro Housing Communities and Mini Tent City's as a Harm Reduction model. Police: Stop stigmatizing and stalking citizens who are in pain.

Guess you got to have them.

Victoria fire Department I do not believe a city the size of Victoria should be spending so much on the Fire Department. The number of fires we have is minimal (and the probability of serious injury is reduced every year as buildings are modernized with sprinklers). Despite the very low risk, the cost of maintaining such a large group of high salaried individuals is enormous. In my opinion, our large fire department is a function of making decision based on fear and not on data. It is not sustainable.

Comment no comment

I like the idea of looking at innovative development that includes a fire hall. Not sure that residential is a great mix, but interested to see what ideas come out.

The list of proposed initiatives for 2015 looks great - a balanced and comprehensive reflection of the challenges and priorities facing the department.

Good ideas.

Strategic plan - amalgamate!

Municipalities Any potential to share resources with neighbouring municipalities?

I'd like to see more initiatives of inclusivity for minority groups (especially LGBTQ+ folks) to not see as many barriers when applying to the Fire department.

Comment no comment

Area Figure out how to reduce or stop pay increases for the fire fighters. They've gotten persistent annual salary increases despite same number of fires being fought. Definitely an area to work on, though tough with the union.

Job We should probably be funding the fire department.

The police are not doing the job of the police. Police need to be defunded. And the resources be given to professionals in Abuse, Mental Illness, Trauma and Addictions.

All good initiatives

Focus on finding efficiencies to reduce budget.

Got to have it, must keep budget under control. In 35 years of home ownership in this city have never had to use them, thank goodness

0% budget increase is good... looks fine.

i concur with budget as proposed

Victoria fire Department Change policies so that women can be hired as fire fighters as in other cities. It is an embarrassment that Victoria has zero female fire fighters and has never had one in its history. For shame. The department hides its male bias behind tests of standards... and pretends they are not designed so females fail.

Comment **Police Budget** **Support** I would like to see more efficiencies with first responders (i.e. not a police, fire truck and ambulance all at the same event). I would like a smaller budget for fire.

Since you will not let me comment on the police budget below I will do that here. I do not agree that there is no control over the police budget. It is such a large part of our tax bill and I do not like to see it go up every year when crime is going down. I want to see more social workers, health care and support workers and fewer police.

no time, sorry

New fire Hall One budget item that I look forward to seeing is that of a new Fire Hall; the current site struck

me as wholly inadequate.

Job we have top notch fire, ambulance and police services. they do a great job.

Why can't firemen be asked to perform other tasks like maintaining lawns, cutting shrubs etc etc
I have met victoria firemen who have been here 20 years and have never been to a real fire!!

Excellent They provide an excellent service and need all the help they can get.

I have had the chance to tour the fire hall. I am not even going to open up the pdf for what their budget is. Because I saw first hand just what their daily life is like. It is amazing to read stories about our fire department saving lives while we leave them a building that is basically just dangerous. Excuse my extreme language but if there is an earthquake we are completely fucked.

The solution is bigger than the city. It should be put to an international design contest and massive fundraising effort should be undertaken to do something special for our city and the people who are their to protect us 24 hours a day 7 days a week 365 days a year.

Police Budget Considering the size of the police budget maybe it should be included.

create a community-based team - design competition for the headquarters... look at creating a centre for rescue services and create a north- south bike/pedestrian linkage from rockland to fernwood

Money well spent.

Police Budget It is hilarious that the police budget is not part of this survey. That was one of the main reasons I took the time to click through this survey. The police, in general, are the wrong tool for many of the problems they attend to. They're a square peg for a round hole. The City needs to think creatively about how to get other social services to address problems currently unsolved by policing. Police do policing. They don't know how to deal with the complex social problems our city faces.

Yes! As if you can say no to what the FIRE DEPARTMENT needs.

Firefighters We need more female firefighters which means more training against discrimination.

Great thanks

Essential

Excellent Excellent service

A great place for amalgamation, don't you think?

Excellent Excellent service

GOOD

Too many staff on sunshine list for Fire and Police and City staff generally

Lots of good stuff there.

Support very supportive; we live in an earthquake zone and this budget item will and is essential for emergency responses

Make sure they have the necessary equipment to save lives.

More information and communication needed about why a new Fire Station is needed and its benefits.

Comment No comment

I have no insight into fire services.

Police Budget I suspect as a percentage of actual coverage, the fire dept. budget is very high. Not sure what the logic of fire / ambulance co-responding is other than public theatre. Again how can we compare? You're seeing a trend in these answers.

The police budget should be part of the survey. Not sure how they enjoy papal infallibility.

- Council should be aggressively pursuing the amalgamation of emergency services in the CRD.

keeping wages down is the most important challenge. The wages cannot continue to be much higher than the private sector. I will include the police in this challenge to contain wages.

I would recommend inclusion of a Performance Audit of the department in order to determine -- through an independent, professional analysis -- if opportunities exist to improve service delivery at the same cost or maintain current service delivery at reduced cost.

Municipalities Prioritize emergency response disaster planning with other municipalities and make the public aware of how it will all work.

Area A necessary service but once again should be amalgamated with other core areas into one fire department for the whole of the Capital Region. What cost savings there would be!

No increase in salaries or staff.

Municipalities Let's amalgamate with other municipalities and run a more cost efficient system for Greater Victoria.

Police Budget It is crazy that Council has such little control over the police budget given that it makes up nearly 1/4 of the City's budget. I strongly suggest allocating dollars to do a research on what improving the safety of facilities for cycling, the homeless etc... will save the city in policing requirements and costs. As a rule of thumb, prevention is far less expensive than reacting to an emergency/problem after it has already happened.

Comment no comments

Great.

The initiatives sound interesting and promising. Keeping these emergency services up to date is important.

would like to see a resolution to the new fair hall- but this ranks second to Chrystal pool

Waste of money. Roads (for cars, trucks and busses) are a public good. Invest in them.

Active Transportation **Cities Like** **Cycling Infrastructure** **Initiatives** All of these initiatives are extremely important and build on Victoria's already solid achievements in active transportation. I would suggest we need to up our game in cycling, where we have fallen far behind cities like Vancouver and Montreal in the installation of top line, dedicated cycling infrastructure including separated cycle tracks, signalization etc. We need to do much more to genuinely claim the mantle of Canada's cycling capitol.

Bike Lanes need more protected bike lanes and safer crosswalks

Bike Lanes **Ride** i cycle to work everyday yet i'm asstonished at hte amounts that bike lanes will cost in central core. i don't see an issue and think hte money can be better spent. why are lanes required on busy streets like pandora and johnson. i cycle these daily and have no issue with the existing layout. bike lanes should be constructed on less busy streets where riders who aren't comfortable riding in traffic will have less of an effect and should theoretically be less expensive.

Far too much money being spent on cycling for a city that only has active cyclists, and few commuter bicyclers.

Funding Increase funding and move ahead quickly on construction of protected bikeway infrastructure. Once a critical mass is achieved, new cyclists will take to the street and old cyclists will bike more.

Getting people on bikes and out of cars will only happen when bicycling is safer. Many European cities have opened up sidewalks to bicyclists, who share them in a color delineated fashion with pedestrians. It seems to work. Other cities have put a barrier between bikes and cars.

Spend Step it up.. this will save your residents far more in reduced health costs over the long-term and gives back more of their lives in free time than anything else you could do. Increase the spending here.

Active Transportation **Cities Like** They are a good start. The city needs to put even more resourses into active transportation, Victoria's goal should be to be more like Amsterdam or Copenhagen in this regard.

Bike Lanes The bike lanes on Skinner are diminished by the centre divider - narrow space. The question below is meaningless.

Bike Lanes Excellent and important. Most important in bike planning, bike lanes need to be completely protected from vehicle lanes, with parked cars between. This will happen eventually (rate of bike fatalities drops dramatically), so should be planned for now.

Initiatives We are a bike city, so far almost solely due to weather and the CRD's trails, it is time for the City

of Victoria to show some real initiative.

Bike Lanes **Initiatives** **Routes** 1.9 million for a bike lane on a few blocks of Pandora???

Delusional waste of money.

There's a complete lack of co-ordination between Victoria/OakBay, and Saanich on bike routes - the lanes stop and start at boundaries. Put some bureaucrats on bikes and have them see the reality. Perhaps some money on ENFORCEMENT of traffic laws to stop cyclists running through stop signs and red lights, and cycling 2/3 abreast (illegal) would generate some money in fines for new initiatives.

I did not support the replacement of the Blue Bridge, however I am hopeful that this expensive replacement will be coordinated with other means of transportation.

Having visited cities in Europe where areas are closed to vehicle transportation I think this would be something that could be of great benefit to making an area of downtown Victoria more vibrant. Perhaps closing Government Street to vehicle traffic permanently.

good

Projects **Routes** **Spend** Too much. Save money here. Live with it longer the way it is to save. Do not spend money on the Pandora bike project. The worst idea. Create and promote existing parallel routes for less money and better user experience for everyone.

Projects Higgins Street is mentioned in this section. It is hoped that the sidewalk project is integrated with the retaining wall upgrades and a comprehensive community consultation approach of the entire 'greenway' improvements being considered. Higgins Community is waiting to hear from the city regarding these discussions from last year. Significant damage occurred to mature willow trees along Higgins Street due to fractured interdepartmental coordination on this project. Community members are concerned that the city is not coordinated in communications between departments where one department is acting without insight from another. Higgins Street is 2 blocks long, but contains a number of uses that span several stakeholder interests. Comprehensive community engagement is required before any new infrastructure is put in place, or any existing infrastructure, including the trees, is disturbed. We hope that the city has accounted for this dialogue and approval process this year in the budget.

a car is a luxury not a necessity parking need to be higher cost and more restriction on cars in the city centre Canada is falling behind with reducing greenhouse gasses this is caused by unessential use of cars a inner city toll should be used to stop people using cars or implement a car share

Whenever and however possible, provide incentives for commuters to choose non-vehicle transportation. :)

SIMPLIFY THE DATA

I worked on the Canada Line in better times, 9it's a 10 lane super hwy condensed into one-wish Victoria had the same.

Love the focus in cycling. Would push not for the two lane path model along one of the one way streets. While it is ideal, unless the network is long, and it is not, it is less practical. It will result after a few blocks one of the directions having to be rerouted to another street to continue.

WHAT A MESS

It's exciting to see progress on the way!

A reasonable plan (if a bit costly in a city with serious budget sustainability problems) - why are we endlessly studying and updating this strategy? Just DO IT!

The current plan involves quite a bit of expense - in my view more would simply not be justifiable. I do believe that the vocal cycling minority, combined with our mayors enthusiasm for this topic, may lead us to expenditures which, if suggested in a plebiscite, would be defeated by the majority of voters. Catering to vocal minorities is, quite simply, not the way democracy is supposed to work.

Bike Lanes **Initiatives** **Projects** **Ride** **Routes** **Spend** I'm supportive of bike lanes, but I question why the focus would be on Pandora/Johnson. Yes, these are high profile, but are they truly the best routes to encourage new cyclists or to make cyclists feel safe?

I have cycled on many of the bike routes (including Blanshard). It is efficient, but it's not a pleasant ride. I'd rather see efforts made to improve the safety and signage of a network of neighbourhood bike lanes (e.g. Humboldt, Wharf, Vancouver) than one down a major arterial road.

Given that the Pandora/Johnson bike lane is the main expenditure for this initiative, which I am unconvinced is a good idea, I'm going to suggest spending in this area be less. However, if dedicated to other projects I might change my mind.

Bike Lanes Bike lanes should be considered with sidewalk use and buses need pull outs at all stops, the continued narrowing of the roads is contributing to traffic congestion and is counter productive.

Not much to say here other than until we develop the waterfront (think Halifax) we will be underutilizing our most precious asset to attract businesses and tourists alike.

Active Transportation **Bike Lanes** **Spend** The City needs to double their spending on active transportation over the next 4 years. Many roads need only paint and some planters or stick bollards to have good, protected lanes. In the update of the bikeway plan, the city should only allow the following types of bikeways: protected bike lanes, neighbourhood bikeways and bike-only (or separated paths). All other kinds (including buffered bike lanes, regular bike lanes, sharrows, etc. are not worth the money as they don't attract the vast majority of people to biking).

Projects We need more! In order to get more people cycling, we need a minimum grid of safe, separated/traffic-calmed bikeways. One-off projects will not do much to promote cycling because the interested-but-concerned folks will not venture out unless they can get from home to shopping, or work to home, or daycare to groceries, on a comfortable and complete network. Focus on the easy wins and just get

it in and then tinker and refine it later. A dedicated function would make this achievable.

Every single project or road improvement should look at promoting walking, then cycling, then transit, then driving. It needs to be fully integrated into the City's operations and everyone - from the head of engineering to the road crews to parking and special events to the planning team - needs to be on-board.

Bike Lanes 1. Harbour Pathway - implement

2. Consider "greening" Centennial Square vs rebricking

3. Bicycle Master Plan - consider improving bike lanes on Fairfield and Richardson

Need I say anything more. Taxes are killing everyone.

We need to shrink costs dramatically.

Active Transportation **Cities Like** **Projects** **Spend** I am 100% in favour of this category of spending. I think we need to be even more radical and forward-thinking in terms of getting people out of their cars. I think cars/trucks should be taxed more (either through gas-taxes or road/bridge tolls, or like the tax they're voting on in Vancouver for transit), and the money should go for improving infrastructure for active transportation. I'm REALLY tired of cities which are planned around cars!

I love the David Foster Harbour Pathway project. Can't wait for that to be completed. Brisbane (Australia) brought in something similar several decades ago.....a public walkway along their waterfront that took full advantage of the views of the Brisbane River.....and it is now one of the most promoted and enjoyed aspect of that growing city.

I strongly support any plans to improve cycling and pedestrian access.

Bike Lanes I take a cab to work every day. I have noticed that there a few places for taxi cabs to pull over and unload. Cab drivers tell me that they cab companies have asked for more "taxi parking" but the City has actually taken away taxi spots. They want the revenue from the meters. So they have millions for bike lanes and can't give up a few quarters for transportation used by seniors. How pathetic.

Active Transportation **Initiatives** Strongly support planning for active transportation - I would like to see an initiative involving active SCHOOL transportation - an integrated approach, focusing on areas near schools - these are key areas for change - lower speed limits in residential areas, education for drivers, better infrastructure and signage for pedestrians and bike riders, better motor vehicle management in drop-off zones. A school-only or municipality-only approach is ineffective - efforts need to be combined. Better school area traffic management affects travel patterns much more widely than just near schools because if active transportation is possible, it may reduce motor vehicle use as parents could choose active transportation to travel to work rather than having to take kids in cars or vans to school and then go on to work.

love it

Active Transportation **Initiatives** I think all these initiatives are great and should be encouraged. There does seem to be a disconnect from the whole active transportation vision when the City promotes easier

does seem to be a disconnect from the whole active transportation vision, when the city promotes easier parking downtown (i.e. free on evenings and weekends). More collaboration and joined up thinking is needed!

Spend Unite Langford with Victoria. Some sort of more efficient transit to Langford would make people more inclined to work/live there. It would force Victoria to compete and lower rent costs in town. The cost of public transit is too high. More people would bus if a monthly pass wasn't the same price as a month of car insurance. Parking is too expensive. More people would support downtown if the cost to park wasn't so high. People used to just "spend the day" looking around downtown as entertainment. With the cost of parking and the rate of commercial vacancies there is not enough of a draw to make it worth it. There is not enough value in the cost of parking

Who knew that sidewalks, crosswalks and bus shelters were so expensive! Do you issue RFPs for such work?

improve transit links to the west shore. bring e&n across the bridge

All are needed and will make for a better community

Since I walk and do not own a car any improvements to pedestrian safety or improved transportation through bus or bicycles is important to me - keep the investment going here.

Active Transportation **Bike Lanes** **Initiatives** Good initiatives. Don't waste money on half measures like painted bike lanes - install separated facilities for active transportation users that provide real safety.

Also maybe look at initiatives to slow down vehicles near active transportation facilities (i.e. traffic calming, volume reduction, etc.), as this will promote their further use.

Bike Lanes **Routes** I was surprised to see that according to your stats that only 11% of people cycle to work. It would be nice to see that stat go higher than the 25% goal of 2038. Safely marked (green asphalt) and/or designated bike lanes on or parallel to trunk routes would make a huge difference.

I feel there has to be more incentive for people to get out of their cars and onto a bike. Possibly even educating on the average monthly or annual cost of bicycle vs car, and the health benefits could help. I know that I can get around faster on a bicycle in town than in a car, but I am challenged of the safety concerns in doing so, even so I make the choice to bike over drive.

Spend Do not spend a dime of the proposed \$3,586,500 and give it back to taxpayers.

Bike Lanes i don't think bike lanes should reduce the capacity for vehicle traffic. they would have to reclaimed as driving lanes in time anyway, as the city grows. i support bike lanes, but only as part of an overall expansion of capacity, not by reducing driving lanes.

Harbour Pathways contribute little to our community compared to investing in meeting the other challenges facing the City. Also, encouraging bicycle use will alleviate less congestion than a reduction of on-street parking on main roads leading to and from the city (Quadra, Cook, Shelbourne, etc). Reducing this (parking)

parking on main roads leading to and from the city (Quadrant, Cook, Sherbourne, etc.). Reducing this (non-revenue generating) parking would decrease congestion and make bicycle use more practical.

Routes Concentration on network of barrier cycling routes would be exciting.

Initiatives There has NOT been sufficient consultation with residents on some of the initiatives. With more consultation, there might be different priorities.

Fine to ask what people want, but they need to know that the great cost of cycling lanes means no sidewalk and X-walk improvements.

Active Transportation I think the focus on active transportation is completely warranted and look forward to its implementation. I would even hope for its expansion - the popularity of the goose leads me to think there should be an active search for possibilities of another mixed-use non-road trail.

Bike Lanes **Routes** **Spend** I think that we should move up the Wharf Street bike lane from 2019 to 2016. - Wharf Street/Belleville Street route between Pandora Avenue and Oswego Street - \$1.3M

I think that we should concentrate on getting a buffered bike lane on Wharf Street and Government Street.

Let's spend more on David Foster Way, particularly on Wharf Street. Let's get that done in 2015.

Bike Lanes **Projects** Change Pandora bike lane to 2-way, more cost efficient and can be done faster than waiting for another 1-way lane on Johnson. a year later. More \$\$ then for other projects and bringing them on stream faster.

Funding Get tour buses off Government Street, and seriously consider making it a walking precinct at least during the summer months (allowing commercial deliveries between, say, 6:30 and 9:30 a.m.). Work with Saanich and the CRD to get federal and provincial funding for a Mackenzie St. overpass on highway #1. Continue to support and finance the development of secure bicycle lanes and rapid bus lanes (during rush hour) where these are appropriate. Finance a cross-walk on Erie St. to FW Park, and a 4-way stop at Oswego and Simcoe. Get antiquated, highway-sized tour buses (largely associated with cruise ship passenger movements) off our streets by de-licensing them. Modern, community-friendly replacements are long overdue.

great!

Active Transportation **Cities Like** I like them all.

I am not sure if this should be in active transport or engineering however, regarding the on-going discussions about potential closure of Government street....I think serious examination ought to be made of how many cities and towns in Europe and the UK make use of remotely controlled hydraulic bollards where various streets can be closed to general traffic but emergency and utility vehicles have access using a remote control

Create a new master plan or update the existing one?

Expenditures appear rational

These programs should be given higher priority than parking spaces and POV lanes downtown; however, licences (confirming instruction standards) should be introduced for all mobile operations and segregated from walkways.

Projects **Spend** They are all fine but something is out of sync here. The proposal is to spend \$1.3+ on cycling and to build only two (!) new crosswalks. At that rate, when will the crosswalk up-grade project begun in 1989 (that is 25 years ago) be finished? The pedestrian signal up-grades could be added into the totals and also the sidewalks but there still isn't a balance between cycling and walking, let alone any balance between non-vehicle capital budgets and vehicle ones. I think the David Foster pathway is a good idea but it will do little for local pedestrians. It is really a park/tourist feature. In summary: allocate a good chunk of that \$4 million to pedestrian projects.

Projects - I understand the Pandora cycle project will now be more than the budgeted 1.3 million. What is the new estimate and where will that money be coming from?

Bike Lanes Clear unobstructed bike lanes for the entirety of the downtown core! Education for drivers and cyclists on sharing the road.

Bike Lanes Can't wait to see how the Pandora avenue biking lanes turn out! I live right by Pandora, so hopefully it turns out well!

Funding Once again planners should not get carried away with providing bicycle lanes for a small group of users at the expense of the vast majority of roadway users. Mixing of bicycles on heavily travelled main roads is not appropriate and does nothing to help the flow of traffic. One also understands that some people want to make things less attractive to private passenger vehicle users with the vain hope that it will encourage people to get out of their cars.

So called "traffic calming measures" are in fact for the most part "traffic enraging measures"

The majority of funds should be spent on solving bottlenecks with designated turn lanes and the like.

Bike Lanes **Cycling Infrastructure** I am absolutely in favor of a dramatic push into cycling infrastructure. Physically separating our bike lanes is a huge priority for me.

Bike Lanes I have some concerns about the huge budget to build extensive bike lanes, especially on main arteries. My bike was my main transportation until I was 38 and I rode it to and from work every day from James Bay to Camosun College. I rarely used the main streets as I knew I was safer on the less traveled cross streets.

Today, I do not see enough cyclists to justify this huge expense. How many fatalities will it take before you realize bike lanes on main arteries is not such a great idea?

I also don't see a need for bike shelters - bike stands for securing bicycles are more suitable.

I like it when departments are self supporting.

Love the bike plans.

I'm not knowledgeable enough to offer opinions on some of the questions.

Regarding pedestrian signals, I am still confounded that side and over-the-road crosswalk signs do not have built in pedestrian-initiated flashing lights. Having lived years in Alberta where this is more common place, I found I was much more aware of pedestrians and could prepare from a distance to slow down to stop for them. They are even more effective given we have many walkers in the city (which are being encouraged to increase) and dark days due to weather.

Bike Lanes unnecessary. what would make it safer for cyclists is for proper education of drivers and cyclists. please keep wheelchairs/skateboarders/roller skaters out of the bike lanes.

Active Transportation **Cities Like** **Projects** **Ride** I'm happy with all the work that has gone into Active Transportation over the years. As a cyclist commuter, I find riding in this city a breeze. I learned urban riding in Toronto and Montreal though, so I understand that folks don't always see riding here so fun.

I once heard Dean Fortin say we could achieve a 25% mode share with the right planning. I fully support pushing for that kind of success.

I am WHOLEHEARTEDLY in favour of a two-way separated bikeway on Pandora as far as Cook, connecting to the Galloping Goose.

As for the rest of the cycling deliverables listed, the only change I'd like to see is all of them delivered sooner! They are all well-thought-out projects that will make cycling better in this city.

Great. More.

Some are exciting, some are questionable.

And where is the plan to make Victoria harbour the focal point of our downtown community?

The proposed harbour walkway is not going to improve the current harbour's image.

Because an ill-conceived Transport Canada created "water airport" continues to spew foul air, noise, and expose residents to an inevitable aviation disaster.

And, this "airport" has been operating on DRAFT regulations since its creation some 15 years ago.

Why does the City of Victoria continue to tolerate, and ignore, this deplorable situation?

If the "airport" were made to operate under proper CRA standards and regulations, Victoria's harbour can immediately become an integral part of an overall regional transportation system.

Initiatives I fully support all initiatives that reduce our reliance on motor vehicles and enhance our capacity to support non-motorized transportation.

Good

Ride keep cyclists off sidewalks

license cyclists

seize their wheels when they ride on sidewalk, ignore stop signs, red lights and one way streets

Looking forward to seeing the results of the cycling masterplan. Your question below demonstrates the problem with this consultation exercise - how do you expect people to be able answer it without any specialist knowledge? Please could provide a few other similar sized cities to compare it to.

Ride Teach bicyclists how to be responsible for their own safety on the road- w saanich and other roads often see them riding six across- it is unsafe and unsavoury.

Funding **Projects** Generally they look good. One suggestion - Bay Street from Wark to Vancouver is particularly unpleasant for pedestrians. I see \$600,000 in funding to add a sidewalk for the south side of Bay between Wark and Quadra, but that this isn't planned until 2022 - 7 years from now! I urge acceleration of this project, and improvement of the pedestrian experience more generally from Wark to Vancouver. Lots of people move through here on foot, and it is arguably more of a problem than those addressed by some of the other projects listed (e.g. new walkways near Summit Park). I note also in this regard that the Bay Street Corridor project on the City website is listed as a priority but not showing any movement.

Active Transportation **Bike Lanes** **Ride** I'm not supportive of the city's active transportation plan. The city appears to be at war with the car. I walk to work and ride my bike regularly on the weekend. However, I get the most frustrated when driving around Victoria because the city continues to remove vehicle lanes. These are not necessary. Cyclist are able to easily navigate the city on less busy side streets. There is no reason to have bikes and cars mix on busy thoroughfares.

Bike Lanes More bike lanes always welcome. But get rid of those stupid new speed limits.

Ped countdown signal are really annoying. I walk quite a lot and these countdown signals coupled with the silly crosswalk activation buttons put unnecessary gadgetry at intersections that only pressure those who walk to compete with automobiles for space in the intersections they're located at. If you're going to install these gadgets, why not dedicate time in the cycle solely for walking across the intersection while vehicles in both directions are stopped?

no major concerns

The Belleville Terminal should be the #1 priority.

Missing from the list are mid-street islands for pedestrians to safely cross the street.

Sidewalk repair is needed in several parts of the City.

Further bicycle lanes near Mayfair Mall and in Tillicum Gorge area

accessibility issues number one for disabled get that right and get back to us on skateboarding -

Bike Lanes Victoria is a great place for biking with one of the best lane systems in North America...but perfecting it makes sense

seems like a lot of \$\$ for painting lines on the roads.

Initiatives yes, like the ideas and staff initiatives.

re: bike shelters, more would be welcome in this very rainy area.

Common in Europe are lower roofed systems, where you do not stand under the roof, but your bike seat does; no need for such high roofs, your bike gets WET anyhow, lower is more functional. I can send examples; you push your bike into rack using your seat/saddle along a groove, bend over and lock up.

Projects **Spend** When you talk about the "Gladstone Mall" in the proposed projects do you mean the Fernwood Square? If so, I really don't like the name you're using. It is not a strip mall, it's a community space. If not, then where is the Gladstone Mall? I've never heard of it, and Google doesn't seem to know either.

And, I put "it's just right" as the answer to your next question about the proposed spending because I do not know what the spending should be. I don't have the knowledge of (or time to do research on) what would be an appropriate amount. It'd be nice to have an "I don't know" option in future surveys.

Leaves me confused. Can't achieve it all.

It seems that something is lacking in how transportation is managed. No one has a clear mandate to integrate, trains, ferries, buses, cars bicycles, and walking as seems to happen in cities such as Brisbane Australia.

As indicated elsewhere, I shall be very pleased if the Harbour walk is improved/ linked.

Cycling Infrastructure **Funding** **Routes** Investing in bus shelters demonstrates respect for transit-users that they don't often get. It also makes getting passed up by bus after bus on the busy #4 route a little easier to take (too bad the shelters won't cover the dozens of people who accumulate at busy stops during peak hours).

I'd love to see some funds devoted to improving the walkway near the breakwater--the surface is totally uneven and narrow in some spots, and there is no barrier to keep drivers from parking in a way that results in their bumper overhanging half the width of the sidewalk (huge trucks in particular are guilty of this). Watching the many walkers who pass there on sunny weekends will reveal stroller- pushing moms and wheelchair-users having a lot of difficulty.

A sidewalk on the south side of Bay st will be a major improvement, including for cyclists, who currently have to veer into angry traffic when the shoulder disappears/is obstructed by a particularly vexing hydropole. Given that so many people walk to work (13%), it seems surprising that only a few pedestrian commuter infrastructure upgrades are coming (only 2 crosswalks?). Surely more crosswalks and widening some sidewalks on key walking routes (not just within the downtown core) is one of the most cost-effective ways to improve our city? As a resident of James Bay, I see how many cruise ship passengers and other visitors have to squeeze into narrow sidewalks (e.g. between the Clipper and Blackball buildings, the sidewalks goes from being gloriously wide and clear to narrow, uneven, cracked, interrupted with parking meters and

posts, bordered by an ugly chain-link fence, and overhanging with overgrown bushes). This type of vehicle-prioritizing design must seem bizarre for those arriving from more pedestrian-friendly cities.

I want to see the City prioritize walking routes for those oft-overlooked people who are just trying to get from Point A to Point B comfortably, safely, and efficiently (and efficiency really is more important than anything else if your purpose is to get somewhere). Unlike investments in cycling infrastructure (which I am in favour of) everyone benefits from investments in pedestrian infrastructure--such as the many seniors in this city without the physical wherewithal to get on a bike. This makes it a great investment.

I also want the City to ensure everyone (regardless of being an able-bodied cruise ship passengers or a disabled resident) be able to fully enjoy those routes which are designed for recreation. If a rec centre needed a ramp for disabled users to enter the building, surely we would build it--yet if a recreational walking route is impossible for someone using a wheelchair to enjoy, it seems to get ignored.

Bike Lanes Safe bike lanes are needed throughout the city. A rapid transit system would be useful to the western communities and alleviate a lot of the congestion and air pollution created by cars.

Now 830 pages!

Active Transportation It is time to exact licence fees upon all those using wheels to travel.

You want a facility, - pay the freight.

We motorists have done that since the dawn of the motorcar. Why would other pathway users object to the same burden?

Your following 'active transportation' is incomprehensible

Bike Lanes **Cycling Infrastructure** Again, go for simple, cheap, effective. For the amount budgeted for proposed cycling infrastructure, switching to "floating parking" instead of over-engineered bike lanes could mean many more miles of safe lanes.

We really need to get away from the engineering mentality! It costs us too much, the solutions often turn out to be worse problems and it irritates the hell out of ordinary people.

Tie the Ped light signals with the two-way protected bicycle lane plans.

Multiple two-way protected bicycle lane tie-ins to Galloping Goose.

Connect grade school and middle schools to two-way protected bicycle lane network.

Cycling Infrastructure **Ride** Victoria has the best climate in the country for year-round cycling and bike commuting. It deserves the infrastructure to maximize safety and opportunity to ride. Many in the community are able to bike commute. If the council invests in cycling infrastructure, I'm certain that more of the community will be willing to bike, which would be a double bonus: fewer emissions and healthier commuters.

Cycling Infrastructure The bike shelter seems ridiculously expensive.

I'm all in favour of more cycling infrastructure.

Bike Lanes **Routes** I hope that the pandora and johnson street routes are done right. It would be sad to see them just as unsafe as they are now. Protected bike lanes and bike boxes/green paint are a must. I'm sure there's someone who has thought about the best solution for these routes. Currently it is the most unsafe portion of my commute. This is not a place to half ass a cycle route. Right now it is unsafe as evident by the numerous accidents that have happened on those routes.

Funding This is a great start! Obviously more needs to be done, but it will become obvious over time how these efforts benefit everyone, and then funding will be easier to find.

Initiatives in full agreement to actively pursue these initiatives

Bike Lanes **Cycling Infrastructure** Having a bicycling master plan is visionary and puts Victoria in a leadership position, but doesn't go far enough, especially in 2015. We walk or cycle for 90% of our movement around Victoria and current infrastructure is not encouraging enough for those not as bold in cycling in traffic as ourselves. Too often cars try to squeeze by us, which is not 'public safety'. If they make a mistake, we are potentially injured, if we make a mistake they may get a scrape on their paint. More separate space for cycling than considered in the current master plan needs to be pursued. Lights within the downtown core should be timed for pedestrians and cyclists- not cars. As it is going north to south, I have to wait at almost every light, while they are timed for cars to move onward. Same is true as a pedestrian. In bike and pedestrian friendly cities in Europe which I have had the pleasure to walk and cycle in, this is not the case. Traffic signals are timed to cyclists to encourage cycle use. Separate lanes which move cyclists at a higher speed than auto traffic are also used to encourage cyclists. As a result more of the population in all age ranges cycles. This should be Victoria's design standard, not an after thought and just something to paint on the street. This is linked to other goals such as liveability, affordability, and climate change.

Bike Lanes **Projects** **Routes** Glad to see the number of projects proposed.

An additional project worthy of consideration is along Tolmie Avenue, from Douglas Street to one block east of Blanshard. There is enough space for dedicated bike lanes along this stretch, which would tie into the fifth avenue bike route and the Galloping Goose trail.

Cycling Infrastructure Many good ideas. I'm in favour of fixing cracked pathways for my stroller, (and wheelchairs) , installing lights for safer crossings, and improved cycling infrastructure. I would strongly approve of a 2-way protected bikeway on Pandora, even with higher price tag. It will draw many families into town who would otherwise need to drive for fear of unsafe conditions for their children.

Active Transportation I would like to see Victoria become a leading community in active transportation. Our climate allows us to walk & bike all year round. A full, safe, and modern biking network will encourage more people to choose an active mode of transportation.

User pay. That will take some of the steam out of the most vocal proponents.

Bike Lanes Looks good - this is definitely an area where it would be good to connect with other municipalities to coordinate efforts near and across boundaries.

In terms of the amount of money to be spent, that all depends on what it would be used for. My opinion would vary depending on whether it was plan updates, bike shelters or more bike lanes for example

Looking good and I think it is moving towards a more people powered transport friendly city.

Initiatives Would like to see commitment to initiating dedicated cycling lanes to Burnside and Gorge Roads, two dangerous connecting corridors. The large amount of traffic and the high speed at which the traffic travels makes these two corridors dangers for cyclists.

Cycling Infrastructure **Ride** -I love the idea of "reducing private automobile use" because I think it is important for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, mitigating climate change and pollution, and getting people more active (ie. through bicycling and walking), thereby reducing the chance of developing diseases (ie. obesity, diabetes) due to sedentary lifestyles (ie. sitting in cars driving, then sitting in offices working etc.).

-I do however wonder if creating safe infrastructure for cyclists is possible given the fact that automobiles are dominant in our current society/community. I think there also needs to be incentives for riding bicycles, as well as the development of a bicycle culture and rapid transit for people who do not like to cycle and aren't impressed by the buses.

-I think "bus shelters" are very important for encouraging people to take the bus, especially in rainy or unfavourable weather (which is a large percentage of the time along the coast here) when people can easily make excuses for not cycling or taking the bus and driving their car instead.

-I think "crosswalks" are important for supporting pedestrians, but many vehicles do not stop for crosswalks even they are obligated to, and I think there needs to be lights and better monitoring and enforcement of rules for cars needing to stop at crosswalks.

-I think "new sidewalks" are good to support pedestrians as well as individuals in wheelchairs, therefore making sure sidewalks are wide enough for wheelchairs is important to consider.

-I think "audible signals to assist persons with hearing disabilities when crossing at signalized intersections" is very important for the safety of these individuals. I have noticed lately that there are many intersections that do not have audible signals.

Bike Lanes NO MORE bike lanes until the whole exercise is reviewed for safety-areas where it is scary and where individuals NEVER use existing by stay out on street-find out why

Good ideas. However educate the people involved first.

Before going ahead start ticketing bikes on the sidewalks, that revenue will offset a lot of the costs.

Initiatives Good initiatives. I don't use any of these facilities except for actual sidewalks but many do and they need to be as safe as possible. I have never figured out why there needs to be a greenway in the 900 block of Rockland Avenue, it seems to be completely needless.

Bike Lanes Bike lanes and the pathway, particularly along Belleville are needed. Work should proceed at the earliest opportunity.

Cities Like I would like to see more bylaw enforcement of skateboarding down sidewalks, as I've nearly been hit multiple times by errant skateboarders while enjoying a walk down Government or Douglas streets. I am satisfied with the Bicycle Master Plan, but hope that the city can move more quickly to a separated bicycle plan and aid in more driver/cyclist education RE how to share the road.

Bike Lanes **Routes** Better and more extensive bike lanes are so important! Separated bike lanes would make it easier to bike with children, keep cyclists safe and keep drivers from being annoyed by cyclists. There should be no route in Victoria that is dangerous for walking or cycling (currently Bay between Blanshard and Quadra and Bay on the Victoria side of the Bay St bridge are bad. Why is there a sign that says "pedestrians cross here" but no crosswalk???) We also need to bring back the bike lane on Douglas that was removed for the bus lane.

Funding fund them all... particularly the bicycle master plan!

Bike Lanes Build more bike lanes.

Active Transportation **Bike Lanes** As many bike lanes as possible to promote active transportation.

Mc Kenzie and Cook St. The lanes seem smaller then before after redoing the road! Why?? We don't need these big median, we have enough trees and flowers.

Ok, this city is already pretty good. Get more into mass transit

Cities Like **Cycling Infrastructure** more cycling infrastructures are needed. Infrastructures and disincentives are also needed to make it harder to use a motor vehicle inside the city (like in Copenhagen, Denmark: remove parking spaces, add more green space every year.)

Bike Lanes I am in support of more bike lanes, crosswalks and better transit to improve less single occupant vehicle transportation dependency.

Active Transportation I use the bus system as my primary transportation method, but none of the proposed improvements will affect me. Also, why has the #6 stopped going out to Vic West? It's really annoying, because I used that and now I end up walking long distances or transferring buses if I need to use the 6.

I like the bike shelter idea.

Isn't skateboarding against bylaws in most areas? If so, how can it be part of an active transportation plan?

isn't skateboarding against bylaws in most areas: if so, how can it be part of an active transportation plan?

Contradictory.

Anything to get us souls out of our cars to be enticed to use our bodies in this excellent climate.

Initiatives Great initiatives Wish there was money for more.

Great!! Wonderful!!

Especially supportive of David Foster Harbour Pathway and the improvements at Gonzales Bay.

The Belleville terminal work should be moved forward.

We need a good walking and cycling connection from VicWest to downtown.

Hope the steel is on order!

Too much money proposed for too few people.

Use it to promote public transportation and upgrade bus stops. And give a substantial transit pass discount to seniors, to get them out of their cars and decrease the accident rate.

Routes The provision of a specific-to-bicycle route along Wharf St from Government St. to the Johnson St Bridge on both sides of the street (or alternatively, completely off the street) would considerably enhance safety along this highly travelled route. Currently, cyclists must compete with vehicles, both moving and parked.

Looks good.

Ride **Routes** This is so very important for the short and longterm health of our community and environment. Side note: please make sure there is a safe bike route from the heart of Oaklands/Fernwood to the Galloping Goose. There are so many families with young children in our neighbourhood that can't access the bigger bike systems because they feel uncomfortable having their children riding on the road, even on a bike path designated road. Cars aren't watching for small people on bikes. Many of us feel landlocked with regards to biking because of the aforementioned fear. If this was taken care of, my family, and many others we know, would likely use bikes as our primary mode of transportation.

Active Transportation **Bike Lanes** **Cities Like** **Funding** **Spend** Active transportation is really important, contiguous and protected bike lanes in particular, but what about sewage treatment and compost processing and funding efficiencies in capital spending related to city assets like underground pipes, fleet.

Bike Lanes Wasted resources with bike lanes, no further expansion and more money wasted is needed. Bus lanes, yes. Parking enforcement should be 7 days/week and more hours, include stat holidays.

This is really important to me.

It is insulting that you would ask this, and know that it would take days to read through the materials in order to answer. Who designed the survey for the City? They should be on the "watch" list for further surveys.

Good firms would have advised to make the survey more manageable.

Making the city more bike-able would be great!

any concrete measures that improve and stimulate cycling in the city is very important

Bike Lanes **Ride** I applaud the city's efforts. To be successful, bike lanes and bike paths **MUST** be physically separated from other vehicle traffic. Even as an experienced cyclist, I find it terrifying to ride in bike lanes that are not divided, as vehicle often pass too close for comfort, and other vehicles, such as electric scooters, often use the bike lanes as well. If cycling is to become accessible to all, bike lanes need to be off-limits to other traffic (except pedestrians) to enhance the sense of safety--the main reason I hear from others who are reluctant to ride in the city.

I strongly support all forms of personal transportation alternative to single motor vehicles

I also have huge concerns about the number **AND SIZE** of commercial vehicles which lumber through our streets - even before 0600!!! picking up garbage, delivering milk . . .

And I am concerned about the parking crunch that is created by building permits that do not provide adequate off street parking. I live in an area where density is increasing. I support and enjoy that. However, to imagine that each new suite doesn't bring a vehicle (or two!) is a very false hope. the only people who can afford these places are working couples and they both have a car . . . The previous, light footprint on the earth tenants have been pushed to lower income neighbourhoods.

cant comment

has any thought been given towards a 'tourist cycle trail'

Ride I would like if I could ride my bike and feel safe on the roads. Right now, we don't feel safe to ride on Victoria's roads.

Sounds good!

Ride We need to make the city safer and more accessible to bike traffic as an alternate to car traffic. the weather here is such that riding a bike year round is an option for many.

Excited about a more bike-friendly city.

Active Transportation **Routes** I'm all for more active transportation routes, less cars on the road, and less parking lots!

More protection is needed for cyclists, everywhere in the city. This is a good start.

Active Transportation **Bike Lanes** **Ride** I'm all for active transportation! I walk everywhere, and occasionally skateboard. I'd love to feel more secure in doing so. Last year I almost bought a bike for longer-distance trips, but realized that I wouldn't feel safe riding it in town unless I rode on the sidewalks ...

and since I've been struck twice in the past year-and-a-half by cyclists careening around the sidewalks, that just wasn't a viable option. Separated bike lanes on busy streets and defined bike lanes elsewhere would help with that.

Active Transportation Active transportation is the key to be people being healthy. But I think 3,000,000. Is a bit high considering we have larger big ticket items at the moment to deal with such as an over \$100 million dollar bridge. I do not think a new green way on the 900 block of Rockland is important at this time. We should possibly be putting more money into a new crystal pool or community wellness type centre then building and appeals to wider group of people.

get it done at once, try reduce cost by using temporary measures, pop up urbanism, create the network, secure and make it solid in phases, the budget is high, it does not have to be the highest standard right away

Love the bicycle master plan!

Essential for a vibrant city.

Safety issues on multi-use trails needs to be a focus. We need our pathways to feel safe for all users. Intersection safety for cyclists is a high priority.

I highly support implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan, David Foster Way, and storm main replacement as big ticket items on the budget. Thank you for the level of detail here.

Bike Lanes Even with bike lanes, it's still quite dangerous to bicycle in Victoria. Has any analysis been done to see if car-free corridors into downtown could be developed from the east and from the north?

Active Transportation **Initiatives** I strongly support active transportation initiatives.

see earlier comments on cycling.

Ride Looks good, May I suggest someone on council ride the buses to get a real feel for what is happening, talk to drivers as some intersections are very challenging as Menzies and Niagara.

Bike Lanes Safer and more bike lanes.

Cities Like **Projects** **Routes** All good projects. Would like to see the City exert pressure on BC Transit to do something about Beacon Hill Bus service. Currently, the best service of the week is on Sundays. This is ridiculous. So is the vision of the #30 and #3 bus travelling throughout their combined route one after another. Who scheduled this? 2 buses running the same route at the same time? Please space them out appropriately, or, better yet, devote all @27/28 routes to Beacon Hill and all #30/31s to Erie. This will help defray congestion in front of the Legislature and provide both neighbourhoods with the service levels that we need.

Funding The biggest drain on our taxes is the over policing of our city, and yet you tell us you have no control over this, so we are not actually living in a democracy, just a police state where taxes are imposed on us from above to fund the police.

You are telling us the mayor and council are useless pawns that can affect no important change.
You are sick humans, very sick, looking after your paycheque, with the blinders on.

Active Transportation **Ride** Thank goodness for bus shelters along hillside avenue! So desperately needed.

MORE active transportation! Let's make it easier to ride our bikes, safer for our children to do so!

Looks reasonable.

Projects Four projects I particularly support:

- 1) Harbour Pathway Upgrades
- 2) Brick work rehabilitation - malls and squares
- 3) Doncaster Pathway
- 4) Parks Bike Shelters.

Active Transportation **Projects** I support the proposed active transportation projects.

Cities Like **Initiatives** I would like to see more initiatives to create Bike Corrals/Parklets in the downtown core (along the lines of FabulousFort), village centres, and areas with local businesses. Increased pedestrian space and plazas, urban gardens, parks, in which to placemake are important for family life and attracting tourism to YYJ. I travel to other cities to experience these environments.

I am excited for Victoria BC to become the place people want to see and be seen.

Make biking infrastructure a priority!

All plans sound wonderful.

what is the point of the new 40 km zones when existing slow zones are never policed. I drive daily on Fernwood road where the speed limit is 30 km. 90% of the traffic on that road goes well above the 30 km. I have never seen any attempt to police traffic on that road.

Improve the city for cyclists.

Strongly support the bicycle master plan

increase budget allocation for segregated bike network development

Invest strongly in the Bicycle Master Plan

Active Transportation **Cities Like** When it comes to the issue of Active transportation it is so far down our list of issues we would like to see the City address first it is not something we can support at this time. You will notice we have indicated "less" in our answer below. By less we mean \$0. Get real -there are so many other things this money should be spent on.

Projects Many great projects. I strongly recommend security parking for bicycles. More people would cycle into the downtown core to hang out and shop if secure parking were available. Lockable bike box storage should be mandatory at all parkades.

Victoria and surrounding municipalities have more versions of crosswalk then I have encountered in any other part of the country. It is confusing and very dangerous! A crosswalk light that flashes 24/7 tells me nothing; a pedestrian activated flashing light actually tells me that a pedestrian is crossing the road I am cycling or driving down. I realize its too much to expect a standard protocol for the country, although that is what we should have, but surely we can develop and implement a regional protocol!

Capital budget needs to focus on bridges, roadways and recreation facilities much more than pathways.

Funding These seem excellent and well worth funding

Spend Hugely, hugely, hugely important. Let's stop spending money on cars and start building up this much need infrastructure.

Projects Simply not enough projects and projects are mediocre.

Active Transportation Rockland Avenue????? My understanding is that taxes are meant to equalize services, not provide special things for the rich people.

Active transportation is great! I've ridden a bike everywhere for over 30 years and appreciate the work that goes into infrastructure for cyclists.

1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean
2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.
3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

Looks great... well thought-out plan

Initiatives I support these initiatives.

Spend This is heading in the right direction. It will make the city more livable and that will increase the economic and social conditions.

Could spend a little more on this to speed up the transformation.

Routes This is so important to me! I want safe biking routes to use for commuting and leisure.

Bike Lanes **Routes** Desperate need to plan bike routes and corridors, and not just put lanes everywhere. Cars will not go away. So why are there lanes being put in along several parallel streets? Plan routes along smaller and quieter roads into/out of areas like the DT core or UVic. Leave major roads for vehicle traffic only, or, if a bike lane must occupy a main road minimize the time bikes are on it and then have the lane link up on a side street to continue

up on a side street to continue.

Have police enforce the MVA on bikes too; as they are on the roads they must also obey the same laws as vehicles! Many do not!

I think many of these "greenways" need to be considered for both cyclists and pedestrians. Whether you want or don't want cyclists on these paths won't matter, they will be there anyways so it would be smart or create them now with inclusion. These "greenways" should match the galloping goose and lead one to connect with the Goose or Lochside trails. It is very hard to connect with the goose if you don't live downtown or on Vic West. Please create a LRT from Downtown Victoria to Swartz Bay and to Sooke. Connecting the communities and making it easier for us to travel. Right now using public transportation it take 5 hours to go from Victoria to Vancouver, and that is just simply crazy!

Everything should be done to make the city more walkable and bicycle friendly.

Bike Lanes **Routes** My thought on bike lanes had been started earlier- yes to all of it and especially the bay street widening - currently Bay Street from Quadra to the bridge is a dangerous joke for anyone but seriously experience cyclists. And the to have a bike lane for a short stretch near quadra to cook that just rnds again - not to mention the vancouver bike route having to cross bay - it needs to have a better way to control the crosswalk for bikes (ie a button and a painted lane marked for bikes)

Initiatives Great initiatives! However, a couple of points. Why are pedestrian lights not all automatic in the City? The frustration of being at a cross light and not having the pedestrian light turn on because you forgot to push the button is immense. Also, making them automatic has no effect on car traffic (if there is a pedestrian, they have to wait anyway, and if there isn't, they don't) and it would significantly reduce costs because you would not need the buttons at every corner of every light.

Working at improving Harbour pathways is long overdue. Please proceed ASAP.

A likeable bikeable city will be an asset for tourists and residents.

More can be done but it's a good start.

Bike Lanes The police have said that there will be total deadlock with traffic by 2020 if there is not a huge change in what we are doing. We need huge bicycle lanes improvements, increased flow for bikes, large increases in parking fees downtown and an overall reduction in total cars in and out of the city. Bikes need to be made a priority. There is no choice. This is not Toronto. You don't have hundreds of miles in which to expand. This is a small island. Traffic is already grid-locked 3 and 4 hours every morning and night. How bad does it get before we wake up and smell the death of cars. Find the money now to expand and build more safe and could I emphasize safe bike lanes. Reduce traffic lanes for cars if necessary and allow bikes to move when safe to move disregarding lights intended for cars. They are the ones needing lights. Bike transportation does not need to be stopped constantly. and in fact it impedes traffic when bikes stop at lights. Stop cars, move cyclists and soon our car problem will be gone. allow only taxis and buses in the core city areas.

There is an error in the document regarding traffic signals that states "Audible signals assist persons with hearing disabilities" which should reference people with visual challenges, not hearing challenges.

The proposals to make Victoria a completely welcoming, functioning, and friendly city for non-vehicle movement is great. Take a cue out of Copenhagen's success in overcoming opposition from the vehicle constituency to give priority to pedestrian/cycling/wheelchair movement. An example is continuation of sidewalks through intersections, giving bicycle lanes ample space (yes at the expense of vehicle traffic). I am not a cyclist, but a walker. The best cities in the world invite me to move through the city on my own power with a highly functional public transportation system as backup.

Bike Lanes This needs greater emphasis and we need to move to a Complete Streets design standard. Floating parking, for example, should be adopted on many streets where painted bike lanes currently exist. Pedestrian crossings in many areas should be ramped ('table' crossings). To create a healthier, safer Victoria we need more investment in this area.

Initiatives I am strongly in support of supporting more human-powered transportation initiatives.

Initiatives I agree with these initiatives.

I also wish the city would find a way to help pedestrians cross at uncontrolled intersections, such as along Cook Street Village and at Southgate and Heywood, where drivers don't seem to know that pedestrians waiting on corners have the right of way.

Drivers seem to believe that pedestrians need to walk to the nearest crosswalk to cross.

Perhaps a small campaign to enlighten drivers would help.

Routes Well-chosen routes for bike paths - those are all main routes for cyclists in this city.

Active Transportation **Cycling Infrastructure** **Funding** **Projects** **Routes** The Strategic Plan, Objective 9, lists a variety of outcomes related to cycling, including completing six priority projects (identified last year) by 2018, and the more ambitious goal of completing 48 high quality cycling facilities by 2016. However, the draft Financial Plan active transportation budget only accounts for the six priority projects approved by Council last year, totaling \$5 million over 5 years, or \$1 million per year.

There is much talk of being 'bold' and 'building it now.' We agree, and think that now is the time to seize the opportunity to dramatically improve active transportation in the City of Victoria, and to invest in a safe, high quality cycling network designed for all ages and abilities.

Recommendations:

- 1) Council commits to the design and construction of an all ages and abilities cycling network by 2018;
- 2) Council triples the current level of funding for cycling infrastructure, from \$1 million per year to \$3 million, and invests a substantial portion of this year's \$4.5 million into cycling.

cycling,

3) Council works to increase staff capacity, through additional hirings, training, and consulting services, to ensure staff have the resources and expertise to design and build a worldclass cycling network accessible to all.

Now is the time to dramatically improve active transportation. Victoria can go much further still in getting more people on bikes. The City's compact size, short travel distances, and agreeable climate give it the potential to become one of the top biking cities in the world, but only with a network of high quality allages and abilities routes covering the city.

Projects the Store street to Cook projects and the Belleville to Pandora project should be part of the JSB project, as they are clearly support for the present design.

Boost this

Yes. Absolutely a Bicycle Master Plan.

It all looks very good, I like the look of the bicycle shelters, hope they last.

There still needs to be more strict training of cyclists, and should start with the purchase of a bike and licencing after road education. The road safety passing and licence decal is registered and put onto the bike. Minimal fee is all that is necessary.

There are so many in the ages 20 to 40, that have little respect for traffic and no proper use of helmets and road signals, just swerve in and out as they like.

Cycling Infrastructure Victoria needs better cycling infrastructure, it is a cycling city in spite of itself.

Cycling Infrastructure This city is missing a huge opportunity by not including cycling infrastructure along Dallas Rd. Any city known as a "cycling" city has cycling in their most scenic area ... this is typically water front - Santa Barbara, Santa Monica, San Diego, Calgary (river bike paths), Portland, etc. The average stay of a visitor is 1.5days and 90% of those that cycle want to cycle the Dallas scenic drive. Victoria will never be known as a cycling city until we get cycling infrastructure in this highly visible and popular cycling area for both visitors and locals alike.

Yay!!

Please see my earlier comments about a bike actuated light at Cook and Richardson Streets.

cyclists need to pay a fee to repay the costs for this improvement. More then half the items listed within the Capital Budget can be excluded.

Bike Lanes Kudos on continuing to expand bike lane infrastructure and creating more accessible intersections (including audible walk signals and bike-activated traffic lights).

Ran on human-powered transportation on sidewalks - including skateboards - should be revisited. These are

can on human powered transportation on sidewalks - including skateboards - should be revisited. These are effective modes of transport that can be safely integrated into our transport systems.

YES! I think this seems like enough but, I can be convinced as I want LESS cars and gas and oil and want more air to breath.

Active Transportation I support any improvement in active transportation infrastructure.

Better, safer bike transportation corridors.

It's a good start. Anything to increase the convenience and travel speed (i.e. reducing travel time) of alternate travel (other than single occupancy vehicles) gets my vote. Making it quicker to take the bus than to drive, and making it VERY convenient to cycle (being able to park for free very close to the destination is a big draw for cyclists) will all help decrease vehicle traffic downtown. We cannot expect every person to give up their cars because "it's good for the environment". That's just not realistic. However, if we provide enough incentives, people will give up their cars, because it's the logical choice. Then, only those who have to drive (parents with young children, people with disabilities that interfere with their ability to use public transit) would still drive. I also suggest making it more cost effective to take a taxi - as that actually reduces congestion in some cases.

yes to cycle tracks!

More bike paths! Fully separated if/when possible.

Implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan and construction of a high quality cycling network and allotting enough money to build it.

lets create more bike paths that use secondary roads - much like vancouver -- its been done elsewhere - lets use the success stories out there!

Bike Lanes Your cycling plan seems a little lacking. Currently there is much focus on new paths and lanes. Realistically the cycling trails out there are very fragmented with lanes ending suddenly, poor signage, etc. There should be a fine for vehicles that park in the bike lane.

James Bay is a community with high density yet there are no dedicated bike lanes to and from James Bay to downtown. Please build something. Sit on the corner of Government and Belleville for 2 hours on a random day and you will easily see over 40 cyclists. Why are there no bike lanes there?

Active Transportation A safe and effective active transportation network that effectively encourages residents to choose alternative to the car will contribute to savings for the city in other areas as well as contributing to health and wellness and other sustainability goals.

More staff resources need to be directed toward effective and efficient implementation of the plan by 2018. In house training and expertise is key. The implementation and maintenance of the network over time will be more effectively managed if staffing dollars support/invest in house expertise as opposed to consultants.

This recent article points to some of the economic benefits of supporting active transportation:

<http://static.newclimateeconomy.report/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/public-policies-encourage-sprawl-nce-report.pdf>

Routes I have no idea what this means:

"off-Shelbourne Street route (Doncaster Drive/North Dairy Road to Gonzales Beach)"

What traffic is this supposed to capture?? How many people are going to bike from Doncaster to Gonzales? The unsafe conditions on Shelbourne st. are what I think need to be addressed.

Bike Lanes Painting lines on a road does not make for a safe cycling lane. Separate bike lanes that provide for the total segregation between cyclists and motor vehicles are necessary to ensure cycling safety. Traffic regulations must be updated to accommodate this, accompanied by driver education.

Active Transportation **Cycling Infrastructure** Safe cycling infrastructure is important to me and I feel it is important to invest this as one of the key priorities. I believe this would encourage more people to use sustainable transportation and make the city a more active a vibrant place.

I would like to see protected by a barrier from traffic bike paths.

no comment

Active Transportation **Cities Like** **Routes** I am glad to see a focus on active transportation. I see a lot of consideration for cyclists which I do support. I have some concerns that large sums will be spent to create "gold standard" cycle paths downtown, while other areas have very little. ENG-058: I am glad to see that some money is going to the Vancouver St. King St. Graham Street corridor, in 2017 but not sure what is planned with the 500K budget. I also note that we have an aging population and wonder about considering motorised scooter wheelchairs within the cycling plans and pedestrian plans.

ENG-059: I am happy to see some improved bus shelters on Hillside #4 Route, one of the busiest in the city. Curious about Haultain @ Hillside? ENG-060: About crosswalks: still seriously underfunded. Looks like only 1-2 per year are budgeted for. Pedestrians have not been as vocal and organised as cyclists, however the ability to cross major roads safely affects more people, including cyclists. ENG-022 Glad to see improvement to Higgins Street. Although not opposed to sidewalk on Summit, it has never been mentioned by anyone as a high priority at our Hillside Quadra NAG meetings and curious why this was designated as high priority.

Projects They represent a variety of improvements for supporting those wanting to use other forms of transportation. Each of the specific projects are desirable, and I hope they have not been designed in isolation but developed under a broader vision for how these improvements will one day connect and provide greater accessibility for all residents.

Bike Lanes I only see off-Shelbourne upgrades and a Shelbourne bus shelter. Would love to see bike lanes on Shelbourne!

Cycling Infrastructure **Initiatives** **Projects** **Ride** Bicycle Master Plan projects are very good initiatives

- we just need more of it. These types of projects are long-overdue, and Victoria needs major investments in bike and walk facilities to catch up to what other cities are discovering: That a walkable, bike-friendly city is one that is healthy, competitive, attractive to employers and employees both. We already have high bike ridership, but not because we have great infrastructure for riding. Facilities are middling at best. This is an area where we can be a N. American leader - esp. since relatively small investments will have a big impact in our small compact city. Please triple the annual budget for cycling....

There are many good things in here. However, as mentioned earlier, I would support tripling or even quadrupling the budget or timeline for implementation for a bicycle network including separated pathways that cover a wider part of our city.

Initiatives **Projects** While I didn't have time to read the entire list of proposed initiatives, I hope that they will include projects to make it easier and safer to get from the downtown core to the Galloping Goose Trail by bike.

Ride **Routes** I would like to see extensive bike routes that I can be proud of in Victoria. It would be best if the bike paths created in the next 4 years are separate from the road so that families, elderly, and less experienced cyclists feel comfortable riding (especially in the downtown core).

Cities Like **Routes** WE need a bike pathway along the walkways and/or roads along the ocean route Dallas road clover point to the breakwater or even to downtown. Most major cities in the states have something like this. Something like Stanley park would be nice

It would nice to see a pedestrian only Government St added to the plan

Active Transportation Active transportation is a key part of the Victoria lifestyle and integral to Victoria's competitive advantage for attracting tourists to the region.

A safer, more accessible and greener cycling infrastructure is very obviously

Initiatives I am supportive of all these initiatives, tho' 4-way pedestrian crossing (simple crosswalk lines) at Southgate and Vancouver intersection is needed. This is a 'commuters' corridor for Fairfield local pedestrians and cyclists going to and from work or shopping, as well as walking tourists exploring the Park, Dallas Rd, and the Leg. On evenings and weekends, it is also a high use area for Fairfield residents wanting to enjoy the night life downtown without having to drive, or those seeking an alternative to the downtown night scene to quieter coffee hours in Cook St Village. As it is, there are regular honking of horns as cars rush through the 4-way and regard for pedestrians and cyclists. Many people, including the elderly who tend to use this area in the daytime (generally, I've observed pedestrians being elderly people in the morning, families after school and work hours, and students and young people in the evening), avoid crossing here and cross mid-street instead (J-walk). Simply put, that intersection confounds pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike rather than enable flow of activity by multiple users.

Bike Lanes Looks great! Yay bike lanes!

We need a Safe Consumption Site.

Active Transportation Active transportation keeps me in Victoria! Help me bike around more by creating friendly spaces - for instance, I live on Chambers Street which has a 50 km/h speed limit. Its crazy in a neighborhood where so many people cycle and walk, and where children walk to George Jay Elementary. Prioritize people over cars!

Active Transportation **Bike Lanes** **Initiatives** **Projects** **Routes** The proposed initiatives for both pedestrian improvements and cycling routes need to be excellerated. The timelines listed here generally list improvements over the next 5 years. I think bike lane improvements should be done on a more agressive timeline and several of the pedestrain projects should be pushed to a more recent projection date. The improvement of active transportation routes is essential for creating a vibrant, connected and community oriented city. I believe with more emphasis on getting these improved active transportation routes upgraded, more people will take to walking and cycling to commute and for leisure in the beautiful city of Victoria.

Initiatives 1) Why does it cost so much to install crosswalks? This budget item seems very high!

2) The David Foster Harbour Pathway is a great initiative

3) In general, all of the initiative that will get people walking and cycling are well worth the money!

Active Transportation **Initiatives** This is one of the very most important initiatives. With our climate, there is no excuse for the active transportation rate to be so low.

We need to discourage vehicular traffic at the same time as we encourage non-vehicular. Lower the speed limits to 30 km and enforce them.

Excellent!

Top priority

Bike Lanes I'm not very happy with the current lanes, not what I had in mind. We need to inject way more money into this plan. Victoria is pretty, our bike lanes are definitely not!

Routes Living near a dedicated cycle path where there is very little use I can only think that people do not want to be 12 inches away from every sort of speeding vehicle. Why must it all happen on one street. Give the cyclists a break, most already have their preferred quieter, flatter routes.

Active Transportation **Bike Lanes** More dedicated cycling lanes (sheltered from traffic -- NOT a painted line), and cycling amenities like copenhagen has (advance cycling signals, tilted garbage cans, rest bar for waiting at lights).

Add more pedestrian only zones (the one-way portion of government street is not suitable for cars). I should be able to cross town on foot without stopping every 50 seconds to wait get across another intersection. Downtown should prioritize pedestrians; it should intentionally be faster to walk somewhere or cycle.

Budget for active transportation should easily exceed road maintenance budget. We already waste 80% of space on cars -- push hard on active transportation and expel cars. Consider moving parking spaces into new underground-only parking facilities (such as near the new bridge), so commuters drive to the edge of downtown and then start walking in the core, and we can convert streetside parking into wider sidewalks and bike lanes.

Projects I'd like to see the pedestrian pathway project (David Foster) move faster and be more comprehensive... seems like cyclists are getting the bulk of the investments and things that can truly enhance our downtown core for locals and tourists alike are being ignored.... The Gonzalas pathway to the beach can wait... I'm there all the time... It will be fine for another 5 years.

Cycling Infrastructure A network of safe cycling infrastructure in this city has been promised in a series of policies dating back to 1976. We have little to show for it.

If the Draft Strategic Plan is going to amount to more than just more empty promises, the Financial Plan needs to show a substantial budget, more than the average of \$1 million per year over five years. Yes, there will be opposition, such as from engineering staff focused on road improvements for cars. But the first of your Objectives is to lead, and that means helping staff change the business-as-usual approach with a positive Vision in place.

The budget for safe cycling infrastructure needs to be tripled in order to meet the objective of reaching the Community Greenhouse Gas reduction target of 33% by 2020.

Active Transportation I fully support the implementation of the active transportation system. I believe that with such an ambitious timeline, a full FTE "biking planner" position should be added to manage the implementation of the plan and provide future planning direction.

Cities Like **Ride** **Routes** This is very important. I want to see safe protected facilities where I can ride with my kids, parents and friends who do not currently feel comfortable riding in the city. I would like the routes on major streets that connect businesses and services.

no time

Active Transportation **Funding** **Routes** **Spend** What other grants can the City get to help fund better active transportation infrastructure? This should be front loaded to the greatest extent possible.

My more in the next question is to say - spend as much as possible within the budgets you have.

Also, please consider means of extending the off-Bay route to the bridge, and consider how you might bring forward Bay St Bridge improvements. It's one of the scarier corridors for cyclists.

I'm in favour

Agree

Funding Too much being spent on bicycle paths. While this was needed in the past it is well beyond requiring any further city commitments, even if there are cost shared funds available from senior levels of government

I agree with the cross walk proposal but I think far too much is being spent on bicycle paths. This will cause huge disruption with little benefit.

Bike Lanes More bike lanes would be great.

Active Transportation **Projects** I would love to see as many active transportation projects as possible.

Be LEADERS! Look for fundraising/ sponsorship

"The RBC Green way"! Ect.

If you build it they will come.

Public spaces/ greenways/ pedestrian pathways/ parklets /

Less traffic downtown equals a more human-scale (i.e. walking and biking) city. This is good.

Harbour Pathway should be heavily supported by the tourism and development industry - link DCC to amenity contributions

Bike Lanes **Spend** Curtail the spending on bike lanes and focus on improving failing sidewalks. Eliminate the noisy push button street crossing buttons - they serve no useful purpose.

Eliminate bus shelter program - should be BC Transit responsibility.

all things walking & biking are good.

Very good plans but now that skateboards are legal again, we need to education and enforce keeping them off sidewalks.

I like human-powered transport, awesome!

As I mentioned before, this type of infrastructure offers ripple effects throughout the community--in health, in tourism dollars, and in safety. I strongly support more investment here, and less in other areas like the conference centre.

Cycling Infrastructure Very glad to see greater emphasis on public transit and cycling infrastructure. Ideally assigning car-free area of town would be of enormous economic and social benefit.

Active Transportation **Bike Lanes** Definitely want more emphasis on active transport! Including education for drivers about the rights of cyclists on the road. But I don't like having to share bike lanes with skateboarders - it isn't clear who has the right of way or how one should pass them

skateboarders. It isn't clear who has the right of way, or how one should pass them.

Bike Lanes **Initiatives** **Routes** Considering the existing volume of cycle traffic and the City's master plan of increasing this mode of transport, I feel that there has been very slow progress on this issue. That being said, there are some great initiatives planned for 2015 which I am excited about! I don't know what the plan is for the Vancouver street bike corridor, but I feel that traffic calming would be a huge benefit to the safety of cycling on that route. Other initiatives that I feel would be helpful include more east-west routes crossing Blanshard and Douglas near Hillside and Kings. Transiting from North park to the Galloping goose and Lochside trail continues to be fraught with danger. Might I suggest a separated bike lane along Hillside or (one can dream) a pedestrian/cycling overpass at Blanshard connecting Kings.

Funding **Projects** There is little useful in this budget. Most of the projects except the waterfront path should be eliminated and funds redirected to the maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Spend Spend more on jogging paths and forget the rest.

Over the last 10 years the percentage of people using bikes for day to day commuting has barely changed despite all the talk and effort to increase bike use. Same for transit use and care use. Something different needs to be done to increase the number of cyclists, increase the number of transit riders and decrease the number of single occupancy vehicles. Approaches so far have had a negligible effect. I don't know if more money is required so much as a different approach.

Bike Lanes Strongly support the walk ways and safe crossings.

The bike lanes need to be limited to only a few roads in each direction that can accommodate them. The addition of bike lanes outside the curb side parking (Eg. Johnson Street, Fort Street) create a potentially dangerous situation with doors opening into the bike lane or cars turning right across the bike lane. At the top of Fort, turning right onto Linden is difficult because the bike lane causes the traffic lanes to merge at that point and you are squeezed on both sides.

USE THE RAIL SYSTEM. STOP WASTING MONEY!!!!

I would love to see more done for cycling in Victoria

Yes more support for safe walking and cycling. Find ways to improve by encouraging planning and all departments to have employees choose a non-car option.

This is a pretty important area. More walkable spaces in downtown Victoria would be great to see. I saw plans for an interconnected food forest throughout downtown Vic that would be amazing to see develop.

Alternatives to cars are important priority and at same time how do we assess added costs to large vehicle owners who place more demand on infrastructure

Active Transportation Keep expanding facilities, services, and travel ways for Active transportation, including at the expense of motorized transportation modes. Put more \$\$ into street cleaning. Require police, motorists, tow-truck drivers to clean the roadway of debris (e.g., glass) left by motor vehicle accidents.

Implement a program whereby the City will cover the costs of repairing bike tires flattened by road debris. Remove the overabundance of traffic control devices, e.g., marked crosswalks, stop signs, even signals, etc. that give people the false sense of being safe but that actually make them less so because, by feeling safe, they are less careful. Victoria did this about 3 decades ago and the accident rate markedly dropped, as predicted by the traffic engineer.

I do not support the cyclists at all - they break the law and are a danger to those on the road AND walking. We need much better enforcement of the cyclists and if they are going to be using the roads should be licensed.

Cyclists don't respect the law, use the police department to enforce the road regulations toward the cyclists.

Active Transportation **Funding** **Projects** **Ride** Great focus for active transportation activities. The City needs to make this an area to 'innovate and lead.' It is what helps to make Victoria a livable, vibrant city where residents can walk or ride their bike to work. Surplus funds should be directed to accelerate these projects.

Bike Lanes They look good. But, I gave up cycling in this city about seven years ago because I considered it unsafe, and the situation has not changed at all. Bike lanes must be physically separated from motorized vehicle lanes by a barrier of some kind (curb). It's been said many times but the gold standard on this one is what you find in the Netherlands and other European countries. Painting more bike lanes on Victoria's streets only makes the problem worse. The whole approach needs a re-think.

Bike Lanes **Cycling Infrastructure** Implement the Bicycle Master Plan. I cycle to work March to November while the light is good. It is obvious that the reason more people do not cycle is that it is lethal out there on the roads. Cars have roads, pedestrians have side walks and bikes have the odd bike lane here and there (sometimes in the bus lane?). Bikes need their own space. The data is there. Cycling infrastructure benefits cities.

Active Transportation Moving forward with active transportation is important to me. A system to beat the delay during rush hour when most people leave work. More bicycle lanes, frequent buses and late or 24 hour buses specially during the weekend.

Great idea.

page 811 Hillside & Haultain: this is a non-existent intersection: ??save \$ by not delivering a bus stop??

Add Vancouver & Caledonia intersection to list of unsafe intersections for all of: pedestrians, cyclists, motor vehicles. Safety improvements needed!

There is considerable tree root damage to sidewalks & cycle paths along Vancouver St. Bay to pandora. Remediation is needed.

Safe Bike infrastructure now: especially on Shelbourne. Light rail to Langford now! More pedestrian friendly areas now! Less talk more action on these. Let's get going on them!

areas now. Less talk, more action on these. Let's get going on them.

Bike Lanes **Cycling Infrastructure** **Funding** - The current Bicycle Master Plan doesn't even come close to providing the world-leading cycling network that Victoria needs.

- The proposed funding for cycling infrastructure should be tripled or quadrupled.
- Victoria needs a world-leading network of separated bike lanes for all ages and abilities.
- The bulk of the unallocated \$4.5 million should be used for separated bike lanes.

Include bicycles in all transportation planning.

Great plan. Keep up the good work. Do not forget to keep the crosswalks painted!! In Nov. crossing is especially hazardous as drivers have difficulty seeing them when the paint has been worn away.

Active Transportation **Cities Like** **Projects** Until such time as the growth in the operating budget can be constrained to some combination of GDP growth + CPI or Population growth + CPI (a goal likely only achieved through some form of Core Services Review), I would freeze all projects and expenditures which are not safety-essential (i.e., crosswalk improvements). While I support active transportation (bicycling, walking, skateboard use of bicycle lanes), I am dismayed at the magnitude of expenditures considered or being planned for fixed infrastructure when the City already has an infrastructure deficit that is growing.

Routes Prioritize safe biking to school for kids. Crescent Road between Robertson and Foul Bay is particularly dangerous and yet an extremely popular cycling route by kids, commuters and recreation cyclists. This is a place to make visionary change with a separated from motorized vehicles cycling path.

Prioritize completing Greenways in a visionary way, as described in the Greenway definition. I have yet to see these superb spaces that our City desires.

Maintain and increase greenway grants and increase the number of Greenways enhanced each year.

Bike Lanes **Cities Like** The most important focus should be on getting people out of their automobiles and on to sidewalks and separated bike lanes. The City should have a toll like the City of London. This would be a huge disincentive to driving into the Centre of town in favour of bike lanes, sidewalks and pathways.

Routes Unless more training and enforcement of cyclists is undertaken, I'm not in favour of expanding cycling opportunities. I drive and I cycle, and I know the rules of the road and am good at both. However, FAR TOO MANY people on bikes make things dangerous for the rest of us. And having a two way cyclist route on Pandora could be very confusing at night for drivers.....think of the crossing at the Scientology church at night.

Active Transportation **Projects** reconsider prioritization of active transport improvements, enhance # of projects to achieve a minimum grid by 2018, expand / complete the Cycling Plan, enhance in-house staff capacity to undertake complete streets planning / implementation, improve/widen the pathway along Dallas Road in the off-leash dog park.

In Ross Bay Cemetery, consider alternatives to the same approach of paving walkways - it doesn't appear to be working

Active Transportation As the population ages, the city needs to do as much as possible to support people using many modes of transportation. Making the core of the city more walkable is a high priority. Since walking is one of the best ways to exercise as many of us "age in place", how about installing more light activated crosswalks and crosswalks that have a reasonable amount of time on them so that the average person can get to the other side without worrying about cars starting through the crosswalk.

Projects **Spend** Please commit to building a safe and complete cycling city throughout the city of Victoria by 2018. To get a strong start, spend most of the \$4.5 million surplus on realizing the first parts of this plan. Next increase the city's annual cycling budget to \$3 million annually for at least the next three years i.e., 2016, 2017, and 2018. To ensure the city has staff capacity to handle this level of development, hire 1 FTE who is solely responsible for overseeing this project. Do what it takes. This will reap major benefits for personal healthy and safety, climate change mitigation, as well as economic development (cyclists shop locally) and tourists flock to cycle friendly cities because of the local intimacy that these kinds of places have.

In addition, ensure that complete streets development is a priority for the city's planning, engineering and transportation departments. The goal should be to have every three safe and accessible for any mode of transportation within 15 years.

Very much support Bicycle infrastructure and new bus shelters (it's demoralizing to wait for a bus in the rain or wind with no shelter). Glad for pedestrian plan, and proposal to build sidewalk on Blackwood going up to Summit Park (as long as it doesn't impact park); walking to park should be encouraged as there is very little parking.

Bike Lanes The strategic plan summary calls for 'completion of a network of 4 - 8 high quality cycling corridors by 2016'. I don't know why this plan lists only 4 cycling corridors by 2016. I urge you to complete 4 - 8 cycling corridors as the summary states. Use the full surplus and then some to do so. I also would encourage the City to consider floating bike lanes, whole street closures, and recycled plastic bike lane dividers.

Floating Bike Lanes: <https://vimeo.com/20302720>

Dividers: <http://inhabitat.com/armadillo-cool-recycled-plastic-bike-lane-dividers-keep-cyclists-safe-on-roads/>

Initiatives Cycling and pedestrian initiatives should take a very high priority, as they are key to a socially lively, healthy city.

all good stuff. Want to see a real multi model plan develop. But would also love to really see a plan that at least integrates rapid bus lane planning with future light rail.

Please bury more power lines. Especially when you're tearing up the roads, or doing some other kind of

construction anyways! Apparently this saves money over time.

Areas **Complete Streets** **Important** First I find the name of this budget area misleading: there is nothing here that articulates a complete streets philosophy in any way. Rather the focus is on traditional pavement management and other infrastructure maintenance and upgrade matters. All important but not "complete streets" properly understood. I see no connection with the Greenways program, which is a genuine gesture towards complete streets, not even any reference to streets targetted for upgrade to implement the greenways plan. One gets the sense that Engineering and Public Works pays scant attention to the Greenways Plan and its targets.

Cycling Need to do more for walking and cycling, less for cars

Areas **Parking** **Support** **Taxes** Collectively we are spending way too much to maintain an aging road infrastructure that supports mostly parked cars and short commutes. This money should be redirected wherever possible to building alternatives. All cars parked on the roads should be required to pay a monthly fee and the use of residential space to park cars should be taxed by the parking space, with a single space being free but more than that being charged a rate at or above on-street parking costs. Parking cars in an urban area is the worst use of space possible.

Excellent Excellent initiative.

Would have been nice to see a grading system for evaluating these streets

Important Wonderful - all so important.

Know Mayor Bloomberg proved that maintenance creates it's own rewards and we know the reverse is equally true. Should we fix the streets, yes.

Narrowing streets at every opportunity makes them more dangerous for everybody- especially cyclists. The 'traffic calming' curb bumpout near Kings Rd and Richmond has already killed one cyclist. Yet the city carries on....St Charles is now a deathtrap for cyclists since the city used the sewer project to reduce the street to 1.5 lanes, with absolutely no room for cyclists.

"Sneaking in" changes that are unwanted by citizens is totally inappropriate.

AND- where is the city response to the many, many CanadaPost 'superboxes' that are going to be installed?? Council and mayor have 'walked away' from the home delivery issue. Before the election, lots of visibility at public meetings (Step right up, Ms Alto!); since the municipal election it's all 'Whatcha gonna do?' and "Whatever".....

Planning and Initiatives....what a load of empty talk.

Excellent Continuing to rehabilitate streets is an excellent idea.

Necessary necessary

Complete Streets Higgins Street should be 'a complete street' initiative. A project by project implementation on Higgins Street will be rejected by the community.

Bicycle i like this idea more bicycle less car facility's

All efforts to increase bike and pedestrian traffic is great. :)

?

The personal private car was only originally intended for the richest 5% of the populace. It's absurd to expect that everyone can or should have a car.

Upgraded sidewalks and greenspace really enhance communities.

?

Cycling **Excellent** There will ALWAYS be a need for personal transport - electric, gas, or whatever. Those who suggest we should double down on cycling investment and let the roads go to hell are seriously fooling themselves. Presumably the pace of road work is related to the rate of depreciation of these assets - I can only assume the technical experts have the correct balance.

That said, I regularly see road projects that obviously have not been well organized. Work starts, then barriers sit for weeks while folks (apparently) wait for equipment and materials for the next phase. Some performance measurement and benchmarking of this activity would be an excellent idea.

Know I'm assuming this is largely road maintenance. I'd like to know how these items are prioritized and how we can provide input.

I know of a couple locations in Fairfield where people are afraid to cross at the crosswalk, so they jaywalk instead (e.g. Southgate and Quadra).

Bike Lanes In James Bay Government St is a good example of nothing being done, cars travelling too fast, a narrow roadway with no bike lane and sidewalks on both sides of the street. One side should be a bike lane, one side a sidewalk, and the speed limit on Government St is too high in James Bay.

Necessary No comment. This is necessary.

Bike Lanes Maintain the streets and forget the bike lanes until such time as cyclists are willing to pay a reasonable share of the cost.

Complete Streets **Parking** Complete streets need to be truly complete. Motor vehicles must be the last thing considered, especially single occupancy vehicles and parking. If this means less parking and less capacity for motor vehicles, that is how it works in a congested city. Transportation department needs to abandon motor vehicle-centric level of service (and should be prohibited from even mentioning it during staff reports). The City also needs to reclose Harbour Rd at Esquimalt Rd, as the increased vehicle traffic due to motor vehicles using Harbour Rd as a cut-through is a danger to people biking and walking along this

route.

LOVE the proactive pavement asset management strategy. However, when you say "maintain level of service" - for whom? Vehicles? Please remember that streets serve many purposes besides moving vehicles - they are places of commerce, interaction, socialization, and play. Level of motor vehicle service is not the most informative metric.

Replacement Streetlight LED replacement for energy conservation - check.

Consider public safety design changes or initiatives on Richardson Street to encourage observance of 30 and 40 kmh limits.

Taxes People will be moving out of the city. Taxes are too high.

At last!

Better Lighting **Bicycle** **Complete Streets** **Necessary** **Replacement** **Support** I support the complete streets approach, strongly. However, in checking through the initiatives, I see mainly re-paving, new lights (LEDs), and replacement of old with new and better. This is all good and very necessary, and contributes to complete streets - somewhat. However, many of the other budget items also contribute to complete streets - arts and cultural activities, active transportation, bicycle master plan, street design - storefronts, sidewalk widths, wider ranges of activities permitted, etc....naming this budget item 'complete streets' is misleading. Complete streets should be more of a guiding paradigm that these items contribute towards unless a significant amount of money/effort is going into identifying ways of integrating the key features of complete streets from each initiative. I don't see an initiative in this section for that.

love it.. get us out of cars

Looks We should make due with what we got and deal with the more pressing issues. We can make the sidewalks and streets more pretty for the homeless to live on or we can make shelter more affordable and have less homeless. That would help make more room on sidewalks and make victoria look more friendly to tourists!

None

Necessary All needed and necessary

Previous Same as previous

thank you.

Good projects, as long as they aren't used as excuses to provide more capacity for cars. We need to use our available funds to start making streets for people.

There are a number of "five street corners" in Victoria. They are not adequately for the public - they should be marked with yellow crosswalks, stripes, extra signage, something to alert unsuspecting tourists, and the public, eg Douglas and Fairfield where there was a fatality. There will be others unless something is done.

public, eg Douglas and Fairfield where there was a fatality. There will be others unless something is done.

Taxes OMG, \$4.5M on this!?! No wonder my property taxes go up every year. NO NO NO NO!!!

it needs to get done

Parking Discouraging street parking on arterial streets would yield great benefits to the City.

Excellent Excellent.

OK

Good for the most part, but should consider having more roundabouts rather than four way stops or traffic lights.

I favour these initiatives and appreciate their expanded focus.

Yes May Street is a key priority.

Active transportation should be a key priority here, not private automobiles.

Complete Streets Complete streets should not be defined to include transportation alternatives that are incompatible with each other. If one really wants a street that is pedestrian friendly, one will ban certain vehicles from the street. Large tour buses on downtown Government St. are the obvious case in point. It should be pointed out that, as a general rule, the street paving in Victoria is not as good as that in Saanich, largely because Saanich has less heavy traffic on many of its residential streets, and because it simply has more money relative to the demands on its purse than does Victoria.

Areas **Replacement** **Support** In general I support it all.....I add though that in the process of replacing HPS with LED lamps on various streets, rather than a straight out replace I would hope that some discussion or at least thought be given to whether a particular block of street is over or under illuminated.....for example there are streets such as Richmond in south Fairfield which seem to me to be over illuminated and others such as Chestnut which seem to extremely dark and I think there are other areas where there is an imbalance

Outside the scope of my expertise. It seems right though, we need to encourage more active transportation so spending less on making it easier to drive should be a goal.

Money not spent on preventative maintenance means you will need to spend even more in the future. In some of the pictures it appears money may have been saved in the past and we are paying now for that. Recommend more funding be allocated if it can be classified as "preventative".

Important Very important objectives.

Previous See previous comment. Allocate more towards enhancing walkability of the city.

Replacement Too little is being spent on the replacement and maintenance of the road surfaces. Most city streets have more asphalt replaced from patching than planned remediation actions.

Complete Streets **Previous** - they all seem like reasonable initiatives, only wish more budget was dedicated for resurfacing so my own street would make it onto the list...

- found the use of the "complete streets" catchphrase on each project summary sheet rather laughable - clearly just tacked on to appease people who object to road paving and other road works as being "car" infrastructure. As a frequent cyclist, I would much prefer the City spend money on resurfacing streets than many of the other "Active transportation" projects previously listed.

Safe Remember the people who live on the streets and allow them the safe use of public space. Do not allow defensive architecture to be used against those without any housing options.

still more work to do for rehabilitation of major streets, and we need more street lighting installations.

Important **Previous** I have commented previously about traffic issues, but agree sidewalks, lighting, turn lanes and signalling all play an important role for our street scape.

Cycling I think we should be prioritizing public transit, cycling, pedestrians, and then cars (in that order) to increase the safety and livability in our neighbourhoods

Safe Road repairs and re-paving of our city streets has fallen behind for a long time. Mayor Fortin said last year that funds for road repair had been diverted - and it shows!!!

I spoke with your transportation department and their plan is to work on the worst streets first. Please keep funding our road(s) repairs/repaving program. James Bay, downtown and Fairfield have several roads needing repaving as they have been repaired for so long, they are a mess!

The sidewalks are in bad shape too - spray painting the holes and uneven surfaces is just not acceptable - fix them - make them safe for ALL.

Looks **Looks Good** Looks good. Appreciate the info.

I think this is great however I would prioritize safer streets first (resources for homeless, supervised substance, etc.)

Areas **Looks** **Looks Good** Looks about right. There may be good rationale for prioritizing areas in need that are also high-traffic areas for visitors and in communities with larger numbers of seniors or others with mobility challenges and equipment (canes, walkers, wheelchairs).

unnecessary.

A commendable plan.

Is it affordable?

I'm curious about the impact of the Douglas Corridor revitalization on businesses and future development with regards to changes such as left turn lanes and so forth.

Bike Lanes **Complete Streets** **Necessary** Understanding that road rehabilitation is necessary, I note that none of the projects appear to include much to make the streets more COMPLETE - i.e. no mention of wider sidewalks, new bike lanes, curb bulge outs, lane narrowing or road diets. Streets that are being redone should be redone to Complete Street standards (as is happening with Cook Street in Saanich).

Put in a four way stop at Simcoe and Oswego.

Give'r

no major concerns

Areas **Important** **Parking** The priority of some of the streets seems out of line. Sidewalk repair are more important in James Bay than new paving and new sidewalks in areas where people would rarely walk. Pedestrian access to Beacon Hill Park should be enhanced..

Bicycle More investment into creating pedestrian and bicycle etc centric transportation routes and less car focused.

this makes over 7 million combined with the last question you guys are completely out of control on this -

Victoria's streets are in generally very good condition...makes sense to keep them that way

I trust the engineers to assess the roadways most in need of maintenance. Streets seem pretty good, so this must be working.

Sounds sounds good, congratulations

Looks **Looks Good** Looks good. Similar to the last question, I put it's just right, but really I don't have a good sense of what an appropriate amount would be.

Areas Prioritize our tourist and cultural areas to tie in with economic plans. Too many nice to do projects in low traffic areas

I hope enhance enhance the environment and the quality of life. It's hard to comment on engineering.

OK

Complete Streets City engineers should be encouraged/permitted/mandated to use their judgment rather than blindly following rules--if so, the Complete Streets policy will have a chance at improving ongoing decision-making.

Sounds Sounds like there won't be any cars

I like the idea of considering upgrading underground structures before paving

846 and counting!

Wow! You have a lot of work to do, here. I don't expect any changes. Many of your 'Initiatives' interlope; but you seem to be unaware of it.

Spend nothing on the following until you envisage an overview of all of the factors.

Parking Yes! (with floating parking).

Bicycle **Support** Road resurfacing dollars should be tied to and support two-way protected bicycle lane plans.

Consider focusing on widening road narrowings, such as Hillside between Blanchard and Quadra, or devoting a lane exclusively to cyclists/buses. These constrictions in the roads make it dubious for cyclists and drivers negotiating around them.

There is no better way to transform a street than making it more bike friendly.

I don't have any problems with road quality as it is now except for Skinner street near bay bridge. But i think that one is already going to be fixed soon.

Wonderful! Continue to consider active transportation in your planning. Make car drivers pay more of the share. Cars have gotten a free ride for too long.

Know very positive initiative...don't know if allocation is adequate or not

Cycling **Previous** See previous comments regarding changes for encouraging cycling and pedestrian use.

Bike Lanes **Replacement** While I still have concerns over the bike/bus lane on Douglas (I would prefer separate facilities for both in the corridor), it is a good start at improving and putting emphasis on public transportation instead of further enabling single occupancy vehicles.

LED lighting replacement is a good idea.

Taxes If taxes go down and there is a surplus, why not?

Looks **Looks Good** Looks good.

Appropriate distribution.

Important **Safe** -I think these initiatives are important for keeping streets safe, convenient and accessible.

Replacement Just a caution on the LEDs savings-check with the manufacturers on what their return rate is for defective bulbs-

I have spoken to a few of them because there have been LED failures and while the cost is usually forgiven (or free replacement) cost of labour is high (double what you forecast)

for given they're replacement, cost of labour is high, double what you forecast,

yes it needs to be done before it gets worse and more costly.

Better Lighting **Replacement** **Safe** Good to see street lights and poles being replaced and a more coordinated way of repairing road systems. More count-down traffic signals are welcome. They are not only good for pedestrians but drivers can use them to get a better idea of when the light will change so they have judge whether it is safe to cross an intersection.

Cycling Definitely needed, with Government Street being the exception and fully pedestrianized with slow cycle access.

I reiterate my earlier comments about the Begbie Green.

Be careful with increased street lighting! Light-at-night is a real cause of endocrine disruption, and light pollution means no city dweller can ever really see the stars.

none

Ok

Street lighting: should be made in such a way as to preserve the night sky.

Sounds Sounds ok. I'm glad that you're taking non-car methods of transport into consideration when doing repair work. I don't think that the private car will remain as central to transportation in the future as it is today.

Anything taken as whole system makes for better decisions.

Excellent **Necessary** LED lighting initiative is excellent, pavement improvement is unfortunately necessary. Traffic lights at some of the locations are not required.

Sounds sounds good

Areas **Cycling** Cycling coalition too powerful. What will the city be doing for residents with buggies, they can't go around telephone poles in areas with old infrastructure.

Better Lighting I think better lighting is a wise move. Our winter nights are extremely hazardous (no snow to reflect the moonlight--when there is any. And citizens fail to wear reflective or light clothing so they can be seen.

Bicycle This is a great approach. Accommodation for bicycle traffic, ideally in separated lanes, is easiest to install under this sort of strategy.

Looks **Looks Good** Looks good.

Safe Streets need to be safe.

Looks There was a plan years ago to coordinate underground service work with telus, hydro and gas. This has fallen apart: look outside 1000 blanshard today, city crews spent a week repair and installing new

sidewalk; today hydro shows up and digs up new sidewalk. Who is talking to who?

I don't drive, so I have no opinion on this matter.

?????

For some questions like the following one, most surveys would give a "not sure" or "n/a" option. You are skewing the results by forcing the answers of More, Less, or It's Just Right.

Areas **Better Lighting** Better lighting is a great idea.

Not sure why Angus Road is a priority--there are only 2 or 3 houses and it is not a common thoroughfare. Spending could and should be redirected to areas that receive higher traffic.

Areas **Support** I'm sure it must be done. Maintain what we have or spend much more in the future. I support doing all the related rehab in one area at the same time.

Necessary necessary up keep

Safe This is very good. Our streets are not safe enough for people.

Complete Streets I think we need more greenways than complete streets.

i have no comment on this matter

NA

Personally, I feel we've catered to cars too long at the expense of our environment. They're useful - but on my average 25-minute walk to work, 90% of the cars I pass carry only their driver. It's absurd. I like this approach in general, but would like to see automobiles gradually de-emphasized and made less appealing.

Necessary These are necessary things we need.

its about the function, if you can paint it, then paint it and pave it later

Better Lighting **Cycling** **Know** **Safe** There are many cross-walks that need better lighting and vehicle warnings.

Pedestrians need to know how to cross safely.

Some of our trails are a dangerous mix of pedestrians, young children and high speed cyclists.

There is lots of research re truly safe city cycling. Don't skimp on implementation.

People using scooters need more education.

Support Good to see the upfront investment of LEDs to save the taxpayer money over time. Once again supportive of work on the Douglas Street corridor.

No comment.

Complete Streets **Support** I strongly support complete streets.

Bicycle **Necessary** Show some leadership here Finish a bicycling initiative Quit all the make work

projects - do what is necessary not just time fillers for the city workers.

good idea

Important Over the decades I have seen that this city loves spending money on new curbs. Also on city workers driving around on lawn mowers for boulevards even when the grass isn't long enough to reach the blades. The old, "At least they are working" idiocy. Anything of real importance is usually not a priority, so to have the new mayor talking like she cares, while continuing with the police budget is an insult to anyone with brain.

You can pretend like you are making a difference while still living in a police state, but it isn't working on anyone except your brainless voters, which is all you need. Too bad for humanity.

Looks Looks reasonable.

Support I fully support rehabilitation to roads and LED lighting.

Support I support it

Important #minimumgrid is important

Keep working toward the fact that we do not live in a private car fossil fuel based society anymore.

There are so many options: Car share, bus, trike, hike, skate, stroll. The future needs us to embrace Multimodal now.

Super idea.

Replacement add budget for Cook Street Village boulevard improvements (replace mud boulevards)

We have addressed the issue of streets in an earlier answer. There is nothing "safe, or comfortable" about some of the streets in our neighbourhood, as stated in another one of our answers. Please feel free to travel north on Empire Street and turn east on Kings Road for an example of a street that is not a place for living.

The complete streets approach is a great idea. Having an understanding of how city engineers work as gods and ignore everyone and all else I suggest you rein in their egos, establish an SOP that forces the 'complete streets' idea to be the working principle and ensure that streets are designed and redesigned to accommodate in priority, disabled persons, followed by walking, bicycling, public transportation, delivering goods and very last - private automobiles. Lets recreate this city for people by redesigning the city for people not cars! My 8 yr old daughter and 80 yr old mother should feel comfortable walking or cycling anywhere in our city. When you accomplish this you can start working on the remaining transportation modes. Lets make Victoria a leader, an example, a first class modern city.

Have surfaces which absorb water been considered?

Hugely, hugely, hugely important. This captures what it means to live in Victoria. Quality of life is everything. We are not doing a very good job at this right now and I think the Planning and Engineering departments need a HUGE attitude shift. I don't think they are really supportive of this approach to development.

I would like to see more carless streets

1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean
2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.
3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

Looks Looks good

I support these projects. For this and the previous question it is hard for me to assess whether or not the City is spending the right amount. I've said "it's just right" as there isn't an "I don't know" box. I don't have the knowledge or the information to assess.

Great ideas.

Keep up the streets!

Back to my comment about Haultain & Cook St. pedestrian crossing. It is so dangerous and compared with other controlled crossings makes absolutely no sense.

FIX IT!!!

Sounds good. Thank you to this (?) department for the new curbs at the end of convent at south gate / vancouver - my bike riding experience had improved 300%!

Looks This is a great initiative. However, there are issues. For example, why did BC Transit remove the bus route that ran on Kimta road? It was a route focused on the elderly in a place that is seeing increased density of people of all ages, but mostly retired. Please look into this.

It's a start but more can be done

MacKenzie/Admirals/Highway intersection?

I would like to encourage the city to replace street lights with led, as well as a design that directs light down and not around the light fixture. Bring back the night sky.

The wording of these initiatives ties them too strongly to pavement repair and replacement. Many Complete Streets initiatives can be accomplished without significant infrastructure change. We need, first, a policy commitment to adopting Complete Streets on ALL streets. It should be the default design. Then we need an aggressive program of pilot projects where the appropriate design for individual streets and blocks is tested, followed by low-cost temporary adaptations, followed (when funds allow) by permanent infrastructure changes.

OK

Some are long overdue.

I'd strongly suggest that some of the trees, on many of the City Streets, need to be pruned heavily, in order to see Street sign names in advance of being under them.

That would also allow the Street lamps to light the sidewalks at night, as the trees are shading the light from coming through.

I love trees, don't get me wrong, but some are just getting way too large in this day and age, even the good old Gary Oaks.

Looks As streets are resurfaced is there any consideration for also painting sharrows on appropriate roads as a cheap and cheerful and effective constant reminder for motorists to share those roads with cyclists. May Street is a good example.

Road paint is a cost effective measure we should be using more liberally. I look to Portland as a great example of sharrows throughout neighbourhoods where cyclists travel.

Bike Lanes Please separate (e.g. with a barrier) bike, walking and driving lanes.

Make the roadways safer for cyclists by planning more bike routes. And design more pedestrian friendly public spaces!

Aging motor vehicle transport infrastructure might be seen as an opportunity to evolve past outdated transport systems. **Section 22**

I LOVE the new cross walk at Cook and I think North Park, by bagel place, great idea! more of those may be planned?

I'd love to see more streets closed off to vehicle traffic at certain times in the summer.

Excellent!

Looks Trying to get into and out of the downtown core via traffic is horrible. Way too many stoplights with poor coordination. Look at other major cities in the world that have highways; the highways are arterial means of mass flow yet here you are lucky to go 2 blocks without a stoplight.

This creates lots of pollution from idling and therefore increased gas costs. No wonder the downtown core is slowly dying.

Necessary if Victoria is to reach its potential!!

Cyclist and pedestrian-friendly spaces please!!!!

no comment

Looks It looks like most of the complete streets budget is for paving with some lighting. I would like to see other improvements instituted while the paving is done, that would enable these projects to actually become

complete streets. I guess some of those improvements are considered in other parts of the budget such as active transportation.

Looks They look good - necessary repairs and maintenance that doesn't get a lot of glory. Applaud the plan to replace the streetlights with LED in a phased approach that has factored in the financial impact.

Bike Lanes Again, this is an area for increased investment that will have huge-payoff for citizens and the local economy, if the city is innovative, smart and quick with quality work in street design, pedestrian amenities, placemaking, street furniture, bike lanes, parklets and the like.
Just don't let "Complete Streets" become a fashionable phrase for 'engineering work as usual'

Love it!

I like this idea; however, I find that the sidewalk extensions (bulges) that are meant to make street-crossing safer for pedestrians makes cycling in traffic more dangerous.

This is important to encourage alternate modes of transportation.

see comments under Active Transportation.

Sounds good. Seems like you've got it covered.

Could they also consider budget to study slowing down certain streets via speed bumps or roundabouts?

Bike Lanes Complete Street initiatives should be done with thorough consideration of other street projects including pedestrian crossing and proposed protected/improved bike lanes.

diagonal all-way walk crosswalks would favour pedestrians

traffic signals should be timed to favour cyclists rather than vehicles

Yes, some areas of this city are far too dark at night, making it unsafe.

Separate cycling from cars whenever possible and build options to entice car-free visitors to downtown

Good, but road space dedicated to cars should be reduced with these projects. As streets are repaved, fiber-optic cable should be laid for community networks for a local internet co-operative.

Looks Looks fine

The capital budget for Complete Streets, as shown in the Draft Financial Plan, does not match Council's strategic objectives. Rehabilitation and upgrading of streets only contributes to Complete Streets if repaving results in less area for cars and more area for cyclists, pedestrians, and meeting places.

Why is this called complete streets? Mostly repaving and general maintenance work - terminology is confusing to the general public.

These are not complete streets! This is greenwashing of traditional road projects. There is important road

rehabilitation to be done but do not pretend that it is for anyone other than people driving in cars. A real authentic approach to planning and building complete streets would be very valuable to our city and go well with the active transportation projects. This current capital budget is not that.

I think repaving roads and upgrading street lights are good endeavours. However, I think that whoever drafted this section has misinterpreted the definition of Complete Streets. The concept is around building streets that are safe for all users. None of these projects do that. Only the Pandora lane and the Dallas Rd bikeway should be classified as Complete Streets.

The "it's just right" I give for this section is for the City definition of Complete Streets; if the concept was to develop streets like this: http://completestreetsprince.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/CS_Fundamentals.jpg - then I would say more.

Signal safety speed signs are needed on arterial streets, such as fort st. 1400 corridor. we have cars speeding through this tight corridor. 'your speed is signage' has been requested on three occasions... Todate, nothing has occurred.

Speeds in this narrow portion Fort/Yates are unacceptable.

I need more information on street cleaning in Rockland, schedules are not being shared.

Bicycles and foot traffic damage roads less. Try to reduce the car-focused nature of this initiative. Yes, streets should be safe for cars but streets are safer for people when there are less cars.

only tied to streets with major capital investment from the private or public sector

This should be a high priority.

Sounds great!

Bike Lanes Seems like a lot but I am sure the material and equipment costs are high. Please put in bike lanes when new roads are paved!

I am not sure how to evaluate these particular projects.

Car-free streets are much needed. Creating a car-free strip of Government would be a huge leap forward and a much needed incentive for businesses in the area.

You guys are the experts on cost/benefit for road replacement scheduling, but Victoria, in my opinion has amazing roads! Try driving on the prairies and you'll see roads that actually need repair and re-paving.

This is an important budget and should be expanded. The city should focus on moving utilities underground rather than replacing hydro poles.

Ok

Historically streets have been designed solely for cars. This is a good idea and may make a difference in the bike/transit/car numbers that have not budged much in the last 10 years.

It is good to see proactive maintenance of streets and lighting. Thank you.

DO SOMETHING

More multi modal pathways

Do more community consultation on this. Pandora corridor especially needs a rethink!

don't forget trees and as stated earlier those whose vehicles place more demand on roads should pay more

Streetlighting: good program to move to LED. If not already, costs can be minimized for all streetlight and signal pole by minimizing the types of poles. e.g. decorative poles should be replaced (thru attrition and otherwise) with standard poles, thus eliminating stocking twice as many poles to do the same job.

Road maintenance: discourage motor vehicle traffic on local roads by letting them deteriorate beyond what is expected. stop putting in curb-and-gutter everywhere possible; keep the ditches and gravel shoulders.

good -

Bike Lanes Bus and 'bike' lanes on Douglas street are not actually serving people who cycle. The introduction of buses consistently moving across the bike lane is not safe - just make this a designated transit corridor and direct funds to improving alternative, quieter routes for people who ride bikes.

Bike Lanes **Looks** The list of paving projects, while important, don't seem to align with the Complete Streets notion. See my earlier comments on bike lanes. Mixing motor vehicles on the same road as bikes, skateboards, scooters and pedestrians is NOT the way to go.

Also, let's look at street closures in the downtown core (eg. Broad Street, Wharf Street, Government Street)

Infrastructure tied to quality of life, I agree. Redirect sewage funds to sidewalk, traffic calming improvement.

Bike Lanes - Protected bike lanes should be included by default in any street construction/rehabilitation.
- Pedestrian and cycling infrastructure should take priority over motor vehicle infrastructure.

Bike Lanes .Add bike lanes wherever possible when repaving

The amount of roadway rehabilitated on an annual basis is below industry standard and does not sustain life cycle expectancies for local roadways. This is rather alarming and does not bode well for future budgets.

By and large, this project makes sense -- the infrastructure deficit and safety issues are being addressed in a sensible manner. I would want to be assured that these projects are being tendered in order to ensure that the City receives best value for money.

Bike Lanes Love the idea, but have yet to see it happen enough or well.

Irving Street just completed underground work. This is a key Greenway that serves 100's of school kids. It

was left as a street designed for cars. It needs at minimum bike lanes and a sidewalk on both sides. And this street is a fantastic opportunity, being just two blocks long and pedestrian dominant to do a visionary pilot project with coloured separated bike lanes and public art.

Too much money is spent on streets! More should be spent on ambulatory projects and cycling routes.

General comment: paving occurs far too often, and gets torn up just as frequently due to other service/utility providers needing underground access. I can experience a newly paved street for just a few months, before it's torn up. I don't understand why there is not more coordination in this regard. And it would save money.

James Bay is not mentioned....and there are many sidewalks that constrict pedestrians, many of whom are elderly with walkers, scooters, etc....due to hydro/phone poles IN the sidewalk. Prime example is Simcoe Street.

And speed limits need to be addressed within James Bay.

Looks These look good - we need more projects and more expenditures!

Cook St resurfacing should be adapted to include a complete streets approach

All future transportation expenditures must go through a complete streets lens - it should be the baseline transportation expenditure, not an add-on budget component

So good to see an ATMS upgrade!

Better lighting and sidewalks without huge cracks should be a priority.

Fantastic. The city should adopt this as a core planning and engineering principle. Everyone 8 to 80 should feel safe moving about on our city's streets.

Generally supportive. But I am concerned about the proposal for LED streetlights. I have heard that they are brighter and a harsher light and have caused problems with excess light coming through windows (even with blinds) and affecting sleep. Light pollution is a concern. Having too much light at night can affect sleep because it thwarts the usual sleep-promoting hormones. I am very sensitive to light and don't want more light in my vicinity at night. I see that there's a claim that LEDs will reduce light pollution but I don't see how that is so.

You have named this complete streets, but it isn't complete streets. It is very disappointing to not see any complete streets projects listed in this plan. Let's see ten streets co-designed with residents using the very best place-making principles and best practices.

Car-centric improvements should be kept to a minimum while pedestrian, bicycle and multi-modal initiatives should rise to the top of priorities.

very good.

bury more power lines. Do things to help with congestion. Address all the pannandling.

Area **Downtown Core** Honestly for a city that prides itself on its good looks and its heritage core, we put precious little into maintaining and enhancing the public realm in our downtown. Given downtown's economic and social importance, this should be a major area of investment on an annual basis, with visible and demonstrable improvement in the quality of public space, sidewalks, wayfinding in the core. Right now many of the sidewalks are in poor condition, even on primary shopping streets like Fort Street; the wayfinding system is piecemeal and overly complex; we have too many colour schemes/street furniture and paving standards in our kit of parts - one simple system would help unify downtown visually and reduce costs overall. We need to take this function out of Engineering and put it with the proposed Economic Development office, and perhaps set up a free standing Downtown Office, similar to places like Kitchener, that addresses the challenges and opportunities of downtown in an integrated way.

include village centres in beautification

important to maintain the city

More cleanup required of vagrant remains, needles, etc.

downtown looks great right now.

What is Seasonal animation and why does the city own the parking lot by Royal theatre?

Hanging Baskets Way finding is our most critical need. Beautification is also important but please do not limit this to a "Freezing Victoria in time / Little Piece of England" aesthetic. It may be time to rethink of a lot of our tired old efforts at beautification and do a cost-benefit analysis for what is continued (ie: hanging baskets)

More downtown beautification would suit me as I live and work downtown and am saddened by the empty storefronts. but share and share alike. Investing in Downtown at least to the level of Uptown seems prudent in the competition for retail tenants to me.

Looks good.

ADEQUATE

Downtown Core the cig butt canisters are not the answer. NO smoking in the downtown core. period is better. cig butt canisters (like the one outside the old PO on Yates across from the arcade) forces people who use the parkade blue box to inhale shit smoke from smokers invited to use the cig butt canisters. More of the complaining mindset of those who "cannot afford" victorian living yet smoke a couple packs a day or smoke e-cigarettes, drink, eat fast food...let's increase taxes on that shit. seriously. \$30 for a pack of cigarettes. Fast food tax, drive those crappy fast food chains out of our city.

Wonder how much it costs to replace the white light covers on the vintage lamp posts. They seem to get broken/smashed a lot.

not required this would be a blatant waste of cash

More effort to beautify rooftops. Victoria looks rather unpleasant from above.

Effort to maintain and enhance our British appeal/look. :)

Best way to beautify downtown is to get the homeless off the streets. Spend that money directly on them.

This is really important. Stop pumping bonus density into general revenues and have it go into beautification initiatives for downtown projects.

Our downtown is looking tired - lots of asphalt patching of sidewalks and public spaces. Let's keep up with maintenance, add creative and appealing street furniture that people actually want to use, and built partnerships with businesses to activate public spaces. Let's make the downtown attractive for families, and create a few places where people want to linger.

The last thing we need is more planters.

Initiatives Seems mostly focused around city hall. I'm supportive of these initiatives, but I suppose I'd like to see these efforts include Douglas street between city hall and the conference centre. I feel, and I could be wrong, that if Douglas street were more welcoming that more people might be inclined to come downtown, which would support more local businesses.

Clean the streets every day and remove the panhandlers.

Priority Not much to it although I am surprised the Royal theatre parking lot is a priority.

Any wayfinding should follow regional and provincial standards and not fall into the trap of "City of Victoria only" designs.

Great! Would love to see more street furniture, benches for people to sit, wayfinding for pedestrians and cyclists, etc. Please consider using the new CRD bike wayfinding guidelines.

Taxes are too high.

People will be moving out of the city.

Beautiful City I think we live in such a beautiful city. I love many of your ideas. I also think however the cost of rent for businesses downtown is causing a shift for the feel of downtown. Empty stores make it feel sad and depressed. Along with this plan something must be done to make victoria affordable for businesses.

I'm not sure the wayfinding is really a necessary item in the budget.

Downtown Core **Initiatives** **Tourists** I support these initiatives - they make downtown a great place to be - for tourists and residents. They attract people downtown, helping our economy and supporting the downtown businesses.

I also support community-building activities - cultural, sporting, festivals - downtown. Music and art in the

downtown core contributes to its uniqueness. I would like to see a Ciclovía supported in the downtown core. Some cities have them one per month. Even once a year would be a start.

love it..beauty saves us!

This is no where near the amount of money needed to upgrade our downtown. If the City wants to promote tourism and economic development, then you need to invest more in the downtown as this is where the first impressions of the city really count. The City needs to lead the way with improvements to the public realm and not just rely on private developments to fund these upgrades. Use this as an opportunity to bring Victoria into the 21st century. Don't replace street lights with outdated heritage style poles. There needs to be clear direction so that the City looks comprehensively planned and not the patchwork quilt that currently exists. Updating the Downtown Beautification Strategy (from the 1980s!) would help!

Hanging Baskets Downtown would look a whole lot prettier and be interesting enough if ever commercial space was lively and full. People don't come downtown to look at hanging flower baskets. Focus on making businesses flourish.

Initiatives This is great value, at only \$293,000. But many of the initiatives are temporary. How about permanent beautification? Plants that are actually planted into the ground, say?

We need to do more to attract community to our downtown.

Tourists Tourists are our friends ... They expect a clean and beautiful Victoria ...

Downtown is the heart of the city. Given its importance, \$300,000 seems like a pretty small budget.

fine

Fund downtown beautification through a vacancy tax on unrealistic landlords. The vibrancy (of fully-tenanted commercial spaces) will follow.

Nice the plans seem reasonable, but street people detract from any beautification project. begging and vagrancy are an eyesore that isn't covered up with nice planters and banners.

I support this

Area Planters should be set into alcoves in buildings which would discourage people from sleeping in the these area and setting up shop begging for money . I think businesses should also be encouraged to put ironwork grills in doorways that can shutter the premises at night.

I think the city should be asking the province to kick in some additional money after all Victoria is the provincial capital.

Downtown beautification is best done by active businesses that own or rent property downtown. Encouraging downtown revitalization should be the way in which beautification is achieved.

Important for residents and visitors.

OK

A waste of money. Planters, seasonal decorations, and banners should be scrapped. Invest money in getting more quality business and residents downtown.

I defer.

Review each street. Some do not have trees and should have, for example much of Herald Street.

Seasonal decoration (both winter and summer) is good and should be continued. Beauty on Government St., particularly on summer evenings (when cruise ships are all too prolific), is destroyed by the tour buses. Way-finding does not appear to need upgrading.

Area **Tourists** I think we ought to have a more robust banner program through out downtown that promotes cultural events in an artistic fashion in conjunction with art, music and cultural organizations particularly in the area around the inner harbour where tourists frequent, I am thinking of the type of banner strung across the street like is currently done on Douglas Street supporting various good causes.....have a look at the various programs that Montpellier, France carries out throughout the year in this regard regarding supporting various festivals etc

Priority This is a priority for me. It's a quality of life issue for residents.

Spend Can "architectural lighting of city hall". Not essential, will increase our GHG bill and electrical bill even if you use LEDs. Spend your money on conservation of energy not only increase consumption for essential services like cross walks. Kill the idea of increased lighting for asthetic purposes.

Very important objectives.

Tourists Wayfinding is fine but it is for tourists/visitors. Maybe some of the hotel tax could go for this. Don't add any from the \$4 million to this category.

Seem fine.

I love it! Keep it coming.

Area **Downtown Core** A steady and progressive approach to the beautification of the downtown core will bring economicc benefits to the area.

I think we should be encouraging more agile artistic expression in our city to make it feel vibrant and alive. Loosening up on buskers and allowing later hours, creating more public art (ie the side of the Yates street parkade) and allowing more places for food trucks to operate.

Tourists This is important work as our downtown needs to be kept in GREAT condition for our citizens and tourists alike to enjoy!!

Looks good.

safety first, beauty next

Hanging Baskets graffiti is appealing and healthy. leave it alone. Victoria is fortunate to have natural beauty, don't waste your money on hanging baskets of flowers. or so called "historic style street lights" it's nonsense. Regarding cigarette butt collection, simply educate people to change the culture around cig. butt refuse.

Initiatives The projects proposed all seem good. I'd encourage the City to launch as many competitions for beautification initiatives as possible. This is a very creative and artistic city, and many of these beautification projects could be put out to tender with an artistic jury to pick the best options (delivered, of course, by local artists). One great example was the sound-sensitive lighted tree in centennial square that Limbic Media did - more of that kind of beautification will showcase what our city has to offer the 21st century!

Area **Christmas Decorations** **Priority** **Spend** The Christmas décor in recent years seems scattered, uncoordinated, and out of date esthetically. If we are to continue to spend in this area I would like to see the focus on lighting and banners rather than other decorations on buildings and the like - these things date themselves very quickly. And perhaps a coordinated style/scheme would also be an improvement. Light and animation are priorities for me in making it appealing to be downtown in the dark winter.

Downtown Core **Initiatives** **Tourists** Victoria's problem is not a lack of "beautification".

Victoria's problems are:

Failure to attract VICTORIANS to the downtown core.

The lack of business initiatives (and businesses) which will attract Victorians to the downtown core ... by first making them feel welcome. e.g. Regular shoppers are not attracted to vacant buildings and souvenir shops.

A noisy, smelly, "airport" in the midst of the downtown.

Beggars on every street corner.

Failure to keep tourists in "Victoria", beyond a quick walk about the downtown ... (see above).

Traffic (including tour buses) on what visitors perceive is a downtown mall.

Area **Priority** The dollars being spent are fine but the focus seems a bit off. Neither the installation of architectural lighting at City Hall or resurfacing of the Royal's parking lot are high priority issues. Beautification dollars could be better spent in areas that currently have none or little such as place-making in the North end of downtown,

. more partnerships in shared cost with the downtown stakeholders

On: Heritage street light installation (\$35,000). if it is to maintain what we already have, then I agree.

- Purchase and installation of 10 planters (\$20,000). I do not agree with adding more planters.
- Surface parking lot improvements (Royal Theatre), landscaping and perimeters (\$20,000). I think revenue from the tickets should be paying for these items.
- City Hall architectural light installation (\$35,000) I disagree with this

I am generally supportive of downtown beautification. However, until the homeless / pan handling problem is solved, beautification is a waste of money. Any attempts to beautify downtown is instantly ruined by homeless people leaving refuse behind. Many downtown store fronts are covered in urine and other refuse in the mornings. It is not surprising government street store fronts are closing.

I have none and really don't care.

Downtown Core **Initiatives** It's great to beautify the downtown core, but this has to be coupled with an initiative to ensure rental properties along Government, Wharf and other downtown streets are not vacated because of unreasonably expensive lease rates. Perhaps incentives like a break on leasehold improvements, like electrical and plumbing, as well as business beautification grants (just brainstorming), street nursing staff and parking availability (good initiative with the parking lots, by the way) would encourage businesses to consider downtown Victoria instead of Saanich's Uptown or The western communities.

no major concerns

Seems OK.

But worry that \$ may not be well planned.

Need Government Street to become pedestrianized before \$ spent on structures that may become impediments once it is closed.

More pedestrian and bicycle friendly community building infrastructure.

just fine

I realize this is a tiny drop in the bucket, but the costs seem high. Is it an opportunity for citizen engagement somehow?? I'm thinking planters, decorations in Chinatown.

good, like the ideas

Christmas Decorations **Spend** \$35,000 seems like a lot to spend on Christmas decorations. I've always been a less is more kind of person when it comes to Christmas. Also, what is the Heritage street light installation? Is it an annual cost, or a one time thing? If it's annual, I feel sceptical about its value. Also, the 2015 budget is \$110,000 and the 2016 budget is \$214,196, which seems like a huge leap. What's the justification for this?

Area **Tourists** I dream of Brisbane Australia with a beautiful downtown area free of traffic. Why can't Victoria create an area where tourists and locals can mix and shop and enjoy our great climate? We downtown residents are forced to add to traffic on Douglas by driving out to Uptown and the Western Communities. We would much rather just find a place to walk and shop in Victoria.

OK

Take out the fancy lamp and I'm in.

Hanging Baskets Downtown is beautiful with the hanging baskets. Our streets are clean and walkable.

Hanging Baskets Downtown is beautiful with the hanging baskets. Our streets are clean and walkable.

well, only another 4 pages

Area In the past, the city has not made the best decisions in this area.

Spend And bubble-gum removal.

You are doing a great job!

On the following, spend no more.

Close government street on weekends.

We all love an attractive downtown. Part of the attraction is walkability and a car free Government street would go a long way to making the downtown more people friendly and attractive. Cars are a blight.

Initiatives this initiative is important to add vibrancy to downtown. Too many facades are "crubby"; sidewalks must be scrubbed of gum stains (maybe a bylaw to ban gum spitting)...the core looks "uncared for"

Good as it is.

Sounds like a make work project for the union employees.

Ok.

Downtown Core Rather than banners and lighting aesthetics, focused attention on beautifying and upgrading all small green spaces and parks in the downtown core is beneficial for attracting families, residents and visitors to use our downtown green spaces.

Downtown Core -I don't think downtown beautification and decorations are extremely important/necessary for the health and well-being of people and the environment. The money could go towards more important things such as a community garden in the downtown core, environmental protection etc.

get rid of the ugly parkade signs,

great

Area **Beautiful City** **Christmas Decorations** **Nice** All good. However, City Hall and Government St and the harbour area are beautifully lit up at Christmas. Douglas St is however completely left out. It's like a dark tunnel between City Hall and the harbour. It would be nice to see that area lit and decorated as well.

Have concerns. The bike stand on Belleville by the CPR building is poorly sited. I support more beautification, but am unsure if I understand what part will be improved

Downtown Core We need to do more to drive residents to the Downtown core of the city. I live out near Royal Jubilee and find myself simply driving through the core, and not often stopping to enjoy it.

Hanging Baskets I love the hanging baskets!

Hanging Baskets I love the hanging baskets!

Area **Tourists** We need to provide shelters for homeless people as this scares tourists away and makes downtown a less desirable area to hang out. Long term solution.

its enough, save here some money.

Spend Tourism requires more spending than other places on this.

Christmas Decorations I suggest doing away with planters (at \$2000 each, I can think of better ways to use that money), the City Hall architectural light installation, Christmas decorations, Centennial Square sound.

Spend Why does purchasing ten planters cost \$20,000? That seems like a lot.
Do we really need more heritage street lights?

This new spending feels like fluff. The Victoria downtown is already beautiful.

Beautiful City Appreciate greatly your efforts to green the city and add beauty. I feel happier and more at ease with more loveliness around me. I remember to be grateful and not grumpy.

Tourists As a tourist destination this is required.
Centennial square sound budget requires explanation.

Beautiful City **Hanging Baskets** **Priority** Not a priority for me. How about dressing homelessness and then worrying about decorations and hanging baskets? Visitors I speak with are always appalled by our homelessness issues and comment on that "beautiful city but yikes! you treat your marginalized people terribly"

Area OK in the main.
But no more \$ should be spent on Centennial Square.
It is dead space and will remain dead space until the area workers are changes and more coffee-shops/restaurants introduced.

Tourists Here's another way you can beautify the City. Get the Downtown Business Association, Tourist Bureau, etc. to urge their members to WASH THE WINDOWS of their buildings and hose the seagull droppings from their front pavement. It would cost the city nothing.

I was appalled walking by some major businesses last week to see the grubby state of their windows.

Beautification of Victoria streets is directly appreciated by both citizens and visitors. It enhances the respect we all have for our city and the pride we take in it.

Get volunteers for this kind of work - Give artists the ability to create and beautify spaces in the city, and simply provide materials. I'm sure there are hundreds, if not thousands of people in Victoria with green

thumbs and artistic ability to beautify the city. Not to mention the fact it would increase civic pride and community awareness.

Tourists A lot of the items listed are what makes Victoria "Victoria" to tourists and attractive to new residents and business owners. This is our "curb appeal" to the outside world and what gives us residents the feeling of "house proud". One can not underestimate the power of beauty. It's impact and influence runs deep.

Area Let nclean up or address the increasing number of street people and the lifestyle they inflict on the rest of us. Clear the streets. Clean up the area around Our Place, or close it! The place is a gong show

???

Priority no priority

More free public events at night would go a long way towards enhancing downtown.

Priority Not a priority in my opinion. What about more public washrooms? Some of this stuff tends not to be well thought out...planters and benches get put in only to be removed again 6 months later when people actually sit or hang out on them.

I don't know if this is as important as other things. But stopping smoking is important.

Awesome!

this list of choices is poor and i would think more options exist

Priority Not a priority for me.

I think interesting ways you can beautify downtown are by encouraging community members to do collaborative art/graffiti projects on walls around the city. That would build solidarity between community members and businesses and highlight Victoria as a city that appreciates the arts in the multitude of ways in can be expressed. You would probably see less unregulated graffiti if you showcased support for it as art and channeled it into different projects across the city. I am also a huge fan of more cigarette butt canisters! I am a smoker, but hate the idea of butts traveling from the sidewalk into the ocean.

Spend **Tourists** Again, beautification is such a silly thing to spend money on. Focus on helping the homeless population as opposed to wanting to look good for tourists.

make spaces that do not exclude people. Diversity should be celebrated. We need to recognize that homeless drug users are just as beautiful as people in business suits. Lets not make people feel that they aren't meant to be in a space.

Hanging Baskets **Tourists** I think these are fantastic! Downtown is the heartbeat of Victoria. I happily watch for the hanging baskets every year and would love to see more plant life downtown. I also like the idea of wayfinding signage - not for me personally, but for the tourists who come to our capital city.

Personally I think there could be better use of 300,000.00 Instead of planters why not turning the green spaces or some of the planters and growing things like fresh herbs and do more of edible gardens, rather than flowers that just die.

Hanging Baskets hanging baskets should have native plants in it that need less watering, street lights do not have to be in an historic style but efficient

Safety issues come first.

No more pink cement mattresses (art?) please!

Downtown beautification should - most importantly - include the removal of the large number itinerant people smoking everywhere, accompanied by dangerous dogs.

Nice nice. well needed.

Downtown Core Until you do something about the vast numbers of people begging, camping and behaving inappropriately in the downtown core, no amount of beautification efforts are worthwhile. Most people avoid going downtown entirely because it is a Dickensian nightmare playing out before our eyes. Not sure what the solution is, but new streetlamps are not going to help.

Priority City Hall lighting would be #1 priority to highlight a key heritage building downtown.

Area Like them. I believe that graffiti is an art form and that there should be designated areas of town where it can be encouraged and displayed. Google - 10 PLACES WHERE GRAFFITI IS LEGAL

Area **Beautiful City** Having worked Downtown for over 20 years this is an area the City has not paid close enough attention to. We never take company that come to visit Downtown nor do we tend to come Downtown other than for work. We should have one of the most beautiful Cities in Canada. The City's anti graffiti efforts place the responsibility of removing graffiti on business owners, who will be fined by the City if they do not remove it. What about placing more effort on stopping graffiti. Create a very stiff Bylaw that places high fines and community service on graffiti vandals - make them be responsible for removing the graffiti. Also the issue of open drug use must be addressed in our downtown area.

no comment

Initiatives I am in favour of beautification but think the initiatives proposed are very old school. There are way, way more innovative and fun ways to increase the vibe and vibrancy of the downtown. Let's use innovation here! Not boring old flower baskets that use public works time to care for.

Good work

It annoys me no end that Victoria puts money into hanging plants and benches with armrests midway (so no one can lie down) when people are homeless. Beautification is deeper than banners and flowers.

1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean
2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also

a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.

3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

Looks good!

Initiatives I support these initiatives.

All this money should be allocated to creating a LRT from Downtown Victoria to Swartz Bay and to Sooke. Connecting the communities and making it easier for us to travel. Right now using public transportation it take 5 hours to go from Victoria to Vancouver, and that is just simply crazy!

Why do we need new heritage street lights and planters? We have enough of these. And \$35000 for Xmas decorations is too high.

Beautiful City **Initiatives** Great initiatives, but the City can be as beautiful as possible, but if there are enormous numbers of transients downtown, visitors will not feel safe or even want to go downtown at night.

Keep Victoria's old character alive, and interweave it with the future in a smart and tasteful way.

Waste of money

Nice Nice enough already.

No thoughts.

Beautification is the wrong way to think of this. Think placemaking. Many great spaces and places are vibrant without (necessarily) being considered "beautiful." Beautification too often translates into more flower baskets rather than meaningful place design.

Spend I'd like a quieter space downtown, a space where I could have coffee or a meal outside and not have trucks and cars and noise and lack of safety they bring. And where I could have wide enough pedestrian space to not have to spend every moment navigating not just other folks on side-walks, but also signs, railings from cafes, parking pay stands, bike racks etc.

Then I could better notice the beauty, as now I am more concerned with personal safety from traffic and finding the quietest route.

I walk across downtown south to north and back almost every day of the year.

I would like more space for play and for ambling away from traffic.

Cleaner streets, less homeless, repair the roads

ok

Priority I would think that the planters that are in town are plenty, they just need to be maintained, the sidewalks are needed for the foot traffic, and those with walkers and to be able to walk side by side, rather than single file, to avoid hitting planter and other objects.

Maintenance is the biggest priority, and you need to maintain what is already in place, before adding more, when you are short of staff.

Graffiti removal is important, but I think that some video surveillance should be put into place in strategic places, to catch some of these "artists" that will keep defacing other persons property., They need to be made accountable for their actions. If they can afford the paint, they can learn how to remove it as well.

Christmas Decorations Please tone down the Christmas decorations.

Initiatives Downtown beautification ought to take a backseat to social wellness initiatives, such as housing-first initiatives to end homelessness.

It's abundantly clear that nearly all capital budget projects are proposed for that part of Victoria west of Quadra Street. Why is so little proposed to improve the neighbourhoods east of Quadra?

Active transportation and complete street will contribute to this.

Christmas Decorations **Nice** Skip the \$20,000 on downtown planters please. we have enough of those already.

Some winter lights (WHITE lights on trees) look nice downtown but let's stop wasting energy & money on the tacky Christmas decorations and multi-colour lights.

Landscaping should look at productive, low-input design. Edibles, medicinals, natives, pollinator habitat, perennials, drought tolerant species, soil-building should be the goal.

Nice **Tourists** I understand that keeping the downtown beautiful is nice (and preferable to "letting it go") but I believe that the money could be spent better going towards safer consumption sites and housing/shelter. Tourists aren't going to care if there are pretty banners if they keep running into people shooting up on the street.

Get more business and community take over of beautification.

should include a space for homeless people to put their carts

Would like to see some possibility of beatification in some of the urban villages as well.

Initiatives **Spend** As identified earlier, I live downtown, so naturally, I'm somewhat biased about the importance of our downtown community. These initiatives seem minimal but hopefully effective. A way-finding exercise and plan may be good to have happen. Hopefully the proposed 10 planters will replace the concrete eyesores lining Govt St, but perhaps not. We have yet to see a serious visioning process take place for identifying highest and best investment of our 'beautification dollars'. And as much as I'd like to say "Spend More" without a plan in place, I'll withhold that opinion for now.

Christmas Decorations I think "Christmas decorations (\$35,000) " is \$35,000 that could better be spent

anywhere else.

Hanging Baskets **Nice** These are nice to have improvements, but small stuff compared to what we can do re public spaces, streetscapes, pedestrian and public plazas, street furniture, programming and events to enliven our streets and city. Let's have less 'banners and hanging baskets' and more 'public art, community programming, car-free days, placemaking, patios on parking spots, street closures and parties and complete streets.'

Tourists Smart move for tourist industry.

A healthy and vibrant downtown is good for the entire region.

Area **Initiatives** I support these initiatives. Downtown continues to lose key businesses downtown and to 'give up' these simple initiatives will only serve to further discourage use and limit investment in this area.

Not sure about the whole way finding thing.

No. This is just social cleansing. All money for Beautification should be spent on social housing and a safe consumption site.

Tourists I believe a pilot project to understand and try the effects of closing government st., between warf and yates st., to non-essential vehicle traffic should be considered during the warm, tourist season (summer). Otherwise, I like the flowers and lights!

Christmas Decorations **Spend** I'm all for Christmas decorations, but I think that spending could be less on this item, in favour of more essential items like cyclist/pedestrian safety infrastructure.

All the beautification efforts we make will be a waste unless we get the homeless and the panhandlers off the streets and out of the parks.

Area **Downtown Core** **Tourists** With the large number of businesses closing, something is not working. The first place tourists often visit is the Downtown core. More needs to be done to create a vibrant, welcoming and thriving downtown area.

more community events that are inclusive and family friendly

Christmas Decorations **Priority** christmas decorations and banners are not a priority; focus on plants and public art instead

More needs to be done.

We can also use beautification projects to enhance complete streets and placemaking.

Initiatives Investigate cost sharing initiatives

I appreciate it and would like to see more temporary public art and interactive art as part of downtown beautification.

Area **Beautiful City** **Tourists** we need to keep this city looking great both downtown and in residential areas of beauty that tourists visit

To get what I'm looking for, there needs to be some cuts. I think I'd be OK with trimming these budget items to get more beautiful, safer streets.

Beautiful City **Initiatives** **Tourists** I feel victoria has a beautiful downtown. the proposed downtown beautification initiative is important for tourists as well as residents of our city

I'd rather the money was spent pushing rents down so businesses would start.

I'd like to see "beautification" as more modern. Not necessarily the same antique looking structures.

Area **Nice** I own a business in downtown victoria that is not within the DVBA improvement area.

It would also be nice to move away from grass planted medians to water gardens or other planting that don't require mowing ect.

Nice Flowers are nice but why not food.

Also, give space for graffiti (for example, a dedicated public wall). This has been shown to reduce the amount of vandalism in a city.

Hanging Baskets less less less is more

stop hanging baskets

stop cutting grass

This program should be at least doubled.

No. Except centennial square sound. None of this is needed. \$25,000 for a banner? That is absurd.

Less can safely be spent here, I think.

Hanging Baskets **Initiatives** While these are good efforts, I would rather see greater use public space by artists than hanging baskets. Public art should see greater funding through City beautification initiatives.

Initiatives **Tourists** Flowers and beautification is definitely important for Victoria! I think this initiative could be given a little nudge towards sustainable food systems though. How great would it be to have a downtown full of apple trees and blueberry bushes and carrots for example, that could be harvested by residents, tourists, and of course the homeless.

Worthwhile

We are already pretty beautiful. Don't lose sight of making Victoria a good place to WORK as well as a good place to play.

Support any enhancements to the downtown ares which make it more attractive to visitors and residents. I would like to see the downtown become a the desirable shopping centre rather than creating a mall culture.

Beautiful City THE CITY IS BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH NOW.

Must include processes that removes "camping" from any of our streets and green spaces.

Initiatives lots of good initiatives but how in a multicultural community with separation of church and state do we justify money spent on holidays for any particular religious group

Christmas Decorations **Nice** Stop with the empiricist christmas decorations and lights. Use plants, instead. The City is trying to save energy costs by change to LED streetlights but insists also on installing (and removing, every year) christmas lights that have no practical use at all. Also, the decorative heritage streetlights look nice but serve no practical purpose. In fact, their light shines into the sky, thus contributing to the light-pollution of the sky and wastes energy, thereby, as well. And the inventing of the decorative lightpoles and fixtures is costly and wasteful.

it is a waste of money that benefits the few business owners downtown when there are business owners paying taxes in other places of victoria. I am doing less and less business down town b/c of the horrendous parking. We had to pay \$10 for parking to go to a restaurant - never again.

Beautifying downtown is okay, but I would rather see funds directed to actively supporting downtown businesses by making simplifying business permit processes, easing marketing/signage restrictions and creating a culture of 'business support' and creativity at City Hall.

Priority This is a top priority for me as it is the foundation for so many of the other aspects of city living. So much of downtown is looking dilapidated, forlorn and dirty. For example, the higher density of people living downtown means more dogs and, hence, more dog excrement on downtown streets. It's awful. As well, the high number of street people, beggars and their belongings is getting out of hand. I travel extensively and have seldom encountered a worse problem with street people than I see everyday in Victoria. It's off-putting and disturbing.

Spend Beautification should be secondary to dealing with Yates and Douglas intersection. This intersection is dying and sad. It needs life, design, planning, good businesses. The rest will follow. But sure spend 293,000 on beauty.

Downtown Core The downtown core is a disgrace. We moved here in 1990 and we're slowly seeing the tweekificaion of the Douglas street (convenience stores / pizza slices). The plan to increase urban density is a good one, for re-gentrification purposes. The reasons the malls are winning is that parking is very poor. Innovate like turning government into a year round pedestrian mall with service vehicle access and tons of event promotion.

Spend No amount of superficial beautification is worth spending \$ on until Victoria solves homelessness and provides a safe consumption site.

Maintain what we have in the way of planters, cluster lights etc., but do not spend \$ on additions until urgent social issues have been addressed successfully.

- Banners and seasonal decorations are a tacky, ugly waste of money. Downtown is already beautiful.
- The so-called decorations and theme music in Chinatown are atrocious. Chinatown is a real neighbourhood with a real history and an evolving character, not a theme park. The music that is blasted from the Gate is annoying and should be shut off.
- More pocket parks, green space, picnic tables and benches are needed downtown. More money should be spent on pocket parks and green space downtown.

This is money well spent, however, unless the "street" people are removed the downtown remains rather grimy. This may be a social issue but the money spent will be wasted with the beggars and drunks laying on the sidewalk are removed!

Spend Until operating costs are reined in, stop spending on the non-essential. Period.

The City is using my home and business as its ATM, drawing more any more money from me in the form of property taxes even though (a) my income is not increasing at the same rate as actual property tax increases and (b) I have no way of liquidating my property to pay those taxes without selling my home.

Sounds good.

Let's have the businesses take over the beautification of the Downtown and provide them with incentives!

We need to be proactive in keeping the City looking good. Just no more public art.....unless a benefactor wishes to step up.

street light installations need to be mindful of light pollution standards and not be open at the top, thus wasting light into the sky that dims the stars

Spend what has been done so far is good. Don't spend any more money.

I think it's generally a good investment, creating value for visitors, enhancing their experience, as well as for residents.

Initiatives Social, event and wayfinding initiatives seem the most beneficial.

Priority not a big priority

Lots of great parks in Victoria!

Projects No major comments here. Since the section of Rockland Avenue between Christchurch Cathedral and Pioneer Square has been permanently closed, perhaps it can be integrated as a hard surface public square element into Pioneer Square. I don't see it here but we need to do much more to advance the harbour pathway program, including putting money into temporary facilities in anticipation of future completion of the project, as Vancouver did with the sea wall at various stages in the redevelopment of False Creek. The pace of this project needs to be advanced.

need for more money for new parks and food security; save money by moving to natural landscaping rather than manicured landscaping

the traffic flow changes at beacon hill were/are a waste of time

Add another playground in the COV.

the region should be contributing to Beacon Hill Park.

Vic West Park For the vic west park plan, why don't you just do a cheap survey and then use the \$50k for actual improvements instead of wasting it on a document that will then need to be funded?

Support Parklets and other creative grass-roots community endeavours as well as traditional parks.

Vic West deserves attention, I support this.

I would like to see more work done on small parks in the North Park area to make them less attractive to homeless campers and more accessible to residents in the area. What about installing playgrounds at Kings Park and Haegart Park to meet the needs of families here?

Important

City The retaining wall at Hillside Park, located at the eastern edge of the park adjacent willow trees should be within the budget for parks this year. It is not there. Where are the funds associated with this improvement that the city is supposed to be analyzing and providing feedback to the community for costs and installation?

City **Spend** if we stop the homeless destroying the parks city would spend less

Better attention paid to proper drainage and water management. Ever since moving here I've been generally disappointed with the thin layer of topsoil which turns fields to mush at the first hint of rain.

I would love to see public consultation money made available in order to allow for participatory design of these spaces.

Get rid of all cemeteries-all land should be for the living and none for the dead.

Idea Like the idea but it is costing too much.

City **People will use Parks** Our parks and playlots are great assets, but are looking a bit tired as well. We have people of all ages living in our community, including many single parent families and seniors living in multi-family housing. Let's improve our parks and add new and creative playlots throughout the city.

City In a city that SHOULD be concerned about long term debt loads and solvency, this kind of expense is simply not justified. Seems to me this means the citizens are effectively paying \$2 million for the mentioned shelter - I wonder if this was clearly set out in the original justification?

Idea Looks reasonable. I like the idea of greenway development close to the new bridge. I also like the

idea of improved (and less diffuse) lighting in Beacon Hill Park.

I'd also like to suggest investing in a couple strategically placed maps of the park, so visitors know of the different highlights. There are maps like this in Stanley Park. Perhaps one near the petting zoo and one near the bridge at the pond, for example.

Gardens **People will use Parks** Why more park land? 50% of the people who own houses on a 5000 sq.ft. lot don't keep their lawns and gardens in good shape, why do we need more parkland? The only good reason I see is to keep more work for the Cupe gang.

Spend We need to increase parkland where possible so no objection to the spend, although we do need to keep an eye on the maintenance budget as there will always be a consequential uplift.

The park space west of the JSB needs to have a connecting trail from the E&N directly onto Esquimalt Rd, not a circuitous route currently designed. Likewise, a direct connection off of Esquimalt Rd heading west to the Galloping Goose is needed (not just the right turn onto Harbour).

Any trails built in parks should have separated walking and biking sections (using concrete for walking and asphalt for biking to clearly delineate use) as well as be lit for safety and comfort at all times of the day.

Taxes are too high.

Parks being Created How are our parks being created, redesigned and used as food scapes?

Crystal pool needs to be addressed. Parks are a great asset to the community.

love it

Basic needs and maintenance for parks this year. We have a lot of parks. We can make due. Focus on finding shelter for those forced to sleep in parks

Spend I like parks. Please don't tell me that you are spending \$2,000,000 to replace a park that you gave away.

none

Why is Beacon Hill Park off limits for family celebrations / festivals in our community? Why can't a charity put on a public event and accept donations? Why is Beacon Hill Park the emptiest urban park in Canada?

Projects Good projects.

Allocate more resources for bylaw enforcement.

We can't afford this.

parks an integral aspect of Victoria residents since we are a year-round outdoor community

City **Spend** Acquiring further parklands is an irresponsible use of resources when compared to spending those resources addressing other challenges facing the City.

Very very important - great initiatives.

City Am concerned.

Pioneer Square should stay Pioneer Square and other memorials not erected there.

City is setting up too many memorials in inappropriate spots.

Projects **Spend** **Street** Cancel the Burnside Park purchase and Pioneer Square project. We can't afford to buy a new park with larger projects like the Johnson Street Bridge, Bay St Bridge, new Firehall, and more having greater priority. Pioneer Square has also attracted far too much money and spending anything more on it is wasteful.

Parks being Created **Spend** - Spend \$ on tennis courts. Create a tennis court for children at Beacon Hill Park.

-Spend \$ on improving Beacon Hill Park.

Need to identify more possibilities for parks downtown - they are sadly lacking there. Consider parklets.

City **Gardens** **Spend** Don't spend more money on dogs-off-leash areas, thereby stealing these areas from all other residents. Don't allow any allotment gardens to steal from City parks, thereby allocating green-space to a few rather than to all. Beer-fests at Royal Athletics Park lead to deterioration of the grass cover, and to other expenses. Let the beer-fest relocate to another part of the CRD. Playgrounds are really important, and quite necessary to families that cannot afford single family dwellings with large gardens.

Green Space **Projects** I agree with them all.....I noticed in the draft strategic plan the mention of investing in the redesign and improvement of Begbie Green to make it an usable space as a neighbourhood park, as I live in Jubilee I would whole heartedly support the advance of this project this year

Green Space The plan seems reasonable. We have some nice green spaces, we need to keep them

People will use Parks **Street** I assume all new lighting will be from LEDs!!

Parks are key for families and old alike.

Keep up the good work

Give "Memorial Program" a priority and get this policy on the street so it can fund bench replacements and other amenities. See my comment earlier on park tree program. There are models out there that have time limits on them and cost includes O&M. When people die there is usually not a shortage of funds.

Very important objectives.

Projects I had a good look. The projects all seem fine.

Seems fine.

Gardens **Green Space** More edible landscapes and community gardens! Some people in Victoria wait months or years to get garden space. We should be supporting and promoting public spaces that are not only beautiful, but practical and useful. We should utilize our long growing season and knowledgeable residents to create more food sources and useable green spaces. Not just lawns and ornamental gardens that eat up our water supply.

The problem with a "lot" of small parks 1 acre or less is that they are not practical to use but carry with them liability and significant cost for maintenance and upkeep. On the positive side Victoria's Parks are a significant benefit to the overall communities sense of space and wellbeing.

City **Green Space** I fully support all the parks work proposed! Please continue with your policy of the preservation of all parks in the City of Victoria - these green spaces are vital to us ALL.

Good

I'm not sure why citizens are paying for the maintenance of Ross Bay cemetery when most of us wouldn't be able to afford a plot there.

City **People will use Parks** We have great parks! And plenty of them. I'd like to suggest the City approach the Library and organizations like Camas Books to put a local book box in every park. These boxes are fairly common in people's front yards - there seems to be one in each neighbourhood - and I think it would be great to install them in public parks as well!

People will use Parks Ensure that our parks are free of perceived threats.
People will use parks only when they are seen as "safe".

These are fantastic allocations of funds!

City Just because the city promised it, does any one in this community want it or will use it. You should ask the people who live here.

-

I'd support all horticultural initiatives but not any more hardscaping.

Looks good

New park near Bridge. build amphitheatre landscape for viewing harbour -fireworks,etc.

no major concerns

Need positive development of more and more park space

More food growing spaces.

all expenses seem necessary

City I think the city's parks are a fine symbol of what's right in our city. Keep up the good work.

Idea very good ideas, but please reduce managers to help with costs

Green Space **People will use Parks** **Street** In terms of the Ellice Street Park to Burnside Gorge switch, where in the Burnside Gorge area will the park be? Does that mean Rock Bay loses a park? How do the people who live and work there feel about that? Are there green spaces in their neighbourhood? That said, if it's going to a housing partnership and used for Rock Bay Landing shelter, that sounds awesome. I'd just hate to see that neighbourhood lose out on park space. Could you ensure that the park was closer to the Rock Bay side in the Burnside Gorge area?

Everything else looks good.

Try to imagine a parkway connecting the Songhees to the Inner Harbour. This would encompass a route for locals and tourists to follow the David Foster Way and cross over the new Johnson St Bridge to the Dockside Green Village Square. Their return walk could be through a shopping plaza on Government St with a variety of shops and fountains and a great people place with outdoor restaurant seating where crowds of locals and tourists can mix. Why not?

As indicated earlier in this survey, I think we need more parkland, not just a constant amount. Open, natural spaces are a priority so far as I am concerned.

City **People will use Parks** The city should not be using pesticides in its parks. It is dangerous to people and animals.

I fail to understand what this survey is wanting? Reaction to categories or serious analysis?

nothing to offer.

Figure out a way to do it all, cheap, safe, effective.

People will use Parks 2 million for one little park? This seems excessive. A lot could be done for cycling infrastructure with 2 million which would benefit a lot more people.

Parks are fine how they are now. Actually I have one complaint though. Get rid of that god awful teen repellent noise maker in Esquimalt Gorge Park. That shit is terrible and seriously not cool. I like to go for walks in the park, but can't at night due to that noisemaker. It makes me sick and want to throw up.

City We have a fantastic park infrastructure. It is one of the aspects of the city that makes it so beautiful. I continually thank our founding fathers for protecting the Dallas Road waterfront for everyone instead of making it inaccessible like Oak Bay and Esquimalt. Let's take very good care of it and add to it all when we can.

An important resource. The homeless should not be penalized for using the parks, however their use of the

parks does preclude others uses, so this is not a long term solution for homelessness.

Interpretive signage? Buy a book.

Curious why Quadra park is scheduled for playground replacement given that the blurb says that careful maintenance usually extended the life of the playgrounds beyond their standard lifespan. - No argument - just doesn't seem to be an actual explanation.

Looks good.

Would like to see attention focused on all existing parks that require cleaning-up, consistent maintenance and improvements so that they support the communities in which they exist.

-I think the creation of new parks and park improvements is important for human and ecological health. I think there needs to be of an emphasis on environmental remediation and inclusion of native plants/ecosystems and education within parks.

-I think interpretive signage regarding threatened species, habitat restoration, invasive species, and conservation, to bring awareness and behaviour change is very important for supporting local ecosystems and biodiversity. There also needs to be money allocated to these topics (ie. habitat restoration, conservation, invasive species removal, protection for threatened species).

Do we really need outdoor fitness pools and recreation areas? This isn't California. Playground repair and upgrading is a far bigger priority, and should include adequate lighting. Parks at night get used by teens for gatherings, drugs, and a lot of other criminal activity. I now understand why the Victorians put high fences around their parks and locked the gates at night!

Gardens Most OK as proposed.

Do NOT need any new grants for gardens

I approve, with the hope that more can be done for the Begbie Green.

Spend Don't spend money on playground equipment. More natural spaces for children to explore, fewer adult-designed "play" areas.

its enough, save some money here.

Again, just upkeep. Focus on what's needed not wanted.

City **Vic West Park** I'm curious as to the changes/improvements to Vic West park because that is an area I'm in very regularly.

Just so you know, the grass next to the playground in the field behind the elementary school on Front St. dissolves into mud every year. How about a pond? There isn't much freshwater habitat in that part of Vic West and it would be a great teaching tool for ecology.

I love the community orchard in Bamfield park, and would like to see the city allow/work with community groups to get more food growing happening in Victoria.

More is better. We put great effort into development a huge push to get out there and build those building higher and higher and all those people want dogs and a place to go to sit in the sun be active, entertain their kids. Every permit for development should have a mitigation ratio of beauty and no development to balance it. We do it for destruction of habitat for whales and salmon and anything else that is wild why not for active destruction of skylines and views, elevation of noise and light pollution.

Excellent

City How about funds to enforce dog control for behaviours that threaten children in parks that are not off-leash? Huge problem in this city. When did canine rights supersede children's rights?

Gardens OK except no grant system should be put in place for gardens. If volunteers not willing to do work as volunteers, then don't have the garden.

Vic West Park See my earlier comment about a skateboard circuit track at Vic West Park, for kids who don't want to do tricks but love to board.

City Parks are necessary for the mental health of cities and their citizens. Money spent here can reduce expenditures required for law enforcement and social services.

The outdoor fitness equipment is a waste of money. I have never seen anyone use it except when joking around. The cost to install and maintain this could be better spent on other things.

Fine

Begbie Green enhancement is in the draft Strategic Plan for 2015 for \$150,000, but is not mentioned in the budget. Please correct this oversight and place Begbie Green in the budget for 2015.

People will use Parks Sounds good. Keep our parks maintained and people will use them. Community happens when we are all together. All our parks provide a venue for this kind of coming together.

????

neutral

Better lighting would be more useful than signage.

Study use potential before buying park space in any community. Are there children? Daycare operations, elders who can walk there? Maybe enhanced boulevards will provide equal visual pleasure.

no comment

Parks are important for kids. Please keep dangerous off leash dogs out of the parks where kids play.

Pretty good. I think though that dogs should have to be on a leash in all kids parks.

Vic West Park As a parent of two small children living very close to the Vic West Park i can way that it sucks.

Please, please make it better.

Good.

Good. They should always be free to enter.

Gardens **Green Space** I love parks! One of the reasons I moved to Victoria in the first place is the amount of green space present. I'd like to see even more.

Also, with the increasing downtown residential population, it seems a little odd that there's no playground downtown - the closest ones are at Crystal Garden and at Beacon Hill Park, but perhaps it would be worth considering one at Reeson Park? I don't have kids myself, but it seems like everyone I know does. :)

City **Gardens** **Parks being Created** **Vic West Park** Yes more money should be put into the Vic west Skate park with a large expansion. Kids use this park more then other park in the City of Victoria. It creates a great place for youth to be able to be healthy and active. I wish more park space was created for community gardens and food growing gardens.

City **Parks being Created** remove camping from the parks, that will save costs for clean up, create a homeless camp on city owned land with showers, shelters and kitchens

Good investment in public spaces. As a family with young children parks are a great community meeting places. The addition of more park space next to the new bridge is great.

Spend Ditch the outdoor exercise equipment and spend it on more patrolling in the parks, evicting squatters and removing biohazards such as used needles and other drug-related paraphernalia, particularly from Beacon Hill park.

Clean up the Dallas waterfront from Cook to Douglas. Disgusting.

Not sure what a "fitness pod" is. I don't know that the baseball and tennis court upgrades are something that we can afford this year.

People will use Parks **Street** **Vic West Park** Very happy to see improvements to Vic West park. I think we should hire street artists to complete a mural on the skate park. In doing so, we not only support public art and add to richness and diversity of this area -- it also mitigates all the painting and re-painting when people tag it.

Happy to see Natural Areas Interpretive Signage included.

Outdoor fitness equipment is a great addition to any park.

City **Projects** I support the allocation of funds for the listed projects. Are there any first nations' burial grounds within the City of Victoria? If so, I would support interpretive signage equal to that proposed for Pioneer Park on Quadra and Rockland.

Vic West Park Terrific. Lights at night in Vic West park please

Vic West Park Terminal lights at night in vic west park please.

City I have been trying to address one issue regarding Parks for over 4 years with the City - no one is listening.

Green Space I wish there were more funds available for horticulture and arboriculture. The greenness of these public spaces is so important to Victoria!

Idea I think an entire review of parks is a good idea. I am not sure whether we are simply implementing an 'old school' plan for these areas, or applying best practices in innovation. I am supportive of the exercise infrastructure in parks. Also, on a related note, I am very concerned that Royal Athletic Park does not operate on a cost recovery basis (I have heard anecdotally that it doesn't). Why not? It is hard to choose which button to click below because I don't know the answer to my second sentence, above.

City **Street** 1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean
2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.
3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

Well done! Lots here with a relatively small budget

Projects I support these projects.

Yeah for parks! This seems very expensive though.

Idea The public fitness equipment is s great idea.

City **Street** The terminal for the E&N line should not be near the Blue Bridge, but should be at the end of Mary Street. The reasons for this is that the City already has a budget for beautification of the new Johnson Street Bridge areas, but Mary Street is ugly and there is no budget for its embellishment. Having the terminal there would upgrade the area, provide an opportunity to put in an electrical mini-bus system to downtown (which could also serve the Songhees Area), allow train users to buy at the Roundhouse Market once developed and provide much needed renewal all along this part of the Songhees.

Fine

City **Green Space** **Idea** As we increase density in the city (a good idea if it protects green space outside the city) the pressure on our parks increases. Protecting every inch of park space is essential and that requires ongoing maintenance. I am wholly in support of park initiatives that preserve and enhance park space.

Beacon Hill Park needs attention - and we need to take a fresh look at how it serves the community.

More policing to stop homeless people taking advantage of public spaces

ok

Projects Just as long as you have the staff to maintain what you add to the current work load.

Try to take advantage of the students that are going through horticultural programs and have them learn on these projects to keep the expenses down.

Parks being Created It seems the backstop replacement in Macdonald Park could wait. Could we please create another place besides VicWest for skateboarders, especially those under 12?

Bring more edible plants to parks, food, fruit tree;s etc...

For the lighting upgrades, please be considerate of the night sky. Beacon Hill is a nice plan to view stars.

Gardens **Idea** **Parks being Created** **People will use Parks** Better design of parks and public space meets multiple goals: Rain gardens & trees = stormwater management & air/water purification. Edible perennial landscapes = decreased resource/\$\$ inputs, healthy ecosystems, affordable access to a more nutritious diet & longterm food security. Revitalizing public spaces encourages engaged community & active transportation. Edible greenways are a great idea!!

Parks should collaborate with residents of the various neighbourhoods and local experts in urban agriculture, permaculture design, restoration, and water systems to create better designs. Landscaping should look at productive, low-input design. Edibles, medicinals, natives, pollinator habitat, perennials, drought tolerant species, soil-building should be the goal. Also engage the First Nations communities in enhancing public understanding of First Peoples' occupation and historical use of landscapes.

Gardens **Green Space** We need more parks, green spaces, community gardens, living buildings, etc. etc.

I would forget skate parks and encourage walking areas especially around the harbor.

no comment

Curious why the cost is so high for the park in Burnside Gorge area?

Glad to see that that there may be a possibility for funding from memorial benches, water fountains etc. We were very appreciative of the upgrades to Wark St. Commons park and it looks like many of the parks slated for improvement are of similar vintage.

The improvements proposed are good and mean improvements and repairs across a number of 'facilities'. I hope that "Design and construct plaza with memorial and interpretive information" does NOT entail replacing grassy areas with more concrete.

City **Street** Greenway investments all across the city, in conjunction w roadway design, complete streets and active transportation plans. Get the departments to work together on this stuff....

Please be sure to fund maintenance and improvement of natural areas, with interpretive signage, so that residents and visitors understand that we live in a unique ecosystem (Garry oak) with many rare and endangered species.

Parks are what makes urban areas livable

Parks are what makes urban areas livable.

They are not optional and every attention should be given to maintaining them.

Look at efficiencies in how work is currently done

See comments re Beacon Hill Park.

Vic West Park Vic West Park could totally use some playground upgrades.

People will use Parks All lands going to be parks should be handed over to the people the lands were stolen from.

City **People will use Parks** Would love to see how to progressively address people sleeping in parks. How to strike a balance between helping disenfranchised and ensuring that everyone can use the space is a tricky issue - I'd love to know more about what the city plans to do.

Parks being Created **Projects** **Street** I strongly support interpretive sign projects proposed here and also playground upgrades. Extensive Public consultation on the anticipated Johnson street bridge park will help capitalize on the opportunity to build a park in that location and help create a vibrant community space when the park is built.

we need to hire a person to oversee the Urban Forest strategy

we need to implement the Parks Acquisition Fund

the tree bylaw needs to be tightened and made more effective in saving trees

invasive species need to be targeted on private land as well as public

Garry oak ecosystems need to be protected from development

City **Green Space** **Parks being Created** Signage is important, however, creating more green space areas should also be a priority. Many lots around the city are sitting vacant, lets turn them into green space parks.

Street More should be spent on parks... they are gathering places for community... Look at the cook street park... its now a meeting place.... very well done...

Parks being Created Move towards creating edible and indigenous park spaces. Plant food in all of our parks and provide funding for community initiatives that support food growing on private and public property.

People will use Parks Keep emphasis on open park land for all and the people needed on the ground to keep the land maintained.

People will use Parks I want a park in Harris Green! The Cook St park is a great example of good park planning (bravo!) and I want that for every neighbourhood so people don't drive their kids to Cook St park.

Vic West Park Looks good. I look forward to the upgrades to Vic West Park in particular; it's not an overly inviting space.

Excellent

These parks initiatives are terrible. Most of these initiatives aren't even activity related. Signage in Beacon Hill?

A disc golf course could be built for \$20K, and the South Island Disc golf society would probably pay for all of it if land was allotted.

Projects I love our parks. They are my backyard. We are so lucky to have the park spaces we do! It would be nice to a greenway project that links our greenspaces in several different ways. I am jealous of the trail system that Saanich has...

Green Space Excellent! More green space! Just consider that some of this green space could grow food.

City Well maintained and enhanced parks and public spaces make our city a nice place to be -- for citizens and visitors alike. Good for health and the economy.

Parks being Created create a regional park board

Investments in parks for children are an investment in children's health.

I would like to see more emphasis on maintenance and acquisition and less on ornamental plantations.

Idea A downtown arts park would be a fantastic idea, similar arts parks Austin, New Zealand, New York, etc.

City Parks are my favourite part about the city. I would like more of them and bigger ones (kind of hard to do...), with more emphasis on connectivity. It would be great to have bicycle and walking tours that connect the parks with different features (i'm thinking of things like the artists map for Salt Spring Island).

People will use Parks That was a bit of a debacle with the Eastern fence in central park. A simple sign explaining why the fence was closed off to pedestrian traffic would have been appreciated. Homeless people continue to defecate in the park which is not acceptable, perhaps a public bathroom might help.

Spend This budget should focus on increasing spending on facilities for children in parks rather than accommodating dogs in our parks. It is very difficult to support a budget that is shaped by values that put dogs before children!

More funding but NOT for dog parks.

OK

Green Space Enhancement and acquisition of additional green spaces and play areas are most desirable. The closing of Rockland through Pioneer Square has resulted in an area which has become undesirable and unpleasant to walk through. It has forced traffic to Fairfield from downtown to go left to Fort or in some cases make an illegal left turn onto Burdett as the only option. Perhaps that could be re-thought.

Street GET THE SICK AND POOR OFF STREETS AND PARKS. IT IS EMBARRASING

Green Space Clean Pandora 1100 and 1000 block green space on regular and routine basis. Cannot just be a Monday to Friday 9-3 sometimes occurrence. Public Works or Parks must offer wknd and holiday response to garbage/waste in this highly visible green.

City **People will use Parks** I really like the addition of outdoor fitness equipment in Victoria, and especially at Cecelia Ravine Park. I've used the "fitness pods" located there several times since they went up. However, I do feel like the money spent on a fitness pod could be used more effectively to set up a larger calisthenics space.

The purpose of the fitness pods is to "allow for easy public access to fitness equipment in multiple locations throughout the City", but I feel like these pods are too isolated to achieve a high level of access, since it seems like only one person, maybe two, can use these pods at a time. I think it would be amazing to see a space where several people could use the equipment at the same time. As I noted in a previous "thought box", this could be as simple as having multiple bars to hang/swing on, and boxes to jump to/from (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23yJzu25llc> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPCjz85LoU4>). It would be more like an adult playground, where people can express more freedom and creativity in their movement, as opposed to having a "fitness pod" where only one type of movement is encouraged/allowed (e.g. pullups or dips).

I really believe a space like this would be a great hub for active people in Victoria, and it would not be expensive if done correctly.

There are too many vacant tree sites and others occupied by over-mature, diseased and dying trees- we are losing assets and facing rising liabilities- action is long overdue

Running out of time here. Make existing parks 'wilder'; replace lawn with wild plants; grow more trees; discourage vehicle traffic in parks; let parks be natural; and/or grow food in them; make parks more pet-friendly, including to off-leash dogs.

very supportive

Street I like the plan to upgrade Pioneer Square and to make the adjacent street closure permanent.

I would like to see the middle part of Fisherman's Wharf park developed rather than left as open grass field.

I would like to see the off-leash dog area along Dallas Road terminated or controlled by fencing.

Idea **People will use Parks** I think the proposed parks initiatives are good ones. I do wonder about outdoor exercise equipment. I do not see many people using this equipment. I like the idea, but still I wonder about usage.

City Parks are the city's lifeblood. I'd take this out of the fanciful sewage and look for economies in the police / fire / city middle management bloat.

Spend No net loss of parks/greenspace sounds good. However, I would not advocate spending on new parks until homelessness has been addressed & solved.

Maintain what we have for now.

City **Idea** **Vic West Park** Parks establish the character of a city. The Vic West park seems to be well used. The new bridge and park should embellish the city. the idea of a network of connected parks is an idea which should be followed.

Projects Subject this entire division/function/project to a Core Services review and convince me (and other taxpayers) that this represents best investment of my tax dollar.

Parks are our outdoor community centers. Focus on attracting all ages to parks and opening up the possibility of cafes near or in parks.

We need a place for kids to play right downtown while parents are shopping. Prioritize a visionary place that attracts kids and allows for parents to sit and watch.

This is a priority for me. Green structure is critical.

Fine...just don't let people cut down trees unnecessarily. Perhaps reconsider Nut trees - there squirrel population has really increased the last few years. Plant Fruit trees instead.

Green Space Keep up with on-going improvements and maintenance of existing parks and green spaces, etc.

Green Space Generally supportive. Definitely supportive of Burnside-Gorge getting more green space.

Street Do not install any more outdoor fitness equipment even though the province pays for it. Visit the equipment installed in Beacon Hill across from May Street. Hopefully you have collected data about it and can see for yourself that it is a waste of materials and space. The equipment is not designed to create fitness outcomes. There is no tension on any of the machines. Regardless, they are rarely used and when they are used, it is just children climbing all over them. It has a high ecological cost when you take into account the full life cycle of the equipment. And the program is likely the result of some back-room deal between BC Liberal cronies.

It's great to see such a focus on Parks... and even more is needed. Parks initiatives should rise in priority.

I would actually like to see less investment in parks. I'm all for investing once with native species and then leaving be. I don't know why we need to continue this outdated model of planting flowers year after year or changing things. We have beautiful parks and enough of them.

Bury power lines!

Comment No particular comments other than I don't see any mention of the completion of the public art

Comment No particular comments other than I don't see any mention of the completion of the public art component of the Broad Street revitalization, for which money was collected from local improvement charges years ago and has been carried over for at least a decade year over year without any finalization. Let's get that project done and the disk of asphalt in the sidewalk at the east end of Trounce Alley finally filled with a public art piece.

Comment **Electrical** **Gate of Harmonious** Why is the city responsible for the gate of harmonious interest? Why are we, Jo blow public being asked to comment on electrical switches?

If this is all we need I'm surprized.

More Arts support. Get visionary with Victoria as a gallery of the arts - from alleys to every block or two, there should be a discovery.

streets are terrible due to trucks and large suvs extra tax should be levied on anything bigger than a small car, just like the UK get these obsenitys of the road

Comment No comment.

Reduce light pollution so we can see the splendours of the skies everynight.

Maintenance Nice to see a proactive replacement / maintenance program.

No thoughts at this time.

Less per year is best, we need to tighten the belt of taxation in the City of Victoria.

Comment **Maintenance** No comment, required maintenance.

All new street lights must be bought to allow addition of bike-only signals in the future. The City should also remove all pedestrian "beg buttons" and turn on walking signals by default as per the OCP policy of placing walking above driving.

Looks **Looks Good** Looks good.

Taxes are too high.
People will be leaving the city.

Comment No comment

no

Preserve what we already have opposed to building new things.

Necessary This seems necessary. I doubt the general public is qualified to have an opinion on this.

none

Necessary all necessary

Looks Doesn't look like too much??

Good projects.

Fine fine

Initiatives Support initiative

Excellent.

Ok

Initiatives **Looks** **Looks Good** Initiatives identified look good.

I thought that this small item should have been included in one of the earlier categories.

I agree

Not my area of expertise.

Fine Fine

There is now too much infrastructure on residential sidewalks, mainly telephone poles and parking signs. In the short term please make use of curb painting rather than parking limitations on iron posts. In the long term get rid of telephone poles with buried infrastructure.

Okay.

Chinatown Gate **Gate of Harmonious** **Necessary** Remediation of the Gate of Harmonious Interest is necessary - it's falling apart in Chinatown, and it's hurting the neighbourhood.

Electrical I am not sure what the advantage is of moving an out of sight underground electrical distribution system to an in view above ground facility is?

In regards to the "Gate" it seems obvious that the roof needs to be replaced, if what is stated is true. Rather than spending money on an unnecessary study, put out a request for quotations to Roofing companies to come in with their suggestions and budget for the fix and pick the best and most economic proposal.

I'd like to see some bollards installed on the ends of government street downtown that can be raised and lowered. I'd love to see events like night markets on government street be possible with improvements like that.

I support this work!!

Ok.

Initiatives These initiatives seem to be based on specialized knowledge. I don't think non-specialists should have opinions on these issues.

Comment Please see comments re. the downtown.

-

Comment no comment

Chinatown Gate **Necessary** Sure, fix up the Chinatown Gate if necessary.

no major concerns

OK

do what you have to.

very good

Looks **Looks Good** Looks good.

OK

Instead of structures, art and cultural events attract more people downtown

Initiatives The city should partner with province in obtaining federal building Canada funds in order to deliver the Douglas Street one-way south, Blanshard Street one-way north initiative to ensure road safety and multimodal efficiency now and not waste any more money on having these corridors remain as two-way streets.

bafflegab

At the rate we are turning streets into bike lanes we won't need stop lights. Bike riders don't bother with them anyway.

Let the merchants of that area remediate the gate. It is only to their advantage and should not be a taxpayer responsibility.

Comment no comment - support the work on the Gate

Ok.

Appropriate.

-I don't know, sounds important.

Absolutely fix the gate! It should have been done in 2009 when the first report came out.

Fine **Gate of Harmonious** **Looks** OK as proposed except the Gates of Harmonious Interest as they look fine as is.

I approve.

none

Ok

Chinatown Gate I think the Chinatown gate project should be partially fundraised for by the entire region.

Comment They seem reasonable. Don't know enough to comment further.

Looks China town looks great how about the Ellice house? So close into town and so lovely, How about a premier first Nations place of honour?

Required

Good

Sorry, got an appointment, so have to leave you here.

Fine Fine

????

get r done

Include solar panels at all possible locations.

Maintenance **Necessary** necessary upgrades and maintenance

This is important, or we can't drive. Beautification of gates is not as important.

Sounds good!

Electrical Electrical Kiosk Replacement seems quite vital

NA

Needed.

Electrical **Initiatives** **Maintenance** **Necessary** The Gate is a much-photographed tourist site and also a tribute to the historical contributions of our Chinese population. It deserves to be kept in good condition. The electrical initiatives I don't really understand, but they seem reasonable, and maintenance is necessary on every system.

only do whats needed

Gate of Harmonious Definitely repair the Gate of Harmonious Interest.

Doesn't need to be quite so high a budget. Don't see that the Gates need remediation at all?

Gate of Harmonious Maintaining the Gate of Harmonious Interest should be fully supported.

Go ahead.

Comment No comment

Comment no comment

We need more public art by women! Almost all of the public art in the city is by old white guys. And so is makeup of the committee that chooses the public art (at least it was when I last checked). BUT I want developers to help with these projects (like the one going in at Douglas and Pandora). Let's get more businesses doing cool stuff with public art.

this is not a priority while people live on the streets

1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean
2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.
3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

I support these projects.

Fix the gate

Anything that's a safety issue should be a priority.

Chinatown is a vital part of our inner city. It is a worthwhile investment to make it even more beautiful.

Fibe

No thoughts

Invest more. Do citizen-led placemaking.

Chinatown Gate I think it is wise to find a solution to the deterioration of the Gates in Chinatown.

ok

Maintenance Maintenance is expensive, and New items only added when you have enough staff to keep it up.

Comment No comment

Electrical I really like the nature and historical images on electrical boxes that help them blend in. Collaborate with local artists and share First Nations history on these.. and make sure they actually blend in (I hate the images of bright lime-green plants that make the boxes stick out like a sore thumb!!)

Maintain city support for community pole-painting projects and allow street paint-ins and other "City Repair" type projects led by communities.. these create safer and more engaging public spaces with community involvement rather than City financial input.

Comment no comment

Comment no comment

Fine **Looks** Looks fine.

our roads are a mess generally

Comment no comment.

Chinatown Gate Power switches seem important. Also, gate in Chinatown.

Gate of Harmonious Remove the speaker from the Gate of Harmonious Interest while you are up there.

Fine **Looks** Looks fine.

Street infrastructure project must coincide and coordinate with placemaking and complete streets. They support each other if done properly.

I agree

Spaces for people!

engage camoson and uvic

We would do well to put more energy into creating new, contemporary expressions of public art, and articulating our own legacy. We put a great deal of energy and spending into maintaining an antiquated image of Victoria - the whale wall, hanging baskets - when we could be putting greater investment in creating new works, new expressions of identity, and a contemporary sense of who we are.

I have no opinion.

All essential.

The eastbound portion of the 1000 block of Pandora is in shocking shape.

Looks **Looks Good** looks good

we need to change the time that is allowed to cross the street - we barely make it across the street as it is. As we get older, we need more time. We've seen seniors with walkers who don't make it across and are still walking once the traffic has started against them. As the population ages in place and the more we promote walkability, we have to address this.

Comment No comments

I wonder if these item are priorities?

One project qualifies as street infrastructure?

Fine Sounds fine

Necessary Street infrastructure is a necessary function of this is not going to fall into disrepair.

The amount of \$ being allocated would probably only pay for one project.

sorry, I've run out of time to consider all these questions! I'll just be clicking on through...

Seems balanced.

If the gate needs an update, update it. It is a significant piece of Victoria.

Crystal Pool Demolish Crystal Pool, and build something nice! Or sell the land.

I recommend that the City proceed to sell off the Centennial Square parkade, and the arcade building to a private developer and use the funds from the sale for the upgrade of City Hall and the square as a whole, as part of a comprehensive Centennial Square renewal. This has been proposed for years yet nothing has happened. It seems absurd to sink yet more into these deteriorating and frankly ugly facilities when they should be demolished and replace with more attractive, active and vital uses including an active ground plane, destination uses on site and perhaps even hotel and residential.

privatize at least one of the parkades if they are money losing items.

Drop the new IT server room for the VicPD and the City. The VicPD are already in a relatively brand-new building this spending is excessive and unnecessary.

Why is an asset management software program considered a capital purchase?

Seems a good time to maintain our facilities, it's never less in the future.

good

Sell the Centennial Square parkade for tear down and development of living and commercial below.

This is a great place for subsidized housing mixed with office spaces for local admins. Create an experimental Developer/City partnership where there is return for the City but incentive for the developer, plus the space as a 'living amenity' for local groups.

to much spending on union jobs has to stop 1 person can cover at lease 3 positions in the city

Green roofs?

Earthquake safety enhance ments.

Community Centres **Plan** In the future, a plan to reevaluate how community based facilities are structured to provide services would be very relevant. What do these facilities need to continue to be relevant community hubs into the future? What additional structural elements could be needed? What is not useful?

Space can determine activity and can be a limiting factor to what a centre can do. Collaborative approaches to design and planning could allow the city to leverage additional resources from private developers.

to design and planning could allow the city to leverage additional resources from private developers, donors, or grants.

I have heard the phrase "It is at the end of its useful life so we must replace it" far too many times during a long engineering career (closer to home, one could contemplate the blue bridge replacement fiasco). Every one of these projects should be justified on a cost-benefit or safety basis, NOT banal phrases like "end of useful life" which, in my experience are often used to ensure department budgets and staff levels are not reduced.

Crystal Pool **Plan** Seems reasonable. We need a long term plan for Crystal Pool.

Take 10% out of this budget and push it into next year, it is time to start cutting back, some of this work could be scheduled for a later time.

Comment No comment

Necessary **Repairs** It never ceases to amaze how proficient bureaucracies are at finding things that need repairing. Having said that, repair what is necessary but be sure it is necessary not just desirable.

The City should redevelop Centennial Arcade, as the current building doesn't meet the needs of anybody. A new building should have multiple cafes and shops fronting onto the square.

1. Consider demolition of Centennial Square arcade to open up the square vs remediation
2. Sell Convention Centre as is - transfer risk and operational responsibility to a not for profit corporation

Taxes are too high. People will be fleeing the city because they can't afford it.

Crystal Pool I notice the Crystal Pool is not on your list here.

Rehabilitation of the View Street arcade would be a no-brainer.

Important All important to do.

much needed

Costs **Downtown** If that much money is going into parkades creating more parking reduce the amount it costs to park downtown.

Necessary This seems necessary. But the budget could be reduced, in order to reduce property taxes.

MOre could be done to enhance our parkades

Parkade's are hip again. Good job

Good.

If you are replacing the roof to city hall, would it be possible to put in a green or living roof. It would be fitting

for the garden city.

Need a new FireHall #1. If there's a significant earthquake we have a MAJOR problem. In my view, City Hall is being negligent on this issue unless they move it on it asap.

The City should contract out parkade administration.

just keep them clean and well lit

Community Centres City funds spent on community centres should be redistributed to Centres and other facilities that provide FREE services to vulnerable citizens.

Necessary Necessary.

Necessary PRD-083 PRD-008

Not convinced these expenditures are necessary.

Do partnership with Y and get rid of Crystal

Crystal Pool Close Crystal Pool and cancel 270,000 expenditure. The facility is far beyond its useful life cycle and should be demolished.

Plan What is the long-term plan?

Necessary Necessary expenses.

Initiatives identified look good.

Downtown **Important** Although the new rules for downtown parkade use are well thought-out, and create incentives to use the parkades rather than street parking, I usually walk downtown and seldom use the parkades. It is not clear why the facilities budget is as large as proposed. However, there are items like the proposed James Bay branch library development within the Capital Park project that unfortunately seem to have been left out of facilities budget. Move funding around to accommodate this important project.

I would hope that is the study to replace Firehall #1 that a broader more regional approach will be considered before any replacement is initiated

I'm not an expert on most of these but I do know its 2015 and hosting your own servers seems a bit backward.

Is it possible that data acquisition for new facility management system and the assesement of the facilities can be a combined task and be more efficient.

Indication of age of systems and components scheduled for replacment would help define the need.

Plan **Revenue** Sell some of those parking spaces for other purposes, as quickly as public transit ridership increases with the efficient upgrades that are planned for that. Some US cities have converted entire parking buildings to housing or other revenue options including top floor restaurants!

Comment **Costs** **Revenue** See earlier comments on parkades. I am assuming that all of the projects are needed to protect the current structures and the people who use them. However, the City should do a cost/benefit analysis on whether or not it should be in the parking "business" in the long term. At some point the parkades will cost more than they generate in revenue.

Plan More money being spent of assessments and plans. Just dust off the existing documents and get busy. Why spend more taxpayers money to get the answers that you already know?

Crystal Pool - disappointed with slow pace on Crystal Pool and Fire Hall facility projects

Costs **Important** This is one of the most important aspects of city management in the maintenance and longterm viability of the facilities described. One has to believe that the process will be monitored closely and not allowed to get out of hand. The majority of Government projects at all levels are seldom brought in "on budget and on time" to coin a phrase. Most infrastructure projects have cost over runs from 20-30% even over the so called budgeting for contingencies. case in point "The Blue Bridge"

Costs **Crystal Pool** **Repairs** **Revenue** I hope the Crystal Pool will be replaced someday soon as it takes of lot of money to keep it operating.

I the funds allocated to the Conference center repairs and improvements, and at the same time, would like to see more revenues generated to cover those costs.

Downtown Parkades encourage motorists to drive to the downtown core. Victoria needs less people driving cars and more people taking public transit/cycling/walking. City council needs to change the culture around driving in Victoria, a town that loves to drive (and drive poorly)

It's great to see the City encouraging parkade use this year.

Ever thought about hosting events in them? Driving a couple food trucks up to the top and installing a stage or projection screen would make a pretty amazing cultural venue there around sunset.

Comment **Downtown** Please see comments re. downtown, and budget % increases.

Necessary \$300,000 on a facilities assessment and \$100,000 for software seems confusing. Why would data transfer be necessary if a new assessment is being done this year?

-

I am supportive of these initiatives.

Repairs Make any upgrades to parkades happen fast. Losing numerous parking spaces to repairs for weeks on end is a nuisance (eg. Johnson Street).

no major concerns

OK

Costs **Repairs** Fire hall assessment seems a bit steep. Is it the cost of outside consultants?

It's good to see so much thought going in to repair and replacement of items deemed "nearing the end of their useful life".

Costs looks reasonable, costs are what they are

Looks good.

OK

Would like to see dedicated floor in each parkade for bike parking.

Downtown **Important** Safe parking is important to attract downtown visitors as well as enhanced bike parking

The City should avail itself of the most modest accommodations possible. Lord knows we pay exorbitant wages and benefits to you, and other employees.

I think that were we to portray ourselves as a modest, and beautiful, and classical, community, we would attract more world attention.

none

Jeez you guys, I know you want to do things right, but 15,000 to *design* some new sinks is a little out there...

more covered bike parking, this can be done onstreet by converting a few automobile parking places. There are a few places where bicycle locking sites are inadequate or lacking. The corner of View and Broad comes to mind, where I can never find a place to lock my bike except parking meters. While inappropriate, there is no alternative.

If it has an immediate benefit, yes. If it takes 20 years to amortize, let's face it, it will need more before it is paid for.

My only concerns would be that where life cycle assessments of infrastructure have been identified, the expenditures make sense within the context of the anticipated lifespan of the facility. It would seem foolish to install new heaters, etc into buildings that only have a few years left. If this has been addressed then I'm good as I can see clear benefits or requirements for the work in virtually every case.

Ok.

Necessary I support these necessary initiatives for 2015.

Community Centres **Important** -I think "energy upgrades" are important to save money and reduce the waste of energy.

-I think "heating upgrades" to reuse exhaust air is a sustainable idea.

-I think upgrades to community centres are important.

-I think upgrades to public facilities such as washrooms is important for public health.

-I think remediation and upgrades of heritage buildings is important to increase their sustainability (ie. energy efficiency) and maintain their cultural value within the community.

Repairs It appears that repairs and maintenance of City buildings has been rather neglected over the past few years. There is certainly a lot to be done. In view of this do we really need to spend money on art in the parkades? I am concerned about mention of the sidewalk being removed in front of city hall for a bike lane? I'm not sure why we are spending so much money providing bike lanes when most of the time they are empty and only about 15% of the population bikes to commute? It's getting a little tiresome.

Crystal Pool **Repairs** Please do the requisite improvements and upgrades to Crystal Pool so that the repairs do not continue to nickle and dime us. Keep it public.

Why does the new police building need this much remediation? Who is accountable for this?

I think some of these need to be prioritized and others could be postponed.

Costs I like the emphasis on reducing energy costs when fixing/upgrading.

Much appreciated. Hate street parking especially with a truck for deliveries.

The Police station is a fairly new building. The envelope and cladding failures should be charged back to the original builder.

Good

Fine

Important **Repairs** These kind of upgrades and repairs are important. This seems like a lot of money but the impact of having all these jobs done will be so positive for the people who frequently utilize these facilities.

Crystal Pool **Plan** Close the Crystal pool, nobody uses it. Consider options for RAP with demise of Highlanders and Victoria United and the questionable status of Harbourcats, what is plan B?

???

neutral

Energy conservation upgrades should be a priority.

WOW. Keep on top of the maintenance!

Necessary necessary upgrades and maintenance

Downtown Its very hard to park downtown, and so easy to get a ticket.

Community Centres 1) upgrade vic west community centre. its old and really needs it

2) the public works yards need to be good places to work

3) upgrades to beacon hill park facilities

NA

We need more public bathrooms (and showers) around the city. Stop focusing on parking so much - instead, encourage people to walk/bike/bus.

Downtown Personally, I don't really care about parkade upgrades, as a non-driver. I suppose they'd add to people's sense of security when parking there, and that would feed into the initiative to keep people from parking on the road, getting tickets, and then complaining. (Which causes car-dependent people to avoid downtown, anecdotally, and therefore is negative for downtown businesses). Doesn't affect me personally, though.

I'm strongly in favour of energy conservation upgrades, however.

Comment No comments.

Costs For example the money saved on energy conservation is soon recovered in lee energy costs. you only have to buy insulation once, it's payback is in maybe two years then the costs remain in the City's coffers.

See a lot of energy upgrades but no mention of adopting solar panels on any of these buildings. Why not? I am also concerned about the amount targeted for the relatively new Police building. I don't see why they need all that money for a building that is almost new.

Necessary Necessary work.

Important Very important.

much less money should be spent on parkades. The parkades do not need rehabilitation.

Comment no comment

City has no business operating parkades

Comment no comment

Revenue I am extremely supportive of the innovation happening with parking right now. There is so much more that can be done with our parkades to bring in revenue, including public markets on weekends. It would be helpful if I understood the proposed spending relative to the revenue brought in by parking.

why are our tax dollars supporting people who drive cars? I don't drive a car, can I have a tax refund?
Parking and other car supports should be supported entirely by user fees and payments by businesses that benefit.

- Downtown** **Important** 1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean
2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.
3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

I support these projects.

Downtown if fixings this up makes downtown parking better then go for it!

Crystal Pool \$750,000 to redo the outside of the police station? Surely the mold can be handled and this can be reassessed. Spend this money on redoing the crystal pool instead.

Downtown Bastion Square should be the hub of downtown. Creating a pedestrian street area would help downtown to rival malls such as Uptown.

Costs User fees should subsidize the costs

No thoughts

Downtown Apply placemaking and wayfinding principles downtown, to parkades and the plazas / spaces connected to them.

I think most are fine, but I do wish the city would find a way to change the Centennial Parkade in such a way that it doesn't deaden all the area it does on that corner of Centennial Square.

Centennial Square is not as inviting as it should be, a BIG idea would have been to put the Victoria Public Market in the NE corner. Perhaps a simple solution would be to allow food trucks into the square at lunchtimes and on weekends so people can easily get food and enjoy the open space and sunshine...

ok

City Hall and other properties with Flat roof designs, should have them changed to at least a 10% slope with a gutter system, to help prevent the tar/gravel from developing pockets and collecting water to weaken the life of the roof.

The longer life of the roof and less chance of developing leaks.

The parkade work needs to be done but there appears to be no consideration for implementing secure bike parking at the same time. I think this is a miss.

Comment No comment.

Downtown seems high but not sure? as long as cars are not being encouraged to be driven incentives for

bikers downtown would be great...

I am chewing on this one.

Crystal Pool I do not agree that Crystal Pool should be upgraded or replaced. We have numerous modern recreation facilities (particularly pools) in the Victoria area now, and this one is un-needed and wasteful.

I wish there was secure bike parking in the parkades. What they do have is mediocre at best. The bike parking area should be clearly marked and really well lit.

Less spending on parkades and more spending on cycling infrastructure.

Comment no comments

Comment **Crystal Pool** I am happy that a review of all city facilities is being done, a bit shocked that it hadn't been done already. I am very concerned that the Crystal Pool will be bumped down the priority list. This is a critical central city recreation facility.

I don't have time to review all the projects listed so will not comment on whether the budget amount is appropriate.

Necessary **Repairs** They all appear to be necessary repairs and maintenance that need to be undertaken.

Revenue doesn't the revenue from the parkades cover this..

Why is more than twice the budget of Parks being spent on what seems to be mostly parkades??
Everyone can use a park. What's the percentage of people who use a parkade?

These buildings need to be seismically safe.

Comment no specific comments

Sounds good. Keep the parkade jobs!

Maybe these could go to community centers. (I know its scary if you bring people together in spaces where they aren't paying to be entertained or intoxicated.)

These facilities do need upgrading, but I think this could be done for much less than the proposed spending amount. Parking will not be as much of an issue if we have a better transportation network (biking, bus, walking).

Many of these things can wait...the roofs you reference look mostly fine to me...

Costs I do not support spending money on more car infrastructure like the parkades. I would like parking to operate on a fully cost recovery basis and not have my tax dollars going to storing other people's cars.

Costs I would front load as much spending here as possible to avoid higher electricity rates; there are mechanisms to get funding and financing for these projects that could really help the City avoid future costs.

Make sure you have competent project managers

Revenue gather increased revenue from parking prior to spending it on - use interest

Community Centres **Revenue** Have community associations pay a much higher portion of the maintain of community centres from own source revenue.

Downtown A new downtown public library facility is long overdue.

In general, I am less concerned with parkade maintenance and more concerned with spending money on sustainable transportation.

The public art on parkades project is one the best initiatives I have seen in Victoria in a very long time. Every grey wall expresses a lack of vision and creativity, and imposes those limitations onto others.

Plan More emphasis on infrastructure that is in line with smart planning,

Important It is important to maintain existing facilities.

Revenue Sell the parking lots, get out of that business. Just stick with on-street parking as a source of revenue.

Community Centres Pleased to see community centres on the list. Fairfield provides an excellent program for the community.

Put more funding into cycling infrastructure

that's a lot of money on parkades - do they pay for themselves

Looks fine

Plan were is green energy in the planning such as solar or thermal?

Important Ongoing capital investments and maintenance are important!

They look fine.

Comment No comment.

Reduce the facilities initiative, i'm seeing paint jobs and very little improvement. Good enough as is, redirect in more socially performing initiatives.

Community Centres **Crystal Pool** **Plan** Several community centres are to receive needed remediation. For longer-term planning, don't forget that at least 2 other neighbourhood associations do not have a community centre.

Remediate the Crystal Pool as indicated; don't replace it.

Costs The proposed expenses are provided along with non-quantitative arguments such as "inefficient", "end-of-life", etc. I would not proceed with a single project unless supported by a complete AND POSITIVE business case which fully considers both capital and operating costs.

Sounds good.

Only question that comes to mind is: is too much money being spent maintaining old buildings that would be better being replaced.?

Off street parking in the Parkades is critical to reduce on street parking and increase bike lanes.

Fine.

It would be helpful to include an estimate ROI calculation on projects that return savings through implementation.

Comment no comments due to time

I'd rather see 2 million of this go to: housing, projects that foster more mental health care models, education, alleviation of poverty projects. Even 2.5 million.

Community Centres Looks good. Fairfield Gonzales Community Centre upgrades will be welcome.

I like parkades with commercial on the ground floor. Why don't we do this. Otherwise- this looks good.

Bury more power lines!

Comment No comments. Seems to be a comprehensive program of upgrades and replacements that continues to chip away at the infrastructure deficit.

Infrastructure deficit... need i say more?

Sewage Treatment this does not include sewage treatment initiative?

The more we do underground now, the less it will cost going forward.

Very important work.

Necessary necessary

needs done vic is 20 years behind the rest of the world with services

The city could consider its own fibre initiative to help the burgeoning tech community.

Significant and needed, maybe we can install an optical network while we dig up the streets?

REPLACE THE STORM WATER PIPES AND SEWAGE SYSTEM IN OAK BAY AND VICTORIA THAT LEAK INTO THE OCEAN

Sewage Treatment We should have had sewage treatment several decades ago and I fear we will never get it let alone first class tertiary treatment.

GET VICTORIA AND OAK BAY TO STOP POLLUTING THE OCEAN WITH SHIT AND CHEMICALS

This category should be significantly increased because we are going to build a sewage plant that has +- 30% (or more) of its capacity required to process non-sewage I&I streams ... what UTTER NONSENSE! Any sensible assessment of capital budget priorities would conclude other categories must be reduced for an interim period so work on this one can be accelerated.

Sewer System It is time to look at turning over the sewer system to a private corporation for huge savings to the public.

Comment No comment

Anytime the city pulls up a street to replace underground infrastructure is an opportunity to widen sidewalks and add protected bike lanes.

Look for opportunities to improve roads at the same time

Build only what is needed.

Taxes are too high.

Projects I think there should be some hard comparisons made between using City crews vs private companies. City crews are not very efficient (many trucks and workers, with short visits spread out over many days...inefficient use of their time to make multiple visits to the same worksite). Sorry, but I don't trust them to do a large infrastructure upgrade project.

Sewage Treatment Does this include a sewage treatment plant?

We are going to be seeing a repeat of pipes breaking like we have in Saanich and Oak Bay. Might be an idea to give it some thought.

Support Support - critical to make sure the fundamental needs are met - all important items.

needed work

Expensive **Projects** This is very expensive work. Do you put the projects out to RFP?

stormwater utility is overkill

Necessary Necessary and good.

Funding Are there any funds allocated for the lack of waste treatment facility in Victoria?

Fine fine

The stormwater utility is another taxpayer gouge. Do not implement this!

it has to get done - without any further delay

How much is Esquimalt contributing to this initiative? What is the cost sharing formula?

Necessary Very very important. Spend whatever is necessary.

OK

Necessary Very important and necessary.

Necessary **Underground Utilities** The underground utilities system is one of the areas where the so-called infrastructure deficit is acute. Often, however, replacements and repairs of this system, also lead to the need for road repairs, so that good co-ordination is required across departments. The sewage issue for most of the players in the CRD remains a thorny one, and capital reserves need to be put aside for the time when the necessary modern plant needs to be constructed, whichever parts of the CRD team up to build it (or them).

absolutely critical to get and stay up to date with this type of infrastructure maintenance and replacement

Fine Outside my scope of knowledge but I am always suspicious when people talk about 'expected life expectancy'. The Charles Bridge in Prague is over 600 years old and still works fine.

Underground Utilities Install more water absorbing or diversions of rainfall; but, spend more money on moving utilities that are now on telephone posts to underground infrastructure.

Projects There is no choice here. these projects need to be carried out. But it does seem like we are throwing good money after bad as we wait for a comprehensive approach to handling our sewage.

Sewer System In regard to the Sewer system: it seems inevitable notwithstanding the opinion of Scientists and Medical Health officials that our current system (by fortunate fluke of Nature) of screening and dilution is probably the most environmentally friendly way of dealing with our effluent that it will be replaced with a Sewage concentration system. This resulting in a concentrated toxic mass of material the disposal of which hasn't been determined. Any upgrades or replacements of the existing system should be done only if such changes are consistent with whatever plan is adopted for the region going forward. Let's not waste money doing things twice.

Necessary **Support** I fully support this necessary work to be done!!

Good. High priority issue.

money could be saved by educating the public and working to changing the culture around garbage and grease disposal.

Gotta keep the plumbing sound. We are evidently doing better than some other cities in North America, where water main failures and sinkholes are much more common.

Respectfully, this is approximately 4-5 Mayors/Councils too late, and as a result, taxpayers must brace

respectively, this is approximately 40 mayors/councils too late, and as a result, taxpayers must brace themselves for major expenditures which should have routinely occurred decades ago.

The expenditures proposed are interesting, but long term neglect to avoid political pain; (i.e. infrastructure failures), may dictate that these budgeted amounts are inadequate.

If so, where will the money come from?

-

Comment No comment.

I have none.

no major concerns

OK

more than I can comprehend re sewers. I guess you don't appreciate them until they malfunction.

Sewage Treatment ideas are good, but hopefully with consideration of future sewage treatment plans

Again, I don't really have a sense of what an appropriate amount would be. But, after reading through the PDF, it sounds pretty good.

I not good on sewers.

OK

Why not wait until the sewage plan is confirmed and coordinate underground structures

Modernising is paramount

No ideas.

Expensive Again, shits expensive yo. Looks like you need to figure out how to be more efficient with that money you steal from all of us...

Necessary **Sewage Treatment** There will need to be a lot of work done here to make Victoria's use sustainable and a model for others. Plant based sewage treatment should be the goal as it has shown its viability elsewhere. However it is going to cost an enormous amount of money. This will be necessary for sustainability and climate change goals.

My random and perhaps off topic thoughts:

I would like to see planning and bylaw work undertaken to make the incorporation of rainwater capture (tied into roofs, eaves) a requirement for renovation, new construction. The tank would still connect with the storm water drain but we could do a better job of capturing at least some of our seasonal water to reduce pressure on drinking water sources (i.e. through rainwater lawn watering practices, car washing, etc)

Reference is made to more frequent monitoring of water meters. barring hiring more meter readers, this

suggests doing to a BC Hydro style wireless system. Not the best idea in my personal opinion - unnecessarily raises a source of conflict and distracts from other work.

Ok.

Support Appropriate and supported.

-I think maintaining and improving water distribution, stormwater and waste systems is very important for water is the most important resource on Earth, and managing human waste and stormwater is important for mitigating negative environmental impacts etc.

Necessary Absolutely necessary.

I approve.

On Garbage day, everybody can put there container on the street, we could save here some workers.

Everybody can clean there street and walkway infront of there house!

Save here some money!

Sewerage may not be glamorous but it sure is important. I'm glad to see that it is being kept up - I know that this is one area some cash-strapped cities tend to skimp on and it comes back to bite them later. The rainwater catchment gardens are a good idea too.

REally important to keep our groundwater safe and to manage the remnants of our streams and wetland.

Sewage Treatment Unfortunately required. Delay of some work until sewage treatment direction is decidedis a positive step.

Awesome! Addresses some previous concerns

Good

Effective and timely maintenance is important and it reduces the need for expenditures on catastrophic failures that otherwise are likely to occur.

Give people an incentive to connect to the storm water system - the \$5k connection fee will only ensure people will not get permits or fix their perimeter drains.

Part of what makes this part of the world so incredible is the infrastructure we are blessed with. One must maintain and repair our systems as needed. These aren't "flashy" expenditures but they are essential to the functioning of our community.

????

important

Great, keep it up!

Is managing the water distribution system for Esquimalt part of regional leadership? Do they share the cost?

That is very important. Please keep the garbage out of the ocean.

NA

Needed.

Sewage Treatment From the proposed list I found it difficult to tell whether the \$11 million is meant to include any sewage treatment program - or even the start of building one - and I feel we need to make that a priority. I've clicked 'just right' - but if this doesn't include treatment, then we're not going anywhere near far enough.

Sewer System Should the replacement of water and sewer mains not be done before a new sewage disposal system is being contemplated and built?

Comment No comments.

no sewer treatment. wait. technology will give us a better answer, soon.

Necessary Necessary work.

Good.

Funding **Projects** lobby to secure more senior government funding for these projects

Support This is an area the City is doing a great job. We totally support the continued work in this area.

Comment **Necessary** **Projects** Isolating sewage from storm is a necessary step. I'm not knowledgeable enough to comment on the remaining projects.

Please don't choose so called- "smart" meters to replace failing water meters. I am currently part of a class action against BC Hydro's implementation of their new meter program. Many believe that this technology is dangerous to health and invades privacy.

Comment **Projects** This is a huge and important area. Please see my first comment about public works. Are the teams working efficiently. Are projects well-planned so that they tie into things like urban village enhancement and beautification? Let's not dig up the road more than once. Let's do things right the first time, starting with great planning and consultation. Replacing sewers should trigger consultation as much as a big housing development. They have similar impacts on neighbourhoods.

1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean
2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.

3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

Projects **Support** I support these projects. My guess is that the City should be spending more in these areas but I don't have the information to assess.

Seems pretty important!

This is much needed work.

Fine Fine

Necessary sounds pretty necessary

ok

All the improvements are needed to continued good service and maintenance,
I would strongly recommend, though, that BC Hydro, BC Tel, Water Dept. and Gas Dept.,
All get together and work the sections one at a time, as a unit, so as not to have to dig up and redo all the
roadwork that has just been repaired.
These services all need to work Together AS A Team. !!
Save some money in the Long Run !

daylighting original streams should be considered an option for stormwater treatment and beautification

Comment No comment.

Comment educate folks about why to care for waterways..

no garbage down drains, stop garbarators, etc...

ALSO a point: on next question we are not allowed to comment. not cool.

what do most folks get for dental coverage? that is what city councilours should get. no more, no less.
respect.

This is a critical area of infrastructure that needs urgent attention

The City, when it's already planning to work under our streets, should also put underground the cables
running between telephone poles. Those cables and poles are perhaps the ugliest aspect of our
neighbourhoods. The cost of maintaining cables and poles could actually decrease if we put the cables
underground and stop replacing poles.

Expensive I am going to assume these are all reasonable expenses.

Necessary More necessary work that needs continued investment.

Comment no specific comments

I don't know anything about water management. I trust you know more than I do and will do well.

Projects Consider projects for modernizing the current stormwater systems with new water technologies

that cost less to maintain for the future. Cost of below grade work for future projects will possibly be higher than anticipated due to the technical nature and the amount of ground disturbance. Consider larger contingencies for these projects.

Find efficiencies here to minimize as much as possible this capital cost.

Fine Looks fine...

Sewer System **Underground Utilities** Living in an earthquake zone makes underground utilities especially vulnerable. We should consider distributed sewer treatment systems as a way of not "putting all our eggs in one basket." There are many lessons to learn about underground systems from the Christchurch experience.

Comment Not appropriate to comment on as these intended to self-sustaining utilities

Support **Underground Utilities** Yes, very important. I want stormwater to be treated. I support the storm water utility to pay for repairs and upgrades. Underground utility upgrades should be coordinated with street upgrades that include wider sidewalks, bike infrastructure and narrower car travel lanes.

The city has done some great work in looking at what we have underneath us and how to keep it in working order.

Projects link with development projects, increase DCC rates, get national grants for best practices link to a municipal RRSP bond

These are of course vital.

Sewage Treatment I didn't see the mention of a sewage treatment plant in here, perhaps I missed it?

This is critically important. Not clear why a rain garden is needed at the public works yard.

Do it.

STOP THE SEWAGE FROM RUNNING IN THE OCEAN WHEN IT RAINS. FIRST THING.

a lot of focus on storm water management happening below ground. why not implment by-laws forcing new developments or parking areas to deal with the water above ground. slow the infiltration rates and deal with it before it hits the pipes

Expensive the assessments seem expensive, even if over years.

when are we actually going to start planning for the raw sewage getting dumped into the ocean??

Necessary Necessary and important.

Comment No comments

I defer to your authority on this issue.

Funding Seek more federal, provincial funding and halve the cost instead of buying F-35s.

Comment **Projects** I cannot comment on individual projects; however, I would much rather see such infrastructure work proceed over beautification and "shiny object" projects. My only plea is to tender such projects in order to assure best value for money.c

I hope that disaster planning is being considered with the location and design of utilities to minimize damage and maximize keeping roads open in emergencies such as an earthquake.

Funding Given the age of infrastructure this is a must. The City needs to make a priority out of pursuing federal funding for this!

Comment no comments due to time

Seems like a lot!!

While the initiatives look good,less money should be spent here by increasing the productivity of work crews. It's a common sight to see multiple city workers at a work site when fewer are needed. Reallocation of the workforce to be more effective or more jobs needs to happen.

ya sure

Area **Downtown Core** **Economic Development** We need to focus on downtown, our key asset and economic comparative advantage. We should marry all downtown placemaking and public realm improvements with a downtown focused economic development function, perhaps through the establishment of a Downtown Office. I should say that my definition of downtown includes the entire Downtown Core Area Plan area and the parts of Vic West included in the Urban Core designation in the OCP.

Local Local Living wage. Give preferential treatment to local enterprise.

Cut red tape.

Develop the parking lot by the water in the harbour --almost anything is better than a parking lot.

Economic Development Because all the work done by Sage Baker was kept in camera, it is impossible to tell, as a member of the public what has been done for economic development? I think a new economic development office is a gimmicky idea and if it goes forward, caution needs to be taken to ensure that its mandate is both useful (does not duplicate efforts of others) and us effective.

I feel this should be one of the council's top priorities this term. There is negative momentum economically that, unless turned around, will cause many other aspects of city governance to deteriorate, ie: public safety, beautification, tax base, etc

Residents **Support** **Support Businesses** **Tourism** We need a balanced economy, my focus would be:

1. youth through supporting high tech businesses and by creating a more livable, walkable, bikable, sidewalk café friendly downtown
2. visitation through enhanced tourism, festivals, cultural events, and better use of the convention centre

3. attract retirement residents through senior friendly facilities and infrastructure, clinics and wellness, public transit

4. bring retail back to downtown through a less brutal and costly parking and parking fines policy. If street parking was free the city would still work, the a pay parkades would actually get used and we could compete with the malls again.

Benefit Let the corporate sector pay - they are the ones that will benefit.

Take my taxes to address mental illness and homeless problems and let the business crowd pay their own way.

Economic Development Make money with what you have. Listen to what people want. Look to cities who are doing it already.

The Economic Development Office is a good idea, but find another way to fund it in the budget.

What if this office was actually community driven - by a mix of City, professionals and ordinary people with ideas?

on the previous page you talked about a dental plan for councillors. i think you are asking an unclear question. are you asking is \$15000 a decent price for THE CITY to pay for ALL of the councillors dental plans for the year? There are 8 councillors correct? Give the full information in the question. make answering the question clear and easy. No 15000 is too much to spend.

Economic Development **People will want to Live** I believe that community engagement spawns economic development. Asking and involving people who live in their own community will see a higher rate of involvement and cohesive spirit. Micro projects will provide the greatest rewards to the city and the people who are empowered. Start small, and provide opportunity for input.

Small Business Literally cut the red tape and continue to empower all staff at city hall. I once worked for a company called Peer One Networks (global internet service infrastructure) based in Vancouver. It was a small start up in early 2000 that was sold for about \$300M. Their tagline was "people powered". Yes, Peer One had global internet access points that rivalled the big players, but let me tell you - customer service was paramount to their success and still is today. You folks hired that fellow that use to work at The Empress Hotel to work in the lobby of city hall. Can't remember his name, but that was smart. He is a super friendly guy and that is what we need at City Hall. Have fun and make people not be scared to go in to conduct business there. Could probably take some pointers from Langford too. :)

Economic Development **Tourists** there is no economic development here just a group of hippies taking about it there is no real business in vic only tourist stuff

Attract Actively work to attract as many investors and secondary/tertiary offices from tech companies in Vancouver, Seattle, San Francisco, etc.

We have a smart workforce, and competitively priced environment.

IT IS SO NOISY DOWNTOWN I DO NOT GO THERE NOW

Economic Development In the previous question \$15K/yr is more than the avg \$13k/yr I have made for 31 yrs of adult life-my medical expenses must come out of my half the poverty line income.The city should be spending millions more on economic development but even if we grew the pie 1000 fold, if the money isn't shared fairly (and it never is under capitalism), it's meaningless.Crapitalism can't share, be fair and doesn't care.If we can't live with any level of comfort and dignity than maybe we should all have access to euthanasia instead.

I expect to see measureables.

Attract Create a smoother development process that attracts investors rather than syndicators or developers using layer financial schemes to finance unviable projects aside from those who collect fees. Create a level playing feild rather than one that favors elites who have the wherewithal to hold and retain properties for generations. Work together to provide space and facilities that we wish to have locate in Victoria. Work together with business groups to promote the region elsewhere.

THE CITY WAS NICE AND QUIET IN 1974. NOW IT IS AN UNBEARABLE RACKIT. TOO NOISY. THAT IS WHY I STAY AWAY FROM DOWNTOWN

Local Local **Support** **Support Businesses** We should consider how to best incubate businesses that serve both local needs and that export from Victoria/Vancouver Island. Some ideas to consider may include keeping commercial and industrial property taxes from rising, especially for non-retail properties; supporting existing business and entrepreneurship development programs; creating an ombudsman to help businesses navigate processes at the city; and supporting the creation of quality space for businesses.

safe lane width is 12 foot not 8 like most road here

Economic Development Downtown businesses generally will not flourish as long as we do not address the complex problem of street people. Economic development needs to be considered in a regional context, not in the balkanized, dysfunctional, competitive zero sum mode that exists currently among the ridiculous number of tiny municipalities.

Area **Downtown Core** **Economic Development** **Encourage** **Grow** **Small Business** **Support** **Support Businesses** **Tourists** First, why was there no details on the previous page of the survey (on health/dental plan for councillors)? Second, why was there no text box for comments? I chose no because there were no details, which is absurd compared to the amount of detail provided for all the other sections.

That being said, I think economic development is one of the most important parts of the budget. There is a real need to support businesses in the downtown core to ensure a vibrant and sustainable city.

I feel that more effort needs to spent in this area. I think \$250k may be a good place to start this year, but that if that investment is effective then it should likely grow. It will be essential to evaluate the effectiveness of this program when considering spending more money (i.e. have a concreate list of actions, as is the case

for the other departments).

Specific recommendations:

- Review the business tax structure. I don't own a business, but I keep hearing from business owners that it's more affordable to move their businesses to Uptown or Langford.
- Encourage businesses that are complimentary to the neighbourhood. For example, restaurants and pubs together, clothing stores in a block/street. People are often shopping for particular things, so if there are multiple opportunities they are more likely to visit multiple stores. Also, if a street becomes known as a destination, more people will visit/shop.
- Continue work to improve parking downtown. On street parking is very hard to find. The parkade changes are a good idea. Keep looking for other ways to improve parking.
- Look at finding a way to support the tech sector. There are lots of small businesses around downtown. Let's make sure they want to stay downtown.
- Survey people who come downtown to find out what is drawing them there.
- Market areas of the city for tourists.

Start cutting the red tape, permits and proposals need to be fast tracked in all cases.

Economic Development **Support** This is a critical issue for the City, one which will be difficult to gain traction on as long as the 13 municipalities are in competition with each other.

The economic development budget should be increased to something substantial - probably 10-15 times what it is now - for starters. For Victoria to spend what is basically a couple of salaries means there is very little chance of success. A properly sized focus on economic development will return multiples back to the city coffers and help create a vibrant and sustainable city - one that is not simply supported by the fact the provincial Government sits here.

Attract **Growth** The question is, do you? When you have discovered what kind of economic activity is suitable for Victoria then you can work on attracting it. At the moment the only viable industry for growth seems to be high tech. Until you find an alternative or addition you need to find if what it takes to attract this industry is worth the cost. Check out what happened to Ireland for being "sucked in" by pie in the sky promises that extracted huge tax concessions.

Economic Development Any economic development should be done at the regional level.

Yes! Ec dev and vibrancy/ bike/pedestrians are closely related!

Economic Development **Encourage** **Growth** **New Businesses** 1. Demonstrate leadership and develop an innovative, collaborative economic development strategy for the entire region. Take a systems thinking approach, and rise above the vested interests and inertia.

2. Aspire to realize Greater Victoria's potential as a middle-weight global city (like Edmonton or Halifax are).

3. Make strategic choices about the kind of economy we want to develop, and the type of economic clusters

we want to encourage to form and flourish here - especially advanced industries that are the driving engines of economic growth and prosperity, such as :

- a. Science and Engineering - esp - Marine Sector and Energy and Environmental innovation
- b. Computer and Data eg the Internet of Everything
- c. Light industry/manufacturing- eg robotics, 3D printing
- d. Telecommunications
- e. Film and New Media, and the creative industries
- f. Life sciences and biotech

4. Create a multi-city network -the emerging economic model of the future - with other cities that share economic sectors, trade and transportation links and a willingness to do business together.

5. Identify and commit to game-changing initiatives/investments or policies that will create a quantum shift in our eco-system.

6. Once the City has set the strategy, made investments and implemented new policies and initiatives, get out of the way and let the private sector and market forces work.

Downtown Core Business in downtown Victoria is dying. I have lived here almost 30 years and my use of services in downtown Victoria have decreased by 80% in the last 8 years. I don't like taking my children downtown, as encountering junkies shooting up in parkades or smoking crack or meth in doorways is a huge discouragement. The only professional service my family uses downtown now is our dentist. Every other service we use is outside the core in Saanich, Oak Bay or Esquimalt.

Tax people less and get out of the peoples way. Taxes are killing people.

I invest my money outside victoria because I don;t like going to city hall building department and dealing with someone who just stands there like a customs agent in Russia who refuses to treat me with respect. When I go to other places to do business, I am greeted with a smile and helpful suggestions.

Where would you rather go to conduct your business????

People will want to Live We need to make rent in downtown victoria affordable and help create a space that people living outside victoria want to come too.

Attract **New Businesses** **People will want to Live** **Residents** **Small Business** **Support** **Support**
Businesses **Tourists** Support the IT/software economy in Victoria: younger, well-paid professionals, in high-growth industry.....they want to be downtown, not in Saanich.

Create the greenest, most liveable city in Canada.....people will want to live, work & play here, more businesses will want to be here, and every Canadian will want to retire here. Tourists will be drawn to visit here rather than our competition, because it's just THAT darn pleasant :)

Maintain Victoria's history through protection of its heritage buildings - - don't let the developers of shiny new buildings diminish the quaint streetscapes and height scale that all are attracted to (both residents and visitors). Most cities (large and small) in Europe that have kept their historical buildings are thriving. They often have two sections: the modern part (soulless) and the historical neighbourhoods where everyone wants to live or visit.

Area **Economic Development** **Local Local** **Tourism** There has been a lot of talk about pushing areas that Victoria has been strong in. Like tourism. Yet the tourism jobs are seasonal and pay a stupidly low minimum wage. It is amazing that the City is betting there will be lots of people around to work for next to nothing. This is not my idea of economic development.

Ms Helps has talked about pushing the local businesses to raise their wages. Ironically, the City itself is no better when it comes to cheaping out. For instance, the Commissionaires get paid minimum wage. And the City outsourced the bridge to save a dollar..which now appears to be a false economy.

Be collaborative with developers and property owners to enhance the pandora potential.

Encourage **Local Local** **Support** **Support Businesses** Potential tax incentives to encourage development in the city. Support independent and locally operated businesses - this is one of the things that sets Victoria apart from other cities.

Definitely: reduce property taxes. Abandon your social engineering projects. Let qualified people make decisions.

Benefit City could be doing a lot more to assist major festivals and events that bring economic benefit to downtown.

Grow **Local Local** **Small Business** In order for the city to grow I would think this is of key importance - I see vacant store fronts around the city and wonder why ... An office of this sort I think would be welcomed by local businesses or anyone considering opening a business in the city. Small investment for big gains

Economic Development the talked about Economic Development office is really needed. For so many reasons. Who can argue this. Young entrepreneurs, big national chains, whomever could use an actual face with all the information they need. (stats, zoning etc...) I know its on the radar, make it happen

Attract Look at Calgary's BIA efforts. They have done some great things to attract people to the downtown. I think a key need is to humanize downtown and reduce the impact of cars. People want to go where there is beauty and other people, not to a place that is overwhelmed by cars. Focus on place-making and providing the framework for businesses to succeed in those places.

New Businesses Work with land owners in reducing rents for commercial businesses. Allow new construction to promote densification. Work with the federal and provincial government to provide incentives to the promotion of green building.

Double their budget, set measurable results, and move on this in a big way.

Lower property taxes and be a regional competitor. Look what it's done for Langford.

Growth **Support** support the technology sector, a key component to future growth in the city core.

Bring in more tech/web jobs and businesses.

Encourage develop/encourage micro businesses for young people . Too many empty spaces downtown....

be more business friendly. Pick a sector, tech, financial , life insurance and send a tag team to their headquarters to promote locating regional offices here. Look at Regina model for Crown Life.

Benefit **Downtown Core** **Encourage** Finding a reasonable parking accommodation for tour buses, and creating more pedestrian-centered walkways in the Downtown Core - such as Government Street. The City should also do everything in its power to facilitate and encourage free downtown festivals that benefit everyone.

Economic Development **Grow** **Growth** The city doesn't "grow" economic development. The economic engines of growth are entrepreneurs like me not the result of city bureaucrats adjusting regulations. It's a more organic, bottom up activity than the city may think. Making processes easier and more accessible is great though.

Economic Development City does not have expertise to do this.
Forwarding specific Business interests are not the same as economic development.

City should stop picking winners and creating losers through preferential consideration of some businesses or through preferential subsidy.

Small Business Turn Crystal Gardens into a small business incubator that grants small office space and utilities to successful applicants.

improve downtown livability

Small Business Tax cuts for small businesses. Help small businesses.

Attract **Economic Development** **People will want to Live** **Residents** **Tourism** **Tourists** Don't create an economic development advisory committee with the same "old boys" on it, ignoring the interest of residents. Only a city that is built for residents is really attractive to tourists. High tech development is more important than tourism development, both as an economic driver and for the future. However, neither of these is the predominant economic driver in Greater Victoria. The number one economic driver is the spending done by people who have earned their wealth in various parts of Canada, and choose to relocate and spend this wealth in Victoria during the later years of their lives. Longer-term residents are enriched by this process, partly (but definitely not entirely) through its impact on property values.

New Businesses **Tourists** I really think that Victoria ought to b e promoting itself not just as a destination to visit as a tourist or a snowbird but as a place to relocating businesses or investing in new businesses that

to visit as a tourist or a snowbird but as a place to relocating businesses or investing in new business that this is a great city to be living in and we have great connectivity to just about anywhere in the world. We have 2 universities a college and the best climate in the country with access to wild green space in a matter of minutes from the city

Encourage Make a liveable city that has a vibrant arts community, encourage that and there will be economic spinoffs.

Attract **Growth** How did past administrations succeed in stopping downtown growth? They permitted Langford and Saanich to offer more attractive options (such as Big Box stores)!! Then they cut off the valuable transit link (E&N) to downtown!! This Council will now have to work hard to overcome those errors in economic planning!!

Encourage **Local Local** **People will want to Live** **Support** **Tourism** Many specific ideas. I'm sure current staff and Council also have such ideas. I don't think it is necessary to spend more money to generate them. I think it takes creativity to generate them and political will to implement them. Ideas: 1) make Gov't a single lane in summer; green vehicles only. Let food service places expand their outdoor seating (but keep permit cost minimal). Loosen up music/busker by-laws in that corridor. Make it the "go-to" location for good food, local craft beer, free entertainment. Think of New Orleans' French Quarter (without the drunks on Bourbon Street); 2) work with BC Transit to make it really easy for people living in James Bay, Fairfield, Rockland, Fernwood, Vic West, etc. to jump a small, frequent downtown "shuttle" bus so they can go downtown to do their shopping, eating, drinking, banking, etc.; 3) make downtown more walkable, esp. at night, with more activity and better lighting; 4) support tourism that brings visitors into town for overnight stays (not on cruise ships - those folks spend very little here); 5) think long-term by investing - and encouraging investing - in the knowledge economy. The first step here is the new library for Capital Park!

Economic Development **Support** Don't keep studying the issue or setting up task forces, simply work towards implementing the actions that were already outlined in the Economic Development Strategy prepared within the past few years. I don't think most of those required an economic development office, just the existing staff and Council making changes to policies and practices to support economic development.

Small Business Promote small business! Lower downtown rents. Food truck promotion.

Attract **Encourage** **Support** **Support Businesses** I support initiatives that encourage and foster locally-owned businesses and a brisk diversity of sidewalk businesses, meaning fewer chains and big boxes, less focus on malls and more focus on 'mini-main streets' with attraction businesses...like Oak Bay, Estevan Village, Fairfield, and James Bay Square, but even more diverse than these.

I think grants for business (not just arts) would be a huge kick. One of the most interesting things I have heard people say Victoria do it create a business/tech accelerator instead of standard grants. There have been huge things that have come out of these in other cities so why not ours?

Benefit **Local Local** **Small Business** The city has to understand that it is the totality of costs that concern Small Business. The multiple applied to commercial property taxes has admittedly been reduced a tiny bit

but still has a very negative impact on existing businesses and those looking to locate in Victoria. Recognition has to be given to the small businesses and office users in the city that create the ambiance of Victoria. Retail shops especially are having an economically hard time surviving in the market place due to a number of factors not the least of which is the total rent costs they have to cover. On line shopping is another significant factor \$1.00 spent in a local shop has a significant spin off benefit for the community, \$1.00 spent online only benefits the UPS delivery man.

Attract **New Businesses** We are actively antagonizing good businesses in this city and hurting their chances to succeed. I would like to see more of a we're-on-your-side approach for first time business owners, loosening of issued liquor licenses, and incentives to attract good new business to the municipality.

Support I see Victoria being over-developed and would ask that the city pay more attention to maintaining/repairing our infrastructure to support all the increases in buildings/population.

Small Business facilitate more small business

Economic Development lower property taxes and provide incentives to landlords to lower rent for businesses, economic development will follow.

Economic Development **Encourage** I think my experience with Victoria has been fairly typical. Born and raised here, once I graduated from UVic I came face to face with a job market that had no room at all for entry-level work. Rather than landscape or serve coffee for a living, I moved to Montreal and then Toronto, developing a best-in-class skill set that has served me well on my return to Victoria, and greatly contributed to my community and my employers here.

I'd encourage economic development to include ways to encourage Victorians to "come back" at some point in their careers, bringing their skills with them. Working in partnership with UVic's alumni association, for example, the City could find ways to remind ex-Victorians in the world's foremost cities (and I know proud Victorians in New York, Boston, San Francisco, London, Dubai, Hong Kong, Accra, Montreal and Toronto, just to start...) that a fantastic mix of challenge and community is emerging here. Plus it's a great place to raise your kids.

Attract **Economic Development** **New Businesses** **Tourism** I suggest that the City requires a task force - to study economic development.

Among the issues to be addressed:

Is "tourism" a solution?

Why does Victoria idly stand by and accept minimum wage tourism jobs as a fair trade while senior governments move elsewhere?

ALL efforts and costs to attract economic activity must be justified by regular audits.

Just where does Victoria propose to put these new businesses ... given that the entire harbour is inhabited by industries which take up huge amounts of space, yet many/most of the workers do not even live in 'Victoria'?

Ref. "City Planning" ... if you want to establish Victoria as silicon valley north, you must first create the space

for a silicon valley. And cement plants, recycling yards, etc., aren't going to cohabit with clean/high tech.

Economic Development \$250,000 towards the creation of a position to look at economic development sounds a bit excessive!

Local Local think local

Residents tax non- residents 10% of assessed value per year

Area Homelessness is a major problem in the downtown area. Businesses downtown will not be successful until that problem is solved.

Attract Work to make Victoria a tech hub. Silicon Valley North. At the very least this will attract younger workers and ward off the grey tsunami.

Foster a business friendly city. Communicate and learn from other competitive, prosperous cities. Lower taxes and become a partner with business.

Downtown Core **Small Business** Create a larger more open public market, allow vendors to rent stalls and allow for true mixed use - lower rent for small business in the downtown core to pull business away from uptown - create light or semi light commuter rail

Could not tell if I selected yes or no on this and the nbenfits questions. No to both

Area this is any area where you will easily go beyond the scope of any of your expertise mission creep stick to the knitting

Economic Development **Tourism** develop and legislate a bylaw which penalize landlords for empty store fronts... Victoria is an economically thriving community but downtown is marked by excessive empty frontage giving the city an aura of economic despair. An unhealthy looking retail sector is a negative for tourism and negative for urban moral. It's particularly incomprehensible as downtown population begins to increase with many successful residential infill projects

Is this not more of a provincial responsibility? Could we partner with the province?? just a wild idea...

with the new mayor I feel we are heading in the right direction, finally

Economic Development **Grow** I would recommend that you keep social and environmental concerns forefront as you make decisions about growing economic development.

There are too many forms to fill out to start or move a business. As a property owner I hear the frustration of prospective tenants trying to get all the paperwork in place. City hall is a black hole of beurocracy

Yes enhance the environment and quality of life and they will come and stay.

Economic Development Please work as hard as possible to ensure that the railway to Nanaimo or Courtenay is re-established and an integral part of economic development. It ought to come right into downtown Victoria. I don't see much likelihood of this and am disappointed

victoria, I don't see much likelihood of this and am disappointed.

Local Local Ask local businesses what they need to survive and thrive.

Hard times for every business so not sure just what the city can do

New Businesses To Entice new business here, we need to have incentives to them.

Benefit \$15,000.00 for Dental and other?

Ask yourselves, do all of your ratepayers have this benefit? If the answer is "Yes", go for it.

If the answer is "No", then - shame.

Tourism Anything that re-captures the tourism successes of the 80s

Small Business Tax incentives for small business owners, particularly those who are paying to lease expensive downtown office or storefront space yet are losing business to suburban mall competitors.

Local Local More bike lanes make the city more livable, easier to get around in. Easier to shop locally. More authentically prosperous.

Stop regulating and let the private sector do it's thing. We don't need your meddling with the economy. Free trade = free people.

Benefit **Downtown Core** Make the city more people friendly. Get pedestrians and bicycles into the city centre and the businesses and shop keepers will benefit. a walkable downtown core with easy access and limited traffic will pull people away from the big box stores and malls.

Work needs to be done to revitalize Government street - it is starting to look shabby with vacant stores.

Make it more affordable to live here. Amalgamate and lower taxes.

Benefit **Downtown Core** **Tourism** I feel that we should focus as much as possible on unique and niche stores as well as identifiable brand names to draw shoppers. We will lose out to Uplands, Costco, etc if the effort is made to fight for department style shopping in the core, particularly if property taxes drive up the cost of retail space (appreciate holding steady on this front). I'm very concerned as well that southern Government Street is taking on an ever greater feel of Gastown with franchise stores and generic tourism knock offs. These stores are like tapeworms that benefit by the flow of traffic generated by other more noteworthy businesses. Parking will forever be a challenge downtown but an increasing focus on it as a revenue stream will turn shoppers away if they can go elsewhere and park for free. Personally I already do what I can to avoid downtown shopping except on Sundays. By the same token I would consider charging private parking lots at a rate closer to the value of the zoning of the land the parking lots occupy in an effort to motivate higher use of limited space. The markets and the use of Centennial Square for events are wonderful and do so much to bring a sense of vibrancy to the core. I think that they will go a long way to maintaining interest. Businesses that want to benefit will need to learn to modify their opening hours to reflect when people are around. I do believe that making Government a pedestrian only mall could work as long as there is an effort made to fill it in a creative manner perhaps do something creative like constructing

a glass roof for a portion or something of that nature to improve the comfort of users.

As long as the majority of this funding is not in salaries.

Economic Development Lacking my own proper, researched information on this portion of economic development, I cannot make an intelligent decision at this time.

Economic Development **Local Local** -I don't know enough about economic development in general or economic development locally.

Tourism Not really, we are a small city, quite well developed .
Tourism could stand a boost but mainly by lowering ferry fares which is beyond your grasp.

Encourage **Local Local** Reduce taxes and rents for downtown businesses. I hate seeing all those empty store fronts especially along Government St. Encourage local businesses and as many "clean" businesses/industries as possible. Reduce parking rates.

Benefit I hit yes for this question and no for the Councillor benefits and the screen shows blue yes for both.

Work to involve more than just the "creative" and "tech" sectors. Involve youth and the elderly and help to facilitate a sense of ownership for those who have just arrived, so they feel that they belong and are not stuck in a state of feeling like they are perpetual visitors/outsideers.

need to deal with the street issues, does not put out the red carpet for new investors

Downtown Core dramatically improve the quality of the downtown core by restricting car/truck vehicular traffic.

Many stores have to close because they cannot make it.
We have to attract more people to down town, Streetcafe's like in other cities for example.

Amalgamate Vic, saanich. It's obvious but hard to do. Provide parking validation for stores downtown to allow for more shoppers. Use council to sway larger retailers here.

speed up
kill red tape

Local Local LOCAL LOCAL LOCAL. incubate our OWN

Support **Tourists** Downtown needs a lifeline. More occupancy in storefronts, better transportation and parking options. More street performers - bring back the big bands. And I support closing streets for the occasional event and or tourist season. More street seating at restaurants.

Local Local **New Businesses** **Small Business** **Support** **Support Businesses** I think Victoria may be doing enough, but is doing the wrong things.

I get the impression high rents can be prohibitive for small businesses, especially new ones. I also notice a

lot of 'for lease' signs lately. Do something about this before things get out of hand. Spend more effort on helping smaller businesses, don't give big corporations handouts. They tend to siphon money from communities rather than putting it in. Get money to circulate locally many times.

How about supporting the Tetla local currency initiative? Local currencies can be very helpful and since there already is one we should use it.

Area **Small Business** Yes, I do. Way less resource extraction and more education and service businesses that are small scale and innovative. I have hated the big box stores and huge corporations that have agglomerated the small businesses. As a small bakery we used to deal with small and middle sized business for supplies. It was fun. We accommodated each other and made friends. That is gone now. The money from these guys flows out away from our regional area and they try really hard to skeletonize their workforces. People love small. Box stores kill initiative, and ways for young people to get into business

Economic Development **Grow** I cannot comment if this is a good amount. I would sincerely hope that economic development grows from the bottom upwards, meaning that those struggling most in poverty have opportunities first. Oregon state apparently has a policy that gas stations cannot be "pay at the pump" so that youth can have entry level jobs as gas station attendants. We need some formal ways to offer entry level positions to youth and also to people who are in poverty or struggling with mental illness or physical disabilities

Attract **Growth** **Local Local** **People will want to Live** **Tourists** I'm not an economist but I would love to see Victoria take a lead on green innovation, tech, research, and the arts. More economic growth would hopefully make our city more affordable and attract more people to stay and build their lives here. I'd like to see Victoria marketed in a fresh way -- not just as a pretty city for tourists and honeymooners. But rather to define our city as progressive, green, community-minded, healthy, artistic and innovative. I would love to see more cutting edge conferences and speakers hosted here. And to continue to market Victoria as destination for beautiful local food and craft beer.

Economic Development **Growth** The City does not have the capability to develop economic strategy. This is not a game for the twitter crowd. Councilors and staff (except Geoff) usually speak nonsense when it comes to economic issues. They repeat what the chamber and others assert, as though the statements were fact.

We need growth, but the city needs to get out of the way of entrepreneurs, and the CIT needs to stay away from giving subsidy and preferential consideration to particular businesses.

Sustainability is the key here.

Local Local **Tourists** Affordable rent for downtown businesses - give land owners tax incentives to lower rents. Enough with the tack tourist tshirt businesses that line government street. Make downtown a true destination for locals and tourists.

Attract **Grow** Businesses will be attracted to a thriving, healthy, forward thinking and forward moving community. Let's think about continuing to shape our city so that it appeals to the modern business owner. I

think Victoria needs to think outside the box with this and maybe take some lessons from what some successful European cities are doing to sustainably grow their economic base. Also, let's try to focus on attracting businesses and industries that contribute more than money and jobs to our community. Also let's see what we can do about becoming known for a green economy. We should "advertise" Victoria more for our innovative, dynamic and progressive qualities than just our beauty and good weather.

Local Local **Small Business** **Support** **Support Businesses** I am in favour of the city supporting small local business

Small Business **Support** **Support Businesses** support small business and service industries. Doesn't have to be cash, but do support them directly, (vs subsidizing landlords; support which may not 'trickle down') so they can meet increasing operational expenses. Support businesses which can reasonably be expected to provide employment

Keep shops open downtown.

Encourage **People will want to Live** Youth employment programs in the city have been continually eliminated by the federal government over the past several years. As a youth counselor in the city I've continually seen more and more young people struggling to enter an already competitive labour market and being unsuccessful to do so. I have seen more and more youth at only 18 years of age being encouraged to apply for and live off of income assistance. I would highly encourage the city to look at implementing a potential youth employment strategy which will have significant dividends in later years.

Attract **Tourists** I think that we can upgrade the hotels and attract more tourists. I think we should also avoid over development.

Downtown Core **People will want to Live** The key is to give people who live in the other 12 municipalities a reason to come to the city. Amalgamation is important to regional planning, which will include regional transit and regional beautification. Most importantly, regional economic planning and regional environmental sustainability.

It is interesting to offer the community an opportunity to participate in budget planning, but I doubt most concerned citizens (such as myself) are well enough informed to answer the questions posed. A more general survey about behaviour and choices citizens make and changes we would like to see would possibly give more useful feedback. For example, questions about where people shop, what is missing downtown, what brings people into the city core, what stores/services have people seen in cities they visit that they'd like to see in Victoria...I could answer those questions. I see value in educating citizens about the complexity of budgets, but I have no way of knowing how to attach dollar figures to the outcome of service.

I don't know enough to answer, unfortunately.

Small Business Stop focusing on money. Start empowering small and independent businesses.

Grow **People will want to Live** **Tourists** VIATeC has done a great deal to grow the tech industry in Victoria specifically. which has done a great deal for our community. Looking to their practices would be

useful.

Also - we focus too much on the tourists. Victoria is a lovely city to visit, but we need to focus on the people who live here.

Small Business **Support** **Support Businesses** Yes, Get out and talk to small business find out what kind of support they need from the city in order to prosper. We need to make it easier for small business open in the city. Cut the red tape get them there business license and then ask them how you can make them successful. Applaud business owners for wanting to do business in the City of Victoria. If something doesn't have the correct zoning then change it quickly. Lets make it easier to do business rather than make people jump through hoops.

Langford has been very successful in doing this.

Support remove regulatory restrictions for ec dev and support innovation even if it is contradiction the regulatory framework, if people can make money, do everything to support them

Green technology should be promoted more

Economic Development Continue to invest in good infrastructure, smart planning and quality of life plus good incentives for quality development and you help create opportunities for economic development.

Tourists A clean, safe downtown - free of dangerous dogs, itinerant people, smoke - would make it far more likely for people to shop there, keep their businesses there and for tourists to return there.

Tourism clean up the dallas waterfront from Cook to Douglas - put in backcountry campsites at a premium price, it will bring in world class tourism. build a world class cycling infrastructure, it will bring an even large amount of money in.

Small Business Listen to small business owners , they keep the Money here

Grow We need to be farming our land and growing our own food to cut down on transportation, environmental, and healthcare costs.

Economic Development **Local Local** Need to work with other levels of govt to secure funding. Construction/renovation can = some local economic development. Try to pursue grant money for local homeowners to upgrade.

Develop deliverables and metrics for peartnership activities with the Victoria development Agency.

Rebalance the property tax burden over coming years to make Victoria business rates competitive with other municipalities.

Area **Encourage** **Local Local** **Support** **Support Businesses** **Tourists** Support/encourage pop up business/events and create buzz to draw people to public spaces like Victoria Public Market or better yet, Government St. Utilize social media more.

Making "tourist trap" areas more enticing to locals could spur eco. dev. Mixing arts and culture with retail. Create experiences and foster placemaking in areas of Victoria that people shy away from.

Local Local Focus on green economy initiatives - local food, local energy, resource recovery as examples

Tourism Concentrate on tourism.

Economic Development **Local Local** **Residents** I don't think it is the city's job to fund economic development. It's job is to ensure that it doesn't serve as a barrier to sustainable development initiatives or as a facilitator of economic development that does little to nothing for local residents except by creating more minimum wage temporary jobs.

Economic Development I don't know enough about the City's economic development activity but I do know that it's inefficient to market Victoria separately from the rest of the region. This should be a regional function - not CRD, but a business-driven and governed organization.

Area **Attract** **Downtown Core** **Local Local** Get rid of all the parking metres downtown. Each year we take a trip to Fairhaven, in the States. They have no parking metres in the downtown area. Local business have done surveys and have found that people come and stay in the area for hours and end up spending far more money in the downtown area than they would if they were worried about getting back to their cars before they get a ticket. So many of our great business that were located downtown have now moved to one of the malls. Maybe this idea would be worth trying to attract business to the downtown core.

- local based economies of scale
- push green technology sector along with this other tech push the city is doing.
- work harder to make a real change in food policy and developing local based agriculture.
- keep fostering the small business movement.

Create a development zone on government and convert upper floors to residential. Development zone would not require individual public hearings

Doing everything possible to equalize opportunity for all residents of Victoria e.g. encouraging initiatives which support the disadvantaged like affordable housing contributes to a morally, psychologically and socially healthy community. "Economy" is more than commerce.

Economic Development **Residents** **Small Business** Promote small! Small businesses, small manufacturing. The everyday goods and services residents and businesses need to survive and thrive. Don't focus so much on technology. That is for a small group of young men primarily. Adopt best practices in small scale, sustainable economic development. Don't think so big. Innovation at the human scale.

Support **Support Businesses** Why do governments support business interests? People vote for council, not business.

1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean
2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also

a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.

3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

Economic Development **Grow** I think government's role in economic development is to make sure that the regulatory levers have the right balance -- protecting important environmental and social values and operating in such a way that the City is not a block to economic development. It's not the City's role to "grow economic development" (which seems an odd phrase!)

Money should be allocated to creating a LRT from Downtown Victoria to Swartz Bay and to the western communities as far as Sooke. Connecting the communities and making it easier for us to travel. Right now using public transportation it take 5 hours to go from Victoria to Vancouver, and that is just simply crazy!

Economic Development The Provincial government and natural location does enough without economic injection, the city should be focusing on livability through neighbourhood development and social programs for the less fortunate of the city.

Encourage **Local Local** **New Businesses** **Small Business** As mentioned before - figure out how to LOWER RENTS on commercial / retail space downtown . The amount of empty storefronts is embarrassing. Encourage creative use of space and subsidize or somehow revamp zoning to encourage live/work/sell spaces. Encourage new LOCAL businesses (ie not franchises) to be able to have storefronts downtown. I know many small local makers and sellers who have tried to open shop downtown and then have to close down because of rent.

Working with First Nations and the business community should be a priority. The City has a horrible image with all of the vacant lease signs everywhere. We need a vacancy tax as in Chicago or something that will provide incentives for business. A good idea would be a partnership programme in City Hall to help potential businesses plan their approaches. Too many businesses offer exactly the same services and products as others. We need more diversity in downtown businesses.

Small Business Go with micro investment and development of young entrepreneurial energy. Chamber is fine, but represents the old guard. Yes to tech, but don't overlook sustainable industries and very small businesses. Think different.

investing in youth employment

Benefit **Grow** **Growth** growth is not good. Economic growth comes at an enormous cost to every other city need. It's benefits are a myth. Look it up . The more you grow the less the people have and the more the rich thrive. We have enough rich people here. Let's take care of everyone for a change.

New Businesses **Small Business** It is not necessary to establish a new position to help small business navigate city hall or for the city to be more responsive. Suggest you look at what it is currently that makes city unresponsive and if you identify that, fix it.

Attract **People will want to Live** Yes. Develop vibrant street spaces and a AAA network of complete streets that attract people on bike and foot. Then let the world know. Victoria, with its climate and seaside

location, will be a destination for travellers but also for young people looking for a cool place to live.

Encourage **Support** **Support Businesses** The city needs to support development of businesses that support a happy and healthy city. Currently, the high-tech world appears to be satisfying that need for our city. We should continue to support the high-tech sector and encourage more businesses to set up shop here.

Area **People will want to Live** **Tourists** more focus on the people who live in the area especially the poor, less on tourists

Economic Development I believe that a happy and healthy city is fundamental to a prosperous economic development.

Economic Development Work to anticipate and address problems that may affect economic development - namely climate change, natural disasters, etc. Prepare the city for these events so that the impacts of them don't decimate our livelihoods to the same degree they would for an unprepared city.

Focus on renewable energy

Economic Development I think that so many people in Victoria have incredible ideas for social enterprises that could be developed with a bit of help. The Dock is a perfect example of a hub that was difficult to start, but will result in lots of economic development through the connections established through the networks built. The SocialCoast Action Bus could break even, but through its operation help create a lot of economic development.

People with amazing ideas, but no entrepreneurial experience need somewhere they can go to get walked through every step of the process of bringing their idea into fruition.

Area **Downtown Core** **People will want to Live** **Tourists** All the industry and working plants that where in the City have all been kicked out !?

More shopping and stores is not what is needed.

We have to get people working in the downtown core, living closer to work.

the Paint plant, sugar refinery, oil refinery, canning plant, ship yard, all are gone.

Maybe look into a wool factory with the sheep farms nearby,

and all the milling that comes with it, a yarn business, a textile weaving company, and a tailoring outlet, textile school and sewing school. These are all good for Victoria area, as there are sheep farms, alpaca, and flax grown close by for manufacturing. !

This town and it's people can not live on Tourists alone !!

Local Local **Small Business** **Tourism** Do we really need more "staff" to make the city more responsive or could the current staff work more effectively? Why not implement performance metrics?

Conference centre does not appear to work effectively with Tourism Victoria and local hotels and businesses. Hopefully VCON will address some of this inefficiency.

Development incentives are nice for larger businesses but what about incentivizing small businesses in the

downtown?

Growth implement the OCP to direct growth for the short, medium and long-term - TOD is useful, maintaining neighbourhood character, while allowing for growth on corridors - remember that density takes many forms, not just glass high-rises

No.

Keep getting folks involved Lisa, your doing it! You inspire us all to get involved, stick around a few terms and who knows what will happen in BC after that eh!

Benefit **Small Business** Business property taxes make it very difficult for small business. Hiring more city staff (with all the salary and associated benefit costs) to deal with this well known problem will not improve this situation. You do not need a committee to solve this problem.

Tourists Victoria's weather and southern exposure make it perfect for more green projects, especially solar. Develop solar/green initiatives. Reduce initiatives for carbon burning businesses. Make Government street downtown a pedestrian zone only from 9am - 9pm everyday. More and more tourists will come. It is a proven system and Gov't street is awesome for it.

Residents Businesses already have too much say in our budget. The City can't influence our economy very much, so should listen more to residents instead.

Economic Development **Small Business** **Support** **Support Businesses** I am glad to see a shift to more focus on economic development and support of small business.

Growth Growth is not needed. Take care of what we have and give more thought to the low income and homeless.

include a social component which draws on the manpower of the City's most vulnerable populations

Attract Anecdotally I hear from small business owners that it can be difficult to deal with all the city departments. I understand some work is being done to make "one stop shopping" for business and community groups. Hope that can happen.

Also, beautification of urban villages would be helpful in attracting new quality businesses.

Economic Development **Local Local** The first questions is too ambiguous. Yes, I think it's fine for the City to spend \$250k (or more) as long as there is a measurable ROI as the goal. Should the City spend \$250k on more salaries for people who would need more budget for economic development? No.

I don't have any specific recommendations for enhancing development locally, but certainly we don't have to reinvent the wheel. The City has plenty of resources invested in Strategic Planning. Certainly someone can do some research and shed some light on initiatives and models that we could adapt and implement locally.

I wasn't given enough information to answer the last question about health and dental. How many councillors

are there and what does that amount cover? I shouldn't have to research this myself. It seems like it's framed for me to say No and/or 2019 but I don't have enough information to answer.

Attract **Economic Development** **New Businesses** **Residents** **Tourism** Economic development needs a large lens - don't define it in too narrow or traditional way - i.e. by lowering business taxes or providing incentives for certain sectors to create jobs here. Invest in the city's assets, its public infrastructure, attractions, green spaces, walkability and bike-friendliness. Those kinds of investments pay off in more tourism dollars, more employment and jobs, new businesses and more - plus make the city more attractive for current residents...

Not really - but it is important to compete with other urban centers.

Grow Council should stop focusing on growing vegetables on boulevards and focus on real issues such as the economic health of the city.

Economic Development **Encourage** I'm encouraged by the idea of an Economic Development Office but would want to make sure they have a narrowly defined mandate and objectives to ensure it is efficient and a worthwhile use of tax dollars.

Area **Encourage** **Local Local** **Residents** **Small Business** **Support** **Support Businesses** Affordable rents/leases for small local business offices, encourage more designated areas for food carts not just downtown but in neighbourhoods where families, residents can gather for local 'fast food', encourage connecting youth with local businesses (designate a day for 'open house' for youth wanting to explore careers, supporting areas like the downtown 'technology park' (on Vancouver St.).

Grow lower rent. more ways for people to grow their own food. shut down roads so it is safer for cyclists. have a bicycle subsidy that covers the cost of bike carts for children.

I work in technology - if there is any tax breaks that could be offered for those that work at home, this would help people stay in Victoria or come here.

The city could also provide a tax break or incentive to co-working spaces.

Benefit I think creating more affordable childcare spaces with Victoria is a must, especially spaces for infants and toddlers in a licensed child care setting. Building buildings that have the opportunity to house Infant/Toddlers Centres with an outdoor setting would be a huge benefit to families living and working close to downtown.

Area **Economic Development** **Encourage** **Grow** **Local Local** **New Businesses** **Support** **Support Businesses** Remain supportive of local initiatives and growing economic development within the active and local business community. Engage the youth (18-35) of Victoria with local business grants and support of new businesses developed by youth and encouragement of a vibrant diverse commercial districts in downtown and other commercial areas.

Making downtown more inviting would help.

Area **Benefit** **Downtown Core** **Grow** **Residents** Vacancy rates are extremely low in Victoria and population is growing much faster in surrounding cities. More needs to be done, especially in the downtown core. Downtown areas are only vibrant year-round when they have full-time residents who call the area their home. There exists a large number of lots and buildings (which are apparently sold), that are sitting in shambles and not being developed. Not only does this reduce the beauty of the downtown area, but it is a loss of potential revenue that could be earned through property taxes by developing these lots into residential buildings. More residential units will also help dampen the rise in rent, which many young people and those struggling to make ends meet could benefit from.

Community wired network so businesses and communicate at low cost and new ISPs can provide cheap internet to the downtown core.

Encourage an Opportunity Development Co-operative for local funding of local businesses.

do more...

There must be some way to all small entrepreneurship in the city so residents can contribute to the local economy without having to work for someone else. Let's remove the barriers to small personal businesses. This will help with affordability as well.

Renewable energy resource development in the city (solar/wind) that would create jobs and save energy for individuals, businesses and the city.

I think city should more strongly support small scale, local accommodation tourism (such as B&B's, locally owned motels, AirBnB, etc) which are linking the eco-tourism, food tourism, arts/culture tourism sectors often through more environmentally sustainable mechanisms. Visitors staying in these accommodations often walk or bike around the city.

Need to have better regional integration and take advantage of our contributions to the GVDA.

Attract Please take advantage of Dallas Gislison and his office. He is doing a great job- forward looking and innovative- what our city needs. We need to continue to build a city that people want to live in- this will attract economic development and workers.

sorry, no time

Attract What are the assets that Victoria has that it can exploit? It's the kind of place where the Creative Class would congregate. How can we bring more creative class types (not just software) into the city? What industries can we attract? We are doing well on arts, but I find (and perhaps it's because I'm close to the industry) that we could do much more on environmental industries.

Improve downtown with incentives

Solve the parking problem

Area Tell mayor not to randomly float eg tax exemption ideas for select areas (Govt Street); other businesses would have to bear a higher burden and where do you cut off such an exemption. Very naive.

Build on what the current successes and reputation of Victoria. Keep the city well maintained and beautiful. Tourism is the only game for Victoria so don't try and compete with larger centres for other economic development projects. These projects detract from the city milieu

Tax property owners that refuse to bring their rents down to market rates.

I own a business in downtown Victoria. And if you are not directly related to high tech or tourism then there is no such thing as economic development...

The focus should be on products made in our local economy and people paying living wages.

Its time to tone down the search for tourism dollars. I have worked downtown for 15 years. I have seen the drop in tourism... And the cruise ships ARE NOT HELPING! they do nothing but jump on buses and make noise, or maybe make it to the inner harbour for a view but no further...

Give tax deductions to landowners willing to rent/lease to new/developing businesses at reduced rates WHILE giving small business loans (interest free) or grants to new/developing businesses.

reduce commercial property taxes

run a hotel

Dramatically reform the process for undemocratic/unrepresentative community association input into community planning decisions. Promote the tourist and cruise ship industry. Aggressively support local high tech firms. Encourage UVIC to develop a downtown campus.

you need to make public transportation(automobiles) access to downtown more accessible and lighten up your fees on street parking instead of your current position which diverts these people to the malls where the roadways provide easy access and the parking is plentiful and cost efficient for shoppers. Obviously you need to charge for downtown parking but those who wish and need to street park should not be penalized by high rates. Also Cook Street village parking should be extended to 2 hours.

Area Progressive changes in transportation to enhance the accessibility of the downtown area for all people, regardless of income level and physical condition, would be welcome. Less planning for the automobile and more planning for the future would position us well. We will need more parks and green space for a growing population and also I think we will inevitable need to amalgamate with our municipal neighbours at least in terms of services provided to the population.

Attract **Benefit** **Growth** Invest locally. "Attract and retain" models of economic stimulation have had poor effects, and high costs. We are very, very fortunate to have a decentralized, reasonably robust small-business economy, one that has done well for us through the ongoing recession. Economic development incentives should be aimed a small and mid sized businesses that favor local ownership and growth.

Include arts and community groups in your economic stimulus. Per dollar, arts and community groups are the most efficient job creator with the lowest overhead, though experience far fewer of the economic incentives and benefits than most other businesses. Further, these are groups delivering on community creation, beautification, and capacity, all things the City aims to support. Arts grants that favor inventive and innovative cultural groups and initiatives would be a huge investment. Vancouver has seen dozens of highly relevant, incredibly effective and efficient cultural groups born from their support, groups who have then gone on to grow and create an entire sector. Sadly, Victoria have no comparable grants or support systems whatsoever, and as a result we have few groups doing for arts and community what the DVBA does for downtown businesses. Existing groups such as the Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria, Open Space, and other have demonstrated a highly discouraging lack of leadership in the arts, for which the entire arts community has suffered and diminished as a result. There are woefully few jobs for the many highly talented, highly creative people our community creates. We need to focus on developing and retaining the cultural groups and contributors that make Victoria a vibrant city.

Incentivize occupancy in commercial spaces through tiered taxation. This has been demonstrated as the most effective way to encourage occupancy in unused spaces by bringing their costs and conditions in line with more realistic market rates, and has shown considerable economic benefits, particularly in small business ecosystems like Victoria.

Lots to do in non-monetary economy (bartering, exchanges, decreasing costs). I would like to see emphasis on doing better things with what we have - increasing our resilience - rather than on the never-ending search for more money.

The city should be a catalyst with local industry and education institutions to ensure that future skills requirements are met. Cultural industries are an important contributor to a city economic and social well being. The city should be more supportive of these industries.

The city should pay keystone businesses located within the city and recapture the expenses via an enhanced tax base.

promoting small business ventures and green industries, including Island food production

More post secondary education downtown needed.ore support for hi tech.

Growth Double-down on any investments with VIATeC. Technology is an ideal growth sector for the city.

Make it simple for businesses to open and operate.

Attract Attract technology companies. Arts. Make Victoria attractive and viable for corporate head offices. An attractive destination for tourists (we know it is but they have to be reminded with promotion)

IT IS TOO NOISY DOWNTOWN NOW

On the downtown business front you must ensure business owners are not chased out by broken windows,

urine in doorways, pan handling, aggression, drugs....

pursue clean technologies and other forward looking development and avoid damaging business activities

while City has a role to play, I don't want my taxes used to subsidize business

Growth The City's doing too much i the way of economic development. I'd applaud a City that discourages growth.

Growth economic growth is not sustainable.

Bring together local business owners to ask their thoughts and how to support and encourage local businesses. Support and highlight the work of innovative local businesses - showcase the great work of businesses to inspire others. Put forward (and model!) a 'yes we can, or we'll see how to make it work' attitude when dealing with businesses. Front line City Hall customer service workers should be excited about how to make things happen, and not just put up the red tape. Celebrate successes and achievements. Look to other cities (Vancouver, Portland, Seattle) for success stories to emulate. Focus on supporting key sectors - technology, government learning (Victoria is a government town with a lot of thought leaders/decision makers, build/market this!)

Involve some of the brain power from UVic

Rent control for small business. Currently, lease agreements control the cost of the square footage, but landlord can raise "management fees". Management fees need to be in a lease agreement and restricted. Overhead expenses are prohibitive. Small business is not flourishing because it is nearly impossible to be creative. Small business requires operating capital to create. Operating capital is sucked into overhead.

1. Infrastructure improvements, specifically correcting bottleneck at McKenzie intersection. 2.Amalgamation. 13 individual municipalities is ridiculous and a roadblock to getting anything tabled and executed.

green spacing

pedestrianize / traffic calm

provide Light Rail Service to the city core

bicycle friendly

less cars, more people

Take measures to deter property developers from leaving street level commercial spaces vacant.

every country,province ,city and town are looking to encourage economic development. The city does not have the money to invest in new ideas. It should not waste time or money on retail but look to encourage other sectors. This means reducing red tape and actively helping new business through the bureaucratic process and help establish a network which would connect investors with new businesses.

I agree fully that economic development is key. However, I DO NOT AGREE that the solution necessarily lies in MORE CITY STAFF doing more of the same thing. Surely, if the City is going to be bold and innovative, it

would be focused on partnerships with those agencies and organizations who actually know how to grow business. Another expensive City Manager cannot possibly be the best approach.

We need more Innovation, and thinking outside the box to allow exciting things to happen.

Growth Economic growth should be coming from the Provincial and private sectors not municipal government.

The City can streamline its development permit process, be more service oriented to business enquiries, but cannot create economic development. And I'm unwilling to give tax breaks to the Gov't street tourism shops, or building owners along those blocks. Instead, owners of empty buildings should be penalized/taxed. How will the City work with the regional economic development office and the staff that/who currently exist? The new flavour is technology, but we should not cater to that sector alone. We need practical jobs in the trades, too.

The VCC gets about \$800K annually from the city, so what's the connection to the proposed ED \$250K?

- support development of a local business incubator of co-operatives, social enterprises, and other enterprises
- don't focus on tourism or tech sectors - nurture emerging or untapped sectors such as local food products (need a local value-add shared manufacturing facility!).

Benefit The city needs to take a far more systemic approach to economic development. Building a world class active transportation system, for example, will have major economic development benefits. The city should also do more to ensure that all members of society benefit from its economic development efforts i.e., people with barriers to employment.

Area sorry, don't know enough about this area

Benefit Limited economic development resources ought to be focussed (with laser like precision) on increasing the number and quality (including triple bottom line) of locally-owned businesses.

Why? Because 40 years of research consistently concludes that towns with higher numbers of businesses which are owned by residents fair better on about 30 indices of well-being including more income, fewer incidences of poverty, better voter turnout, better public infrastructure, more newspapers, better health outcomes and more.

The best economic development practices aspire to create multiple benefits for local residents. Economic development is not the same as business development. The economy is a complex open system like a forest. Businesses are just one species of plant in the entire system. Education, ecological health, culture, poverty, homelessness are all part of the system.

Green projects go to the top of the pile. Projects that put power into the hands of the disadvantaged are also at the top. Please let's get away from selling tangibles to selling intangibles. Education, community self

at the top. Please lets get away from selling tangibles to selling intangibles. Education, community, self-empowerment should be the goals of economic exchange, and cleaning our waters and greenways.

Attract Top focus should be on filling empty street level storefronts downtown. Get proactive and innovative to attract businesses downtown, and penalize owners for keeping stores empty due to ridiculously high lease rates.

Benefit Invest in and support the arts scene. The energy and spin offs from supporting artists is phenomenal. There are some really talented people in Victoria, who could use grant funding, space, and links to other professionals and businesses that would benefit from an artist's insight. Like how Franc D'Ambrosio involves Bill Pechet in all his buildings, the city should have a roster of artists they can call on for strategic creative advise.

Develop a presentation on the importance of starting savings accounts, that could be shown at schools.

Why is the city providing any grants to anyone? I'll admit to being ignorant on this subject though...

Projects focus investments on grassroots projects relating to greenspace, food systems, traffic calming, youth arts

that is a substantial amount

Comment **Know** Can't comment if I don't know what I'm commenting on?

Grants initiate activity, we need more of them as long as they are focussed on results, both long and short term and fairly offered.

Comment **Going** Apparently the list is secret??? How can I comment without seeing where the money is going???

nope

Area **Comment** I made comments earlier on the arts... This area needs to be improved on, to create a more stable environment for local art groups, who generate and attract a lot of other money-generating activities in the City. As worker bees, local artists should be funded with a philosophy that supports all levels. More funding for Festivals and smaller companies needed. Feed the arts rather than add 12 new light poles, for example.

Would have been good to see a PDF of past grants here.

very wastefull

Community and green initiatives should be priority.

Grants to Organizations grants can be a democratic tool. However the city should be working with looking charities and non profits to actively build capacity. Handing out money is not a great idea if the capacity nd support network for organizations is not there.

NO GRANTS

How do you pick winners?

STOP GRANTING MONEY

These grants should be guided by strategic objectives that the community would like to see accomplished.

I hope that every grant is closely examined to confirm that voters would support it

Know I know these have recently been reviewed. I like that there are more focused categories. I support some of the grants, but would like more information.

Take 10% out of the grants and spread it across the board.

Comment No comment except to say some of the recipients appear a bit dodgy or unorganized so the value of passing out some of the grants is questionable. Perhaps a more robust non-partisan approach to allocation could be designed.

Grants to support individuals' indulgences are generally not productive.

Grants to Organizations Grants are the life-blood of many organizations in the city and allow a great deal of flexibility in how the city operates.

Be selective and strategic in the use of grants as cost-effective ways of delivering services - do not spread the \$ too thin.

Going I would like to see money going toward cleaning up downtown and encouraging family related activities on evenings and weekends.

Grants to Organizations **People** Taxes are too high. I believe in fixing the problem in more meaningful and permanent ways. For example: Provide housing for people instead of giving grants to organizations to hand out mats that lie on church floors.

Comment I wish this survey provided a link so that I could review who is receiving the grants, otherwise I cannot comment.

I like the Opra. So what can I say.

no

Grants to Organizations The city should not fund any grants at all. Organizations should be self-funded. grants are vital and should be increased.

Programs reinstate 2ndary suite grant program

People For major free events, the city shows little support. These efforts bring people to our downtown,

create economic stimulus, and are poorly supported.

No

Programs Basic needs like a firehall trumps these programs. We can't be everything to everyone. More oversight needed.

i don't understand what this is for?

Do an audit to see if there are duplications or whether money is actually be spent as it should. Eliminate city poet laureate position. Stupid use of taxpayers money.

Providing Service The City should focus grants on nonprofits that provide FREE services to vulnerable citizens.

Re: volunteers, wage inequality and affordability. City grants only if all paid staff earn living wage.

Providing Service This question does not provide a breakdown of those providing service versus the strategic plan grants. Given the City's poor track record in the gifting of grants, It would be best if NO grants were provided to special groups with influence. Stick with the centers and neighbourhoods only. Stop other grants.

Wholehearted support.

Consider increasing grants to neighbourhood associations.

Grants to Organizations **Providing Service** Grants to service providers with employees and various special interest groups are more than adequate, while grants to some purely volunteer organizations that do a lot of analytical, advisory, and community consultative work for the City (e.g. JBNA) are really poorly treated with funding. Move funding around. work for the City, as well as a great deal of

Programs agree with this program

Area I think in general this is likely a necessary area of expenditure.

Know Don't know who is entitled to grants nor what is appropriate in other cities.

Programs It looked to me like this amount has been reduced. Why? These groups are the life-blood of our city. They deliver programs and services for far less than consultants, the private sector or even City staff.

I believe the City is too generous in its grants spending.

Going Grants should go to young business owners and social services (shelters/food banks/sexual health clinic)

Know Don't know what they have done - who got them and what have they done??

more arts grants

Comment Create for-profit company grants. refer to my drunk uncle comment here.

Difficult to answer, all seem to be deserving, but what fantastic levels of duplication we have in well meaning societies of all kinds.

I'm not sure if this is in the right place, but I was extremely disappointed to see that we outsourced the city of Victoria parking app to a company in the states. We are constantly bragging about our tech community, why aren't we using it? I'm an app developer myself, and looking at the app, whatever we paid, it was too much.

Grants to Organizations Giving away too much money - please do a means test on some of these organization that benefit from your generous grants.

I would like to see an increase to culture and arts events to make them more accessible and affordable.

Awarded **Grants to Organizations** grants should be awarded to organizations who display financial need, not the same tired groups.

If you look at Industry Canada's statistics, you'll find that for every dollar invested in the non-profit sector, more GDP growth occurs than in any other sector in the economy. In addition, these are dollars invested in "good works" in our community. I'm all in favour of more generous grants from the City.

I have questions about any potential overlap between the grants provided to the Arts through the CRD and what the City does on its own. I'm not sure about the value of the CRD investment.

Justify the grants. Just as costs to attract new economic activity must also be justified.

Area **Grants to Organizations** **Projects** The City could do a better job of promoting granting funds and expanding criteria to allow for a wider variety of projects being funded within the City. Current policies around long-term maintenance of things like public art and other infrastructure projects makes the process somewhat cost-prohibitive for non-profit organizations. The grant process requires a more innovative approach. Some suggestions include: an increased willingness to work with adjacent municipalities to support projects that overlap municipal boundaries (art installations adjacent to the galloping goose or tolmie lane are one example), more support, and promotion of opportunities, for community stewardship. On that note, the messaging from the City is quite contradictory - community stewardship in natural areas is not supported due to union conflicts and at the same time the City is unwilling to provide maintenance support for new projects.

this is very little information on who or what receives these grants to make informed decisions

Grants to Organizations Grants for arts and culture should be raised by the organizations and not with tax paying money.

Grants should be targeted at solving the homeless problem.

Going More support needs to be given to community-run festivals. I don't want to see the Highland Games

and Symphony Splash go the way of Folkfest.

Going **Know** Don't know where grants are going so have no opinion.

More assistance to Community City owned Centres

Comment i wish you had provided info about grant recipients; perhaps the top 5 or 10, in order to make informed comment here

Too much grants to lobby groups. Cut out grants to Chamber and other such groups and to private gardens.

land preservation from urban sprawl. more thought-out and innovation city planning.

grants for your strategic plan - not in support of that at all if you can't do it in-house then you probably shouldn't be doing it - lots flaky feel good greenwash potential there.

no

Comment **Know** I would like to know more before I comment.

do not provide grants to private schools; use that money for public schools

I use the MS society facility and feel it could pay some tax as could active church properties, too many non profits owning bricks and mortar who could rent surplus space.

Property Tax exemptions are not good in general.

The principle is a good one. I have to trust that you make good decisions as to who is to receive them!

Simplify them, so they are easier to apply for and bring about more change.

Awarded **Grants to Organizations** volunteer organizations should be awarded grants ie: sporting organizations

NONE

Wealth redistribution is not cool. That's my money you're spending, let me give it to who I want, don't decide that for me.

Going **Know** Unfortunately other sources of nonprofit funding are going down. I know, my income for an ngo was cut in half last year. This should be increased in a careful way.

Service organizations who need it to survive but to some flake artist, no.

Grants to Organizations I think these are a great idea and that the city likely recoups far more value for money this way than through many contracted services simply due to the efforts of volunteers associated with organizations receiving grants.

Would like to learn more about them.

None at this time.

Grants to Organizations I think grants are great for supporting non-profits organizations, but maybe they should be available to other members of the community?

give grant to OUR PLACE to relocate from their present location

Comment **Programs** Without any information of what is meant by "service on behalf of the City" and "programs that are based on the City's Strategic Plan" it's impossible to comment.

Would like to see most grant eliminated

we can not afford this number anymore

why are there no details?

none

Get leaders in environmentally accountable foodservice (leaf) to audit city food services. Saves money on expenses, is green and non for profit. Local.

make application dates as needed throughout the year so communities can apply for money when the need it - not when the grant deadline is.

Awarded Who are you granting awards to? and to do what? More detail needed.

People Victoria foundation and the enthusiasm of people to give and care for is to be firmly supported. They have taken on all sorts of jobs and needs that government used to serve. Bless the people who want to and the city and regional districts who support needs and are willing to take a chance.

In favour of the grants.

People sounds good. Grants are critical for some much-needed services to people in poverty

Keep it up!

Grants to Organizations **Know** **Programs** **Providing Service** Grants to organizations that provide specific services or program delivery yes. Others NO. It invites abuse and misuse of funding and 'favourites' or 'who you know' games

Support for arts and culture is important.

Grants makes important things happen that benefit the entire community directly or indirectly.

Awarded **Grants to Organizations** Revisit who's getting direct award grants, shouldn't just be because they're grandfathered from the past, it should be because they're delivering a service on behalf of the city. Together against poverty society for instance does more for poverty and housing affordability social justice and equity than most any organization in the city. City needs to periodically reviews who is advancing its

objectives and the key issues facing our community and then support those organza based on that priority and their impact potential..

social issues should be further explored, not just environmental

Invest more in arts groups and performance venues.

grants are important.

Providing Service More grants for rental supplements, and for social service providers.

Continue giving them, more preferably

Hard to say from descriptor here, but in general that seems reasonable. Nonprofits add a great deal to the community, in a general way.

People Yes lets get people out talking about these grants and getting people to use them.

No

Invest in farming, cultur, community, and arts.

Know **Programs** The grant programs that are based on the City's Strategic Plan need more public input. I don't know of any and would like to learn more.

Develop a guiding principles document if there isn't one already as well as a value for money framework.

Area **Going** There needs to be more research done regarding where some of the grants are going. Decisions made in this area require evidence based information not statements or emotions.

Going I would like to see where that money might go before it goes!

Projects They provide important assistance to the projects of local residents.

Providing Service Hold off on all grants except those to service providers and neighbourhood associations until a full review is done.

Projects most of the grants are for worthwhile projects. Amounts should be increased.

Providing Service I think this is a worthwhile & economically way to provide services and support grassroots community action. Pls continue!

Comment **Know** It's hard to make any comments without knowing what the grants are.

these grants are a great idea, they are required for our active arts scene that makes Victoria more interesting and connects us as a community. ie Spoken Word Festival

More for arts and small business start ups

It would be better to provide housing than grants. Iowa did it and they are saving more than \$14,000 per homeless person every year.

Wish I knew more about this.

I would like to see every cent put into transportation improvements for bikes, buses and walking.

Grants are essential for many non profits to enable their contribution to our cultural environment.

Make criteria flexible to ensure these get used.

As long as the process is fair and accessible, I strongly support grants

more for art and less for sports

Area It is appropriate and probably too small in a number of areas.

Projects More grants for progressive projects! The money spent on good projects will easily pay for themselves in the long run

Area **Awarded** **Grants to Organizations** **Projects** If the grants are awarded to projects that organizations are wanting to take on to be a part of the city development plan. Bicycle rest areas, planter improvements, assisting with the projects on the drawing board already. then Yes.

No.

these grants need to be suspended.

Area Greater potential for waste than in any other area.

stop doing it. I'd rather see a reduction in my taxes and be able to choose the organizations I support on my own.

I'd like to see the City stop giving tax breaks to well-off institutions, especially private schools.

Awarded I believe that some of the grants should be awarded to agencies who are serving the substance-using population.

People Please provide multi-year grant for cart/belonging storage for people experiencing homelessness

I have been interested in applying for a Greenways Grant for the Hillside Quadra community (working with QVCC and NAG) but we don't have the volunteer time resources to do this. Point is that grants require capacity to access them and perhaps the application process could be simplified.

Awarded **Programs** It seems a modest amount that likewise provides flexibility in awarding to those programs that reflect strategic goals.

Projects Where is the list of past projects supported? This would inform my answer but there is no information provided so I cannot answer this question.

Aids Vancouver Island does good work, and should be considered for a grant.

Seems like It tries to be everything to everyone. Encourage a strategic review

I feel that there should be more in the way of grants towards the massive student population within Victoria.

Supervised Consumption Services need political support through financing and advocacy.

Awarded Consider a way to prioritize the types and size of grants awarded based on a joint assessment of the non-profit sectors needs and the cities needs

Programs The City should stop providing financial aid to non-profit groups. Instead, the City should use the money for its own programs, like fitness centres.

Neighbourhood Associations contribute a great deal of volunteer time and need to have reasonable increases in their budgets.

They are important

Comment **Know** Cannot comment without knowing what the grants are.

This is way too much for a regional government to be responsible for... this should be the remit of the provincial or federal governments.

Going Most of these grants result in positive benefits for the community at a cost that is much lower than if the city took on the activities. Keep them going.

Going My family and neighbours do not support property taxes going towards homeless facilities. That is the provincial government's role. Victoria can not afford to build homeless shelters and should encourage the province to assume these responsibilities again

Its a massive waste - yes some organizations are great. but others are getting a free ride.

non-profits have the ability to generate profits and revenue - social ventures -- encourage this

A major review of these grants is in order with a view to reducing them.

Grants to Organizations The City needs a better arts organization. Artists are woefully underserved by established arts groups such as CACGV, Open Space, and others, and as a result we are seeing our arts community in sharp decline. These groups create little work for artists, offer little to no support, and are woefully outdated. Victoria's creative economy needs better representation in the form of a supportive arts organization - an arts and culture equivalent of the DVBA. To date we have none, nor do we see the grant support to develop one. Groups such as Inter Arts have tried, though found no support with the City, which seems unreasonable.

Please invest in the Downtown Community Centre for the city's poorest residents!

It is interesting that this survey lists what the major city departments will spend money on (e.g. more manhole covers) but does not list grants for the reader to review. I am very very suspicious that we are receiving value for money for grants many of which seem to be politically motivated. While some grants are not doubt worthwhile, I think drastic cuts here would have little impact on the city's wellbeing.

Going **Programs** This amount is adequate, depending upon what the split is between direct-award grants and others. In my opinion the majority should go toward grant programs based on the Strategic Plan.

What grants? For what? Stupid question without background information. W

Free money is very hard to allocate well. I wouldn't do it.

no

Area **People** Arts organization are the heart of a city but in Victoria the same people are supporting all of the organizations. Please consider increasing financial support for this area.

NO GRANTS PLEASE

do what's in the community's interest not yours

Going Make sure the \$\$ hit the ground and don't end up going to just administration.

I support this. We can judge a government by how it treats its most vulnerable.

Essential!

No

2.5 million on grants is a drop in the bucket.

Awarded If/when neighbourhood grants are awarded, make sure that the neighbourhood has clear direction on process and open lines of communication with City staff.

Programs Keep politics out of this program

Grants to Organizations Rather than an ad hoc approach the city should have criteria for applications. They should be evaluated with an eye to economic development. Grants for organizations which make the city attractive for visitors and encourage the arts.

Comment Cannot comment.

Please maintain and increase matching grants. Increase the Greenways matching grant.

Projects the grants process needs a major overhaul to better meet community needs, and be more accessible by groups. More quick turnaround micro-grants (with no deadlines) for small projects.

Projects Figure out a way to get more money from neighbouring municipalities for the McPherson Playhouse. Community groups can be innovators of change but the city needs to work with them and create

a framework to ensure the entire community benefits from what is learned from these projects.

Grants can be effective tool to partner with citizens to deliver on city-wide objectives. Place-making comes to mind.

The City should devote some money to investigating the root causes of poverty - which are local, provincial and federal - so they can assign responsibility and not pay for the problems that other levels of government are creating. Unite with other municipalities on these goals. Art is terrific, too.

Maintain all matching grants, and ideally increase them. Greenways grants should be a top priority.

People it would be great if the city could grant the people and things that struggle to gain grants from other avenues (arts)

We should ask the federal government to pay 100% of the cost of the bridge replacement, as they are doing for Montreal's Champlain Bridge. Or, the province to pay 100% as they did for the Port Mann.

I would like to see a concerted effort made to determine which business areas the city could reasonably get out of (the conference centre may be one) or where partnerships with others can result in service efficiencies (e.g. partnering with the YM/YWCA or a neighbouring municipality on the provision of recreation services at a revamped Crystal Pool), and a serious look at generating income from city owned properties downtown whether vacant (apex site on Douglas at Humboldt) or underused (Centennial Square parkade and arcade buildings).

Increase Taxes taxes can't continue to go up each year. there are more fees and increases all the time and wages aren't following. i'm quiet happy to see the reduction in sewer rates over the summer to reflect most of the water use in the summer is in the garden. cupe wages are increasing too much when compared to average workers.

Protected bike paths

Raise more dollars through taxation and stop subsidizing cars.

Survey Why have you done this survey on Fluid surveys instead of through Have Your Say Victoria the Granicus product that you're already paying for? Seems wasteful.

Council **Increase Taxes** I feel there has been great waste in the system under the jurisdiction of the past mayor and council. Services and endeavours were silo'd, agencies were territorial, providers were apathetic and obstructive, and inertia seemed to defining characteristic of the regime and its work. We are now suffering the results of that regime. I have great optimism that the current mayor and council have the ability and the will to turn this around, but I am reluctant to increase taxes before the areas of efficiency are identified and remedied.

This seems well planned

I am concerned about the potential final cost for the Johnson Street Bridge. The final cost may significantly

affect taxation and we need to reduce our current taxation projections in order to keep costs in line with what residents and business owners can successfully manage.

By offering the residential tax rate to local businesses, it would stimulate growth.

Property taxes should not raise, except for non-local businesses or businesses making less than a certain amount of money.

City of Victoria I pay more than \$3,500.00/year in property taxes and utilities to the city. In my neighborhood, I would value seeing improvements to my neighborhood managed in a comprehensive way, and not parceled out piecemeal. Members in our community have brought forward very strong and desirable ideas to improve our neighborhood. The city should foster better listening skills in their employees who are trained to work in community consultation and to work together between departments. Department silos create stress on community people. What the city sees as beneficial may not be the same thing that a community sees as beneficial. People want connection, and small things that will ground us in our environments. So much concrete going in everywhere, like the new 5' sidewalks on Cook Street....the loss of green boulevard is a loss to beauty of this neighborhood. Bigger is not better. Small is better. Small is beautiful. The age of Big is coming to an end. Let the city of Victoria be a leader in seeing this. Humility and gratitude for what we have now, building on this, and reinforcing neighbors and community spirit.

I have never read one before. I read each one, except engineering, thoroughly. That was an incredible amount of work and I thank you for engaging the public. I hope enough people choose to read it - especially those who can offer beneficial input.

stupid food scraps program has increased vermin in the city all over, terrible how ever did this should be sacked on the spot a complete idiot,

:)

I agree strongly with the plan to get more people out of their cars and into the streets. Lets create a city that vibrates with life.

As well, the city may need to seriously reconsider its village hub model as it may be unsustainable into the future.

I am very unhappy when I look at the significant financial fiascos on the city's plate. The Blue Bridge, Sewage'. I question the financial acumen of the leadership and, while there has been a change, the effectiveness of city management.

Staff The last question was not worded well. The City should be able to get better value per tax dollar. A reduction in taxes does not need to result in a reduction in services if processes could be more efficient. Salaries for certain senior staff are way out of line and match senior federal government ministers.

A MESS

Benefits **City of Victoria** **Staff** **Think Victoria** Victoria is a great town to live in. but municipal tax and

fee levels are verging on unaffordable for both owners, renters and business people. In general I see very little serious cost control management and seldom hear about the long term solvency of the city.

City employees are very, very well-compensated, with great benefits, but I never hear a peep about outsourcing non-critical tasks.

The bridge project is a fiasco.

The garbage collection nonsense showed how the unions actually run the city.

The kitchen scraps screwup was laughable - if it hadn't been so expensive.

am I not asked to mow the grass on the median in front of my house? Because some overpaid gardener on an expensive machine might not be replaced when s/he retires!!

There seems to to be absolutely no accountability among senior city staff for this serial underperformance.

In summary, anyone who thinks they are getting value for their tax dollar is either not paying attention or a complete fool.

Council **Feedback** **Increase Taxes** **Staff** **Strategic Plan** I appreciate the opportunity to comment. I feel that there are parts of this consultation that were very thorough (nice work!). In those places there was lots of information and text boxes to provide feedback. However, there were also areas where there was minimal detail and little opportunity to provide comment.

An example of this is the property tax increase. I support an increase in property taxes to gain better services. However, the multiple choice question was inflexible and I was not provided an opportunity to comment. I want an affordable city, as well as good services. The three options presented did not allow me to share my opinion (increase taxes and services further, decrease taxes and services, or agree that the proposed taxes and services are fine). I would encourage you to refine these questions for future public engagement activities and provide text boxes for all questions.

For example, what would the tax increase be if the \$4.5 million not yet allocated were not fully used for spending? We could use part of that money for increased services and part to reduce the property tax increase. This would increase services AND keep our city affordable.

That being said, I feel the strategic plan is thoughtful and represents the general views/direction of the last election campaign. I do feel that the plan is very wide-ranging. I hope council and staff will try to focus their efforts so that the city does a few items really well, rather than a lot of items in a mediocre way.

Thank you.

City of Victoria **Staff** It is time for the City of Victoria to get off the backs of property owners and businesses and look to other areas to generate revenue. The attitude of continually funding the programs out of this one source has to change. Over all the attitude of staff at City Hall is poor, take some time and visit Langford, see the kind of reception you get at any of their departments and then secret shop the

Victoria Departments, you will be shocked at the difference and how in Langford have gone down actual

victoria Departments, you will be shocked at the difference and taxes in Langford have gone down, not up! Time for major changes in Victoria if it is going to survive.

Council Other than the council should have some pride and work hard to remove the moniker of "worst run and most out of control council in Canada" as described by McLeans magazine. The current crew needs to sharpen their approach to fiscal responsibility as the current route is not self sustainable without a much large and robust focus on economic development.

Increase Taxes **Think Victoria** As a rental property owner I find it ironic and very disturbing that you think it OK to raise property taxes by an amount greater than the rent controls will allow me to raise rents. You must also realize that if you wish to accomplish any of the initiatives you have put forth in your initiatives program that the cost of doing business will increase significantly. Your only source of income is taxes and fees. So the cost of living in Victoria will always be less affordable and never more affordable.

Benefits **City of Victoria** Get the wage and benefits for city workers under control. Since moving to Victoria in 1996, I've noticed a decline in services, street and Blvd maintenance, for example.

Police Overall, the budget is good. However, the city needs to figure out how to bring down policing costs, especially overtime. Police are extremely well paid for their work (much more so than other first responders such as ambulance paramedics). More work needs to be done by medical professionals and less by police.

Increase Taxes Act and invest strategically - focus on a few key priorities, such as economic dev and infrastructure to grow the tax base

Keep tax increases in line with inflation plus 1% or less

Drive organizational and process efficiencies

Ensure the City's culture is responsive and service-oriented

Manage expectations

My taxes have almost tripled in the thirteen years I have owned a house in Victoria, but the level of service has not kept pace with them, and I find it hard to believe that the cost to deliver the services has gone up that much.

I glanced at the documents and realize I don't have time....

I *do* appreciate that this is available though!

thanks

Taxes are crushing businesses and homeowners. Crushing them into the grave.

As soon as people have choice they will flee the city

As soon as people have choice they will flee the city.

Virtual reality office systems are going to allow people to live wherever they want and cities will shrink.

I know whoever reads my comments will likely have a good laugh, but I am convinced that this is a game changer that will change cities for ever.

This is an expensive city to live in. I support paying taxes but when i see the mistakes of the blue bridge and see so many empty businesses downtown i am worried.

This is an amazing place to live but many families are having trouble making ends meet and are not active.

Survey I appreciate the opportunity to view the draft and have some input - thank you!

One thing that is not commented on (in this survey, or even reported by the media), is the staffing levels of City Hall/municipal workers and their salaries. I have worked in both private and public sector jobs, and there is much job-protection and over-salaried positions in the public sector. In my experience, it was almost impossible to reprimand/correct work standards in the public sector, as jobs were 'protected' and there was a general sense of entitlement, and this was very pervasive and costly.

Police The police are over-paid.

no

Survey Comments on value for tax dollars are neutral as I am a resident of Saanich. The survey should have an additional question to allow for a N/A option for non-residents of Victoria.

Council The members of council who consistently ignore the recommendations of their own experts are an embarrassment.

Thanks for engaging us. Very appreciated.

Increase Taxes Tax increase should reflect inflation, more or less. People can't absorb endless tax increases. Priorities in budget need to shift away from expensive car based infrastructure to more cost-effective and environmentally friendly active transportation infrastructure.

Lobby senior governments for more control of overall tax revenue. Cities are important.

Strategic Plan Suggest an overall review of the mandate of city hall with a view to eliminating roles. At what point does the city stop trying to be everything to everyone? At one point does the city say no to downloading of responsibilities from the province and feds and "just say no."?

Strategic plan well done: It should be adjusted so that the budget is NEVER above inflation. Please live with in your means like everyone else. There are and always will be more needs and more money, priority setting and moderation are needed.

Business is hurting, residents have the lowest mean income in the region.

LOWER. PROPERTY. TAXES.

water and waste water management should be a top priority

Benefits **Increase Taxes** **Staff** Question before last was biased in terms of answers. Most people want tax dollars spent wisely and efficiently. With more than 90 per cent of some dept. budgets going to wages and benefits one wonders why more can't be done. The reason almost all the tax increases are going into staff wages.

Access to information and open consultation has obviously improved at the City since the past election.

Strategic Plan The Strategic plan questions were very poorly constructed. The Strategic Plan needs a rethink. Needs clarification and detail (intent), followed by considered consultation.

Police Additional saving must be found in the amalgamation of services that should be regional: Police, Fire, and recreation.

Please do not raise property taxes. We pay enough as it is.

City of Victoria The City of Victoria, and more generally all of the 13 colonies, has/have too many high-paid employees, some of whom (because of excessive duplication across the 13 colonies and the CRD in a limited labour market) are not fully qualified for the positions that they hold. In Victoria, the burden of core city problems generate property tax levels (and particularly business property tax levels) which are higher than they ought to be, and lead Langford and elsewhere to be able to attract activity through lower taxation levels. This is a fundamental problem, which only some form of amalgamation can address. One of the most important strategic priorities for the City of Victoria in the current 4-year mayor/councillor term of office is to support the necessary cost-benefit analysis of amalgamation, which needs to be co-ordinated, but not dominated, by the Provincial Government. However, amalgamation only makes sense if a ward system for electing councillors is put in place.

not at this time

I liked the focus on arts and culture which has not been as central as it should have been.

Yes, you should pursue the amalgamation potential for gaining relative support due for services given to those who use and often abuse city services.

I am willing to pay more if it is invested in the arts, culture, learning (e.g., the library). I'd also like to see money shifted from cars/streets to pedestrians/cyclists and transit users.

Council **Increase Taxes** **Strategic Plan** I wasn't able to type in additional comments above, but wanted to express my opinion that the question on the previous page about tax levels was very manipulative.

Reduced taxes doesn't necessarily mean reduced services or levels of service. It just may mean that some

reduced taxes doesn't necessarily mean reduced services or levels of service, it just may mean that some projects won't go ahead. If those projects aren't of great value to the majority of taxpayers, I wouldn't consider it a loss of service. In particular, if there is 4.5 million dollars unallocated, I would fully support all of that money being used to reduce the tax increase to 0. With a huge sewage hit coming our way in the next few years, it seems very irresponsible for Council to continue increasing our taxes in this unsustainable way.

In general, I was not impressed with the strategic plan, as it wasn't particularly strategic. Many of the actions were vague and/or not designed to actually meet the stated goals. Seemed more an exercise of trying to design categories to fit pet projects, rather than really looking at issues/areas of improvement for the City and trying to think of the best actions that would achieve those objectives.

City of Victoria It would be great if for once this city focused on the needs, desires, and possibilities of its younger residents. Often as a young working person in this city it is easy to feel overlooked and unimportant when the voices of the wealthy and elderly drown us out. If Victoria wants to be a vibrant, thriving, diverse city then it absolutely needs young inspired voices to have an equal say to those who would keep it stagnating for fear of change.

Love what the city has become over the past 5+ years since living here so I hope it continues!

City of Victoria Unlike most capital cities and major tourist destinations, I feel like the city of Victoria lacks for a legitimate art museum space -- a public building in the city's core that is an attraction in and of itself (like a well-refurbished govt building downtown), that also has enough square footage to present a true offering for tourists and locals to see popular touring exhibitions and seasonal shows of Canada's contemporary artists. There are great performance spaces downtown and lots of restaurants and bars and bookstores and a mix of office space and living space. The gallery doesn't seem to be where it belongs -- instead of nestled away in an old house on a heavily-treed neighbourhood, downtown seems to be the more suitable location for a city's public gallery/museum ~

Increase Taxes The continuous compounding of annual tax increases have a significant affect on the taxpayers ability to pay. This is especially important to the Small business operator who is at the core of the economic viability of the city.

Care should be taken to spend the Taxpayers money wisely.

City of Victoria Regarding taxes: in the future there may have to be a reduction in services as the taxes just can't keep going up and up as our incomes are not going up and up. Victoria needs to be an affordable city for everyone, not just people with lots of money!

Increase Taxes an increase would assume getting more services. not sure if this is the case. however, i would prefer to see this small tax increase than more enforcement of foolish bylaws for fine revenue.

BRING BACK THE TRAIN!

It sucks that the new bridge will not have a rail capability. While I understand that the preferred alignment

would be up Douglas and the TCH, our existing rail right of way could be rehabilitated cheaply and provide express service between Langford, Victoria Shipyards/CFB Esquimalt, and Downtown.

If we're concerned about growing a vibrant downtown that is the vital core of the Region, we need a Light Rail Transit link that will let workers and shoppers from Langford get downtown quicker and easier than fighting traffic and finding parking.

BRING BACK THE TRAIN!

Survey Please keep in mind that this survey will privilege the voices of those who are well-educated and have time to read and answer questions. These will tend to be people in a higher tax bracket who don't receive as many social services.

Council A very good start.

But the request to comment on the proposed numbers is not important, and I have therefore left these questions intentionally blank.

What is much more important is that taxpayers hear what council has to say about the spending of their dollars.

I respectfully suggest that "the same old stuff we've been hearing for years" ... from what is perceived to be a new and exciting administration, will be very disappointing.

If however, new and inspiring ideas and approaches - from all levels - occurs, taxpayer support will be forthcoming.

Benefits **Increase Taxes** **Staff** **Survey** .tax increases should not be expected every year - by having separate utility costs etc which are also like taxes the burden on home owners just keep getting bigger and more costly

. a review of all staff and positions and duties needs to be done

. all recent surveys indicate that municipal workers are the most highly paid and benefited in the nation let alone BC

.

I am increasingly satisfied with the management of the city.

Customer service and departmental performance is improving.

Police Fire and police over-staffed.

Survey Spend a little more and have a survey that asks meaningful questions without requiring the participant to wade through pages and pages of paper work. The first few questions were great but asking someone with no knowledge to judge whether you've budgeted enough for storm drains is meaningless, box ticking consultation.

Increase Taxes Please please please stop spending so much on "beautification" and helping businesses, like the property tax reduction plan for empty storefronts on Government St. If a property manager can

afford to have a storefront empty for months on end, property taxes are not the problem. Increasing support to local business start-ups, though, would help this. Re: beautification, yes, Victoria is beautiful. But perhaps try 1 hanging basket per lamp post; instead of simply pretty lamp post banners, use them to promote events so as to help drive economic activity.

But even then; please focus less on Victoria being a pretty place and more on develop a poverty reduction plan and a housing trust to combat homelessness, including more support. Food banks and shelters should not be provided by church groups; the government needs to step up.

Increase Taxes How does an increase in property tax fit with making Victoria more affordable?

Police We pay the highest cost for policing in the province. This must come to an end, and Vic PD should be forced to reduce their operating budget by up to 10%. There is absolutely no reason why our policing costs are so much higher than every other municipality in the CRD. The service they provide is no better, or worse, so clearly there is a spending problem that needs to be reined in.

Increase Taxes **Police** **Survey** for many past years my impression is that tax increases were much higher than the rate of inflation. the fact that the proposed budget increase this year is only somewhat higher than the rate of inflation is encouraging but more should be done to limit budget increases. policing costs seem to use the largest amount and unfortunately no comments were invited in this survey on that topic. that is the reason why i selected my overall satisfaction rating above.

Staff Too much spent, grants and staff resources on projects beyond responsibility of City.

Too much spent on tax exemption's (eg heritage tax exemption should be 2 yrs, not 1

More food growing in green spaces and boulevards. less urban sprawl. investment into innovative city planning so as to prioritize pedestrian and bicycle traffic not cars.

Strategic Plan this consultation is weak your strategic plan process feels rushed tying it to ur budget without asking for meaningful input beforehand - amateurish but will probably serve your purpose. not exactly a confidence building exercise

no

After reading all of the budget materials (!) I am in awe of how much the city does for us.

Benefits a repeat comment, salaries and benefits should be much lower segment of the budget. It is a public sector, not a private business.
Please rein in those costs and spend more on tangibles.

Feedback Thanks for asking for input, and making it easy to give feedback.

I don't live in the city but I am downtown many days of the week. It is a difficult climate for business now because so many city resources are going to areas that are not helpful to business. On the bright side,

taxes are lower now than in years past because of the downturn but I would rather have a more vibrant community and thriving retail shops so I hope steps will be taken to improve this situation.

It is great that more people are moving downtown and maybe this will help everyone.

Feedback The average citizen is able only to give superficial feedback on a budget such as this. Hopefully, our City Councillors are exceptional and grasp the material and give good direction.

Good luck.

Concerned that climate action mitigation is not getting much attention.
Excited about future cycling improvements.

Benefits If councillors want benefits, they can campaign on that issue and not wait until they get a contract (elected) and then start sticking their snouts in the trough.

Survey This survey is tainted.

Some of the questions were open-ended. I grant you that, and thank you. However, many of them were restricted to afford only the answers you wished to hear.

Your survey failed because it did not encourage folks to offer thoughts on all issues.

My assessment of the whole survey is -

it had a chance, but didn't want to BE
bureaucrats, protecting their longevity, screwed it up
you were seeking approval, not opinion

Nice try, lady, and you probably sucked in most of the electorate.

What a glorious waste of my dollars.

Stop stealing.

More information should have been provided on the Dental plan. Good teeth are important. Dental health is as critical and physical health and mental health. Why they are not all under the same provincial umbrella is not clear to me. Take a leadership roll in dental health and take good care of city employees teeth.

Any one can make a budget that increases every year. It takes someone with courage to say no to public special interest groups and not take the easy way out.

Council Strategic Plan One of the reasons I am supportive of Lisa Helps as mayor is because she demonstrates an understanding of the merits of working small rather than focusing on super projects that result in cost overruns and endless controversy. I like that the focus of so much of the budget is targeted at the lower end of the scale (as opposed to yet more bridge type projects).

I recognize that this council will have to put its head in the lion's mouth with Crystal Pool but I believe that there are so many great examples locally and elsewhere that demonstrate how this work can be undertaken in a thoughtful and cost effective manner.

I am very happy to review the Strategic Plan and see how high level vision statements are anchored to concrete objectives that offer a clear route forward. I like having a longer time frame examined at one time (as opposed to annual plans). I would like to see more effort put into defining milestones that will support ongoing monitoring. Projects that are either done or not completed provides some guidance but simple yes/no assessments rarely capture the nature of the situation.

Thanks very much for the opportunity to participate and going to the effort to use multiple means to get me to actually participate.

The dilemma of having too many municipalities in a small geographic area means that Victoria residents pay too much proportionally for things that are equally shared by residents of the other municipalities. Amalgamation needs to be promoted.

Overall it's a good budget.

THE CITY MUST OUTSOURCE AS MANY SERVICES AS POSSIBLE AS THEY DO NOT GET PROPER PERFORMANCE FROM THEIR UNION WORKERS. PERFORMANCE AT 50 TO 60 PERCENT IS COSTING US TAXPAYERS A LOT OF MONEY.

City of Victoria **Think Victoria** This is the first time that I can recall this information has been put out to the public input and suggestions and that is a great move. It's going to take a few years and a lot of money to bring Victoria up to the standard it was only 20 years ago. Some goodies may have to be delayed or cancelled so that the infrastructure can be brought up to snuff. There needs to be more innovative thinking in City Hall and less disapproval of everything that might just help the City get back on its feet.

Staff I see so much wastage in the City.
Money given away to special interest groups.
Subsidies given to select businesses

Incredibly high salaries, way out of line. My small business couldn't afford to pay front office staff what my tax dollars pay city staff.

I wish that politicians would see the citizens of their municipality/province/country as more than taxpayers. We are citizens, not just a source of revenue! Referring to citizens as only "taxpayers" essentially minimizes the opinions and voices of those who do not directly pay tax due to age, income, living situation etc. Otherwise, good work.

Increase Taxes we can not keep increasing taxes every year, it compounds and wages today are at a less percentage, they are not keeping pace, need to do more with less, costs and salaries are huge, production and being organized with good communication, is key

Staff Why is it assumed in the previous question that reduced tax revenues automatically infer a reduction in services? Is the city administration running at such a high level of efficiency that there is no potential for spending efficiencies or improvements in staff productivity? This seems very dubious to me.

Police More selfresponsibility - less Police, less safety, we have overprotection with signs like "low branches"???? On summit park there are every 2 meters a sign, "steep drop"????

Please budget to get rid of the floating shanti town in gorge. Please move forward on commuter train to Langford. City owned harbour bus would be a boon

Council **Police** **Survey** 1) I believe that that the police budget should be part of this discussion based on how much the city spends on the budget even if we dont get a say how its spent. I would like to see a reduction in this spending. lets create safe street by investing in our local community instead of our police force. the survey should at least show how much of our tax dollars go to the police budget

2) I would be happy to contribute more to taxes if less was going to policing

3) Glad you are looking at health and dental for council - about time!

Overall, not bad. However, why isn't there something related to dealing with sky-high housing prices and homelessness in the city? This is a big issue, and was a major issue in the election. Also, I notice many transit benches these days have partitions that make it impossible to lie down on them. Obviously they aren't intended as beds, but this still seems mean-spirited in a city with too many people sleeping rough every night.

I'd like to see the city actually encouraging people to take over their local boulevards and plant food and/or pretty gardens there. It would produce food, be fun, be beautiful, and spare the city maintenance costs.

Benefits **Survey** Brilliant idea! Should be taught in schools how to run a city. Geek kids would love it! How inclusive can you get-here is how much money here are the needs help us by participating. I love this new openness. I have educated myself quite a bit by filling our your survey which is very easy to use. Great start! Hat e the blue bridge mess. This type of info sharing and participation would have been most useful to move everyone along together instead of making or affirming that most citizens have a right to be cynical. Ahh! That is what I want to comment on. If you keep just responding to rich developers and are secretive people forget how democracy works and go stupid because there is no benefit. This method keeps us up and involved and probably there are 10 other ways to involve people and allow us to participate and encourage us. Then we are all empowered and good decisions get made!

Saying it again - address homelessness and poverty and then look into other areas otherwise the divide widens and social unrest ensues.

Survey Thank YOU for inviting me to complete this survey. I love the thought and openness. Please

continue your amazing work Mayor Helps and team!!

Benefits I tried to vote NO to the Councilor benefits question but the yes/no slider seemed to be misbehaving

Council **Staff** Thanks to all who serve the citizens of Victoria, whether on staff or on council.

I do not envy you your jobs!

Increase Taxes Property taxes are way too high here. The city can be more creative in terms of lowering expenses and increasing revenue in other areas.

City of Victoria **Strategic Plan** **Think Victoria** I think there are some amazing thinkers, visionaries, ideas, communities and countries out there doing extraordinary things. I don't think Victoria needs to reinvent the wheel. I just think we need to educate ourselves, open our minds, rethink how we might want to live together in this little paradise and boldly apply some 21st century thinking to our community. Victoria is a wonderful place, but it could be so much more. With some vision, creative and critical thinking, strategic planning and lots of hard work, together we can add great depth and breadth to our fair city.

City is not operating as efficiently as it should be there's too much waste and inefficiency from bureaucracy and processes that are broken

Staff **Survey** **Think Victoria** If I was a full time staff, it would take me a long time to properly answer this survey.

As a citizen, it has been designed very poorly. What is the estimated time that it should take for a citizen to fill it out. Also, from a design perspective, there were not adequate responses for some questions. Forcing people to answer in all cases will skew the results. In some areas, some people simply cannot give an answer.

I am amazed at how poorly this survey has been done. It is too bad. I think Victoria has done great things and I have heard they are consultative and forward thinking.
This particular survey is not evidence of that.

good overall draft. let's get started!

Council I agreed to council member's health and dental plan. I feel equally strongly that they should be paying 50% Costs must be in line with what they could (and should) access in a voluntary group plan, such as those that are already available to them!!!

Harm reductions services, including multiple location exchange sites, safer consumption sites, detox beds, and treatment options are very important to me, as is making housing more affordable and increasing the number of subsidized apartments/homes.

City of Victoria **Feedback** **Think Victoria** Not being a resident of the municipality of Victoria but being a

person who spends lots of money at restaurants and businesses in Victoria, I don't know how useful my feedback is. I can say that the streetscape and inner harbour and Beacon Hill Park and places to eat are a big draw for me. I think the downtown core can spread toward Bay Street, and I don't like the idea of high rises with businesses underneath the residential housing. I don't think there are enough businesses to fill the space, and I don't think high rise (any higher than 4 story) housing is people friendly. What about townhouses and low rise apartments/condos? What about more park space? Greater density with no increase in green space will not make the city unique or livable. I like developments like Selkirk minus the taller buildings. Victoria is not a warm climate, and blocking out all the sun with tall buildings won't work. Build Victoria to be beautiful, and it will succeed. I think the Jawl's have good ideas about development and care about Victoria. Seek out people like them and avoid developers like those building Uptown.

Thanks for the opportunity

Increase Taxes I would like to see increases in my tax dollars go towards Safe Consumption Services and low-income/low-barrier housing initiatives. Too many folks are left unnoticed and they are dying. We all have money to contribute to ensuring all our communities of folks are safe and thriving.

Staff Most of my satisfaction comes from Victoria's lovely parks and greenery, and from the excellent staff and programs at Crystal Pools. I really cannot stress enough how important these aspects of the plan/budget are to me.

Survey I have completed the survey primarily to indicate my support for a Supervised Consumption Service in Victoria. I had understood that this would be included in the survey, but I was unable to find it. Please indicate my support in the appropriate data field. Thank you.

Benefits **Increase Taxes** Until we have great support for children who go to school hungry, those with mental health issues, underemployed youth and seniors living in poverty we should take a long hard look at the salaries and benefits being paid by our tax dollars.
The increase should match the cost of living.

The fleet of city maintenance vehicles, mowers, etc. should be moved to zero emissions. Boulevard landscaping and maintenance should be moved to zero emissions.

show leadership without spending boatloads of money.

Increase Taxes Focus on what we need as opposed to what we may want. There are lots of really nice ideas put forward, but we simply cannot afford them! All homeowners are stretched to the point of exhaustion and cannot go on funding yearly tax increases. We are completely tapped out. Please try to rein in some of this spending as some of it is really not necessary in our current fiscal climate.

Council **Police** The biggest drain on our taxes is the over policing of our city, and yet you tell us you have no control over this, so we are not actually living in a democracy, just a police state where taxes are imposed on us from above to fund the police.

You are telling us the mayor and council are useless pawns that can affect no important change.

You are sick humans, very sick. Looking after your paycheque, with the blinders on.

You are sick humans, very sick, looking after your paycheque, with the blinders on.

Taxes and expenditures should rise to cover the growth in population and inflation.

The choice options for budget satisfaction did not include my view - streamline city administration, look actively to contract appropriate functions to not-for-profit organizations and private companies in order to do more with the existing approved budget.

Congratulations on the planning budgeting process and this consultation. Sharing the choices helps me understand and support more of what's involved in city governance.

Police I chose "moderate/dissatisfied" above because I feel, as already mentioned, that we carry a disproportionate share of regional costs. Blue bridge, policing, fire, probably even recreation.

I have no idea where this belongs or if it is a city matter, but as an apartment building tenant I am annoyed that homeowners have compost pick up and our landlord just changed the business that picks up our recycling and garbage and we are no longer able to recycle glass!

Police 1. fix the noise/light/physical pollution of the city, please stop dumping sewage/wastewater in the ocean
2. i do not drive a car. bikable and walkable neighborhoods and streets are much more important to me. also a downtown vic to downtown van passenger ferry.
3. accountability for our public figures. (mandatory police body cameras)

Increase Taxes Thank you for seeking our input. I appreciate that.

I chose "don't support the tax increase" because I think the City needs to look at restraint in some areas -- have more of a "taxpayer" lens on budget expenditures. I think it's likely that the City is spending too much on some things (conferences/travel and parking allowances are an indication of this) and likely too little on other things.

Money should be allocated to creating a LRT from Downtown Victoria to Swartz Bay and to the western communities as far away as Sooke. Connecting the communities and making it easier for us to travel. Right now using public transportation it takes 5 hours to go from Victoria to Vancouver, and that is just simply crazy!

Feedback **Survey** Thank you for letting me provide feedback - I hope the results of this survey will be made public. Oh, and I support a local minimum wage of \$15 - not sure how that fits in with all this, but the wages in this city are insulting.

Council **Increase Taxes** The question on tax increase is completely biased as it gives you no other choice but to say yes to the increase. Reduced taxes do not mean reduced services.

Overall, I really like the direction of our new council and especially the new mayor. Please keep going as our City needs much improvement and beautification, especially around the Harbour. Thank you for all your efforts on our behalf.

Innovate.

Victoria is too expensive for young people. Any measures to reduce cost of living should be seriously considered to retain our vibrancy. It is not fair and sad that most young people (except highly paid professionals) cannot afford to buy or raise a family in this town without large sacrifices to quality of life. It's a problem.

Feedback **Survey** I appreciate the ability to review and provide input to the plan via this online survey. This is a great way to solicit feedback from the public.

Strategic Plan I think it is inappropriate to ask citizens to comment on the city's budget plans. It is unlikely that you will receive any value.

I have some experience having managed a small budget in comparison (\$4million) and I am in no way competent to make meaningful comment on your budget proposal. This is not empowerment, but the appearance of such.

The strategic plan is a different animal and I appreciate the opportunity to have commented. Thank you.

Thanks for involving the community! Great initiative!

I bike everywhere and often feel like I am risking my life to get from point A to B. I am active and want to bike, but don't feel like the city's infrastructure is supportive of that. Lines on the side of roads don't stop cars from hitting cyclists. In the last 6 months, I have had no less than 4 friends hit by cars, while biking to work. Three of these accidents were relatively innocuous, but the 4th was near fatal and a very scary incident. All 4 of these friends have now reduced their number of biking trips as a result. 1 has actively encouraged me to stop biking due to her perceived danger. The number of friends that I have had hit by cars biking around is scary and is a real deterrent to individuals wanting to support a clean and healthy lifestyle and city.

Thanks you for considering my thoughts! I look forward to hearing more about this in the coming weeks.

safe consumption site please!

Keep up the good work. I appreciate the effort you all put in, even when I don't agree with your choices.

Lets be bold in our actions, and unapologetic about creating a better future for all

Some of the so called "street people " that call themselves "homeless ", should be more willing to work for their meals and the accomedations that are available to them

their meals and the accommodations that are available to them.

It should be good for them to help out by taking responsibility for a section of the area that they stay in, the streets that they frequent, and try to keep them well kept, to be proud of their existence, and help in some small way, and pay back for their ability to get meals and shelter.

There are a lot of them that are quite capable to use a broom, or garden a bit in the raised planters, that it would give them something useful to do, beside beg for free handouts, and then see the improvements to their surroundings as well as their own energy level.

They would feel needed when they see that they can improve in many ways, beside feeling sorry for themselves. Free handouts are not always the best way to look after street people.

Increase Taxes Raising taxes is not a great option. To fund some of the cycling infrastructure why not increase parking fees ... or increase parking fees to pay for the parkade work? This would incentivize motorists to cycle, or at least make them aware that driving a car has huge costs to our city. The true cost for car parking needs to shift to those driving cars and away from the responsibility of the entire community. More locals cycling is better for traffic congestion and also makes parking for visitors more accessible.

City of Victoria where is the cutting of the fat in the city of Victoria?

Increase Taxes WRT taxes, I am satisfied with the value for tax dollars that I receive as a homeowner and would be ok with an increase, but I am NOT satisfied with the value for taxes I receive as a small business. Increasing the taxes for small business owners beyond their already exorbitant rate will result in more businesses vacating the downtown core - which goes directly against one of your stated goals. How can you marry such a contradiction?

I keep paying more for declining services. Garbage collection is a classic example. Saanich has a superior program that costs less and provides a better service as it includes garden waste.

Wasting money on new service areas when existing services are just barely adequate seems foolish and wasteful.

City of Victoria **Think Victoria** Think City of Victoria should partner with all other Greater Victoria municipalities, the Prov Gov't, and the Fed Gov't to open a Supervised Consumption Site for people addicted to/using drugs intravenously. This site should be embedded in supportive range of health care services to encourage individuals using drugs to desire and attempt to live a healthier life.

Police We spend an enormous pile of money on police services, a pile that constantly grows. Despite senior management changes, our police services have in fact changed hardly at all over the years. They keep getting more money for no obvious reason.

Our police department has almost no officers or employees from Victoria's First Nations and Chinese-ancestry communities. Our police remain vulnerable to critical mistakes caused by such institutional racism.

Our police keep misrepresenting their jobs as dangerous. However, WCB injury and fatality statistics prove that policing remains one of the safest occupations.

Finally, our police department and police boards still have not delivered true community-based policing. Edmonton, Halton in Ontario, and Portland have all figured out how to get more community input to policing, but Ferguson (Missouri) and Victoria have not.

Keep the bus station downtown and get the island rail link there also!

I would rather not see increases into base rates for utilities such as water/sewer/garbage. For example the value of conserving water is offset by all the increases to base rates. My house produces almost no garbage but still has to pay substantially. When we were in Seattle there was an option for a garbage bin the size of a recycle bin, which was substantially cheaper.

General comments: I am glad to see the discussion opened on budget. I fear that blue bridge cost over runs and other capital projects will sink all the great ideas that the public brings forward.

Thanks!

Strategic Plan I've been able to answer most of my questions by referring to the more detailed docs on the City website, so I appreciate that they have been posted online.

I have a couple comments/questions that remain unaddressed.

1. I note that there is Revenue allocated to both HR and Legal Services in 2014, but for 2015 there is \$0 Revenue for HR but Legal Services has doubled from \$50k to \$100k. It's not clear to me how these business units would generate revenue in the first place, but I would also wonder why that revenue has substantially changed from one year to the next. Small change, of course, but every dollar counts.

2. I note that the Civic Engagement and Strategic Planning dept is ballooning in size and as a cost centre. I also note that at least two of the Proposed Initiatives for 2015 include items that arguably fall to HR. Specifically, I'm referring to the following:

- Employee recognition program and new orientation program
- Employee forums and leadership sessions

To me, this indicates redundancies and inefficiencies.

We ask that you implement a Supervised Safe Injection Site. It will move the drug users indoors, and provide support, and education in the process.

My taxes are way too high. Its getting to the point where I need two months wages out of 12 to pay my taxes, That way to much..

City of Victoria **Increase Taxes** I understand the importance of keeping services and Make improvements in the city but there needs to be balance - though many members of the community enjoy good incomes, as you well know, Victoria is also home to many people with low and fixed incomes - your job is to make certain those citizens can continue to live in this city - property taxes and utility bills keep increasing making it hard for those people to remain here.

Two things that are embarrassing about living in Victoria is the lack of sewage treatment and the lack of a safe consumption site. Otherwise thank you of all that you are doing.

Staff Salaries of senior City staff are ridiculously high compared to salaries of similar occupations. Instead of asking for more from residents, the money should be reallocated from this salary pool.

Just open a Safe Consumption Site already please. It saves lives.

Strategic Plan The comments field didn't work above!

I'm excited at the progressive ideas in the strategic plan, but would love an efficiency audit of our spending as well. As our tax rates rise, as well as our property values, affordability becomes an issue - we also want to ensure that diversity in homeownership. It's super expensive!

We need to make sure that the City receives the taxes necessary. To that end, when the City approves densification (new developments as well as secondary suites and garden suites), the taxes must reflect the additional stress on the infrastructure and services. You can't keep adding people without bringing in more taxes.

Increase Taxes A tax increase of nearly 3% is far too much. This is far greater than the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and even greater than the increase in wages that average workers have received. The city needs to better index property tax increases with the CPI. Otherwise, you are greater a greater real income divide.

Staff Sr Staff Compensation and Public Works employee allocation needs to be reviewed. There are too many 6 figure staff and too many public work staff watching one do the work. I see it continuously and I sure hope the public work staff working on a Saturday are not scheduled as O/T. Government street at Bay last Saturday (mar 21st) was where I saw 5(?) staff watching one guy with a hose place water in the hole. Frustrating.

Survey Why is the Communications Dept. turned Civic Engagement not on this survey????? No one knows what they do or what the value is when similar cities don't have such a department.

Increase Taxes I'd like tax increases to be capped at inflation (the CPI)...

Council Sharing these drafts with the community offers an incredible chance for dialogue and citizen engagement. How did we manage without it in the past. Thank you so much for the opportunity. Even if the

spending and taxation does not meet my expectations, I would support a council that includes me in the decision-making.

Council **Strategic Plan** The strategic plan is much too long and detailed, and at the same time vague and unclear. Next time please get someone who specializes in strategic planning to help council through this challenging process.

Please invest in walking and cycling infrastructure- for too long the City has been giving pennies. This is the time to take leadership and make this city a leader.

sorry but no time

Feedback **Survey** Provide us with feedback, after taking time to complete survey

Feedback **Survey** Thank u for conducting the survey. Hopefully there will be outcomes that reflect the feedback.

Cities move very slowly. Sometimes you need to be like a business and innovate and make tough decisions.

Thank you for including me!

Overall Satisfaction with Value for Tax Dollars - satisfied

Council Monies gained by the city for "land lift" as a result of rezoning should go to general revenue rather than specific funds to give council more flexibility to meet priorities. In other words, the priorities for spending this revenue ought not be fixed over the long term.

The city needs more emphasis on the enforcement of the property standards bylaw.

The city's focus on increased support for economic development is critically important. It should focus on increasing support for the local hi tech industry, gaining a significant university presence downtown, and increased support to the tourism and cruise ship industry both of which contribute to a vibrant downtown and, finally, increased investments in arts and culture will over time be major generators of economic development for the city - just look at London, Paris, New York or even Portland to see what is possible. A strong arts and culture backbone is a necessary component of sustained economic growth in any city.

It is vitally important that the Rockland Community Plan be completed and approved prior to 2019 in order to maintain the integrity of the area.

Thank you for doing this.

Benefits really wish there were better ways to access the information than in the boring PDFs linked here... Infographics, videos, mock-ups, some kind of GUI with GIS layers that allow you to choose different gradients of investment and see the resulting change in taxes (or other benefits). Something that explains the monetary and non-monetary values of natural capital and ecosystem services!

I know that the sewage treatment issue has been very contentious, but we need to show some leadership here. Dumping toxic household chemicals into our ocean is killing our environment and will have a profound impact on our future. This needs to stop, we need to be more aggressive in solving this regional issue. I'm not sure of all the facts regarding the compost issue, but my understanding is that we currently ship our organics to Richmond for processing. This seems insane to me, perhaps this is another issue that we need to be a bit more aggressive in solving, or maybe I am misinformed in which case better PR might be in order.

Council **Increase Taxes** The city should focus on enhancing its tax base through economic development rather than constantly relying on tax increases that are significantly greater than cost of living increases. If the city wants to "innovate and lead" it should create a focus on excellence in architecture rather than relying on the bland products of the current planning processes. But that would take leadership and innovation - lets see if the council is up to its rhetoric.

Increase Taxes Align tax increases with the CPI

Survey There was no mention of the Johnson St Bridge replacement costs in the service plan. It has always been a questionable need. It is now an outrageous expense which should have been managed/controlled.

The survey provided no option to have property taxes held at the present level. It would help to make Victoria more affordable.

EXCEPT FOR THE MAYOR OF VICTORIA, THE REST ARE **Section 22**

City of Victoria **Police** Must address the challenges of urban problems with regular foot and bicycle patrols. Policing cannot be knee jerk reaction to a community complaint. Have councillors walk every neighborhood. Encourage city employees to live in Victoria not in other adjacent communities. Work for city then have home here.

Staff too many examples of overpaid staff - its time to tackle the growing expense

Thanks for inviting public input and for increasing transparency.

good job - it's tough trying to find a balance.

I believe in taxation as long as tax dollars are delivering results.

City of Victoria Thank you for allowing the citizens of Victoria this opportunity, in addition to the Town Hall meeting, to voice their opinions, concerns and priorities. Well done!

I don't mind paying somewhat higher taxes if I feel that the City is spending the \$ wisely and is paying attention to the public.

Increase Taxes Increase tax should result in an increased active transportation (bike) infrastructure.

Council - Building a world-leading cycling network should be the top budget priority for City Council this term.

Police As mentioned the money spent to improve the downtown is wasted unless something is done about panhandling and people laying on the streets. The police presence is notable by its absence. It appears that their contract does not allow them to walk.

City of Victoria **Council** **Strategic Plan** The draft strategic plan is heavy on "new shiny objects" and light on "focusing on the essential". As a result, the budget is very much a status quo approach.

If City Council was truly committed to economic development, addressing affordability, reducing downtown business vacancy, etc, it would look very hard at the extent to which the city's own spending patterns and behaviors are contributing to solutions. Or problems.

The key strategic initiative that was NOT included in the plan and should have been -- "Initiate a Core Review to ensure that City of Victoria taxpayers receive best value for their tax dollar." Now THAT would be "bold".

Let's be more visionary.

Enhance all Greenways by 2020

Improve Public Transportation drastically

Focus on Local Community Plans

I'd like to see the compilation of public responses to this questionnaire.

The City needs to be more intentional about the integration / institutionalization of a culture and practice of innovation. Partner with academic institutions to implement a CityLab or other type of experiment and research-based 'centre' for ongoing improvements in policies, processes, technologies and strategies. Open Government as a priority - the access and turnaround time for FOI requests needs improvement, more info that is better accessible, open-by-design

Accelerate the development / updating of Local Area Plans

Prioritize food production in City Parks budget

Massively accelerate capital expenditure on a interconnected AAA cycling grid

It would have been helpful - if when you asked the ? about \$ being allocated to various projects / proposals, you had indicated what the budget amount being spent in the previous year was and how many projects / proposals were completed.

Great turnout at the Open House. Perhaps a daytime event could have been scheduled also for those who don't go out to events in the evening.

City of Victoria **Staff** **Think Victoria** I think that city staff are on the whole paid too high a salary compared to what people are paid for similar roles in neighbouring local governments and even the Provincial Government. I respect and appreciate the hard work that City staff does but this doesn't mean that they should be at the top end of the pay grade for their job description. The city should aim for average + 5

they should be able to depend on the pay grade of their job description. The city should aim for average or 10 %. I also think the city should avoid hiring "the best in Canada" as it recently advertised for the new Director of Planning position. You're setting yourself up for having a bunch of over paid senior managers. Victoria is an incredible city that I'm sure many very competent professionals would love to work in and even get a little less than what they might expect in other places that are less desirable from a lifestyle perspective. Use our competitive advantage to save a few dollars.

This is beautifully organized, and thank you for doing this consultation. Your respect for my opinion leads me to respect your work more.

Thank you for such transparency and disclosure. After decades, it feels like the City is finally figuring out how to better listen to its people to serve its people and it's great to be given the chance to provide input. I look forward to this process being maintained for the future.

City of Victoria **Council** Just please bring this City out of the era of talking about things and doing nothing. Move us from sleepy, old, tourist cliché, fearful, risk adverse, nearly dead and newly wed to something more in line with the talent and interesting people this city can produce. Please please please let this council and mayor be the catalyst. I heard a story about someone that arrived here in the early eighties. And they had the same sense of the city as a provincial sleepy backwater. And they said that they felt things were changing and the city was on the verge of shedding its geriatric image. And then as 10, 20, and 30 years past, they saw other cities change, and other places invest in arts and culture and little old Victoria, just stayed the same.

Appendix B: Comments and questions received through the Town Hall

Comments and questions are a summary of those received in person during the Town Hall

Comments are organized by speakers – the numbers correspond to the total number of speakers.

1. More bike routes to increase safety, particularly for children on bicycles
More bike infrastructure, making Victoria more like the Netherlands and Scandinavia
2. More environmental bike routes which do not affect the environment negatively
More art.
More natural places.
3. A crosswalk at Michigan and Douglas to make crossing safer
4. Applaud the inclusion of a safe consumption site in the strategic plan
Providing dignity to those who are struggling is an important priority.
5. Concerned about catastrophic climate change, now is the time to act – things can happen at the municipal level.
Want real bike lanes – need to have a curb between the cars and bicycles.
Streets closed downtown – Government and Broad, possibly Fort St
Cheaper buses and better bus services paid for with taxes on gas
Property taxes could be related to whether or not houses are well-insulated.
6. Confluence of electric vehicles and solar energy in a constellation of solutions available to use to address climate change and improve the quality of the places we live.
Solicit Council's help to empower people of Victoria to discover the advantages of driving on sunshine.
Looking for: Supportive policies, financial incentives and strategic support for collaborative small scale infrastructure projects. This approach will provide people with practical solutions.
10 solutions: streamline permitting for installation of solar and electric vehicle charging stations, requirements for new buildings and renovations to have provisions for installation of electric vehicle charging stations, grants and low interest loans for workplace and home charger and solar installations, designated for parking for commercial vehicles that are electric, interurban level 3 charging for commuters, grant and loans to enable food producers to move towards electric vehicles for their work and their delivery
7. Interested in daylighting different bits of Harris Creek/Rock Creek.
Water is our most precious and often forgotten resources.
The City is thinking about stormwater in a new way, this is the time to do it.
Our idea is to work with north park and the communities between Fernwood and Rock Bay to mark the stream and daylight it.
Will email all the Councillors with the list of places where might be able to daylight
8. Cycling infrastructure is important
Q: Are you involved in joint infrastructure planning with CRD or other major utilities? e.g., Capital planning coordination with utility companies. If COV is repaving, sewer piper – do you coordinate with utilities to see opportunities for cost savings and reducing impacts to traffic?
Q: Is it available in GIS format?
9. 60% of GG comes from transportation (not including harbour, airport or ferries)
Nothing but positive things to say about Strategic Plan – stress multimodal and active transportation network, links land use and transportation for corridor planning and has a vision of the downtown as a regional hub
Public transport times equal or better to auto trip duration
E&N Station closest to downtown or as close to waterfront as can be done
Support for Island Transportation current project a commuter rail project: The 16 km line from Victoria to Langford could carry 4 trains a day with 1600 commuters at the start to 2800 /day when it's developed, but the project to get started needs reliable cost estimates. Seeking support from Victoria and other municipalities and other major businesses and land developers that would benefit and it helps achieve many of the 13 strategic objectives
Parallel Douglas Street corridor in helping regional hub
Reduce pressure on downtown parking and find an alternative to car dependence for everyone

10. Learn to grow and access healthy local food, often in urban context and with vulnerable populations
 - Support food system actions, goals and objectives in the draft Strategic Plan
 - Support in particular the creation of micro-grants in support of community commons and gardens
 - Support creating inventory of city-owned land that is accessible for food production
 - Increasing food education and food sovereignty in general
 - Within Strategic Plan or in addition: Look to engage with community towards 5 points:
 - Shifting management of city parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants – to prioritize native edibles and perennials (fruit trees, nut trees, berries)
 - Provide food growing resources funds and materials for community members that want to engage in urban agriculture
 - Expand availability of city land for food growing and mechanisms for long term tenure for growers
 - Increase distribution of fresh local food to vulnerable populations
 - Mandate city staff member to engage with community around local food systems
 - Make sure to engage knowledge keepers from indigenous communities and indigenizing food systems
11. Passion for bikes and for eating
 - Experiencing homelessness and think that has to be a priority in our society
 - If we don't deal with human issues first we won't be able to deal with the other issues
 - Hard to care about bike lanes, vegetables and fruits if I'm worried about a home, and eating and other things
 - Everybody that's built now, 10% has to be put to social housing – not that has to be rented for cheap, but that costs nothing
 - Homelessness is against the law in countries like Iceland – no matter the circumstances (addiction etc.)
 - Been led to believe that it's illegal to camp on private property, could help with gardening and offer protection etc. Might suggest that that needs to be revisited
 - Stand up and make a declaration that from this day forward homeless is illegal and figure out ways to deal with it
 - Commercial builders making millions, donating 3 spaces in a 100 apartment building is nothing
 - If you want other issues to be dealt with – need to deal with homelessness issues first
12. Accessibility for people with disabilities and motilities is still a real issue in 2015
 - Heard a bit about bicycles and traffic calming, but bring that in light for people with wheelchairs and baby carts – they're like biking with chairs
 - Healthy biking communities can also help with people disabilities – look at inclines, buildings
 - Closing down Government St, making it a public mall
 - Heritage buildings in the city that are inaccessible for people to climb up stairs with sore knees, if you have severe mobility or disability issues they can't even go to certain places and as far as bringing more tax money and economic stimulus goes – if we can't go into a building we can't spend money there
 - 10–20% of pop in COV has a mobility or disability issue that's listed
 - Q: How do people like myself and other people that I can bring into a meeting get a chance to sit down and have us considered and really get some viable solutions to the accessibility problem that's in Victoria?
13. Seen Victoria from an able-bodied side and with a disability
 - How often a very small last step or last few feet gets me away from going to a favorite pub or through a bathroom door
 - In new buildings it's standard to have accessibility, but when buildings get renovations they don't have a wide enough door to get in the bathroom or one step to get in off a street (Government and Johnston, little ledge 8 inches high to get into the business)
 - Lack of thought to accessibility in the city
 - Pool – quite a patronizing experience, had to ask at the front counter to use the lift, get in the bathroom there's no bench or place to change, just very inaccessible and wheelchairs are not new
 - Parks and outdoor areas, a lot of places where there is an 8 inch step that prevents getting from one place to another
 - A lens in place to how we can make it more accessible when renovating etc.

14. GV Cycling Coalition

More people cycling, more places, more often,

Letter sent to M+C from GV Cycling Coalition

- Cycling Master Plan update and the planned bike lane on Pandora Ave. are first steps in the path to building an all ages and all abilities cycling network
- Individual and societal benefits are well documented and prove health outcomes, reduce congestion and GG emissions, more business for local economy etc.
- Everyone benefits from more people cycling
- Healthy, cost effective, equitable way to improve the sustainability of urban transportation and a more lively healthy happy and liveable city is one where more people cycle on a daily basis
- Strategic Plan objective 9 lists a variety of outcomes related to cycling including completing 6 priority projects identified last year for 2018 and a more ambitious goal of completing 4-8 high quality cycling facilities for 2016; however draft financial plan for the active transportation plan only accounts for the 6 priority projects or \$1 million/year over 5 years in cycling investments
- Dramatically improve active transportation and invest in a high quality cycling network designed for all ages and abilities
- 3 recommendations – that Council:
 - o Commit to the design and construction of an all ages and abilities cycling network by 2018
 - o Triple the proposed level of investment for cycling infrastructure to \$3million/year for 5 years; Invest substantial portions or the surplus to cycling
 - o Work to increase staff capacity through additional staff, training and consulting services to ensure that the city it has the resources it needs to build a work class cycling network

15. Transportation is a key element to a healthy, economically sound and vibrant community, is important to balance transportation choices and move away from car dominance to create a high quality pedestrian, transit and bicycling environment

Will require better infrastructure beyond painting lines on a road, and a change in attitude towards making our streets comfortable for everyone

For family, cycling on painted bike lanes aren't enough

From the Strategic Plan objectives, were we to actually build a really good connected cycling system, about 8 of the objectives would be met – cycling network would have some impact on them - Bicycling is more affordable and a very equitable form of transportation

16. Proliferating community garden spaces

High level of demand

OCP plan section 17 (b) (d) on food production and healthy affordable local food

Strategic Plan priority number 8

Like Council and City to put far greater level of energy and engagement into creating new spaces for people to grow their own food, whether in community gardens or boulevards

Part time City person to facilitate coordination of organization of new gardens and gardeners

Assurance of long term tenure of community garden

Financial and construction assistance with land clearance, access to water, fencing, raised beds, subsidized water and soil

Promote and support the introduction of three new gardens each year for the next five years

17. Making the city livable and vibrant and supporting the arts community; On behalf of live music as a part of our vibrant community – Music is integral

Thriving arts can be an important part of a city which is striving to be vibrant and has tourism as a part of its national and international presence

Have a successful partnership with the COV - Present music in BHP and in Centennial Square, administer on behalf of the city. All of the money to the musicians – 5% goes to supporting the local

This year there is a slight decrease in the number of concerts, so we're just making people know what a good and successful program it is

18. Provisional City fund for micro housing community for the homeless, a pilot project for the COV

Diverse approaches are needed to provide housing to the people who, for many different reasons and life circumstances find themselves homeless in the city

The growing gap between cost of housing and access to financial resources is a problem for a growing % of Victoria population

Most vulnerable citizens, those struggling with a variety of issues, are amongst those the most affected by poverty and the lack of affordable housing

As municipalities continue to feel the effects of senior level government cuts they must make wiser choices on how to use public resources

It is clearly cheaper and more ethically appropriate for society to house the homeless than police them on the streets

Approx. 75% of Victoria \$35 million police budget is spent managing the segment of homeless with issues

Time for City Council to invest in adequate housing and harm reduction supports and services that will allow people to recover and rebuilt their lives

Policing along cannot achieve these goals, it is a waste of public resources to continue funding growing police budgets at the expense of affordable housing and harm reduction

The Committee is interested in exploring micro-housing villages for the homeless – a low cost, grassroots community solution to building semi self-managed affordable housing which is emerging in the US.

Democratically operated homeless encampments goes back to the depression era and a new trend in sustainable housing design favoring tiny houses that allow people to lead materially simply lives with less stuff and with less of an ecological footprint

Micro-housing is a cost-effective solution with an average unit for a single person 1/13 of the building cost of conventional low cost building unit, built by volunteers in 4 hours

Residents commit themselves to a code of conduct and agreements against use of drugs and alcohol, theft, and have weekly volunteer duties

19. Seniors affordable housing – trying to expand from seniors to also include families

Pleased to see Strategic Plan objective number 6

If there was an objective step, for example a 10% increase a year for affordable housing units for seniors or families, go to the people who are providing that housing now and ask what would it take for you to provide that 10% housing and see what they have to suggest for ways it can be done – Don't have to reinvent the wheel for expertise from the community

20. Strongly agree with overall goal where human needs are a priority with all of us working together

Budget allocation does not reflect strategic goals – Affordable housing is an example

\$250,000 is less than %1 of the total budget

Glad there's room to study other ideas (zoning, tax exemptions) but need to get on with concrete initiatives

If you are not willing to increase taxes, need to revisit budget to make sure there is a greater focus on social justice issues: accessibility, affordable housing, mental health issues

21. Why rail transit is not considered in this plan? All over North America, rail transit is receiving investment because it works to move people, to bring higher density development where you want it

Victoria built on streetcar system, have been trying to maintain business downtown ever since the introduction of the automobile because the streetcar brings how many people to downtown

Need to consider rail transit to renew downtown – brings economic activity

E&N – properly rebuilt can deliver as many people as a four lane highway, bring them downtown. A Streetcar line can cross the new bridge, tram train cars can travel on roads

22. Local organic food, want to see as much support for it as possible

Could make local food more accessible: a food coupon offered through a market association, one had to turn people away this year. Single and low income families enjoyed and benefited from it, support those types of programs

City waste and food scraps– should see those mixed in with yard waste and turned it into compost given back to people

Incentives to homeowners to grow their own food – kits, education, support, boulevard gardens, all active progressive things

23. Strategy number 5 – create prosperity through economic development

Dismayed by large number of vacant commercial spaces

High property taxes one of the reasons – 17% increase over five years for business taxes, 20% compounded Victoria pales in comparison for vacancy rates to other local governments in the area

Objective number 5 won't be accomplished through a %17 increase in taxes

24. Desire first class cycling in Victoria for all ages and all abilities

Cycling in Victoria is one of the fastest growing forms of transportation and the current infrastructure can't handle it

The more bikes, the more drivers are becoming frustrated and it's dangerous

Good cycling infrastructure modeled by the Netherlands – they were car centric in the 70s like we are now but had people and political will behind it

Allocate as much as you of the 4.5 surplus to our first in class cycling infrastructure

Making Victoria the happiest city – this is one step in that direction

25. My five priorities

Engage and empower the community – a precondition, need involve and support of citizens and continue to put resources towards that

Plan for emergencies, including climate change – the number one issue of our century, like to see more than just to plan for them, let's prevent the emergencies in the first place by reducing the emissions by also by halting the expansion of pipelines and tankers, urge you to continue the issue explicitly in the plan

Complete a multimodal and active transportation network – great way to reduce emissions, electric cars: could the City review its building bylaws to ensure charging stations in all new residential construction, and some form of property tax breaks for existing stratas and free city parking for electric vehicles?

Create prosperity through economic development – especially green and high tech sectors

Diversified and sustainable economy

Steward our water systems and waste streams responsibly – support a distributed model of tertiary treatment in our region and hope that we can find a way to bridge east and west side solutions

26. Healthy livable lifestyle

Use the 4.5\$ surplus towards enhancing the things that make us healthy and vibrant community

Enhancement of a bike network that connects the dots, into and out of the city and web in all directions

Food security and growing in our own community – ability to be secure in our opportunity to grow our own food

Creating public space and private spaces that are edible and enhance our own food security

Affordable housing – fundamental building block of our society – accessibility to safe affordable housing, initiatives to support co-op housing has not had enough support

27. Flood in a basement as a result of a break in the city water line – the damage would not have been as extensive if the water had been redirected into the street. We need kits to assist with that.

Sidewalks – we have devoted the sidewalks to cars, every single driveway is painful for someone in a wheelchair – would like to see all the sidewalks built the same way as 1400 broad street – a gentle curve going up for the cars to park but everything is flat. Tired of uneven parts of the sidewalk

28. Harm reduction a daily reality – helping by giving clean needles but discouraging by banning the use of the bathrooms as it becomes a place to use.

Despite all the knowledge of harm reduction it's a higher priority to inject quickly to avoid being moved along or shamed than to do it safer.

Safe consumption site is an integral part of public health. Thank you for ensuring that it becomes a high priority.

29. Increased attention for youth involvement in the city especially students and the issues they face – Further involvement of students of UVic and Camosun
Youth council – no current projects on their website now, 14–24 a wide age range for issues
Like to see more emphasis of issues for youth and students, especially with affordability of housing, density, transit, everything
30. Everyone should be able to get where they're going even if they don't have access to car
Those who cannot or choose not to drive should be given the safety and dignity of a first class cycling, walking and rolling network.
Traffic calming and protective bike lanes that accommodate all ages and abilities will reduce our emissions, improve safety for everyone on the roads, and promote economic and tourism framework.
Social, economic and environmental sustainability hinges on a comfortable all ages and abilities transportation network.
Continue to support a healthy community centered around walking cycling and active transportation in general
31. Like to see matrix type of cross budgeting. Two examples: special events mentioned in 4 or 5 different spots, nowhere is it brought together. Should be disclosed together for next year
Physical – what's underground – needs to be a priority, critical to any city existing
Will find some savings this year hopefully because I think you're going to need it
Taxes are going up not just for commercial buildings but also for residents and tenants who pay through their rent
Paying the costs of an inner city that the rest of the municipalities are not covering
Crosswalk at Michigan and Douglas also
Mobility issues – number is increasing for those who require it, we have streets where we now streets (Simcoe) – as many people using the road for mobility issues as the sidewalks because they are dangerous, and not just for the sloping but also issues like hydro poles
Bike lanes can't use mobility scooters etc. go – share bike lanes or sidewalks, if they stay in the sidewalks the city will have to do something
32. Water – keep that as a focus for myself and other people
Talk of homeless and places for them to live – Woodwyn Farms is a good idea for that
Recycling and garbage – if we were to separate food and other things garbage wouldn't be disgusting. Do research or ask questions
Empty lots being dug look like they're going to have big business buildings put in. Looks beautiful but looks like it's ready to be used for a building – spaces that are open could be used for anything. Skyscraper greenhouse, using those buildings for something like that could reduce the amount of land used for growing food
33. If you're going to have a policy to have everyone grow their own food then you better have a policy to deal with the deer
Put a policy in place to deal with parking change requests in a timely way
Second request, taxis in Victoria – close to 300 – special needs vans, extra cabs through late night great night – but no facilities to park the cabs. No thought to where the vans will be deployed after giving permission to have them.
Multimodal transportation review – give taxi cab industry more of a profile, part and parcel of that review
34. Anything that promotes open government transparency in all levels and all ways I support – citizenry does too.
Q: Civic Engagement – I like to see somebody connected to civic engagement say what's happening in that and what will happen, because the people want to get involved but they need a process that opens it up and makes people feel welcome and connected to their elected officials and the people that work in the building, for the next 5 years
35. Parking for downtown – if we could partner with BC Transit and get everyone a bus pass, especially people with minimum wage jobs might help with transit and parking downtown
Increase of \$1.5 police budget – if that could include defibrillators as they are first responders (in all vehicles)
That Victoria become a gun free city – don't need weapons of war in our city, our laws do not have the death penalty, should not have the means to manslaughter people in our city

36. Pleased to see the multimodal aspect – interested in seeing rail transit happen

Tax dollars for transportation go largely to those who own a vehicle, for those who are forced to walk or cycle or drive a scooter there is nothing in the way of full transportation for those people which rail transit could bring

Transit (rail) benefits everybody and is one of the best for mobility challenged people

Streetcars are continuous along with bikes in the Netherlands, cooperation between them and other users

Lots of requests for money for projects – but Victoria has a tremendous opportunity to follow Portland – planned rail through vacant spaces where a 55\$ million investment paid off in the billions. Plan for the density by putting in rail

Electric rail has no pollution, cyclists will benefit from rail - when talking about transit specify between rail or bus

37. Downtown business owners concerned when we see shops closing

Happy to see everyone's support of transit networks – think the key there is networks

Don't need to do little piecemeal projects here and there

One idea for consideration is separating high speed high volume traffic like light rail and cars from cyclists and pedestrians: Something along the lanes of Douglas/Government one way in with cars and light rail, and then Government/Quadra for pedestrians and cycling. Pedestrians, bikes and cars do not play well together

Parking is a big issue for downtown businesses, biggest deterrent for getting new customers/clients. One hour free in parkades is appreciated

Frustrated with the Harris Green charette, where the requirement for 1.1 parking stalls for every residential development, but watch every development in the last 10 years get a variance off that

Love the Strategic Plan but there needs to be a commitment to sticking to it

Affordable housing – City doesn't really have the power to hit the most driving force which is low interest rates – housing costs are going up because money is cheap

One area the City can address is foreign investment, or non-resident investment a tier structure that puts higher tax burden on non-resident owners than resident owners prioritize people who live and work in Victoria

38. Like the idea of getting cars off Quadra St.

Quadra area and neighbourhood – Should make you want to get out of your car and walk – except the speed of the traffic on the street. No barrier between road and the sidewalk

Consider getting rid of no parking between 4–6 to slow down traffic, don't need it for traffic leaving the city

39. Shifting management of city parks, boulevards and green spaces from ornamental to edible plants – to prioritize native edibles and perennials (fruit trees, nut trees, berries)

Provide food growing resources, funds and materials for community members that want to engage in urban agriculture (e.g., depot)

Expand availability of City land for food growing and mechanisms for long term tenure of growers – have at least 3, better is 5 years or longer.

Mandate City staff member to engage with community around local food systems – we need the support of a City rep to help us out in making sure the initiatives are integrated with the city's goals

40. Vancouver City Council funded a storage facility for people's belongings for people experiencing homelessness – shopping carts, ID, important papers and clothing, meds, etc. – a valuable resource for those with no home

A facility in Victoria is desperately needed for these people, on behalf the 100s of homeless in Victoria. This supports Strategic Plan objective 7 and would help reduce stigma for those having to carry their belongings in bags or carts. Consider allocating \$45,000 of the surplus to create a facility like this in our city

41. Access to fresh local food and to be engaged in their food system

Coming together around local food, except city support to local food systems

Ensuring the land we have to grow and gather food is one of the first steps

Grass boulevards and unused city spaces require money to maintain. Gardens offer the opportunity for communities to grow together, people to access fresh foods they can grow themselves, and for farmers to access lands. This provides jobs, a local economic boost and access to fresh local food.

City support for regional coordination – task force and advisory to work with City staff and Councillors, private sector and community organizations to prioritize and implement strategic plans

Provide City support for anchor organizations like Lifecycles, Compost Centre and CR Affair and to explore opportunities of working with indigenous communities

Supporting community based centres – support of food hubs, like neighbourhood houses, schools or recreation centres and Victoria native friendship centers and others from Esquimalt and Songhees Nations

To ensure access to fresh local food and to be engaged in the food system need City's support and also resources

42. Shifting the responsibility of boulevards from public works to private owners (to reduce the need for the City to manage or spend money) – then have the food system organizations approach private owners to possibly do bargaining and work that out on their own –absolve the City from maintenance and remove the application requirement

Support bicycle infrastructure – Consider new buildings for bike infrastructure – financial incentives for parking and allowing variance with that, like to see less of that and expect development to develop with less parking

Fire station #1 – investing in that right now, the time to invest is not when it has crumbled on top of all of our disaster management and life safety equipment

Heritage site next to fire hall should be on our list to generate income

Eliminate boulevards – not to eliminate City or union jobs but consider pairing that with other garden works as there is more work to be done than we have workers.

Council and Mayor should consider raising taxes – if we can invest in bike lanes the next couple years we can save taxes in the future, instead of trying to get by year by year with the least amount of taxes so I'm willing to pay into that now

Reiterate public interest with our police – that's the biggest part of our budget so if we have the ability to review that by electric vehicles and eliminating two police officers and adding a social worker

43. Active transportation – cycling, pedestrian and greenways plans have horizons in the decades – with some share of the surplus you can try and accelerate some of the those plans to realize the real results to shift transportation choices to more active modes in the shorter term

Tackling climate change, reducing reliance on private cars for transportation and encourage choosing active transportation as it has impacts for budgets for stormwater management and other infrastructure

Community planning and affordability – helping to shift transportation choices also helps make transporting oneself more accessible for more people

Cost for parking in underground parking is expensive which drives up cost of housing, with 35% of our land already dedicated to the movement of storage of vehicles we need to make some changes that will cap that figure

New capital city plan, Belleville terminal and village plans need to look at evolutionary process and how we evolve our transportation networks – can't be done all at once, like to see it move more quickly and need to look at how to make changes long term and how to work with your citizens to make that happen

44. Like Strategic Plan objective 8

Some things we can tweak – easy switch to start moving the money for landscaping, plants and plant production to be used directly on producing food production plants

Put a percentage of your budget towards perennial plants, that can be beautifully integrated into the city of gardens – 0% now being allocated to food production plants, making 10% a goal for the first year and then raising that by 10% every other year for your 5 year strategic plan makes it 50% – you have the staff with the skills they just need the direction from Council for training and to think differently about our city spaces

Please increase funds and grants to the food security non-profit organizations that are already thriving, need some support and core funding for existing programming and not get them to juggle or have new programs when the stuff now needs core grants

Please increase community allotment garden spaces on city land – with the increase of high density living and affordable living this comes with a decrease of land and the decrease of home food production and allotments - assist with this as well as being a wonderful therapy tool for all types of people

Having condo developments have to incorporate food gardens into their building plans is a wonderful way to do this without any cost to the city

Allow free parking passes for farmers making deliveries into the city – a simple way to say thanks for making food for the city

45. Strategic Plan objectives 2, 6 and 7

#2 – Engaging the community – great neighbourhood initiatives, make them better and include those who have lots to say regarding the neighbourhood (homeless)

There is a Councillor liaison to reach out to the Esquimalt and Songhees, but one is also needed for the marginalized and homeless

Needs to be more inclusion with the community that doesn't have much of a voice

#6 – task force – who will be on it, and if social inclusion will be part of it and if you'll come to our place, the greater Victoria coalition to end homelessness, 2 peers 2 solid and AVI to find those people who could also give you feedback about what's going on in their world and what affordable housing looks like to them

Respect and dignity would go hand and hand with including people who are not here,

Thank you for having a sign language person here – to go one step here to have a typist so the words come over the screen, I couldn't hear what people were saying

#7 consumption site – community wellness is the police focus, please ask the police to stop taking people's belongings, they don't have a place to put them

Don't agree to make a building to put things in, if we make a building we need to make it for people not things

46. It's nice when you get picked up by the police, and they don't lose your stuff in transit

Would like to see Victoria go dry and advocate clean sober living

A 24-hour pot store so we can maintain that clear sober living – would reduce the need for harm reduction as everyone would be a pot head instead of a drunk

Indoor cannabis smoking lounge – easy consumption to advocate clean more sober living

Last thing we need is another bar serving booze or micro-brewery – Rock Bay area stinks

No more beer drunk festivals

Free medical marijuana for those on welfare and disability just like drugs from the doctor's office – help those to get note from a doctor to say they can use it legally buy Opening cannabis stores so we can get medical grade cannabis

Food – help support clean vegan living

These would mean less need for harm reduction

Grocery store and mall trash compactors – on the sidewalk its disgusting

Soil poisoning at north park between Vancouver and Cook St (lead and mercury)

Victoria dry – no booze – how much money you would save on bar watch safety and less rowdiness

Outlaw cigarette smoking, more enforcement of second hand cigarette bylaws

Better communication between 811, 911, nurses, hospital administration, ambulance, doctors, police – why do you have to tell the same story to everyone

47. Advocate for safer bike lanes, closing down some streets that have vehicle traffic and increase in housing trust fund beyond \$250,000

Divestment – makes sense economically, our investments to be protected from the volatility of the fossil fuel industry but it's also an ethical imperative; sustainable development, food security, human needs and the environment and bike lanes are in the Strategic Plan, so it doesn't make sense to fund those corporations – City came out against Northern Gateway but we're actually funding them

Divestment as a way to make tangible difference when it comes to climate change, more fossil fuel free investment options – take leadership on this issue

Interested in the role these fossil fuel investments have in our budget and whether divestment is part of our Strategic Plan

48. Response to “people who don’t pay taxes have no voice” – COV has a daytime population several times its nighttime population, they spend a lot of money here so wrong to disenfranchise us simply because we don’t live here
- Safe consumption sites – aggressive target for 2015 that may prove difficult – but in addition and in the short term a fixed needle exchange in downtown – run those processes in parallel
- Biking – 6 routes identified are maybe not actually the best routes, Pandora is first, not sure about Johnson – some more analysis needed
- Looking at where you are, there is a growing field called ‘vision 0’ – no one on your streets should be killed or seriously injured. Pedestrians and cyclists killed every year in the city – important part to imbed in Strategic Plan
49. Affordable Housing – housing should not be treated as a business. Sleep is a need Legalizing basement suites, tiny suites in backyards
- Transportation – train, better cycling lanes and infrastructure is a basic need
- Food security – a huge issue – where are we if we can’t eat
- More edible plants in Victoria, nurseries producing more food producing plants and those that support the pollinator ecosystem since they support our food systems
- Hope the Strategic Plan can go towards bettering all three of these issues
- More initiative in our neighbourhoods and education out about transportation, food security, accessible housing – education seminars in each town meeting place or town hall about how neighbourhoods can take initiative and how they can empower themselves
50. Priorities – affordable housing: idea of micro-housing communities may be a good and cost effective solution. Provisional funding of \$500,000 start-up costs on a piece of city land as part of the \$4.5 million surplus. City could do this to highlight the need to highlight the need for less transient housing.
- Support for the supervised consumption services – excited to see that support and to see that come into being
51. Don’t have a lot of parks in North Jubilee. Very pleased to see the Begbie Green has been put into the Strategic Plan. Begbie Green a weeny piece of land. Talk about another project done just before that – Fern St. Park. Want to talk about the change that a little bit of revitalization can have on a neighbourhood. Playground equipment was changed and the little things that we did to the park has changed the whole dynamic of a park use – people who didn’t even know such a thing existed. Usage 10-50 times what was there before. Not just kids to use the playground but a totally multigenerational group of people. So I’m thinking and hoping that as the Begbie Green thing does forward that the same kind of thing will happen. Thank you for including it and looking forward to working with you and seeing it advance.
52. Support to people who spot to city support for local food systems. Like to see the city support as much as possible.
- Would like to speak specifically to sustainable building and construction practices - have been a lot of advancement recently in building science in what we can do to make our buildings healthier and more sustainable. Goes beyond green certification like LEED: things like PASSIVE house can actually reduce the energy use in buildings up to 90% and it’s very possible. If the City can do anything to support that – I know the city doesn’t have control over the building code in BC, which is far below what those standards are, but you do have control over city facilities so as you’re moving forward with increased investment or building new facilities I’d really like to see you have some ambitious goals for sustainability in those building. Investing in quality buildings actually saves money over the long term and that has been well documented.
- Permitting process – opportunity to demonstrate leadership such as the City of Vancouver to encourage or incentivize builders who want to do very forward thinking developments that can be proven to save money.
- Expediting processes for things like green developments – similar to expedited affordable housing, link the two. Sustainable building makes sense for affordable housing because a building that uses less energy is obviously more affordable
- Affordable housing task force member with a building science background but that would be great.
- Last thing you could do is enhance the training of City staff around green buildings. I’ve recently spoken to a number of City staff who’ve showed some real interest in that.

53. Support request for funding for storage for people who are homeless and having to carry belongings around in carts and garbage bags. Commitment of dollars from other organizations, 1% of your surplus would be really nice towards making that a reality. Safe consumption sites a priority of downtown service providers, appreciate the prominence in the Strategic Plan.

Want to reiterate that if people had homes they wouldn't need storage, if people had homes they wouldn't need to inject in doorways and alleys so a Strategic Plan around supported and affordable housing is really critical

Would be remiss if I didn't mention the downtown community center, believe \$45,000 is the amount invested in other community and senior centres across the city. The community center provides no cost wellness recreation and health programs to people in the downtown and would benefit from some support from the city.

54. Advocate for cycling infrastructure and I have two ideas that I'd like to offer:

Allocating limited dollars is a challenge,

Pg. 805 of draft financial plan, \$20 million for complete streets – 73% of that goes to road repair, might be a useful and fruitful area to find savings in order to fund what people said was part of a happy city, and that's more cycling.

Whatever gets measured gets done – 30 km of roads have been successfully cracked sealed and 500 pot holes been fixed. Suggest that you also report on the number of m of protected bike lanes that have been built and protected.

55. Myself and some of my neighbours are opposed to what they have done to BHP and can no longer drive through the park the way we want to. Some of my neighbours are seniors and they don't go into the park any longer because they can't go

Also opposed to the closing of Rockland; I walk through Pioneer Park twice a day five days a week and just in the last two weeks I've been verbally abused, people smoking pot, drinking, homeless people with stuff all over the place, have to walk around stuff and people sleeping. We need housing for these people. Not conducive to people wanting to being the park, only people you see there are homeless people and occasionally people looking at the cemetery stones that have been revitalized at the back. Something needs to be done. More cars going through there would see what's going on, doesn't even feel safe to walk through there during the day.

Lots of talk of changing boulevards and people growing food. I am opposed and so are my neighbourhoods. We already have issues with deer and I want the city to do something about the deer. Putting gardens on the boulevard, how are you going to keep the deer out, how are people going to get out of their cars, it's a tripping hazard, kids are going to be throwing the food around I'm really opposed. People don't look after them – stuff is dead and it looks awful I don't want to have it.

Secondary suites need to address parking issues.

56. We need to enforce the rules we already have, more trained individuals in the intermediate not to extend police authority but to hold them there until they need to be removed

We need more temporary housing. I believe we can do that by also having more institutions for people who need to be reprimanded who are repetitive offenders. I don't think we should take away from the police budget I believe they should be supported with more integrity and training

A community policing station helps people report stolen property and find it more rapidly and with more people trained in the area more safety and confidence keeping speed and accidents down and fewer people being terrorized with road rage and people who do not respect other people's right to privacy

57. Thank you for not charging me any money to sell my art. Running the city perfectly fine, all you need is more funding, don't know where you're going to get it.

Make housing and create employment to build the housing. You will make lots of money renting those building and you can make that non-profit if you care to

Appendix C: Comments and questions directed to Council or staff through the e-Town Hall

Question Source	Question
facebook	I appreciate the great work that the City is doing to extend its bicycling infrastructure and in its update to the Bicycle Master Plan. My question is about the Off-Bay route. As someone who rides Bay St from Vic West to the rest of the City frequently, I would like to know if the City would consider extending its priority upgrades in this first period to the Off-Bay route westward to improve the connectivity from the north end of Vic West to the Burnside Gorge, Fernwood and Oaklands areas. Thank you.
facebook	Unprecedented evening! Kudos to all City of Victoria staff, Council and Mayor for the visioning and delivery of this seamless event! It is so inspiring watching and listening to citizen engagement online via the webcast, Twitter and Facebook. Thank you.
facebook	My name is Section 22 . First, thank you for opening and enrolling the citizens of Victoria in this budget process. It is a sign of great leadership. A large number of preferred lots and buildings sit vacant that could be developed, providing more revenue to the City (e.g., the two buildings on the corner of Wharf & Johnson Street or the old hotel on Douglas and Belleville Street). At a time when many storefronts sit vacant on Government Street and when the population in cities around Victoria is substantially on the rise (e.g., Langford), why aren't we moving faster to develop these sites and build more housing units in our downtown core? Why are we allowing the owners of these sites to let such buildings sit in shambles for so long? Businessss will only survive year-round in the downtown core if there are citizens who call the downtown hub their home.
facebook	To follow on to the topic of empty storefronts in high value areas such as our downtown core, I'm aware that property owners will sometimes prefer to keep rents high and storefronts empty in order to maintain high property market values. After all, if they lower rents and their asset values decrease, they lose their own market leverage. I can appreciate that if our empty storefront trend continues, in the long run these high value property owners will not be able to maintain such a strategy. But if we let it get to that point, we will continue to see a depletion of our own local culture in our downtown core, and in the mean time our downtown remains vulnerable to property owners bringing in foreign business to fill the void. Foreign business means more local dollars leaving our community. Is there really nothing in the city's power or strategic initiative to motivate high-value property owners to adopt more locally inclusive practices regarding use of their storefronts? Such as tax incentives for encouraging the diversification of our local economy, or use of tax penalties for prolonged disuse?
facebook	Just Read through the Short form Budget...Is the 23% Civic Budget Devoted to Police How You Plan to address Homelessness...Or are funding Parks and Hanging baskets the solution to the GLARING issue? Not even Mentioned? Shame. Affordable housing, Rent Control and Subsidies All Initiatives that should Deserve to be tabled in the budget How about a Homefulness task force Wt an adequate Budget to address each individual. It is asinine to Continue to See Police and Parks Budgets Eating up Moneys Better Spent on Giving People a Place to Live. Run the Policing, Park Maintenance and Beautification Numbers that are devoted to Hiding Homelessness. I'm sure You will find this is a Clearly a Costly Mean spirited and Punitive Expense. You are supposed to be Leaders Take the Lead!
facebook	Thank you for the improvements you have made to options for participation in events and viewing via webcasting. My question is regarding the availability of resources to develop Local Area Plans for neighbourhoods. Many date from the 1990's, and not having current plans is an impediment to thoughtful comprehensive planning and development, affecting many other issues discussed, whether it is bike lanes or greenspace. The current schedule to complete them is inadequate. Can City of Victoria please allocate resources to a timely completion of Local Area Plans? Thanks, Section 22 Hillside Quadra
facebook	Not a question but a request: on behalf of the many citizens who have come together as Greater Victoria Placemaking Network, we would like to see an integrated initiative supporting placemaking, active transportation, complete streets and citizen engagement. #victownhall
facebook	When is Rockland going to get a community centre, parks and other amenities? There is no meeting space and residents must do their recreation in other neighbourhoods.

Question Source	Question
facebook	why is it necessary to spend an entire budget as opposed to be efficient and trying to save taxpayers money?
Phone	(Mayor and Council) People not paying City taxes should not have a platform.
Phone	(Mayor and Council) Anyone who does not pay taxes to the City of Victoria should not have a voice in how the City spends its money
twitter	Amount allocated to Active Transportation in budget seems inadequate considering needs. Can more be allocated? #VicTownHall
twitter	#victownhall Want to add my voice to those calling for increased emphasis on active transit and bike lanes. A full minimum grid is req'd.
twitter	#VicTownHall don't have a referendum, just lead. ie: bikes/close roads even like Govt./Broad st, tax gas to pay for bike/safety.
twitter	@CityOfVictoria looking forward to @lisahelps allocating \$\$\$\$ for #YYJ cycling Infrastructure #VicTownHall http://t.co/OXR8sds090
twitter	Hoping the Budget/Strategic Plan will help to make #yyj more awesome! Support for citizen engagement & modern cycling network #VicTownHall
twitter	Hoping #yyj's Budget/Strat Plan supports placemaking, active transportation, complete streets and separated bike lanes #victownhall
twitter	#VicTownHall Two-way bike lanes please, to allow safe, healthy and environmental transportation in @CityOfVictoria #yyj
twitter	.@theradcyclist oh! oh! And crosswalk across foot of Cook St at Dallas Rd #VicTownHall (the one request my 12yr old asked me to put forward)
twitter	#VicTownHall very much agree with @GVCC. We should be putting our surplus towards bike infrastructure. Tax me to hell, I want better cycling
twitter	#VicTownHall kicking off to a great start. I'd like to add my support for improved cycling infrastructure and downtown livability.
twitter	#victownhall Meet most of the 11 yyj objectives by starting with active transportation and food systems @CityOfVictoria @lisahelps
twitter	#victownhall crosswalks! Yes, we need one at Richmond at Richardson desperately.
twitter	@LeVelo_Victoria @modacitylife Great letter. Let's get Victoria moving on multi-use, vibrant streets and public spaces. #VicTownHall
twitter	Our request for @CityOfVictoria budget: integrated placemaking, active transportation, complete streets, citizen engagement. #victownhall
twitter	#VicTownHall what about a permanent bike lane along Cook St?
twitter	#victownhall can more than 1 million per year be allocated on a #minimumgrid for transportation by bicycle in #yyj ? http://t.co/bt59ZnXZh7
twitter	How will the strategic plan address #completestreets in all #yyj neighbourhoods, including #BurnsideGorge? #VicTownHall
twitter	#victownhall Q: how will City support the groundswell of resident interest in placemaking & complete streets? http://t.co/bB6iDIZGj2
twitter	#VicTownHall I support more housing for those who have mental health and addiction issues that bar them from most housing.
twitter	#VicTownHall streamline permitting and zoning/permit process for solar technology.
twitter	Kudos to @lisahelps 4 tackling priority: public engagement. Now, let's tackle #climatechange prevention not just emergency prep #victownhall
twitter	#victownhall off leash dog issues in #yyj have become almost daily issue due to lack of enforcement & designated safe fenced off leash areas
twitter	.@CityOfVictoria excellent job on Social Media engaging the citizens of Victoria for this #VicTownHall this evening. #yyjpoli

Question Source	Question
twitter	This really changes public engagement: @CityOfVictoria budget Town Hall live streaming & social media = transparent democracy. #victownhall
twitter	This is the 1st time the budget and strategic plan are 2gether. Good work everyone. #VicTownHall
twitter	@lisahelps Bravo to you and council for top notch public engagement. This is awesome. #victownhall
twitter	#VicTownHall could you explain the miscellaneous expenditures of \$2.5M? Thank you.
twitter	Section 22 @CityOfVictoria Can we keep the speakers and topics local. #VicTownHall
twitter	My lament on free adm family festivals is city charges \$1000's for ppl to have a place to sit. #VicTownHall #buskers http://t.co/wFlu8l9YRq
twitter	Q: what can the City of Victoria do to help young professionals & students who want to work and live in Victoria for econ dev? #victownhall
twitter	#VicTownHall What plans are in the budget to reduce the property tax burden for downtown businesses? Need help to combat empty storefronts.
twitter	What can be done to help increase density outside of downtown core? Small lots made easier for the non commercial developer? #VicTownHall
twitter	Would be great to hear Council views at #victownhall on progress towards making Inner Harbor more vibrant, and attractive for locals.
twitter	Ensure the continued success of community food growing projects by linking land, volunteers & paid farmers. #yyj #victownhall
twitter	#VicTownHall grants and loans to food producers for alternative use.
twitter	#VicTownHall What action plans are in place to increase the community development and sustainable development budget? Give food a line item!
twitter	#VicTownHall \$213 M budget is roughly equal to the CRD budget
twitter	#victownhall micro suites at janion sold quick, other similar projects could include city designated sections for transitioning homeless
twitter	nerdin' out, watching the #VicTownHall at home...#socialhousing and #harmreduction are my priorities for #yyj.
twitter	#VicTownHall all the best over the next 4 years!
twitter	#victownhall new @gvpl central branch built at centennial square would be nice place to put roof top green garden and event space with views
twitter	What would it take for the City of Victoria to buy Mason Street City Farm? #VicTownHall
twitter	#VicTownHall safer pedestrian crossing at Haultain and Cook is needed. Dangerous 4 + turning lanes of fast moving cars & terrible visibility
twitter	Can you make downtown more colourful? It's so drab. #VicTownHall
twitter	@CityOfVictoria #victownhall question can we work to slow down Chambers street? 50 km/h on street where kids walk to G. Jay + cycle
twitter	#VicTownHall Like to see discussion about bringing sd61 to the table to discuss innovative joint use of school lands.
twitter	In #YYJ our community is ready for SCS. Thank you @CityOfVictoria for reflecting that priority in your draft strategic plan. #victownhall
twitter	#victownhall safe injection sites without regional/prov rehab and mental health programs to help break cycle of addiction is shortsighted
twitter	.@CityOfVictoria please make supervised consumption services a priority for #YYJ. Let's be #HarmReduction leaders! #VicTownHall #Yes2SCS
twitter	#victownhall needs to show a lead in Transit oriented living by having developers pay for density and exemptions with money for transit 1/2
twitter	Reminder #victownhall How much we give the #vicpd is a choice even if how they spend it isn't. 23% of our operating budget is too much.

Question Source	Question
twitter	@CityOfVictoria #victownhall Q: can fixed income property tax payers get grants to compensate for shift from taxes to utilities?
twitter	Phew warm here at #victownhall might there be a budget item for enhanced airflow in the council chambers? #yyjpoli
twitter	After my two months of often being the only one in the audience watching #viccouncil I must say WoW #VicTownHall #yyj http://t.co/RGMDpQ3bOC
twitter	Kudos to @CityOfVictoria for new & open #victownhall budget mtg. Huge turnout, social media friendly #yyjpoli
twitter	#VicTownHall is live now. Thanks for letting me participate from home!
twitter	.@CityOfVictoria engaging ppl in budget talk through Town Hall meeting, web streaming http://t.co/qtG0D1izbW , social media. #VicTownHall
twitter	#VicTownHall Reclaim our water. its community building. city open to thinking of storm water in a new way.mark the stream,streamreclamation
twitter	#VicTownHall reclaim water. Tertiary treatment of wastewater will reclaim water for use in daylighting streams
Web	(General) Provincial law requires that vehicles stay 1 m away from cyclists. While Victorians are generally very courteous to cyclists, there have been situations I have encountered on my bike where less than a meter clearance has been given by aggressive motorists. Has the Victoria police department been charged with watching out for this particular violation?
Web	(Mayor and Council) I would like to request (again) a pedestrian activated light at the crosswalk at Graham across Hillside. Two years ago we brought 600 names on a petition to council. We were told we could not "jump the queue" as there was a backlog of 20 years of approved crosswalks not yet funded. Can you commit to funding fully activated crosswalks as part of active transportation network?
Web	(Mayor and Council) In keeping with the active transport theme, would it be possible to put in a crosswalk on Foul Bay at Brighton Street? This spot is the crossing for the 7 km Centennial Trail Path. As things stand, people must jaywalk a wide road to access the Trail, which seems a bit absurd. Thank you for considering the question.
Web	(General) Will Council commit to an All Ages/All Abilities Bicycle Network? I'd like to share what happened as I left council chambers. As I unlocked my bike to go home with my child in her trailer a man I did not know offered me his bike light - clearly he didn't feel that reflective clothing, vests and no less than 7 lights were safe enough for me to travel home. Can we make the sustainable option safer?
Web	(General) France recently passed a law that requires all new building in commercial zones to have part of their building's roof covered in plants or solar panels. This serves to reduce CO2 emissions, absorb emissions from vehicles in the city, and utilize runoff. Would the City of Victoria consider enacting a similar by-law, and allocate funds to help businesses adapt to this change?
Web	(General) I'm a young person. Me and my fellow young-person peers advocate strongly for fossil fuel divestment as a strategy to meet the challenges of climate change on a municipal level. Tip of the hat to Councillors Isitt and Loveday for advocating for this already. Has staff investigated the feasibility and procedure of municipal divestment?
Web	(General) Council is elected to look after and be responsible to the city taxpayer money so maybe instead of listening to special interest groups and non-taxpayers LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE PAYING THE BILL reduce property taxes let the provincial govt work on solving the issues of poverty and homeless
Web	(General) Why is Mayor and Council considering any other opinions than city taxpayers? if people want an opinion or say what goes on in this city then they need to pay for that privilege! Look after the people who elected you and pay you! quit wasting money on social issues that fall under the jurisdiction of the provincial and federal govts, like homelessness.

Question Source	Question
Web	(Mayor and Council) Objective 2: 2015 Outcome: Improved relationship with nearby First Nations [ongoing]. 2015 Action: High Priority – please consider the formation of a Protocol Partnership Agreement as a starting point toward improving relationships with First Nations. This agreement to reach many areas to improve our host people's lives and future. thank you!
Web	(Mayor and Council) Install public washrooms in the Inner Harbour area. There is a need especially for events around the Causeway Area.
Web	(City Staff) Is the draft Boulevard Garden design guideline likely to change? I am currently in the planning stage of starting a boulevard garden, and am now not sure if there will be a significant shift in the City's thinking about how this space will be allowed to be used.
Web	(Mayor and Council) We need grow food rather than just flowers and flowering trees. City workers use mowers on boulevards whether or not the grass hit the blades. we could use them for food production instead. We have huge crews of city workers to collect leaves, with big vacuum trucks, guys with leaf blowers, little bobcats, while they could be collecting fruit from trees instead, if the city actually planted them
Web	(Mayor and Council) i've heard frank elsner publicly state that he'd like to see more funding for mental health supports rather than police spending a large part of their resources on this need. Will the city and police board re-allocate money from the police budget to supports like belongings storage at our place and health services for drug users as residents who live both indoors and outdoors are calling for?
Web	(Mayor and Council) Are you prepared for transformation from Personally Operated Vehicle (POV) to the Autonomously Operated (driverless) Vehicle (AOV)? The transition from POV to bicycle and two wheel scooter and motorcycle has overwhelmed some cities, including Paris. Please note this article on Autonomous Vehicle developments: https://www.dropbox.com/s/d5ji6e94pb1lnra/EV%20Driverless-ConfboardCan-Feb2015.pdf?dl=0
Web	(Mayor and Council) Overall Guiding Principles for Strategic Planning: Question: do you have a Performance Management system and how and by what standards system will you measure results and outcomes within budget guidelines?
Web	(Mayor and Council) By closing Rockland Road at Quadra, there is no left turn access from Fort St. To Fairfield Rd. This encourages drivers to make an illegal left turn at. Burnett. The closed portion of Rockland is seldom used by pedestrians I've Noticed as I go through the adjacent park daily.
Web	(Mayor and Council) Could a community bus be added to Fairfield Road so that residents living near Moss and Fairfield Road would'nt have to stay home in the evening because walking to Cook St. Is too far for seniors who don't drive? Secondly, as a cyclist,I think we should all have to obtain licences for our bikes so we can contribute to the cost of curbed bike lanes. Unsafe. riders could be reported by this id.
Web	(Mayor and Council) I would like the City to agree to building another skate park and more youth facilities such as bmx parks and basketball courts. I have been to many towns on the island and the rest of BC saw that they have more skate parks and are much smaller towns. Thank you, Section 22 George Jay School.
Web	(Mayor and Council) Within the current scheduling of the Local Area Planning (LAP) process, many areas of the City would be waiting until 2022–2042 for its implementation. Will you consider allocating a portion of the \$4.5 million surplus to hire additional Planning staff to expedite the LAP process?
Web	(General) Please make updating Local Area Plans a huge priority. The idea of streamlining and simplifying the planning process so that all neighbourhoods can get an updated plan sooner is a great approach. My neighbourhood, North Park, is struggling without a modern plan in light of significant social and development pressures and problems.

Question Source	Question
Web	(Mayor and Council) Better design of public space meets multiple goals: Rain gardens & trees = stormwater management & air/water purification. Edible perennial landscapes = decreased resource/\$\$ inputs, healthy ecosystems, affordable access to a more nutritious diet & longterm food security. Revitalizing public spaces encourages engaged community & active transportation. What's the plan for this in the next 5 years?
Web	(Mayor and Council) I walk downtown about 5 days a week. This is about clutter on sidewalks. Much is car-related- parking signs, parking meters, pay booths for parking & traffic lights- also there are trees & sandwich boards & poles & cafe sidewalk-seating. And other walkers too. Could the city make walking space consistent? And also, why do cyclists ride on roads but park on sidewalks, taking up sidewalk space?
Web	(Mayor and Council) What do you intend to do speed up the planning process to accomodate all the change mandated in the OCP. I understand from Victoria Strategic Planning and Citizen Engagement there is currently only 3 FTE's assigned to this project and only 4 plans possibly can be done by 2019.
Web	(General) Would council consider creating a innovative recreational space in the vacant lot next to Vic High school? In particular an outdoor pool that converts into an outdoor skating rink with retractable roof during winter months.
Web	(General) When are you going to update the Rockland Neighbourhood Plan and complete an updated heritage inventory so these assets can be protected
Web	(General) Is any of the funds allotted for downtown beautification being strategically aimed at certain areas of dt? More specifically, has there been any consideration towards Douglas St. Between Pandora and Johnston?
Web	(Mayor and Council) In regards to Mayor Helps and Staff comment that parking decals are available for farm deliveries, they are often not. I spent many years working on getting the most efficient small delivery vehicle for Caffè Fantastico and found that most are not eligible for commercial plates. I did succeed with a rare electric vehicle, but the rules are very prohibitive.
Web	(Mayor and Council) Leadership is about making HARD decisions, and ones which can be seen as limiting to some. Question today is, do you agree the city has an obligation to provide services BUT at the BEST price. Jobs around town can be done by the private sector once they prove they can do so at a lesser cost than city staff. That would include but not limited to - parks maintainance, curbs and gutters, garbage
Web	(Mayor and Council) The James Bay Senior Centre does not have funds to buy tables for table tennis. The James Bay Community School provides table tennis for 9 months of the year but it would be nice to have all year playing. Could the city provide funds to buy tables for summer use at the senior centre?
Web	(General) Hello Mayor Helps and Council. I wish to promote the synchronization of traffic lights to keep people in cars moving (particularly on Blanshard and Douglas). I believe it is also important to ensure appropriate traffic enforcement (for speeders) as well as cracking down on bad cyclist behaviour. I live in Victoria and cycle to work at Bay & Tyee and often see some poor cycling practices. Thank you
Web	(Mayor and Council) Council should not be looking for ways to spend the 'unallocated' \$4.5 million, but instead reduce taxes and pay for the increased cost of the bridge, rather than reducing the reserve fund even more. Do you support such an approach, and if not, why not. Thanks.
Web	(General) The problem with this town hall is you are allowing everyone to have a say the only persons whom should be allowed to voice their opinion is CITY TAXPAYERS put the 4.5 million back to reducing our property taxes

Dear Mayor Helps and Council members,

I am writing in response to the city budget, because I am concerned that funding is not properly allocated to address the needs of Victoria and its residents. I feel that a disproportionate amount of City money goes toward the Police -- while other city resources are underfunded -- and the police end up doing jobs they are not adequately prepared to do, which is ineffective and inefficient.

Police Chief Elsner said in the Time Colonist (September 22, 2014) that "25 to 30 of what we do is actual law enforcement...But the rest of it, 75 or 80% of what we do is all about the social side...mental health, homelessness and addiction issues. That's what takes up the vast majority of our resources."

Is this an appropriate use of police resources?

Over the next few years, the police budget should gradually be re-allocated (not "cut") to support the development of another set of institutions more appropriate to responding to these social issues in partnership with other local organizations, such as:

- Social housing (in partnership with the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness)
- Supervised Consumption Site (in partnership with VIHA)
- 24-hour mental health crisis team to replace police as first responders to citizens facing mental health crises (in partnership with VIHA).

When Chief Elsner reports that 90% of his resources are spent on law enforcement, then City Council will know they have the right size police force doing the right job, and an equally effective and efficient set of institutions with the right training and skills to respond to social issues.

Thanks,

Stefanie Hardman
Research Coordinator
Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG)

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Mail: PO Box 3035 Stn CSC, Victoria, BC, Lekwungen & WSANEC Territories, V8W 3P3

police budget: the committee to end homelessness is very concerned that we might approve \$80,000 for new police cars when it is agreed that we need a low-key social worker approach to solve social problems- cheaper and more effective, as serious crime rates drop. please send our money wisely.

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

In the Times Colonist (September 22, 2014), Police Chief Elsner said that:

".....25 to 30% of what we do is actual law enforcement...But the rest of it, 75 or 80% of what we do is all about the social side...mental health, homelessness, and addiction issues.

That's what takes up the vast majority of our resources."

Is this the most productive use of the police force and their resources?

Over the next few years there is an opportunity to gradually re-allocate (not "cut")the police budget. The budget could then support the development of another set of institutions that are focussed only on responding to social issues. The police force would work in partnership with local organizations on such issues as:

—Social housing (in partnership with the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness); —Supervised Consumption Sites (in partnership with VIHA); and,

—24-hour Mental Health Crisis Team to replace police as first responders to citizens facing mental health crises (in partnership with VIHA).

When Chief Elsner can report that 90% of his resources and personnel are being spent on law enforcement; then City Council will know that they have the right size police force spending their time and resources on the right job. Council will also have an equally effective and efficient set of institutions with the right training and skills enabling them to respond to social issues.

Thank you.

Section 22

Resident of Fernwood and

Member of the Committee to End Homelessness Victoria

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

Police Chief Elsner said in the Time Colonist (September 22, 2014) that “25 to 30 of what we do is actual law enforcement...But the rest of it, 75 or 80% of what we do is all about the social side...mental health, homelessness and addiction issues. That’s what takes up the vast majority of our resources.

Is this an appropriate use of police resources?

Over the next few years, the police budget should gradually be re-allocated (not “cut”) to support the development of another set of institutions more appropriate to responding to these social issues in partnership with other local organizations, such as:

- **Social housing** (in partnership with the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness)
- **Supervised Consumption Site** (in partnership with VIHA)
- **24-hour mental health crisis team** to replace police as first responders to citizens facing mental health crises (in partnership with VIHA).

When Chief Elsner reports that 90% of his resources are spent on law enforcement, then City Council will know they have the right size police force doing the right job, and an equally effective and efficient set of institutions with the right training and skills to respond to social issues.

While everyone would like a new working relationship with the federal and provincial governments to find new funding to address these social issues, waiting for this is a recipe for doing nothing. The funding needed is available now in the police budget. Courage and careful planning is urgently needed to begin this process.

Thank you.

Susan Abells,
Committee to End Homeless in Victoria

Dear City Council,

I support the construction of a modern, high quality cycling network that is safe for all ages and abilities by 2018, and why;

I support the allocation of the funds necessary to build it, including most of the \$4.5 million surplus for the 2015 fiscal year; and,

Making effective investments in cycling can support healthier, happier, more equitable communities and strengthen local business.

Thank you,

Section 22

Victoria, BC

Hello Councillors,

I am writing to say that I support the plan proposed to create a 'multi-modal and active transportation network' by 2018.

1) I support the construction of a modern, high quality cycling network that is safe for all ages and abilities by 2018, and why because it is safer for people and cars and it will increase the quality of life and well-being for many people to be able to bike safely.

2) I support the allocation of the funds necessary to build it, including most of the \$4.5 million surplus for the 2015 fiscal year; and,

3) Making effective investments in cycling can support healthier, happier, more equitable communities and strengthen local business.

Thank you,

--

Section 22

Dear Councillors....The present pedestrian access to Clover Point is a dirt path and is treacherous in that it is uneven and has a large hole where the path has washed away. I thought of an economical way to remedy this situation by establishing a walkway 3 feet wide adjacent to the grass using part of the roadway which is overly wide. At a minimum it would require coloured stripes so that the cars that park there would park 3 feet back from where they park at present. Ben Isitt a few years ago arranged for the Director of Parks to call me and he summarily rejected the idea on the basis that if there were an accident to a pedestrian then the Council would be legally liable....as I thought about it I came to the conclusion that the Council would be more legally liable if a pedestrian injured themselves on the presently very inadequate path. Ben suggested that I write to you all about the situation. Kindly,

Section 22

Section 22

Hello - and Happy International Women's Day from Women's Everyday Bicycling (WeBike) Association!

We are so fortunate to live in Canada, and even more fortunate to live here, in the CRD. We lead the world in many critical ways particularly with regard to freedom and rights for women.

WeBike would love for our region to lead in another way - to provide women and children freedom to use their bicycles for transportation. The health and environmental benefits are tremendous at every level - personal, family, community, and region. Using a bicycle is an equitable form of transportation, especially in our region, where the cost of living is high. Not everyone can afford a motor vehicle - but most people can afford to ride a bike!

In our region, like many in North America and Europe, women's participation in cycling drops substantially when women reach their primary child-bearing years. Why is this? Our transportation system does not support women and families' choice to use bicycles for transportation, despite many trip lengths being well within comfortable cycling range.

There are places where women and families can continue to use their bicycles throughout their lives. We need to learn from them.

The short article for which I've provided a link below, makes many excellent points - and be sure to watch the video near the end.

"Women's Cycling: Make it Happen!"

<https://bicycledutch.wordpress.com/2015/03/08/women-cycling-make-it-happen/>

The most important points to take away from the article and video are these:

Despite having similar family responsibilities and time constraints as North American women (school pick-ups and drop-offs, grocery shopping, housework, work responsibilities, after school activities, etc.), women participate **more** than men in transportation cycling; perhaps **because** of their extra responsibilities. Women have more trips to make and they make them by bicycle - and their children make them by

bicycle. They spend less time driving their kids around, because, starting at about the age of 9, the kids have freedom on their bikes, to travel independently.

The Dutch were inspired to change in the 1970's, because their car-dominated streets were noisy, polluted, unpleasant, and unsafe for people and children to play and travel in. They reached to their past for inspiration, when their streets were quieter and safer, and dominated by people, not cars. We need emulate their example, and re-balance our streets making them vibrant and safe places for people – on bikes, on foot, as well as in cars.

Although our region lags far behind many places in North America and in Europe, none of the obstacles we face today are insurmountable - but we need leaders with political will to tackle them. Plans are currently underway in our region that will affect how we travel, for the coming decades.

Please work towards establishing a network of connected and protected cycling and pedestrian infrastructure that will provide women and families the right and the freedom to travel safely on our bikes and by foot.

We look forward to working with you to make **our** region the place in North America to look to, for inspiration around making urban streets safe, quiet, and vibrant.

Warm Regards,

Cindy Marven

On behalf of Women's Everyday Bicycling (WeBike) Association

Dear Mayor Helps and Councillors,

I write regarding the \$4.5M in funding that has yet to be allocated for 2015.

Please prioritize putting that funding into the multi-modal active transportation network. In particular, this amount could go a long way to establishing a critical mass of protected and connected bike lanes. Such a network would have a transformative effect on the number of people choosing to bike vs. drive in Victoria. Evidence from around the world shows that safe bike lanes, connected to each other and key destinations, allows biking to move from a specialist activity for the brave minority to an easy choice for the majority.

As you can imagine, when everyone from families to seniors bike instead of drive, this has massive positive implications for public health, affordability (allowing people to depend less on cars, which are expensive to own/operate), city finances (upkeep of roads is more expensive than bike lanes per km of travel), traffic congestion, GHG emissions, air quality, community wellness, tourism, liveability, land use, local retail, need for parking, and so on. Drivers benefit from fewer cars on the road and less involvement with cyclists.

As an example of where such an approach has worked, please see the article below on Seville, where cycling has increased 11-fold in a few years! This occurred in a country without a strong cycling tradition. The key was the implementation of a network of protected bike lanes. <http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/jan/28/seville-cycling-capital-southern-europe-bike-lanes>

Extending the network quickly will allow the city to reap the rewards much sooner. And it also allows a supportive constituency to build quickly and the critics to be quickly proven wrong. In the interests of time, painting bike lanes as a first, cheap, quick step can be followed later by more expensive measures such as lane dividers, new bike traffic signals, reworked curbs, etc.

As a first priority, I would encourage Victoria to focus on protected bike lanes to and from all schools, both for the multiple benefits - health, financial, community and otherwise - for Victoria families, and to encourage a life-long love of cycling in our youngest citizens that will benefit them and the city in years to come. Further, it would help mitigate the impacts of school drop-off and pick-up by car, which are surprisingly significant sources of congestion and all the externalities that it entails.

My views on the above are shaped not only by my experience working on urban transportation issues for senior levels of government and my post-secondary studies of transportation, but also by my first-hand experience biking in cities abroad where safe cycling networks are the norm, and my experience navigating this city with 3 young children.

I would be happy to discuss this matter further with any of you.

Sincerely,

Section 22

Victoria, BC

Dear City of Victoria,

I am a UVic student and my bicycle is my main transportation for school, work, and even grocery shopping. I am very disappointed with the lack of courtesy of bikers here, but most importantly, the dangers of riding on the roads. In 2013, I got hit by a car while riding to school on McKenzie avenue. I fell on my hip, was in shock, and was bleeding everywhere. It took me over a month to fully recover. I am back on the roads, but fear continuous to flow through my blood streams everytime I'm on the roads ,and especially when there is no bicycle lane or if the lane suddenly disappears.

After a year, McKenzie Avenue close to UVic is now beautiful, and I no longer feel fear. We are so luck in Victoria to be in an all-year bike friendly weather, but if there are poorly and dangerous bicycle lanes on the the road, then what's the point? if bicycle lanes are safe for parents, for students, and for all ages, then we can set a true leadership example. It will alos help cut enormous amounts of pollution in our cities.

Please make sure the surplus funds go towards the expanded construction of full safe modern cycling network by 2018 that will allow people of all ages and abilities to feel safe riding their bike just about everywhere in the city. This is urgent!

Thank you!

Warm Regards,
Section 22

Hello Major and Councillors,

Thank you for all the time and effort you all spend on understanding the wants and needs of the citizens of Victoria. I would like to let you know that myself and my family strongly support improvements to Victoria's sidewalks, roads, trails and other "active" transportation infrastructure to make the City more bicycle, pedestrian and bus-friendly.

My family lives in Fairfield and cycle regularly all over the region and throughout Victoria, but do NOT cycle into the downtown or even to Fernwood with our children as it does NOT FEEL SAFE due to the speed of traffic, the number of parked cars on the side (and cars pulling forward from adjacent streets without looking) and the lack of bike lanes or safe roads.

Specifically, we would like to see a safe and modern cycling network by 2018, including additional one-way streets with bike lanes, more dedicated bike lanes/paths on key routes from neighbourhoods/villages to and from downtown and also linking them to each other and to schools.

For walking infrastructure, we would like to have well-lit intersections and lighting that illuminates the sidewalks, not just the roads. We support more pedestrian and cyclist-controlled crossings, especially in areas of high car volume and speed. We have notice that these types of improvements have been slowly been implemented which is great to see!

We would like to see more of this and soon! Having safe and efficient active transport corridors and infrastructure is our top priority - for our health, the safety of ourselves and our children, our sense of community and the "liveability" factor for us in Victoria.

Please, moving forward with the necessary resources in 2015 and the next 2-3 years to support the vision of a modern cycling network and enjoyable and efficient active transport web in Victoria.

Best regards,

Section 22

Thank you again for the opportunity to have input on budget priorities and the objectives listed in the strategic plan. I realized after my 3 minute “deer in the headlights” presentation at the Town Hall meeting, I had missed some key points.

WeBike advocates on behalf of women and families who would like to use their bicycles more for transportation but are forced to use motor vehicles, largely because of our car-focused transportation environment. We currently have 144 members in our meetup group.

• Autonomy for kids. We need streets that offer our children transportation autonomy. If children can’t travel to schools or activities on foot or by bicycles, adults can’t commute to work by bike. We are forced to use a van or car.

o A wonderful example of independent transportation was provided by a small girl (maybe 4 years old) who rode in the Critical Mass Ride to City Hall, on her own two-wheeled bicycle, from Fernwood Square. Distance is not the problem – the car-focused environment is the problem.

• Safety. Women tend to be more risk averse than men and prefer protected bicycle infrastructure, even when we’re not riding with kids.

• Transportation choices - Protected bike lanes allow people to choose bikes instead of cars. They also improve the pedestrian experience of the street, making our streets more lively and enjoyable.

• Schools. Feet and Bikes First. Make active transportation a priority in areas near schools. Motor vehicles should have lower priority in these areas.

Schools are places where kids congregate and travel to and from every day.

Slowing cars in residential neighborhoods and near schools is vital.

o Ensure that areas near schools have protected bike lanes and sidewalks to allow kids to ride and walk to school with their parents, or independently.

Currently, the areas near schools are congested with cars, driven by parents impatient to get to work.

o Work with HASTe (Hub for Active School Transportation) or support and institute active school transportation initiatives to allow kids to get to school safely. This also means focusing on local residential streets, traffic calming, and changing the culture around driving dominance. Pilot projects!!

• Affordability. Victoria is an expensive place to live. Families can save thousands of dollars per year by reducing their car use, owning one instead of two cars, or by going car free completely, if bicycling is a viable transportation choice. This is especially important for low-income families.

• Equitable. The current focus on car-dominated transportation excludes many citizens. People who cannot drive (age, disability, affordability) have no choice but to walk, bike, or use transit. We need to re-balance our transportation environment to give greater priority to these forms of transportation. I have had the opportunity to speak with several homeless people recently about their experiences traveling by bicycle. They use the same infrastructure and suffer the same problems as people who have homes – only they have no car to use when they don’t feel like biking or walking, and often no money for transit.

Building high quality transportation bicycling infrastructure supports eight of the eleven strategic objectives.

CYCLE TRACKS SUPPORT? OBJECTIVE

YES	1.	Innovate and lead
YES	2.	Engage and empower the community
YES	3.	Strive for excellence in planning and land use
	4.	Build for financial capacity of the organization
	5.	Create prosperity through economic development
YES	6.	Make Victoria more affordable
YES	7.	Facilitate social inclusion and wellness
YES	8.	Enhance and Steward Public Spaces, Green Spaces and Food Systems
YES	9.	Complete a Multi-Modal and Active Transportation Network
	10.	Nurture Our Arts, Culture and Learning Capital
YES	11.	Steward Water Systems and Waste Streams Responsibly

Thank you once again for the opportunity to speak to the budget and strategic plan objectives. We appreciate being heard and will be happy to work with you on future endeavors. Protected bicycle lanes are not for cyclists (the strong and fearless, or enthused and confident) who are already on the streets â€” they are for people who would like to bike for transportation, but donâ€™t. The people who are â€œinterested but concernedâ€• who represent about 60% of the population. Mobilizing and encouraging these people to use their bicycles would change the face of our city for the better.

Best Regards,
Cindy Marven
(on behalf of Women's Everyday Bicycling (WeBike) Association)

Hello all

I am sitting in the town hall and really wondering about where Indigenous people fit in the strategic plan? Where do the large urban population and the 2 First Nation communities whose land we are on for in?

Have you thought about hiring an indigenous engagement person like sue Hallet at crd but from the community? Where do chief Sam, chief Tomas, Bruce Parisian fit in with ur strategic planning?

How do we get the voice of these communities here? And at ur table?

Youth internships? Place on council for a community member??

We need to bring their ideas, visions, dreams and expertise to the city of Victoria table. Someone needs to have this as their main focus?

Thoughts.

COMMENTS RE BUDGET AND STRATEGIC PLAN

As it turns out I've been unable to attend tonight's public meeting on the strategic plan and budget so if you will allow me my \$2,222,22 worth of comments.

First, big kudos to Council and the administration for the well done job on the strategic plan and the budget. In an earlier life I participated in a federal agency's strategic plan process so I'm appreciative of the effort. As Mayor Helps pointed out, it certainly focuses the actions of the City plus allows for measuring the results of some 90 or so specific objectives. However, there are concerns.

Boom or Doom - It is of concern that the City is even considering being backup host to the Commonwealth Games 2022; yet another possible objective before the ink is even dry on the Strategic Plan. Particularly in the current economic climate, research shows that sports games often result in nothing more than an expensive "feel-good moment".

Just Say No - It is important for energies and resources at the City focus on fulfilling the strategic plan. It's important for the City to figure out the exact capital cost commitment of the new bridge, the largest capital project the City has seen. It's also important to know the capital cost and taxpayer commitment required to upgrade the sewer system. Once these projects are completed there remains several critical capital projects notably a new firehall and a new or upgraded swimming pool. All these are prudent actions and surely take precedence over a sports extravaganza.

Reduce Taxes for Business and Taxpayers - It's urged that the entire \$4.5 million available for allocation in 2015 be equally applied to reducing business and ratepayer taxes.

A walk around downtown will confirm, business on Government and Store Streets, as well as Bastion Square, are hurting badly. Unless this issue is met head-on - Council already has a good start on the issue - it will only start to snowball and get worse.

Tax relief for City residents is also urged. As Council knows, City residents earn considerably less than citizens of every one of the municipalities in this region. Utility rates, BC Ferry rates, and everything else it seems, are going up. The scope of the increases is unprecedented this year.

Municipal Wages Out of Line - Municipal wages continue to be seriously inflated compared to the rest of the working world and need moderating. The latest numbers on this come from the Canadian Federation of Business which found that premiums paid to municipal wages and benefits are at a 22.3 per cent to public sector employees. This is unacceptable and I believe the main barrier to City hall moderating their tax demand and bringing it into line with other jurisdictions.

Thanks for your time.

Section 22

Thanks Ben. If it's not too late to let you know, one of my top priorities is to see some affordable housing options in Victoria, especially for seniors and the disadvantaged. Hoping you can take that on board.

I whole heartedly support a safe injection site (or sites) for Victoria. I believe this would contribute to a safer community and also provide a helping hand to those struggling with addictions.

Dear Ben,

My software is old and I couldn't get the survey to work. It froze. I did read some of the lists.

My priorities are: careful land use decisions, protection of water and farmland, planning for climate change and emergencies, traffic planning to reduce car use, and fostering openness and community.

Please preserve and upgrade the Crystal Pool facility. It serves an essential purpose in the core of the city, especially for the lower income families in the area.

Dear Mayor and Council,

We support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

Completing three high profile projects linked to food security; Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods; Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens; Developing long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening (including an inventory of City-owned land for food production); Introducing new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land, and Enhancing local food systems in general.

We note that these initiatives are consistent with the food-related provisions of the Official Community Plan, found primarily in Section 17.

For example, the OCP supports: innovative food production (17.9); urban food supplies (17.A); food education (17.B); connecting people to food (17.5); local food security and sustainability (17.9, 17.A); planted boulevards (8.22.4); native plants (8.58); memorable places (8.a); and adaptive management (22.1). We believe that more progress can be made pursuing these objectives by increasing financial resources for food systems in the 2015 Financial Plan.

We also ask that you make a commitment, and allocate budgetary resources beginning in 2015, to the following initiatives (either as new initiatives within the Strategic Plan, or as detailed measures meant to help implement existing initiatives within the Strategic Plan):

(1) Shift focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants. For example, allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to food-bearing plants and trees, including natives, perennials, and fruit/nut trees (all across Victoria, and especially to enhance/maintain our urban forest);

(2) Provide City assistance with coordination of food-growing resources, including:

- materials pooling / depot (leaves, mulch, soil, cardboard, wood, irrigation materials);
- increase grant funding for existing and emerging food systems initiatives;
- support neighbourhood-level and city-wide food coordination;
- reduce water charges for irrigation of food plants;

(3) Expand availability of City land for food growing, with a mechanism for 5-year security of tenure for growers;

(4) Implement a mechanism for increasing social justice in the distribution of local food supplies (e.g. additional City support tied to "food sharing");

(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Additionally, I feel it is time to encourage the owners of large apartment blocks to turn some of their lawn space (or unused parking space, get rid of some pavement while we are at it) into community gardens for tenants.

As more and more people are living in condos and rental apartment as Victoria increases density, this would give more people connection to the land. As a renter who had to move unexpectedly when the owner sold the house I was renting, I had a really hard time finding a space where I could grow my own food and ended up having to pay a lot more for rent to find somewhere with a shared yard.

Community gardens build community. When I was moving this past summer, all the community gardens I contacted had long waiting lists so the demand is there. I am sad to see the loss of the Michigan street allotment gardens while that block is developed. I hope the city is working to arrange an alternative location for the gardens that people have worked to hard to tend there.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Section 22

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing today to add my voice of support for the building of a high quality all ages and abilities network of cycling infrastructure in the city. Cycling is both an affordable and healthy form of transportation and thus aligns with the draft strategic objectives of making Victoria more affordable and facilitating social inclusion and community wellness.

With more people cycling more often, citizens will have more spending power as they switch from driving a car to using a bicycle as their main form of transportation. According to BCAA, the average yearly cost of owning and operating a compact car in BC is \$9,500. Without the need for gas, insurance, and maintenance of a car getting around by bike is the most affordable option to get around (even better than public transit with the cost and time savings as well).

Cycling is a social activity. With a network of protected bike lanes all over the city, traveling between neighbourhoods can be easily a safe, fun, and friendly activity for the whole family, students, young professionals and seniors (once we get a AAA bike network that is). Businesses in these bike-friendly neighborhoods will benefit with more people visiting as they become destinations or stopovers for the trip. The widely documented health of benefits of bicycling include, but are not limited to, improved cardiovascular fitness, immune system and mental health.

Cycling is a win-win for drivers and transit users alike. With more people riding a bicycle there will be more room on the road for people who need to drive and for people who rely on transit to get around.

I encourage mayor and council to invest a significant portion of the \$4.5 million surplus to building high quality cycling infrastructure and, as per GVCC's recommendation, "to triple the proposed level of funding for cycling infrastructure, from \$1 million per year to \$3 million".

It is high time the we invest in the future of a healthier, livelier, and happier Victoria by encouraging active transportation through the building of an all ages and abilities bicycling network.

Sincerely,

Section 22

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the strategic planning and budgeting processes. I have completed the survey, and would like to add further comments to one important element.

The plan proposes a “multi-modal and active transportation network” by 2018. I am thrilled to see this, and feel that this goal will help to meet other City goals such as being innovative, a regional leader, encouraging economic development and creating better public spaces.

A complete system of well planned, segregated bike lanes will help achieve all of these goals. Our current stop/start collection of bike lanes is dangerous and does nothing to encourage more trips by bicycle. I sometimes ride on the other side of the road rather than using the bike lanes, as they give a false sense of security and require that I dodge buses and parking cars. We can look at best practices from other cities, where floating parking and other options have been proven to work well.

Bikes have been demonstrated to encourage local economic development, as a variety of studies demonstrate. Reducing the reliance on cars creates a more people-centric community, encouraging people to linger whether they arrived by bicycle or on foot.

Segregated two-way bike lanes on Pandora make sense and can link right to the new Johnson Street Bridge, and beyond to the Galloping Goose. Imagine what an important part of the community Pandora Street could become, with regular trips by bicycles, and the potential to pause to patronize a local business or relax in the public space.

I support a greater allocation of funds to this area of focus, including the full \$4.5 million surplus. Let's move the schedule ahead!

Thank you for your vision,
Ellen

I am writing to you all to congratulate you on making the establishment of a supervised consumption site a strategic plan priority. This is such good news. I've volunteered at AIDS Vancouver Island for many years, first serving lunch, then writing with positive women, then leading writing workshops in their Street College program. I do something similar at William Head Institution where, unfortunately, the men will not benefit from such a service though many could use it. Not only would a SCS make drug users safer, it will make our streets safer and it is likely to provide an opening for those who want to get off drugs. It would cut down the need for emergency services, thus saving money. And it would take care of those who so often get left behind.

I congratulate you on your vision. Just so you know, I am a sort of retired woman, own my own home, pay taxes. Supporting a safe consumption site is an issue that will benefit everyone in this city.

Dear mayor and council

I am writing to state my support for the construction of a Victoria cycling network that is safe for all ages and abilities.

I also support the allocation of the funds necessary to create this infrastructure, including most of the \$4.5 million surplus for the 2015 fiscal year;

As a long-time cyclist and former safe cycling instructor, I believe that having safe routes to bike to the places folks need to go promotes the bicycle as a transportation choice. Cycling increases happiness, good health and, in my experience, creates a very different attitude towards going downtown to do my shopping. No longer do I have to worry about keeping my eyes on the time so my parking meter doesn't expire, no longer worry about finding a parking spot. Making it easier to shop downtown promotes and strengthens the local economy.

So hereby please receive my support for the creation of more safe cycling routes to popular destinations around town.

Section 22

Victoria BC

Dear Ben:

Thank you for email. You and I have emailed in the past, so you may or may not remember me (I'm fairly outspoken)!

I am currently very busy and I'm also contending with health issues, so I'm only going to focus this message on the questions you ask below. In answer to those questions:

- regarding bike lanes – I am a big fan of amalgamating our ridiculous and unaffordable number of municipalities and, to be honest, I find it almost impossible to speak to any issue without emphasizing this – there is obviously a different plan and focus for bike lanes in each municipality, which is ludicrous – as for the City of Victoria, I say upgrade and make the existing bike lanes safer and more visible before thinking about creating even more – I see that Saanich is painting bike lanes at major intersections green (which I think is a great idea) but Victoria doesn't do this, why not?? In my opinion, it is not wise to promote increased cycling in the City of Victoria when the bike lanes are so poorly planned and unsafe. **I also think there needs to be far more enforcement of the helmet by-law, as well as fines for dangerous cyclists as well as motorists!
- regarding affordable housing – I don't think I'm informed enough about this issue to really comment – has any new affordable housing been added in the last 5 years? If so, I'm not aware of it. We certainly need new and creative strategies to address the ongoing issues and tragedy of homelessness in the city, surely we all know this – the downtown continues to look more and more run down and it's such shame – it worries me a great deal
- of course the City of Victoria parks and Crystal Pool are in desperate need of upgrading (is there any doubt about this??) It would be so fiscally irresponsible to even consider adding any new parks before simply refurbishing some existing parks – I honestly don't think this should even require a huge budget – what about just planting some new trees/flower beds and asking public works staff to take a little more pride in their work. It's not rocket science. Why did the city spend all that money diverting traffic through Beacon Hill Park with hideous pylons and doing nothing to actually beautify the park? When was the last time any new flower beds or trees were planted there? We need some creativity and motivation....As for the Crystal Pool, it either needs a major upgrade or we need a new facility – I know that would be very expensive so it should be put to a vote (but it cannot be another fiasco like the bridge)!
- as regards tax increases – I am not opposed to paying higher taxes IF the revenue is spent wisely – I do not want my taxes raised to fund another project such as the

disasters in Beacon Hill Park or the new Johnson Street Bridge! - I would really like to see the City of Victoria proposing some innovative, progressive and affordable ideas to mitigate some of our problems – I am really tired of money being wasted and nothing to show for it – I'd like to ask if you can name one single upgrade of any significance in the downtown core in the last 25 years?? I'm not referring to new/private condo buildings, I'm referring to upgrades or beautification of PUBLIC space – I seriously doubt you can name one because there isn't one! That's just plain sad....

Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Regards,

Vanda

Hi Ben and Gene Miller

I have been ill for the better part of a week so I may not be thinking clearly--or maybe that's normal for me. I finally got around to reading Gene Miller's typically amusing column in the January Focus. I have to say, however, that he does not seem to have much sympathy for those who are forced to live and raise a family in the suburbs and are then also more or less forced to commute or crawl to Victoria by car. Incidentally, I have been coerced into going out to Big Box land several times over the past few years and for me it is a version of hell though the residential neighbourhoods out there may be pleasant enough.

I think everything possible should be done to promote various forms of mass transit and everyone waiting to catch a bus, a train or maybe even a ferry to the downtown should find that experience as pleasant as possible. That would mean moving away from narrowing arterial roads to making more room for fast buses moving in dedicated lanes and safe cycle lanes. What I am thinking is that Victoria should adopt in principle the idea that no working person should be commuting to the city center by auto and then leaving their car parked at one location either of public or private property for 7 hours or more. That seems just insane to me. On the other hand I would encourage those who live in the suburbs to come into Victoria in the evening to attend a play, a movie, a concert or to have a meal by lowering or eliminating the cost of on street parking. That should get downtown businesses on side. If this does reduce the demand for parking during peak hours and along with that vehicular traffic, I think that the city should get out of the parking garage business as opportunities come along or are created to promote the right kind of development in those spaces.

As I said, I am not well--a head cold--so I am not firing on all thrusters. If my idea is based on a crackpot notion that there are far more people commuting to the city centre by car than I imagine, please set me straight before I share this idea more widely, Cheers, [Section 22](#)

Hi Ben

Thanks for the heads up on the meeting.

I suggested to you at our first meeting that the City of Victoria needs a 50 year plan designed around a long term vision of what Victoria is to look like in the future.

I suggested this to Don Roughley when he was city Manager and he responded with "We have a five year Strategic Plan".

I was 55 at that time. Look where we are 12 years later.

At the age of 5 I heard my grandfather remark "look at those idiots putting a telephone pole in the middle of a sidewalk.

He seemed to think that sidewalks for people and baby perambulators

If the city had a 50 year plan at that time then tourists today would not be making the very common comment "Why do they have all these ugly wires and telephone poles in Victoria".

Sewage and solid waste should be utilized as a resource, not regarded as garbage, and the sewers should be regarded as a liquid effluent distribution system where kitchen food scraps could be transported as well rather than running around in diesel fueled trucks collecting them. (i.e. install garbage bins in every residence etc.)

Solid organics could be made into fertilizer, such as they do in Milwaukee Wisconsin, or combined with other solid waste for gasification production of electrical energy.

Reclaim the sewage water and sell it at a premium to the Scientific community, as they currently do in Singapore!

The current owner of the Empress Hotel is planning a development where the PCL bus station currently stands.

The city should insist that Nick Bawlf's original plan to twin the convention centre on that site be the recommended strategy.

This would help the Empress Hotel return to profitability without destroying the architectural landscape.

The Crystal Garden should be returned to a Recreation and "Amusement Center" (not a swimming pool however) as that corner of the city now needs this kind of community facility.

Rock Bay should be turned into the "Jewel of the Gorge" with a grand Marina and residential complex rather than cluttering the inner harbour with wharves for large yachts and,

Pleasant Street should become pleasant again as well.

Look to Long Beach California to see how this has unfolded along their coastal communities.

A causeway should be constructed from the West Shore toward Ogden Point with something like a stylized ship luxury hotel such as Canada Place in Vancouver with several floors of underwater parking.

This would also become wharfing for Cruise ships and other nautical craft.

A sea bus would link the this facility to Ogden Point which in turn would hook up to a heritage street car loop running up and back as far as the "Hudson" complex for commuters.

This causeway would result in a sheltered "Outer Harbour" where there would be less congestion and less noise pollution and provide for a larger, safer place for commuter aviation traffic.

The Coast Guard facilities should be moved across the harbour and that whole area repurposed into parkland and outdoor recreation.

I could go on with more and more of this kind of visioning and as you can see this kind of change does not happen in the scope of a five year plan.

If the City has a clear vision of its destiny then Developers will know from the outset what the game plan and the rules are and it will make it much easier for them to get things done as well.

I believe Oak Bay is now under attack by greed and the decision makers that pander to it and it is eroding the fabric of that community as well.

Oak Bay residents have a vision for their community, even if certain politicians do not, and they will fight to prevent it from being ruined by unplanned development.

The Oak Bay Beach Hotel is a marvelous effort on the part of the developers but it took far too long to materialize, much to the plight of the Walkers.

I believe that everybody wins with long term visioning and planning but grand designs take more than 5 years to implement.

So these are just a few thoughts to emphasize the point of a 50 year plan to help get Victoria back on track.

Who knows, with some long term visioning and planning the "Garden City" might someday have affordable water to water the gardens with and tourists on the Tally Ho will no longer be paraded by 4 story shoe boxes!

Cheers and best regards,

Robert

A great topic, and thank you for including me.

My response ... [as you may know] we have lived in a number of Cities, and have unfortunately seen some awful transportation problems which far exceed Victoria's.

But Victoria does have its problems. In terms of possible "solutions", I have always been puzzled as to why both Victoria - and the western communities - seem to totally/deliberately ignore an "asset", that places such as Calgary, Denver, Phoenix, etc., would literally die for.

And that other Cities such as New York, Vancouver, San Francisco, Seattle, etc., long ago recognized, seized upon, and now use, to alleviate their transportation problems.

I refer to the fact that for all intents, "Victoria" is completely surrounded by water ... Water that never freezes, except for tides is 'level', and is completely available to the public ... As in "we own it"!

So why aren't we using "our" water to move huge numbers of people - year round?

Why doesn't our "government" - at all levels - perform a serious viability study on creating a water transportation system?

Issue 2., in terms of "problems with downtown Victoria" ... I see much of what now exists as a sad embarrassment.

i.e. We have far too many empty stores, offices, and spaces, which should be operating and paying taxes. And, far too many of the remaining "businesses" seem to be fixated upon the infamous "Victoria visitor's dollar", rather than doing their best to attract

the permanent 24/7/365/12 Capital Region residents who represent a year-round source of healthy, steady, and tax-paying income I suggest that 'Victoria' needs to stop interviewing "visitors" on the downtown streets who in turn laud Victoria - (what else are they going to say ... they're on TV!) - and view Victoria as it truly is ... **a City facing problems.**

e.g. Lets look at 'Victoria's visitor's dollar' claim ...

If we hopefully scrap the 10 second sidewalk TV promotions; I suggest that we also remove our rose-colored glasses, and admit that this claim - of each visitor dollar spent in Victoria suddenly multiplying itself by 9, is obviously something which is unique to Victoria. Only in Victoria is every visitor dollar multiplied by 9, in order to then create 'a huge \$9 positive effect on 'our' economy' ...

If that (clearly specious) Commercial message is intended to generate wide spread tax payer support - by claiming a positive effect on Victoria's economy - [because it is claimed that every visitor dollar passes through 9 sets of hands/or businesses] - it tells me that someone has a problem understanding basic economics, and that someone must be isolated from any position which influences taxpayer dollarsBecause in the real world, 'a visitor dollar' remains one dollar ... And further, in the real world, that visitor dollar is divided by 9.

As to John's comments re. Mr. Miller's column in the January edition of Focus Magazine, John makes some excellent points.

Hence my comments regarding apparent failure to consider water transportation Why aren't we looking seriously at developing water transportation and greatly expanding our harbour assets?

But to Mr. Miller's credit, he also wrote an inspiring column in the February issue of Focus - whereupon Mr. Miller, along with many, many other Victorians, clearly is ecstatic at the new directions the City of Victoria's newly elected council may soon take us - (as am I).

Regards - and I hope you
But if

Section 22

Section 22

Frank

A quick analysis of the city budget Sustainable Planning and Community Development Development Services component;

The salary increase of \$84K 2014 to 2015 will perhaps support 1 only additional staff. Far, far more manpower is needed in planning to deal with all the swamp of site specific rezoning and the requirements to complete in a timely fashion the planning implementation required to fulfill the OCP.

I note that the salary line item drops by \$110K. in 2016. Where is the staffing resource going to come from? Further the salary line item drops by \$49K 2015 to 2019.

There is no adequate resources to implement the planning required to enable the implementation of the OCP.

It is interesting to note that while salaries are down over the 2015 -2019 period exempt salaries increased by \$49K over the 5 year period.

This department needs significant resources to Respond in a Timely Fashion to the OCP Implementation Strategy. The Medium Term items listed in the Local Area Planning Terms of Reference which I would suggest should be expedited and implemented by 2018.

Hello Ben

Thank you for asking.

The city really needs more and better bike lanes and a plan to work with adjoining municipalities to strengthen capacity for bike transportation and leisure cycling.

My sense of the cost of housing is that it is a huge future problem. Housing costs cannot keep going up. In my view what is necessary is innovation at the policy level directed at what is driving

housing prices to be so high and I do not see any thinking at this level happening. More co-op housing options may temper this problem somewhat as an interim solution.

What is necessary is to protect the beach parks, walkways, and access to waterfront activities that we have and ensure that land that is left that is on the waterfront is not sold off. It amazes me how much of the prime harbour waterfront real estate is owned by hotels in Victoria.

I can't really say but preserving and growing the community and arts organizations that we have and fostering innovation for the future would be a taxation direction that I would support.

Regards

Section 22

Sorry, folks, but I am adamantly opposed to Councillors receiving health benefits funded by the taxpayers of Victoria. Most of my working life, I paid for my own. As an octogenarian, I am still doing so: \$95 per month for basic coverage.

Well it didn't take longless than 3 months for this Council to get ideas about the "public trough" and try and line your pockets. Didn't all you know the salary and conditions before you ran. Sorry but it's too latenone of you had the guts to bring this up before the election did you.
Stop acting like typical "pigs at the trough" and do your job for a changethus far a sad sad Council, no understanding of how to run a City, only how to jam your pockets and push stupid regulations throughno wonder Vic is becoming a ghost town.

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

I was thrilled to

Section 22

. As a cycling commuter, we bought a house on the galloping goose so we could enjoy a non-car lifestyle. The goose has lived up to my hopes for a fantastic cycling highway. Unfortunately, our city's surprising lack of an all-ages and abilities network means we're limited in venturing beyond the goose. For example, my daughter takes swimming lessons at Crystal Pool, and although we don't live far (we're in Burnside Gorge), I drive her, because I'm not comfortable taking the bicycle trailer on roads without adequate space for cyclists. If we go into downtown, we park the bikes on the Vic West side of the Blue bridge, then walk into downtown because it's not safe enough to cycle there. This isn't the vision for a cycling city that the strategic plan describes.

I've read through the city's plan, and I'm really excited. It sounds like you're doing all sorts of things that will make Victoria a vibrant, desirable city. However, I urge you to please dedicate enough resources to the all ages and abilities cycling network, that will allow everyone to enjoy cycling in Victoria, not only sport or race cyclists who may be comfortable with minimal protection.

I endorse the recommendations made by the Victoria cycling coalition, below. Please help make Victoria a city that leads the way in all ages and abilities cycling transportation!

The Strategic Plan, Objective 9, lists a variety of outcomes related to cycling, including completing six priority projects (identified last year) by 2018, and the more ambitious goal of completing 4-8 high quality cycling facilities by 2016. However, the draft Financial Plan active transportation budget only accounts for the six priority projects approved by Council last year, totaling \$5 million over 5 years, or \$1 million per year.

Recommendations:

1. Council commit to the design and construction of an all ages and abilities cycling network by 2018;
2. Council triple the proposed level of funding for cycling infrastructure, from \$1 million per year to \$3 million, and invests a substantial portion of this year's \$4.5 million surplus into cycling;
3. Council work to increase staff capacity, through additional hiring, training, and consulting services, to ensure the City has the resources and expertise to design and build a world-class cycling network accessible to all.

Now is the time to dramatically improve active transportation. Victoria can go much further still in getting more people on bikes. The City's compact size, short travel distances, and agreeable climate give it the potential to become one of the top biking cities in the world, but only with a

network of high quality all-ages and abilities routes covering the city.

Sincerely,

Section 22

Dear Mayor Lisa Helps,

I'm a resident of the City of Victoria. The establishment of supervised consumption services (SCS) in Victoria is very important to me. I was very happy to see this included in the potential strategic priorities for the city.

I urge you to make the establishment of SCS a priority by including the proposed process in the City of Victoria 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.

I support SCS in Victoria because it is an effective, ethical and respectful way of helping people in our community stay safe and get access to health services.

For over a decade, people who use drugs, researchers, politicians, health care workers and other community leaders have been calling for SCS in our city (see: <http://www.yes2scs.ca/background/10-years-of-recommendations-for-scs/>). Our community is ready and we must take action.

The City of Victoria has an opportunity to re-prioritize these essential health services and show leadership by facilitating a collaboration between City Hall, the Island Health Authority, the Victoria Police Department, and YES2SCS to develop SCS within our existing continuum of health care services.

YES2SCS is a community-based coalition that includes participation of members of SOLID and other people who use drugs, and their voices are critical in relation to social inclusion and effectiveness of health service provision. A Councillor-facilitated process would strengthen community collaboration on these issues and provide access to City resources such as information and advice on land use, zoning, maintenance, etc.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Section 22

Fernwood

Good afternoon.

I am writing to add my voice to the many that have already called upon you to allocate budget surplus resources to building and expanding on a safe and modern biking network for the City of Victoria.

My husband and I moved to Victoria a few years ago, attracted by the beauty, the climate and the many opportunities to get out doors and be physically active. We are appreciative of the existing networks of bike trails which are more extensive than in most cities we have lived. However, unfortunately, outside the bike trails there is a need for more dedicated lanes and other safety precautions on main arteries. As well, many of the most scenic routes don't have dedicated bike lanes causing difficult driving and biking situations.

I urge you therefore to make the right decision, become a leader in Canada. Increasing the number of people who cycle regularly is good for individual health and good for the environment. Please allocate more resources to building a safe bikable city.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important decision.

Judith

E. [Section 22](#)

I really appreciated all the information provided about some of the city budget. I cannot understand why we don't get to comment on the Police budget. My understanding is that it is our largest department by cost and the one that is growing the fastest. It is like the Provincial Gov't asking us to comment on their budget but saying you cannot comment on the health section. makes no sense to me.
I think the Police budget has the most room for savings so we would have no tax increase and perhaps a small reduction.
thank you

Dar Purewall

Section 22

Victoria, BC

V9A3T3

March 27, 2015

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Support for Proposed VCAN Budget (2015-2016)

As a member of the Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN), I am writing to ask that you support the proposed VCAN budget, submitted by Graham Briggs on March 25th, 2015.

I am aware that the City of Victoria has established budget priorities for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. I am also acutely aware of the challenges facing the Council in reconciling those priorities within the current fiscal constraints. At the same time, I recognize that Mayor and Council are supportive of strategies and actions that further the interests of the residents living in our local neighbourhoods and communities.

In terms of value for money, I would argue that, over the past year, VCAN has provided exceptional value. The cost to the City of Victoria, in supporting the mandate of VCAN through the provision of meeting space and operating budget for food expenditures for early evening meetings, is relatively small in contrast to the return value that results from the rich information emerging from our meetings.

VCAN provides the City of Victoria and community residents with an opportunity to identify salient issues, many of which directly impact the many of the residents of our City. For those of us who choose to invest in our communities by sitting on the Boards of our respective community/neighbourhood associations, VCAN provides opportunities to identify challenges and opportunities, share best practices, collaborate on capacity building, and facilitate dialogue on emergent issues.

Going forward, and in light of Council's recently identified strategic priorities, I would ask that Mayor and Council continue to support the work and progress of VCAN by approving the budget as submitted. In my estimation, the contributions our members make are valuable and should continue to be encouraged.

Sincere regards,

Section 22 ,

Director of Communications, Victoria West Community Association

encl: letter from Graham Briggs

Dar Purewall,

VWCA Director of Communications

Email: communications@victoriawest.ca

Subscribe to our Newsletter by clicking [here](#)!

> Hi -- terrific job on Plan, Budget and Townhall. Thanks again for the directions you're leading and the opportunities you're opening up.

>

> An item that might go into your Innovate & Lead section is to Bring together and enhance the City's relationships with senior governments.

>

> I saw a reference in the Housing section, but the relationships go all over (or at least have this potential), and there hasn't been anyone at city hall since Nancy Taylor left who was well-experienced and connected with both Fed and Prov systems. It should cover both the technical and political rels. and ideally, include both official and unofficial relationships.

>

> Just an idea.

>

>

>

> Irwin

>

To whom it may concern,

I am writing a letter to ask that Victoria City Council makes the development of a Supervised Consumption Site a priority in our city over the next three years.

I would like to stress that I understand this is not on your shoulders alone, and that the creation of a SCS in Victoria involves a number of stakeholders, including Council, Island Health, and our provincial and federal governments. I would like to add that I very much appreciate your inclusion of Yes2SCS in your planning, as I believe this group includes some of Victoria's most vital stakeholders - those involved in the day to day issues involved in illicit substance use.

I am foregoing using a draft letter which includes statistics that show evidence to the benefits of a Supervised Consumption Site. I believe you will be sent those statistics by other advocates, but I also welcome you to email with any questions or concerns regarding the topic, and I will do my best to provide you with research-based evidence. This letter is merely a personal and professional opinion, based on street level experience.

I'll keep it brief. I work with youth between the ages of 12-24, many of whom are intravenous drug users, and many of whom smoke illicit substances. In particular, heroin (and other opiates), crystal meth, and crack cocaine. I do my best to provide these youth with harm reduction supplies, in keeping with the Island Health guidelines of what constitutes "harm reduction".

The youth I work with have no place to use their drugs, therefore they are using in alleys, locked bathrooms, and other public locations. As a result, they are placing themselves in harmful situations. I speak to youth and the "transition years" because that is the population I work with, but needless to say this translates also to the adult population.

Harm Reduction is within the Island Health mandate, and it is a puzzle that is missing key pieces without a SCS. I urge you to lean on other stakeholders to encourage that it be included in our community in order to avoid needless deaths, infections and diseases that take a toll on our community... The financial toll of course (when we look at how much it costs to treat over decades) but more importantly the toll on our fellow community members who are surviving in the cycle of substance use.

To finish, I would like to add that I understand the delicacy around running a SCS and accepting those using substances under the age of 19. If that specific query comes up as you read this, feel free to contact me and I can speak more to that.

On a less formal note. I work with the most amazing youth. They deserve the best care... And that includes evidence based public health practice.

Thanks for your time,

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Congratulations on beginning to address the issue of bicycle safety in Victoria!

The greatest barrier to more cycling in this perfect city for cycling is that it isn't safe. I think you should commit more than the \$1 million per year for the next 5 years to the project. Why not commit \$3.5 million each year until you have completed it. The sooner the better for the people, the businesses, the environment!

Sincerely,

Section 22 bicycle rider but only in certain places where it is safe....ie separated from cars. (Check out Copenhagen! We could do it!)

Hello Mayor and Councillors!

First I want to thank mayor, councillors and staff for the highly community engaged budget discussion on March 23rd. I was able to participate from home, a true luxury!

I am writing to ask that you support the proposed VCAN budget sent by Graham Briggs. I realize that some may question an expenditure on food for meetings. The rationale is that this allows key active community association volunteers to attend a meeting at city hall from 5pm-7pm. As you may realize meeting from 7-9 on any night of the week is going to be a meeting conflict for at least some of the community associations, and this allows all neighbourhood associations to be able to attend.

I am asking you to consider this request in the context of the extensive hours of volunteer services provided by community associations and land use committee volunteers.

The following is a snapshot of some of what Hillside Quadra NAG land use committee does:

1. First community point of contact over proposed developments providing preliminary feedback on potential issues
2. Organising, promoting attendance, and hosting of full CALUC meetings
3. Capturing of all the community input at CALUC meeting by taking extensive minutes (we try to have at least 2 notetakers)
4. First point of contact for multiple neighbourhood issues
5. Promotion of active transportation initiatives
6. Communicating City of Victoria information to the community (i.e. storm water and other changes)

The social contributions to the neighbourhood by the Quadra Village Community Centre (run by the the Downtown Blanshard Community Association) are too numerous to list but can be found here: <http://www.quadravillagecc.com/>

I ask that you consider this relatively modest request. As a busy working parent, I highly appreciate being able to attend the VCAN meeting directly after work, and enjoy a modest meal.

Thanks,

Rowena Locklin
Hillside Quadra (NAG representative on VCAN)

Proposed VCAN 2015 Budget	
Meeting	Food Costs (Maximum)
May 12	\$270.00
June 23	\$270.00
September (Date TBD)	\$270.00
November (Date TBD)	\$270.00
Stationary / facilitation supplies	\$50.00
Total	\$1130 (Maximum)

Below is our budget for 2016

Proposed VCAN 2016 Budget	
Meeting	Food Costs (Maximum)
January	\$270.00
March	\$270.00

May	\$270.00
June	\$270.00
September	\$270.00
November	\$270.00
Stationary / facilitation supplies	\$100.00
Total	\$1720 (Maximum)

hi lisa,

third email i promised, this time on tennis courts. i've tried to keep things in point form for brevity, although this email has gotten very long. sorry! (at least it'll be quicker to read than it was to write)

a few general high levels goals i think the city should be thinking about:

1- a plan to stagger replacement/refurbishing of the current tennis court inventory to extend the lifetime of some courts where appropriate and to prevent future large capital outlays when all courts start falling apart in a short time (as many of the courts' asphalt will be nearing end of life).

2- investigate lower-impact surfaces that would afford seniors a safer playing environment (allowing them to continue playing when they might otherwise need to stop)

3- leveraging the court inventory to provide supplementary income that could help offset ongoing maintenance costs (lesson programs, court booking).

4- leveraging community resources to provide some of the services a private club would provide in most cities (lesson programs, free clinics, tournaments, drop-in play, "mixers", racquet borrowing). some of those already exist, but could be expanded (ie, lessons).

5- leverage community resources to help maintain and improve the tennis courts (debris cleaning, net maintenance, etc) - things that aren't reasonable for parks staff to provide, but that would make the facilities better.

Item #1 - refurbishing/replacing

- building out a new group of 4 hard courts will end up costing \$250,000
- \$350,000 (based on the experiences of Central Saanich with Centennial Park and Saanich with Lambrick park), with an expected lifetime of 25-40 years.
- existing cracking courts could be resurfaced (asphalt patched, new top coating applied). depending on the court, it could be anywhere from \$3500 to \$20000 per court (Oak Bay Henderson was ~\$3500/court, Saanich tennis club was \$20k/court). if there is substantial cracking in the asphalt base, cracks will appear more often, leading to more frequent resurfacing
- existing cracking courts could be resurfaced with sand-filled artificial turf. an Australian manufacturer quoted a material cost of \$10000/court. as there are a few layers between the top and the asphalt base, further cracking of the asphalt layer is tolerated better. artificial turf is expected to last 15-25 years.
- if new chain link fencing is required (for replacement or new build), the city should only use the newer black chain link fencing - it blends into the surroundings better than the grey/green fencing and improves the look of the courts/park.
- long term, the city should look at not building any new 1-2 court neighborhood courts and instead looking at creating a larger 8 court grouping somewhere. (oaklands park might be a good location - if an agreement were made with the school board, david spencer park could be upgraded to move the oaklands soccer field, freeing up space for an extra 4 courts while still leaving plenty of open space for the baseball field/unstructured play).
- new courts should be built with north/south alignment (for optimal sun/light conditions for our elevation). some of the existing courts are at very poor angles (as they were built to the road grid)

a quick status of the current courts ("good shade" = not much tree shade

- uneven shade makes it hard to pick up the ball):

Topaz Park: courts are too far gone for refurbishing
Central Park: courts are cracking, but not warping.
good candidate for refurbishment (although care would be needed to prevent sand from migrating to the basketball courts). good court alignment, decent shade.

Montreal/Niagara courts: in decent shape. poor court alignment, good shade.

Hollywood Park: best court surface condition in city, poor court alignment, good shade.

Stadacona Park: in decent shape. decent alignment, poor shade (the courts used to be desirable, but the trees have grown tall enough in the park to make the shade conditions poor) Oaklands Park/Kings: courts are cracking, but not warping. best alignment, good shade. good candidate for refurbishment. Banfield park: unknown court condition. good alignment, good shade. possible candidate for refurbishment (depending on court condition) Barnard Park: unknown court condition. poor alignment, decent shade.

Central and Oakslands/Kings are probably the most due for refurbishment/resurfacing.

Item #2

Court surface related injuries in tennis generally come down to three things: the impact of the surface on the body, the grip of the surface, and the effect of moisture on the surface. Impact is pretty obvious - we all know that running on softer surfaces is preferable to harder ones.

Grip is less obvious - a hard gripping court (one that doesn't allow the player to slide) causes a lot of stress on the knee joints as it enables rapid stopping (sliding, even a few centimeters, spreads the deceleration out). Wet or damp hard courts are incredibly slippery, other surfaces (clay or artificial turf) are far less slippery.

Clay (and Har-Tru, a synthetic clay) require daily maintenance and are likely not suitable for the city (until at such point in the future when there were significant numbers of volunteers to help maintain them). note that clay and har-tru are not actually clay - they are crushed brick and basalt, respectively.

Grass is low impact, though incredibly slippery when wet. It also requires a large amount of maintenance and extended periods of non-use. It is clearly not suitable for city use.

Sand-Filled Artificial Turf:

- historically, the artificial turf was installed over a tamped sand base (this was not great, as the sand would move around under the courts, leaving dead spots after heavy rains). now there are systems for applying the turf on top of existing asphalt/concrete courts.
- for refurbishing, an underlayer is adhered to the old asphalt/concrete surface. the underlay helps water drain, provides some extra shock absorption, and reduces strain/wear on the artificial turf (<http://www.grassman.com.au/portfolio-item/d-u-c-c/>)
- on top of the underlay, the artificial turf is placed, then filled with sand (regular sand, nothing special). the sand weighs down the turf and allows players to slide on the surface (which reduces injuries). some characteristics of the court (ball bounce, spin response) can be altered by adjusting the amount of sand that is used.
- maintenance is limited to the application of replacement sand (players will slowly track sand out of the courts), periodic sweeping (to keep the sand levels even across the courts), and the removal of organic debris (primarily leaves, to prevent algae growth)
- different types and colours of turf are available (I would recommend the high-visibility blue for a court colour, and either red or green for a border colour - this is the colour scheme being built most often in the world now)
- there are north american manufacturers of artificial turf, although i haven't found much reference to

Item #3

Oak Bay Henderson offers court booking where a court can be booked by an individual for up to 2 hours (at ~\$8.50/hour). This enables people who want to play a match of a couple sets the ability to do so uninterrupted (without a booking, players are subject to 40 minutes of play if other people are waiting). Without the ability to book a court, players will either go to places where they can, or try and selfishly hold on to courts.

The city currently allows block booking of courts, but the process is unclear and seems to be designed for groups, not individuals.

If there were court booking for certain courts (ie, ones near rec/community centres), the city shouldn't allow all courts to be booked (if there are 4 courts, allow 2 to be booked and leave the other 2 open for first-come-first-serve play) - paid access should never eliminate non-paid access.

Saanich rec currently has a huge backlog of users for their lesson programs. Were the courts in Victoria in better shape, the city could partner with Saanich rec to have some of that backlog moved to our courts (with Saanich splitting the revenue with us). Greater cooperation between the municipalities for providing lessons would be a good thing - certain programs like junior developmental ones would benefit greatly.

Item #4

If there were more obvious court booking opportunities, local community associations or tennis groups could begin to provide some of the services a private tennis club would normally provide. Essentially, I'd like to see the city/community provide everything a club would but at a lower cost and available to everyone (and provide a new model for other cities in Canada showing how the public commons can do things better).

As an example, if the Oaklands Community Center were responsible for booking of the courts at Kings/Oaklands, the community association could block out the courts for various things and advertise their availability:

- Free clinics, provided by community members (ie, someone like me)
- Mens or Womens doubles evenings, where a volunteer organizes mixing players around and a small drop in fee covers the cost of balls for everyone
- special Drop-In times based on skill level, where a volunteer organizes/evaluates players by skill into matches
- the community center could host a collection of used racquets, gently used shoes, and gently used balls (donated by the community) and lend/give them out to new players or economically-challenged players. (there is a program already that provides racquets to children)

Item #5

The local neighborhood communities and extended tennis playing communities would largely be interested in helping to maintain, refurbish, and upgrade the existing facilities.

The local community groups have an interest in making the parks more beautiful and welcoming to everyone living in the area. Simply upgrading the courts would make the park look better, but other opportunities would exist as well (ie, planting suitable plants).

Local seniors could benefit from increased volunteer options. In the case of artificial turf, local seniors could volunteer to help do maintenance - getting them physical activity and the opportunity to meet and earn the gratitude of court users.

Putting it all together:

I believe Oaklands/Kings park is the ideal spot to test out all of these ideas. Everyone I have spoken to at the courts and the Oaklands Community Association thinks it would be a great thing. There's a great DIY ethos already present in Oaklands, channeling some of that energy into improving the public commons would not only be great for the park, but would also foster community pride in the local facilities.

After a final asphalt patch job by city staff, a group of volunteers from the local and tennis communities could install the new court surface (with minor assistance/supervision from parks/city staff). Volunteers would also install a windscreen across the south side of the courts and part of the west side. Additionally, volunteers could also install artificial turf for the ball hockey court and some extra netting to the east and west of the ball hockey court (for safety of users of the new bike path). Sleeves would be installed around the existing net posts to extend their height (the artificial turf would raise the height of the courts enough that the post height may no longer be sufficient).

Volunteers or the city could remove the south entrance from the tennis courts. this would free up more room for the ball hockey court - the other 3 entrances are enough for the courts. Volunteers or the city (i suspect more the city, in this case) would alter the fencing on the west side to lower it to waist height to create a better viewing area.

Volunteers would construct a small raised deck with seating and sun umbrellas in the viewing area (creating a welcoming space for people to sit and watch tennis). Volunteers would create a bulletin board for the north fence.

Volunteers would install a cedar post trellis across the west side of the courts, and plant it with an appropriate (drought/climate appropriate) climbing plant (wisteria?). Volunteers would plant other appropriate plants behind the new bike path and exercise areas.

Volunteers could create a simple web page and booking system for the courts, to be administrated by the Oaklands community center staff. All bookings would be handled online - any disputes at the court over bookings could be handled by anyone with a smartphone who could look up the booking schedule (oaklands staff would not need to be involved). Any maintenance materials (a few bags of sand and brooms) would be stored a the Oaklands Community Centre or Oaklands Neighbourhood House.

The pickleball courts lines would be removed and moved to the 2 separate courts at Stadacona park instead.

If volunteer labour (with city supervision) were used, i think we could get everything done for around \$55-60k (extending court life by 15-20 years):

- turf+underlay for 4 courts: \$40k
- turf+underlay for ball hockey court: \$10k
- wind screens: \$2500
- post extensions: \$1000 (sourced from a local machine shop)
- wood and plants: donated by community
- fencing parts: \$1000
- asphalt patching: \$5000

If this were all to prove successful, the same model could be applied to some of the other courts in town as needed. More courts of this surface would reduce some of the booking pressure (and might reduce some of the revenue that could be derived from bookings, although that would seem like an acceptable tradeoff in proving greater access to a low-impact court surface).

Central would be a good fit with its proximity to the Crystal Pool facility. Perhaps Banfield as well (being next to the Vic West Community Center).

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Please accept a few comments on the Draft Strategic Plan and Draft Financial Plan, discussed in the Town Hall meeting on March 23.

The Draft Financial Plan considers road repair as “complete streets.”

I got excited when I saw the term “Complete Streets” in the Draft Strategic Plan and in the Draft Financial Budget. But looking at the details on page 805 in the Draft Financial Plan shows that the 73% of the funds under Complete Streets represents road upgrades and rehabilitation. The rest is street lighting and signals. There is no aspect of complete streets here. See the table from page 805 below.

I have two suggestions. First, if we are to meet Objective 9 for a true multi-modal and active transportation network, we should all agree on what the terms “complete streets” and “active transportation” and “placemaking” actually mean. I suggest a joint council-staff awareness session on the relationships among these important topics. It would require no more than an hour, and we have local experts in the community who would facilitate the discussion at no cost to the city.

My second suggestion is to reallocate some of the budget dedicated to road repair to building the cycling infrastructure the community so desperately needs, and under-represented in the Active Transportation section of the Financial Plan. The budget allocation should reflect the Strategic Plan priorities, and moving some expenditure from enabling car use to bike use would advance the multi-modal concept without increasing taxes.

From Draft Financial Plan, page 805

Complete Streets	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5 Yr Total	%
Arterial Upgrades	530,000	540,600	551,412	562,440	573,689	2,758,141	13.8
Local Street Rehabilitation	1,120,000	1,320,000	1,520,000	1,720,000	1,920,000	7,600,000	37.9
Major Street Rehabilitation	655,000	755,000	855,000	955,000	1,055,000	4,275,000	21.3
Douglas Street Bus Lanes	1,000,000	0	0	0	0	1,000,000	5.0
Street Lighting Installations	16,000	16,320	16,646	16,979	17,319	83,264	0.4
LED Street Light Replacement	552,200	1,057,200	552,200	0	0	2,161,600	10.8
Streetlight Pole Replacement - Songhees	25,000	25,000	25,000	0	0	75,000	0.4
Streetlight Replacement-BC Hydro Poles	95,000	0	0	0	0	95,000	0.5
Street Light Pole & Arm Replacement	186,000	189,720	193,514	197,385	201,332	967,951	4.8
Traffic Signal Safety Upgrades: Phasing/New	58,000	59,160	60,343	61,550	62,781	301,834	1.5
Traffic Controller Replacement Program	144,000	120,360	122,767	125,223	127,727	640,077	3.2

Centracs Traffic Controller	100,000	0	0	0	0	100,000	0.5
Total	4,481,200	4,083,360	3,896,882	3,638,577	3,957,848	20,057,867	100.0

What gets measured, gets done.

The Draft Financial Plan notes that the City completed 30 km of crack sealing of roads and fixed 500 sq m of potholes last year. But there is no measure of infrastructure of safe cycling.

I suggest you request the annual Financial Plan to include a measure of how well we are addressing Objective 9, such as the following:

- Number of meters of Class 1 bicycle infrastructure built each year.

Thank you for hosting a most stimulating Town Hall meeting. I learned how much council and staff members really care about our community, and am inspired to do my part.

Section 22

Victoria

Dear City of Victoria Councillors:

The establishment of supervised consumption services (SCS) in Victoria is important to me.

I support SCS in Victoria because harm reduction is important and it keeps everyone in our society safer. I live and work downtown and want it to be a safe and open space for everyone. People who use drugs already face enough stigma and the federal government's stance on this shows that municipalities must lead in this area.

For over a decade, people who use drugs, researchers, politicians, health care workers and other community leaders have been calling for SCS in our city (see: <http://www.yes2scs.ca/background/10-years-of-recommendations-for-scs/>). **Our community is ready and we must take action.**

The City of Victoria has an opportunity to re-prioritize these essential health services and show leadership by **facilitating a collaboration between City Hall, the Island Health Authority, the Victoria Police Department, and YES2SCS** to develop SCS within our existing continuum of health care services.

YES2SCS is a community-based coalition that includes participation of members of SOLID and other people who use drugs, and their voices are critical in relation to social inclusion and effectiveness of health service provision. **A Councillor-facilitated process** would strengthen community collaboration on these issues and **provide access to City resources such as information and advice on land use, zoning, maintenance, etc.**

I urge you to make the establishment of SCS a priority by **including the above process in the City of Victoria 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.**

Best,

Section 22

RE: City of Victoria: Support Local Food Systems

Dear Mayor and Council,

I support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
- Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods;
- Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens;
- Developing long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening (including an inventory of City-owned land for food production);
- Introducing new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land, and
- Enhancing local food systems in general.

These initiatives are consistent with the food-related provisions of the Official Community Plan, found primarily in Section 17. For example, the OCP supports: innovative food production (17.9); urban food supplies (17.A); food education (17.B); connecting people to food (17.5); local food security and sustainability (17.9, 17.A); planted boulevards (8.22.4); native plants (8.58); memorable places (8.a); and adaptive management (22.1). We believe that more progress can be made pursuing these objectives by increasing financial resources for food systems in the 2015 Financial Plan.

We also ask that you make a commitment, and allocate budgetary resources beginning in 2015, to the following initiatives (either as new initiatives within the Strategic Plan, or as detailed measures meant to help implement existing initiatives within the Strategic Plan):

- (1) Shift focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants. For example, allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to food-bearing plants and trees, including natives, perennials, and fruit/nut trees (all across Victoria, and especially to enhance/maintain our urban forest);
- (2) Provide City assistance with coordination of food-growing resources, including:
 - materials pooling / depot (leaves, mulch, soil, cardboard, wood, irrigation materials);
 - increase grant funding for existing and emerging food systems initiatives;
 - support neighbourhood-level and city-wide food coordination;
 - reduce water charges for irrigation of food plants;
- (3) Expand availability of City land for food growing, with a mechanism for 5-year security of tenure for growers;
- (4) Implement a mechanism for increasing social justice in the distribution of local food

supplies (e.g. additional City support tied to “food sharing”);

(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Section 22

I support construction of a high quality cycling network that is safe for all ages and abilities, and allocating the funds needed to build it properly.

Thank you!

Section 22

BRAVO!!!!!!

I have found with budgets that "the devil is always in the details" - the way that managers handle the relatively small stuff is very, very revealing of their attitude to budget discipline generally.

Although \$250k for art on the bridge is small amount relative to the total project cost, it is a meaningful sum of and in itself. I was immensely pleased to read in today's TC that, in view of other significant cost over-runs, you are recommending NOT spending this money - even though it will, no doubt, upset some in the heritage / arts community.

As an (obvious) aside, I am sure it has not escaped your attention that the current bridge supplement almost equals the uncommitted funds in the 2015 budget for which you are soliciting public input. I am also quite sure that you are aware of the gross underfunding of the infrastructure upgrade / maintenance budget (according to our previous Sustainability Manager).

My suggestion would be (if the budget categories are not completely incompatible), use one to pay for the other.

The

Section 22

(I cannot remember her name, but met her at Gene's), has implemented an interesting budget approach that you might wish to consider:

- * City professional staff determine the "must do" budget items about which there is, essentially, no choice (this, not surprisingly, takes up the majority of the budget and includes all the boring, necessary, unsexy things needed to keep a city running smoothly).

- * Public input is solicited on use of the remaining discretionary budget items - and ONLY on those items.

There are always vocal interest groups that garner a lot of attention, and this approach offers (my view) a wise balance of professional staff expertise with public input.

Just a bit of "grist for the mill".

Regards, Jamie

Dear Mayor Helps & Councillors,
Thank you for a great Town Hall meeting last night!

Attached, please find a letter from NPNA's president, Tim Hewett, in support of VCAN's request for funding for its on-going work. The re-vitalization of VCAN has proved valuable to Victoria's community associations and we look forward to continuing the work that VCAN has begun in the past year.

Best regards,

Penny Bond
NPNA Secretary/Membership
secretary@npna.ca

Dear Mayor and Council,

First, let me congratulate you on the public meeting last night, March 23rd. It was both moving and refreshing to hear the range of community concerns.

This is a follow-up to my comments last night regarding the idea of daylighting points along Harris/Rock Bay Creek. The idea grew out of the Fernwood Community Mapping Project which the city kindly funded through a Shape Your Future Grant.

We held our official map launch on March 22 and were gratified to have three councillors in attendance. The Fernwood Community Association, of which I am a board member, supports pursuing this idea and has formed a small committee to explore it further. Several people who worked on the map are also enthusiastic about continuing with this project.

One side of the Fernwood Community Map shows contemporary Fernwood. The other side overlays an 1863 map of Victoria on our basic topography. It identifies First Nations land usage and early settlement. It indicates former Harris Pond and the now-culverted stream that ran from it draining into Rock Bay. As part of our community involvement, we mappers have led several walks decoding the course of the stream, noting the water-loving trees that grow along its course, and listening to neighbours speak about wet basements and soggy back yards.

Inspired by the remediation of Bowker Creek, we began to think about daylighting points along "our" stream. This past autumn, several of us watched *Lost Rivers*, a documentary on cities that are remediating their rivers. It shows how such remediation brings neighbourhoods to life and addresses storm water issues. We showed that film at our map launch to a very enthusiastic response. The CRD owns copies of the film so anyone who would like to see it can easily borrow one.

The points we've so far identified as possible places for daylighting are:

- West end of Alexander Park at Bay & Sayward
- Garden Street community allotment garden
- vacant lot waiting to be developed at Pembroke & Sayward
- Park at Cook and Blackwood
- Park at Kings & Wark
- Blanshard Court path

Thinking bigger, streets along the creek route could be greened up with a swale, e.g. Sayward, Haultain, lower Queens Neighbours along the creek's course who suffer from its seepage, e.g. in the Stanley & Grant areas, might be aided in creating rain gardens on their property.

We might also come up with an unobtrusive way to mark the stream's course where it will still run in its culvert.

Clearly, this idea extends beyond Fernwood. We plan to begin conversations with North Park and Burnside Gorge neighbourhood associations to encourage their participation. This project is the logical extension to the important Rock Bay clean up.

Given the crucial part the Fernwood springs played in Victoria's history, focusing on Fernwood's water seems appropriate and timely.

This project looks back to our history and forward to a more attuned sensitivity to water, our most precious resource. It fulfills several of the objectives the city has laid out: #7 "community wellness", #8 "steward public spaces, green spaces", #11 "steward water systems and waste streams".

We are at the very early stages of this idea but the community support is already obvious. We look forward to working with you and with the neighbourhoods along our stream's course creating pocket oases teeming with life: native plants, birds, and the human family. Thank you for your consideration of this idea.

Yours,

Section 22

Victoria V8R 1S5

Congratulations, Lisa, to you and Council on last night's public meeting together with the incredible amount of work that has been done to date. Very impressive to be sure. I was somewhat surprised that the audience was mostly speaking about biking, homelessness, arts and social activities. Virtually no one spoke about economic development. Perhaps you need another meeting to draw these folks out. Obviously having the right agenda for economic development can help address many of the issues talked about last night. Cheers, Bob.

Sent from my iPad

Dear City of Victoria Councillors:

The establishment of supervised consumption services (SCS) in Victoria is important to me/us.

I support SCS in Victoria because it would take care of our fellow citizens, reduce stress on expensive emergency healthcare services, and has been a proven tactic in improving community health - across the globe - time and again.

For over a decade, people who use drugs, researchers, politicians, health care workers and other community leaders have been calling for SCS in our city (see:<http://www.yes2scs.ca/background/10-years-of-recommendations-for-scs/>). **Our community is ready and we must take action.**

The City of Victoria has an opportunity to re-prioritize these essential health services and show leadership by **facilitating a collaboration between City Hall, the Island Health Authority, the Victoria Police Department, and YES2SCS** to develop SCS within our existing continuum of health care services.

YES2SCS is a community-based coalition that includes participation of members of SOLID and other people who use drugs, and their voices are critical in relation to social inclusion and effectiveness of health service provision. **A Councillor-facilitated process** would strengthen community collaboration on these issues and **provide access to City resources such as information and advice on land use, zoning, maintenance, etc.**

I urge you to make the establishment of SCS a priority by **including the above process in the City of Victoria 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.**

Please support this!

Section 22

Victoria Councillors,

Further to my email of 23 February 2015 email concerning cycling, may I add a few comments for consideration during your discussions of Victoria's multimodal transportation system.

Victoria, thanks to climate and (relatively) few hills could have the highest bicycle use of any Canadian city, and be among the top five North American cities in bicycle use. This would have substantial benefits in terms of quality of life, particularly in community health, would over time reduce the costs of city infrastructure, would aid in our response to global warming, and would assist our tourism industry marketing of Victoria as a unique niche destination.

In my view the greatest single impediment to greater use of bicycles in Victoria is safety. I have mentioned this in my previous email, but it is worth repeating. Bicycling in Greater Victoria means the cyclist has a high risk of collision. Bicycle lanes don't necessarily solve this. When bicycle lanes are outside the parking lane, and doors swing open from cars (and, even worse because they are wider, trucks). The result is a collision with the door, or, to avoid that, a swerve to the right into the vehicle lane.

Bicycle lanes that are adjacent to the curb are safer, but there is one caution here--for safe cycling the pavement should be maintained to higher standards than is the case today. From time to time they should be swept for gravel and debris, and patching of the road surface at the curb should be as smooth as at the center of the road. If you cycle or walk a kilometre of curb-side bicycle lane you will see why this is important. On just about every road you will notice that the two metres of road from the curbside is in less smooth and has more debris and gravel than the two metres adjacent to the center line.

While a commendable start has been made in recent years to develop cycle routes, previously we had decade after decade of accommodation of the automobile. The result is there is a lot of catching up to do, and some reversals of previous policy to be undertaken. In short, at this stage there is a need to pay particular attention to the needs of cyclists rather than to the needs of motorists. The costs of creating cycling routes are not cheap, but once installed their use will increase as more people turn to that form of transportation. This in turn will reduce automobile traffic and congestion; thus expenditures on cycling routes directly benefit the automobile driver. Expenditures on roads for automobiles does not have such a co-benefit for the cyclist.

I look forward to hearing of the results of your discussions on this important topic.

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am a lead facilitator with the recently re-established Victoria Community Association Network(VCAN) and am writing to request a small annual budget from the City to support our meeting expenses. Please see the attached budget proposal. Please feel free to contact me any time with questions or feedback. Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Best,

Graham Briggs
250.217.0940

Dear Mayor and Council::

Congratulations to you and city staff on producing our first four year strategic plan. If we can deliver on even half of the actions/outcomes it will be a job well done. A few observations:

Objective 4: “Put city lands to best and highest use including market rate commercial leases.” I would ask that action be taken immediately deal with the Crystal Garden. The building is currently costing us about \$450,000 per year in operating deficits and forgone rents, with no end in sight. I would also ask that a complete inventory/status report on the city’s commercial properties be prepared and updated quarterly.

Objective 5: “Set up economic development office”. Perhaps the new office evaluate the costs and benefits for the city of disruptive technologies. I am thinking of services such as AIRBNB, UBER, LYFT and probably others that are on the way. These are powerful forces that need to be assessed. For example AIRBNB currently has over 600 listings for Victoria making it the largest “hotel” in the region. New York City now as more UBER cars than yellow taxis. These services are clearly popular for a reason and if properly addressed could potentially provide great benefits to Victoria.

Objective 7: “Facilitate social inclusion and community wellness”. This appears to be the only place in the vast array of budget related documents where the VICPD gets a mention. I think we all need to be more engaged in setting the budget and the priorities for our police force. A governance model that has only one member of council sitting on the Police Board and offers very little opportunity for council or for the public to review and comment on the police budget is not helpful. I would also note that both the Mayor and the Chief have commented in recent months on the substantial police resources devoted to dealing mental health and substance abuse calls, issues that officers are not well equipped to deal with. The Chief indicated that he successfully addressed the issue in Sudbury. Please can be deal with this pressing budget and humanitarian issue on a priority basis.

With respect to the \$4.8 million in “extra” money that we have in the budget, I would urge you to reserve at least half of it for the capital projects contingencies fund, we will need it.

Respect,

Section 22

Victoria V8V 4K2
Canada

Tel: Section 22

Lisa. Many thanks for sharing the draft strategic action plan... very impressive! And yes, it is pretty exciting...

Lots of strategies for you, your council, and your staff to negotiate... it will be important to feel into those that are truly strategic - in the sense of being 'course-changing' if not actually 'course-transforming'.

Some may be essentially 'system-maintenance', in a good way - affirming that this is 'the way we do things around here' ... that we positively affirm and commit to 'maintain'.

Some may be very much anticipating, and willing, 'system-change' - an acknowledgment of what needs 'changing', as in a clear departure from past practice (a new direction, course-changing... but not necessarily departing from the underlying status-quo, reflected in what merits 'maintenance').

Some strategies - a few perhaps, but not too much - may be best situated in the context of anticipating some 'system-transformation', if the system is ready for such a level of change. These would be the ones that are truly strategic for myself, pulling the system into the future that is 'becoming', meeting it, embracing it, making it... essentially 'whole-making'.

I am locating 'placemaking', at its most evolved, in this latter context. 'Planning and Land Use' is a good place to start, but it really needs to be 'corporatized' and then 'communalised'... and I sense that the City of Adelaide was getting this, and heading this way.

Try thinking of 'strategic planning' (and not simply land use planning) as placemaking, and think of placemaking as wellbeing by design. This takes everything into 'whole-making' territory... seeking the 'ever-more-whole' outcome. This may be 'system-transformational' for Victoria at the present time, but it could also be held out as the defining course-correction/re-direction... to pull the system forward, leading from the emerging future.

My very best wishes for your leadership of Victoria, into that emerging future, from the future you are willing for Victoria. May you attract many well-wishers, and potential collaborators, such as myself...

Cheerrrrrs! [Section 22](#) .

Dear City of Victoria Councillors:

The establishment of supervised consumption services (SCS) is important to me.

I support SCS, safe consumption sites, in Victoria because....

For over a decade, people who use drugs, researchers, politicians, health care workers and other community leaders have been calling for SCS in our city (see: <http://www.yes2scs.ca/background/10-years-of-recommendations-for-scs/>). Our community is ready and we must take action. The City of Victoria has an opportunity to re-prioritize these essential health services and show leadership by facilitating a collaboration between City Hall, the Island Health Authority, the Victoria Police Department, and YES2SCS to develop SCS within our existing continuum of health care services.

As a soon to be practicing Registered Nurse in the City of Victoria, I would like to advocate for my community to have comprehensive health care services that are socially just. This includes services that are, as stated by the CNA code of ethics (2008), “provided at the right time and in the right place” (p 20). I interpret this as ensuring that part of an inclusive health care strategy includes access to services that aid in eliminating social inequities for people who use illicit drugs. This includes SCS’s where people are offered clean, sterile equipment for use and nursing care onsite for any health care concerns. I believe that through such services RN’s will be promoting the worth of all individuals through respect and dignity by ensuring the health care needs are met for all community members.

I urge you to make the establishment of SCS a priority by including the above process in the City of Victoria 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.

Sincerely,

Section 22

ride my bike at least three times a week. Most is accessing the goose. I live in James Bay and must cross the blue bridge to get to the goose. Riding Wharf St is one of the worst bike streets. Government St is not much better. There should be a bike route from James Bay to connect with the goose at the blue bridge.

Any improvement in biking within Victoria's city limits will need dedicated lanes. Victoria's downtown streets are the busiest and most congested.

I have ridden my bike in Vancouver, Montreal, Ashland Ore. as well as Idaho Amsterdam and other places. As for downtown biking Montreal is the best. Vancouver the most improved and Victoria is reluctant. Victoria is not keeping up with the increase in demand for bike riding. I don't have the statistics (the CRD does) but judging by the traffic I see on the goose and other trails biking seems to have at least doubled. I also note that when reading the newspaper there appears to be an increase in bike/car accidents.

It seems to me that there is basically three kinds of riders: 1) commuters who ride to work each day. Savvy and careful.

2) recreational riders fill the lanes on the weekend and who are becoming more and more savvy to the rules of the road.

3) casual riders. Don't ride very often but feel like giving the bike a spin. No helmet or riding gear. Sometimes ignore rules of the road(as do recreational riders) and casual or intimidated by traffic.

My suggestion is advertising for safety and the rules of the road and etiquette for bikers and car drivers undertaken by the city. ie: for instance in the newspaper or TV something like this: BIKERS - DID YOU KNOW YOU MUST SIGNAL WHEN TURNING? CAR DRIVERS – WATCH FOR THE TURNING BICYCLE. THIS IS COURTESY OF THE CITY OF VICTORIA.

5 million dollars over 5 years has a nice ring to it but it should be 5 million dollars over 2 years! Remember, dedicated bike lanes on downtown streets.

Thank you

Dear City Council,

I support construction of a high quality cycling network that is safe for all ages and abilities, and allocating the funds needed to build it properly.

Thank you

Section 22

Hello,

Please consider community-supported foraging as part of Section 8 of the draft Strategic Plan to "Enhance and Steward Public Spaces, Green Spaces and Food Systems". I am very interested to learn more about this, especially with 7 parks within walking distance, and lots of green space.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Section 22

Victoria BC V8X 1E3

I am writing in support of the development of a better and, more importantly, safer cycling infrastructure in Victoria. I understand that City Council is considering this as part of the budget process, and I wanted to share my thoughts.

I moved to Victoria in 2004 from Regina. After a few months of frustration of dealing with a less-than-great transit system, I bought a new bicycle and started cycling to work. My bicycle continues to be my main mode of transportation. I love riding a bike to work. I started riding from Langford to downtown, however I couldn't do it as much in the winter months, mostly because of no lights on the trail, and the frosted over bridges which were treacherous. Eventually, I moved to Esquimalt, and continued riding.

Riding to work, to shop, and for enjoyment, is a major part of my lifestyle. It's wonderful to get the exercise, fresh air, and it makes me feel like I'm contributing (in a very tiny way) to a cleaner environment. What is difficult, though, is the traffic, the challenges with having poor cycling infrastructure, and the danger that comes with both. Over the years, I've found drivers becoming more aggressive with cyclists, and cyclists becoming more aggressive with each other. I believe this is partially a result of the increased number of cyclists on the road, and a lack of infrastructure to support those numbers. There are few lanes dedicated to cycling, and they are narrow at best.

Additionally, there are many different kinds of cyclists on the road, which can become challenging when you are stuck behind someone who is very slow, has a very old bicycle, and there is no way to get around that person. It causes reckless behaviour among cyclists, and I've witnessed many incidents of frustration, anger, as a result. Then there are the crazy cyclists who completely disregard all rules of the road, and do ridiculous, not to mention dangerous, things that put themselves and others at risk. While these individuals are few and far between, and certainly give the majority of safe cyclists a bad reputation, it is my opinion that this is a result of a lack of proper infrastructure that would allow for large numbers of cyclists to be on the road in a more organized fashion. The current infrastructure simply does not allow for it. And never mind Bike To Work Week! that is a nightmare! I used to be a team leader and helped organize events for BTWW - last year I refused to ride and walked every day. It's insane on the roads during BTWW. Dangerous.

I love Victoria. It's a wonderful city, and has so much to offer. But to be frank, I stopped cycling to work after 10 years. It became too dangerous. Riding to work was no longer a stress reducer, it became stressful. Over the past few years, I have had several close calls with many cars, who simply did not look or pay attention to the rules of the road, most often because of texting! I've even had drivers harass me on the road because I was not fast enough (think Blue Bridge). And, the only actual cycling accidents I ever had were caused by pedestrians who did not look and walked out in front of me, and I had to veer away to avoid hitting them, causing me to fall and get injured. Oh, and by the way, the pedestrians didn't stop (nor did any drivers) - why? because they were too preoccupied with their cell phones and did not bother to look before stepping off a sidewalk onto a road, let alone notice what had happened. In some more blatant cases, pedestrians would see me and just walk out in front of me despite the fact I was on a bike, expecting me to stop simply because they were 'pedestrians' and had the right of way.

the bottom line, It has become a very unpleasant experience. Take a look at Amsterdam. What an amazing city. And people don't even bother wearing helmets! why? Because the bike lanes are actually regulated with lights and signs, and are SAFE. And people are generally more respectful. It makes a big difference.

Victoria could take a lesson from Amsterdam. Visitors come from all over to enjoy this world-class city. Why not add to that experience by creating a cycling infrastructure that would encourage cycling for tourists as well? Additionally, why not make it easier and safer for people to ride their bikes? It will reduce stress, cut down on vehicle traffic within the city, and make for a much greener, happier city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Section 22

(Formerly of Esquimalt, BC)

Section 22

We need several sites where drug addicted people can safely administer their drugs and where they can seek help when they want to quit the drug scene. It is selfish, and inhumane, to refuse to help those who need it so much. Using such a site could be the first step toward getting free of the addiction for some users. the rest of the city benefits from having a designated place for this activity...fewer needles in the gutters is one obvious benefit.

Section 22

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

On behalf of our 9 person leadership group and the 150+ people who are now involved with Greater Victoria Placemaking Network, we are pleased to submit the attached proposal for 2015-16 placemaking, complete streets and public engagement initiatives.

In recent months, we have had a number of creative and constructive conversations with community organizations, business groups, and city staff to develop this proposal.

It's an exciting time in Victoria. The community is coming together in a recognition that we can build a more vibrant, health city if we find ways for citizens to work with businesses, municipal officials, and associated professional.

We look forward to your feedback on the proposal.

The proposed budget in our proposal is a global figure but we would be pleased to provide an itemized breakdown; it may be that the specifics would be adjusted in areas where the City or other organizations might provide support-in-kind.

Thanks so much for your open invitation to be involved in the City Budget process.

We look forward to great collaboration in the year to come.

Lorne Daniel

--

Lorne Daniel



<http://VictoriaPlacemaking.ca>

Twitter: @VicPlacemaking

Hello and good day to you. I'm writing to voice my support for better cycling infrastructure in Victoria. Precisely I think that Victoria needs some separated bike lanes. Are the current ones pretty good? Yes. Would I feel comfortable sending my child or elderly parent into a sharrow or into a lane scrunched between parked cars on the right and moving traffic on the left? No.

If you're going to be planning for new bicycle routes and such I hope and encourage you to build it properly and support construction of a high quality cycling network for all ages and abilities.

Thanks for listening.

Leif

Hello,

I wish to recommend council support the construction of a high quality cycling network and allotting enough money to build it; Let us encourage more people to leave their cars at home.

Thank you for your consideration.

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

As a parent, business owner, and citizen of Victoria, I want to pass on my thanks for your vision for a cyclable Victoria.

To achieve that vision Victoria will need a safe network - one that will enable not just experienced cyclists to access the city, but people of all ages and abilities.

I know there are many priorities for the \$4.5M surplus, but could you please use at least half for safe cycling network investments?

Many thanks,

Section 22

I am writing in support of creating a fully bikable city by 2018. I often ride my bike in Victoria but sometime depending on my destination I feel I cannot because I DO NOT FEEL SAFE! I would be delighted to see a comprehensive urban biking system throughout Victoria that would enable us to safely travel by bike and not have to use a car at all. The beauty of this city is that it is small enough to achieve this goal. Please allocate as much of the budget towards this progressive future possibility, which would not only benefit the citizens of this city but encourage tourists as well to interact with Victoria in a healthy and relaxing way - on bike and on foot!
Go team go....

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Council,

I write to you with a new sense of vulnerability—it is nothing tragic, I just broke a couple of ribs, but it has given me a little insight I would like to share with you.

Fortunately, my ribs were not broken by being hit by a driver and car while riding my bike. I was playing tag with my cousins and made a flying—and successful—leap. But it cost me.

As I wended through the medical system to check for damage to my lungs or spleen, I had to spend some time on my bike riding between the clinic and various labs. Normally I am a strong and assertive rider, able to deal with almost any traffic. But with my broken body has come a new sense of vulnerability. I found myself afraid of even the *sound* of cars coming up behind me. I was insecure and nervous. I don't want to **start** with broken ribs, and then add on a collision or a road hazard.

So, I was thinking a lot about people who cycle, and who are less confident than I usually am. I was thinking about how they might feel fear, how they might be afraid for their children.

I was thinking about how they might never get on their bikes at all, and the consequences that has on their lives.

Now, it didn't help that while I was riding home from clinic I almost got hit by a driver who did not agree with the niceties of stop signs. And it really didn't help that that happened at the intersection of Fernwood and Haultain.

As I have mentioned to you before, I think Haultain and Vancouver should actually live up to their designation as “Bike Routes” and be closed to through traffic, open for local use only. This would have removed that car from that intersection, as the driver was cutting through from Cook St. by using the bike route instead of the artery of Bay St.

I have also mentioned we can marry fiscal reality with joy and safety. I think a roundabout at Haultain and Fernwood—and in many, many other places, would be a much more economical choice because there would be no lights to install, service and update. Furthermore, and most importantly to my broken ribs, roundabouts reduce the number of potential conflict points in an intersection to just *one-quarter* of a four-way stop (<http://www.designroundabouts.com/Advantages>). This near-miss would never have happened because the driver and I would have been both traveling in the same direction around the circle.

And I have mentioned how frustrated I am with the pace of changes so that our streets serve other users than just drivers. I have shared my concern that megaprojects like the Pandora cycletrack with eat the budget for several years—leaving me with repeated frustration at the foolishness of unnecessary conflict and the unnecessary cost of intersections like Haultain and Fernwood.

So, I would like to ask you to do two things:

1. Please direct staff to *design different*. Stop with the gold-plated engineering standards—they created this problem. Victoria needs fast, cheap, pilot-project thinking. We need more paint, roundabouts, temporary curbs and stick bollards, and fewer megaprojects.

2. Please allocate a *substantial* amount of the budget surplus to achieve a safe and comprehensive network for people who bike and walk—by 2018. Even that is too long to wait.

Now, since you have read this far, I would like to ask one more thing.

Please allocate the *rest* of the budget surplus to greatly increasing Victoria's food security.

I want to be very specific that *food security* is needed—so that doesn't mean postage-stamp sized community gardens. Victoria needs a radical capacity to grow food, and needs strong relationships with the rest of the region and the ALR.

This is very important, and so will require very different thinking:

- Amend the tree bylaw to guarantee Right to Light for gardens and solar collectors.
- Consider agricultural uses when thinking about development. Density is not the be-all and end-all—density must be balanced with food, energy, waste, transportation and jobs.
- Instruct staff to radically de-lawn. Why are we spending money mowing the grass on the Blanshard boulevard when it could be planted to beautiful wildflowers that will feed pollinators? Why are we planting decorative trees instead of productive sources of fruit and nuts? Why is the school board mowing grass instead of planting maintenance free and drought-tolerant wildflowers? The old excuses are no longer good enough; please do not accept them.
- Lastly, I would ask you to think about the visibility of our food production. We can produce a lot of food here, but not all our food. But can we be self-sufficient in garlic? Or lettuce? Potatoes? Hazelnuts? What can we do to generate pride and sense of place with our food? Maybe we can start by putting a stake in the ground for one foodstuff.

Thank you very much for giving me your attention. I hope to see you riding to City Hall tonight.

Best,

Section 22

Thank you for helping to make Victoria a more Bikeable city! I bike to work 10km most days from Oak Bay to Victoria shipyards. It helps me stay healthy for my family that I support and it reduces traffic and fuel consumption. I would like you to commit the \$4.5M surplus to making Victoria a safer more modern city that is keeping up with the rest of the planet. Thanks you lets do this!!

Cheers,

Section 22

- > Dear Mayor and City Councillors,
- > In the Times Colonist (September 22, 2014), Police Chief Elsner said that:
- > ".....25 to 30% of what we do is actual law enforcement...But the rest of it, 75 or 80% of what we do is all about the social side...mental health, homelessness, and addiction issues.
- > That's what takes up the vast majority of our resources."
- > Is this the most productive use of the police force and their resources?
- > Over the next few years there is an opportunity to gradually re-allocate (not "cut")the police budget. The budget could then support the development of another set of institutions that are focussed only on responding to social issues. The police force would work in partnership with local organizations on such issues as:
- >
- > —Social housing (in partnership with the Greater Victoria Coalition
- > to End Homelessness); —Supervised Consumption Sites (in partnership with VIHA); and,
- > —24-hour Mental Health Crisis Team to replace police as first responders to citizens facing mental health crises (in partnership with VIHA).
- >
- > When Chief Elsner can report that 90% of his resources and personnel are being spent on law enforcement; then City Council will know that they have the right size police force spending their time and resources on the right job. Council will also have an equally effective and efficient set of institutions with the right training and skills enabling them to respond to social issues.
- > Thank you.
- Section 22
- > Resident of Fernwood and
- > Member of the Committee to End Homelessness Victoria
- >

Dear City of Victoria Mayor and City Councillors,

Human-centric transportation is critically important for the safety and health of all citizens. I sincerely hope that you commit to building a full, safe cycling network throughout Victoria by 2018. The time is now.

Did you know that road rage can be reduced by slowing transportation to 5 km/hr or less? It's a speed at which oxytocin can be emitted when you make eye contact with a passer-by. It's the 'feel good' hormone and it helps us connect and care about each other even as strangers. This works for cycling and walking and any other slow method of transportation. And of course I'm sure you know about the health benefits of the physical exercise too!

We need to be able to access safe ways to move about the city in these ways.

Thank you,
Nicole Moen
President, Healing Cities Institute Society
Founder, Living the New Economy events

Dear City Council

Thank you for your great work and time in making Victoria a great place to live and for your vision of a bikable Victoria. This is one of the reasons I live in Victoria: so I can enjoy a healthy lifestyle by biking to places I need to get to.

I understand that we have a surplus in our budget and I urge you to increase your commitment to a safe and modern cycling network in the city. I have two children, aged 5 and 8 who already ride their bikes downtown to get to their swimming lessons, but I sure would feel safer if there were more dedicated bike lanes and infrastructure in place. I think about Vancouver and what Mayor Gregor Robertson has done for cycling in the city and this could be a lasting legacy of this council and mayorship as well!

Thank you again for your time,
Section 22

Victoria BC V8V 1K4

Section 22

Dear councillors,

I agree with and support all the points made in the letter to you from Edward Pullman, President of the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition.

Although I live in Saanich, I shop in downtown Victoria, ride my bike to Beacon Hill Park, enjoy cycling along the waterfront in Victoria, sometimes ride to the West Shore, and therefore would benefit, as many of my senior friends would, from improved safety and infrastructure for cycling in Victoria.

As a senior who has cycled in several cities over the past 50+ years, I think that Victoria has come a long way, for example, in providing ample on-street bike parking facilities downtown. But given that our climate favours cycle commuting and the use of bikes over cars all year round, I urge you to increase both the pace and the funding so that in my lifetime we have safer, separated bike lanes and more.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Section 22

Counsellors,

First and foremost, congratulations on your successful November elections and thank you for committing yourself to public service and serving my city. This will be the first time I have ever written to my municipal representatives, and it is on an issue dear to me.

I will keep this short and sweet. During your review and consultation for the 2015-18 as a constituent, pedestrian, motorist, bus rider and biker, I want you to strongly urge you to take into consideration the recommendations put fourth from the GVCC in regards to improving the bike infrastructure of this city. City traffic, pollution, climate change, parking shortages, and citizen health are all serious issues facing us now and, even more, in the future. Providing our city with the additional bike infrastructure it deserves will increase ridership and aid in the combat of all of these issues.

To put it bluntly, this is a big issue for me. I will be at the budget town hall tomorrow, and will be sure to follow the discussions in the months ahead to see who does and does not support increased bike infrastructure. Those who do will have my support now and during the next elections when I talk amongst my inner circles and via my social media accounts, and those who do not can expect the opposite.

Thank you for your time and services to this city.

Best regards,

Section 22

Hi to all Councillors.

I am in favour of lots of bike lanes in the budget, at as little cost as possible.

So sorry the Johnson St. railway bridge got taken down, because you could go right across on the flat over the Johnson St. bridge, and you have to go down into the gully and back up.

Also, between Esquimalt Road and Old Esquimalt Road, there is a small bike trail that goes along side of the railway tracks. Someone put a big pile of gravel there, and it is difficult to go past this, because it goes over the small pathway and right up to the track. If some of the pile of gravel was moved over a little bit off the little pathway - somewhat away from the track, it would be helpful .

Section 22

To the mayor and council:

I am 72 years old and I learned to ride a bike 6 years ago. I now feel healthier than I did when I started riding. I am thinking of selling my car and using feet, bike and public transit. So I'm encouraging you to be bold in building a better cycling experience for us in Victoria. You'll be taking one more "dangerous senior" off the roads, ease traffic congestion, keep us healthier and encourage others like myself to cycle.

This letter presents my wishes as well as anything I could write:

GVCC Letter to council re: 2015 Draft Budget and Strategic Plan

Dear Mayor and Council:

Over the last year, the City of Victoria and Council have demonstrated growing support for improving biking in the city. The Cycling Master Plan Update and the planned protected bike lane on Pandora Ave are first steps on the path to building a high quality, all ages and abilities cycling network.

The individual and societal benefits of more people cycling are well documented: improved health outcomes, reduced congestion and GHG emissions, more business for the local economy, etc. Everyone benefits from more people riding bikes. Cycling offers a healthy, cost effective and equitable way to improve the sustainability of urban transportation. A more livable and healthy city is one where more people ride bikes on daily basis.

The Strategic Plan, Objective 9, lists a variety of outcomes related to cycling, including completing six priority projects (identified last year) by 2018, and the more ambitious goal of completing 4-8 high quality cycling facilities by 2016. However, the draft Financial Plan active transportation budget only accounts for the six priority projects approved by Council last year, totaling \$5 million over five years, or \$1 million per year.

There is much talk of being 'bold' and 'building it now.' We agree, and think that now is the time to seize the opportunity to dramatically improve active transportation in the City of Victoria, and to invest in a safe, high quality cycling network designed for all ages and abilities.

Recommendations:

- . 1) Council commit to the design and construction of an all ages and abilities cycling network by 2018;
- . 2) Council triple the current level of funding for cycling infrastructure, from \$1 million per year to \$3 million, and invests a substantial portion of this year's \$4.5 million surplus into cycling;
- . 3) Council work to increase staff capacity, through additional hirings, training, and consulting services, to ensure the City has the resources and expertise to design and build a world-class cycling network accessible to all.

Now is the time to dramatically improve active transportation. Victoria can go much further still in getting more people on bikes. The City's compact size, short travel distances, and agreeable climate give it the potential to become one of the top biking cities in the world, but only with a network of high quality all-ages and abilities routes covering the city.

Thank you,

Edward Pullman President Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition

Hello,

I am writing to encourage the city to commit to building a full, safe cycling network throughout Victoria by 2018. There are also many other modes of transportation to keep in mind when looking at the creation of a complete streets plan.

Thank you for working to make Victoria great :)

Dear Mayor and Councillors;

With regard to budget deliberations, I would like to add my name in support of assigning a high priority to the creation of a bicycling network throughout Victoria. I am sure you have received many letters and emails describing the values of a full, safe, high-quality network so I won't restate those. Based on my reading of actions taken (or not taken) in other communities and on my own observations, I would like to add the following:

Most advocates would agree that facilities that provide the greatest dedication to bicycle users encourage the greatest use. But I believe this is only partially true. Unless dedicated facilities are accessible, they will be under-utilized. In other words, if dedicated facilities are just islands surrounded by high speed, high volume motor vehicle facilities, they will not be effective.

As with any facility (a bridge, a building, a road), bicycle infrastructure should be viewed as one contiguous asset. Just as a bridge halfway or a building with no roof are incomplete, disjointed bike routes waste resources and do not encourage use.

I think there is a prevailing view that the goal of bicycle infrastructure creation, is really to avoid offending the users of other transportation facilities while appearing to encourage bicycle use. The method employed is *The Long-Term Plan*; with small, incremental, relatively low funded projects. In my view the goal should be to open the door to a sea change in the way citizens see bicycle use as a means of transportation. Providing small changes over many years will likely not substantially impact bicycle use, and in the interim, facilities that are provided will be under-utilized, the return on public investment low.

I encourage you to view bicycle infrastructure not in terms of a series of projects but as one integrated, contiguous structure. Rather than seeing bicycle infrastructure creation as incremental, annualized as if an operating expense, I suggest you aggressively apply considerable funding "up front" as you would to facilitate the creation of any other major community asset.

Sincerely,

Section 22
Victoria, B.C.

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Council:

Over the last year, the City of Victoria and Council have demonstrated growing support for improving biking in the city. The Cycling Master Plan Update and the planned protected bike lane on Pandora Ave are first steps on the path to building a high quality, all ages and abilities cycling network.

The individual and societal benefits of more people cycling are well documented: improved health outcomes, reduced congestion and GHG emissions, more business for the local economy, etc. Everyone benefits from more people cycling. Cycling offers a healthy, costeffective and equitable way to improve the sustainability of urban transportation, and it creates more livable cities.

The Strategic Plan, Objective 9, lists a variety of outcomes related to cycling, including completing six priority projects (identified last year) by 2018, and the more ambitious goal of completing 48 high quality cycling facilities by 2016. However, the draft Financial Plan active transportation budget only accounts for the six priority projects approved by Council last year, totaling \$5 million over 5 years, or \$1 million per year.

There is much talk of being ‘bold’ and ‘building it now.’ We agree, and think that now is the time to seize the opportunity to dramatically improve active transportation in the City of Victoria, and to invest in a safe, high quality cycling network designed for all ages and abilities.

Recommendations:

- 1) Council commits to the design and construction of an all ages and abilities cycling network by 2018;
- 2) Council triples the current level of funding for cycling infrastructure, from \$1 million per year to \$3 million, and invests a substantial portion of this year’s \$4.5 million into cycling;
- 3) Council works to increase staff capacity, through additional hirings, training, and consulting services, to ensure staff have the resources and expertise to design and build a worldclass cycling network accessible to all.

Now is the time to dramatically improve active transportation. Victoria can go much further still in getting more people on bikes. The City’s compact size, short travel distances, and agreeable climate give it the potential to become one of the top biking cities in the world, but only with a network of high quality all ages and abilities routes covering the city.

Thank you

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Council,

Since moving to Victoria in 2008, I have been a regular commuter through downtown on a daily basis. After having returning to work from maternity leave in Aug of last year, I have incorporated a daily stop at my son's daycare on Blanchard, into the cycling routine. With experiences both as a solo female cyclist, and now as a biking mom, I'm writing to ask Council to make investment in a **Safe** Cycling network a top priority.

I've recently learned that in Victoria, men and women cycle equally up until the age of ~30, after which the percentage of female cyclists drops by 25 per cent. This equates to a 50 per cent gender gap. Based on my own experience and discussions with other moms, this gap is likely in large part to women's concern with safety, particularly their children's safety.

To be fair, there have been significant improvements to Victoria's cycling infrastructure, however we need to do much more. For example, although Blanshard Street has painted bike lanes, this is of little reassurance when there is a 40km speed difference between myself and a truck passing within a meter of my shoulder. I simply don't feel safe. Same story on Douglas, only this is made worse with the busses weaving across the bike lanes.

I know many other moms who have the same concerns, and many who simply aren't willing to cycle downtown Victoria with their kids. Cycling infrastructure needs to be planned and implemented with our most vulnerable citizens at the heart: our children. If children can cycle or be towed around in a way that is protected from traffic, then safety stops being an inhibitor to cycling. I believe this is the best path forward to reverse Victoria's cycling gender gap and increase ridership for all citizens.

I am in support of the GVCC recommendations to Council (see: <http://gvcc.bc.ca/tell-victoria-council-build-a-safe-cycling-network/>)

Best regards,

Section 22
(WeBike member)

Hello City of Victoria!

My name is **Section 22** and currently living up in North Park. I do not own a house, but hope to be a house owner in this city one day.

I moved to Victoria 2 years ago from up island and am hoping to stay here for quite some time. Like many of us, I have come to love this city.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on the Budget and Strategic Plan.

I am an avid cyclist and find myself disappointed with a lack of bicycle infrastructure in our city. For those of us that do not live on the Galloping Goose or Lochside trail, there are no reliable and devoted cycling pathways for commuters in the city. The city needs paths that make cyclists feel safe, to encourage the many thousands of individuals that would rather bike.

We have the beginnings of this on Vancouver as well as Haultain. These are two major corridors for cyclists but merely directing cyclists to less travelled roads is not sufficient to make cyclists feel safe. Without proper infrastructure, individuals that would otherwise be cyclists turn to alternate modes of transportation. We need cyclists to feel safe regardless of where they want to go in the city!

In the last 6 months, I have had no less than 4 friends hit by cars on their bikes. I myself have not yet been hit, though have had a handful of close calls. I hope that I will never be hit, but recognize that without safe infrastructure this is a risk I must take. I do not want to have to take this risk anymore.

I do not feel like I am knowledgeable enough about the city's budget to confidently say how much money we should devote to this project but I am aware that we have a large surplus from the previous budget. I would personally support most if not all of this surplus being put towards building a modern, safe and reliable bike system that encourages Victorians of all ages to bike around the city. There are many cities around the world that are already doing this and we too can be a leader in this regard.

Thank you for listening to my two cents.

Hope all is well down on Douglas.

All the best,
Section 22

The next Victoria in my vision will be safer, healthier, more vibrant and very people friendly. Downtown will become more bike and pedestrian friendly, a place where the streets and sidewalks are not just devoted to cars and parking but where bike lanes and sidewalk public spaces like cafes and pubs are more European in their use. We are closer to this vision now than anytime in recent memory. This council can make a better city, bikes will be a big part of this change but only with focussed commitment.
JC

Section 22

Victoria BC V8W 3G9

+ **Section 22**

Sent from my iPhone

Thank you to Mayor Lisa Helps and City of Victoria councillors for receiving feedback on the need to be bold in designing and implementing active transportation infrastructure in the next 4 years.

Cycling is many wonderful things to those who already embrace this lifestyle, myself and family included!

The plan for separated bike lanes is timely and needs to take place with the notion of a minimum grid. Cities surrounding us, Seattle, Vancouver have stepped beyond Victoria in protected cycling infrastructure.

How many parents feel they can make a trip with their children downtown, not in their car, but on bikes? I want my daughter (7) and son (2) to feel they can choose to cycle downtown without fear by 2018.

If we can change the minds of those who think "I can't bike" or "I won't bike" with desirable cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, the City of Victoria will reap the rewards of happier, healthier, more relaxed citizens and visitors for years to come.

Who wouldn't want to come and visit this fine destination that could rank among the worlds top multimodal cities?

Again, thank you for the opportunity to add my voice,

Section 22

Sent from my iPad

Dear Mayor and Council,

We support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
- Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods;
- Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens;
- Developing long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening (including an inventory of City-owned land for food production);
- Introducing new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land, and
- Enhancing local food systems in general.

We note that these initiatives are consistent with the food-related provisions of the Official Community Plan, found primarily in Section 17. For example, the OCP supports: innovative food production (17.9); urban food supplies (17.A); food education (17.B); connecting people to food (17.5); local food security and sustainability (17.9, 17.A); planted boulevards (8.22.4); native plants (8.58); memorable places (8.a); and adaptive management (22.1). We believe that more progress can be made pursuing these objectives by increasing financial resources for food systems in the 2015 Financial Plan.

We also ask that you make a commitment, and allocate budgetary resources beginning in 2015, to the following initiatives (either as new initiatives within the Strategic Plan, or as detailed measures meant to help implement existing initiatives within the Strategic Plan):

(1) Shift focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants. For example, allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to food-bearing plants and trees, including natives, perennials, and fruit/nut trees (all across Victoria, and especially to enhance/maintain our urban forest);

(2) Provide City assistance with coordination of food-growing resources, including:

- materials pooling / depot (leaves, mulch, soil, cardboard, wood, irrigation materials);
- increase grant funding for existing and emerging food systems initiatives;
- support neighbourhood-level and city-wide food coordination;
- reduce water charges for irrigation of food plants;

(3) Expand availability of City land for food growing, with a mechanism for 5-year security of

tenure for growers;

(4) Implement a mechanism for increasing social justice in the distribution of local food supplies (e.g. additional City support tied to “food sharing”);

(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Truly,

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Council,

I support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
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(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Section 22
Victoria, BC

Dear Mayor Helps and City Councillors,

My name is Susan Stokhof, I am a daily bicycle rider and a female business owner of a stylish bicycle accessory business in Victoria. We (YYJ) and other cities around the world) have entered into an era where the practicality of riding a bicycle meets fashion and style. Cycling is Victoria's fastest mode of transportation and our current cycling infrastructure (or lack there of it) is not set up to manage this. I've noticed lately more people that are out on bikes the more frustrated car drivers are becoming. It's really a dangerous act of heroism to cycle the streets in YYJ at the moment and this is coming from a confident cyclist who rides everyday.

As you already know, the cycling industry brings in billions of dollars a year into the Canadian economy. Riding a bicycle as a means of transportation (not just riding to work in your spandex) has hit a record high and shows no signs of slowing down. A new carefully planned and thought-out cycling infrastructure (with protected bicycle lanes) will benefit the City as a whole to build a first class cycling infrastructure where the other 99% of the people will want to ride their bikes, not just the current commuters to work. In fact, our new cycling infrastructure should not just be built for the commuters currently out on the streets cycling. This may sound counterintuitive to what I've already written but it is true. Generally speaking, most of the current cyclists are going to continue to ride their bikes no matter what happens. We need to engage the other 99% of would-be riders and build the cycling infrastructure for them. The old adage, if you build it they will come, stands true. You only need to google other cities to find this is true.

To build a vibrant community we need to see mothers and fathers cycling with their children to school. We need to see children cycling on their own to school (when did that stop?) All ages and abilities. Spending the \$4.5 million on a new, first class, cycling infrastructure for YYJ will greatly benefit local businesses as well. There are many studies out there that prove the benefits to business when there is a high functioning cycling infrastructure. (please google it).

Victoria is special from most North American cities in that we have this amazing climate that just begs us to be outdoors all year long. If we want YYJ to be known as the "happiest city" in Canada we need to build a first class cycling infrastructure. Using the \$4.5 million in surplus would benefit the city and bring more money into the local economy in return. You will see more tourists coming to YYJ to ride bikes, businesses will flourish, people will become happier, communities will be connected and so will people. It truly is a win, win situation. This is your opportunity to make Victoria the best in class cycling infrastructure, lets make this happen!

Sincerely,

Susan Stokhof

Owner and Founder of Le Vélo Victoria



Dear Victoria City Councillors,

I am in support of a cycling network for Victoria and am willing to pay taxes in order to create one. I hope that you decide to make this a priority and allocate sufficient funds to create bike paths that all ages will feel safe to use.

Section 22

Victoria BC

Dear Lisa Helps,

I am writing you on behalf of all the people (children, women, men, young and old) who would like to ride their bike but are afraid to venture out in the busy car traffic. Victoria should change its direction from being a car centric city to a bicycle/pedestrian city. I understand that many people believe that Victoria is working very hard to improve the cycling infrastructure but I don't quite see it that way. Perhaps i am spoiled, coming from Holland. I also believe that Victoria is trying to model itself after North American cities but I really hope that Victoria is looking at the best solutions for complicated traffic situations and what better to look at cities who have decades of experience and where the incidence of cycling accidents per capita is the lowest.

Let me give you some feedback on the current cycling infrastructure. I am not a big fan of shared trails such as the Goose or Lochside trail. Don't get me wrong, it is better than nothing but it is far from ideal and it shouldn't be expanded in my view. It is a bad idea for the same reason it is a bad idea to mix cyclists with cars. It is simply not safe.

Painted lines to create a bike lane should only be done in locations where there is very low and slow traffic. Lines protect a cyclist just as much as a helmet protects a cyclist from a collision with cars. It doesn't! Just imagine yourself cycling on a busy street, never mind your 10 year old daughter or son. What does prevent collisions with cars is protected lanes created by simple and low cost concrete dividers.

I recognize and understand the challenge to implement these changes, financially and culturally but if you want to create a vibrant and healthy community for everybody, you need to dream big and take bold steps in that direction. Money always seem to be a big obstacle but I would hate to see the city waste money and energy on a mediocre cycling infrastructure. I would rather you wait to implement new changes and do it right the first time. I am sure you feel the same.

Thank you for your consideration and I wish you lots of success with the upcoming challenge.

Kind regards,

Section 22

Hello,

I am writing to express my desire for the city of Victoria, and for all other municipalities for that matter, to provide safe bike routes throughout the city.

In addition to safe routes through the city there needs to be connector routes into other municipalities as well.

There have been many times that I have ridden in to Victoria from Langford and most of the way it has been very safe. I have then made my way into downtown to meet someone only to find that it is incredibly dangerous riding in and out of the downtown area.

There needs to be more safe access points to the galloping goose and the lochside trail. I have found that some of the roads are simply so dangerous that I find myself not wanting to come into Victoria by bicycle. When the weather is nice if I cannot ride my bike into Victoria safely then I do not want to come there at all.

Thank you

Section 22

Sent from my iPad

Hello,

Firstly, thank you for having a vision to create a more bikeable city. Victoria is already an amazing city, with wonderful infrastructure for all levels of people choosing to use a bicycle as a means to get around.

Personally, I see the success of the Goose as a huge reason to increase the vision. Recently in the Times Colonist there's been some compelling articles highlighting the successes of Copenhagen in terms of creating a vibrant community of people who aren't reliant on vehicles. For example:

<http://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/op-ed/comment-taking-us-versus-them-out-of-urban-cycling-1.1694904>

For me, this is a big deal, I'm

Section 22

building downtown. At this point, this is something I'm excited about. A major decision for moving downtown was that I've had a dream to ditch my car for the past 2 years - I've talked about it, tried out what it would be like, and now it's finally going to be a reality. I wouldn't say that I'm on an extreme either - it's just that I don't feel like a car is a purposeful investment when there are incredible car share programs, and I can get everywhere I need by walking, biking or by bussing. I think there's a growing number of people open to the idea that cars are not the only way to get around, and biking is starting to become a better and better option. I think now, the people that are keen on cycling, are highly active or have a mind to the environment commute by bike. By 2018, Victoria could truly be a city where a large majority of the overall population choose a bicycle as a means of transport.

From various online resources, it sounds like there is a budget surplus of \$4.5M - I feel like in searching for venues to invest, there are a lot of options. I voted for counselors in the last election that I felt I could trust the judgement of, and I stand by that decision. My hope would be that a portion of the allocation of the surplus will be used to invest in the future of Victoria and it's citizens - to promote health, happiness and vitality of the city by investing in infrastructure to support an even more bike-able city. Studies certainly are out there that show that such infrastructure increases business revenue - and personally, I know this is true for me.

Sincerely,

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Council:

Growing support for the improvement of cycling in the City of Victoria over the past year is very much appreciated.

I am pleased about the Cycling Master Plan Update, the planned protected bike lane on Pandora Avenue, and all new initiatives for improving this alternative method of transport and activity. These are certainly the initial steps to building a high quality and safe cycling network in our city, for people of all ages, as well as giving our city the opportunity to set a precedent for our country with respect to contributing to a healthy environment as well as improved individual health and well being.

The Strategic Plan, Objective 9, lists a variety of outcomes related to cycling, including completing six priority projects (identified last year) by 2018, and the more ambitious goal of completing 48 high quality cycling facilities by 2016.

However, the draft Financial Plan active transportation budget only accounts for the six priority projects approved by Council last year, totalling \$5 million over 5 years, or \$1 million per year.

There's been considerable conversation about being 'bold' and 'building now.' I agree, and know that NOW is the time to seize the opportunity to dramatically improve active transportation in the City of Victoria and invest in a safe, high quality cycling network designed for people of all ages, abilities and reasons for using the network.

There are so many other communities and cities near and abroad from which to model and take example from.

I support the following recommendations:

- 1) Council commits to the design and construction of an all ages and abilities cycling network by 2018;
- 2) Council triples the current level of funding for cycling infrastructure, from \$1 million per year to \$3 million, and invests a substantial portion of this year's \$4.5 million into cycling;
- 3) Council works to increase staff capacity, through additional hirings, training, and consulting services, to ensure staff have the resources and expertise to design and build a world-class cycling network accessible to all. We don't have to invent the wheel, but take example from others as stated.

Now is the time to dramatically improve active transportation and set an example; yet, Victoria can go much further still in getting more people on bikes. The City's compact size, short travel distances, and agreeable climate, as well as its tourism potential, provide an opportunity to become one of the top biking cities in the world, but only with a network of SAFE, high quality, all ages and abilities routes covering the city.

Sincerely,

Section 22

Dear Victoria City Councilors:

As an ageing, long time cyclist, I support your transportation vision.

Victoria needs separated bike corridors. Safe, separated bike lanes will encourage more cycling for all ages, gender, and fitness levels, with the attendant social, economic, health, and environmental benefits.

Thank you for your efforts to make Victoria a leader in safe and enjoyable city bicycle riding.

Section 22
James Bay.

Hi there,

I'm a 365 day per year cycling commuter and as I understand it, there is an opportunity for the existing good network to be made great over the next few years. Given that I work downtown and live on the west shore I would really value any effort towards making it better - particularly in the area of safety. For example wharf street between the bridge and the parliament buildings can be very treacherous as is cycling on Douglas street.

Thanks again for your willingness to address such issues

Section 22

Sent from my iPhone

Hello Councillors,

I am writing to give my support to the recommendations of the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition regarding the upcoming budget. Their recommendations include:

- 1) Council commit to the design and construction of an all ages and abilities cycling network by 2018;
- 2) Council triple the current level of funding for cycling infrastructure, from \$1 million per year to \$3 million, and invests a substantial portion of this year's \$4.5 million surplus into cycling;
- 3) Council work to increase staff capacity, through additional hirings, training, and consulting services, to ensure the City has the resources and expertise to design and build a world-class cycling network accessible to all.

As someone who has been hit and greatly injured by an inattentive driver while out cycling, I definitely understand the need for safer streets. The benefits to our citizens and society at large are well documented and include: improved health outcomes, reduced congestion and GHG emissions, more business for the local economy, etc. Everyone benefits from more people riding bikes. Cycling offers a healthy, cost effective and equitable way to improve the sustainability of urban transportation. A more livable and healthy city is one where more people ride bikes on daily basis.

Thank you,

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Council,

We support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
- Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods;
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(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Section 22

I support a safe and convenient cycling network. Let's close Government Street and make it for walking and cycling only, all year long. We need to leave our cars for traveling. Bike and walk more for our health and for the health of our city, and hopefully the renewal of our downtown. [Section 22](#)

Sent from my iPad

Thank you for your vision for a bikable Victoria.

Section 22 with my family. We live in Vic West and commute to the Harbour Air floatplane dock where Victoria Kayak's dock is moored. We commute by bike! It is too close to drive and much faster than walking (and driving). It is also easier to park our bikes, not to mention how great it is for the environment as well as for our personal health. We also encourage all our employees to bike to work!

Of course with the new bridge being built it has been a little nerve wracking negotiating parts of the commute. We actually suggested that our 15 year old walk her bike across the bridge for safety. We are looking forward to the safe and easy access to downtown once bridge construction is complete.

Victoria is known as the bike capital of Canada for the number of bikers and the ability to do it year round. Please continue to upgrade existing routes and add many more bike lanes for **a full, safe, modern cycling network by 2018** and to encourage even more people to get out of their cars and get down town!

Tourism is a huge part of Victoria's business and more and safer bike routes could increase the number of tourists using bike transportation to tour and enjoy the city.

Please **commit most of the \$4.5 million surplus to make this happen.**

It is good for me as a citizen, it is good for me as a business and it is good for the people and businesses of the City of Victoria.

Sincerely,

Section 22

My husband & I have cycled in many cities in various countries and feel strongly that Victoria -with just a little more political will could become one of the leading cycle tourism centres in the world. With budgets being decided , I urge you to place emphasis on the future of this wonderful city and increase the investment in cycling infrastructure. Thank you, **Section 22**

Sent from my iPad

Dear Mayor and Council,

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(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Heidi Grantner

Project Co-Ordinator, Food Eco District (FED)

--

The FED Project Team

Building a responsible, sustainable and local food economy.

Section 22

Victoria, BC V8W 1J6

www.get-fed.ca

Hi all,

As active seniors who bike, my husband and I would like to lend our support to the establishment of new bike lanes and improvements on existing ones. We would like it to be a priority for the city budget. Why? It's one way of reducing the city's carbon footprint and perhaps make a small dent in the progress of man-made climate change, the health benefit is obvious, it improves the quality of life for everyone by making the city feel more alive, the potential for tourism should be huge...can Vic become a cycling destination? This winter has seen such good weather it seems more and more people are discovering the benefits and fun of cycling, and so it's important to make bike lanes and roads as safe as possible. We bike as much as we can for meetings, groceries, errands and fun, so the easier it becomes to deal with traffic, the more we will do.

Wishing you well in your difficult choices for the budget.

Sincerely,

Section 22

Sent from my iPad

It has been amply demonstrated around the world that when safe bicycling infrastructure is created, a large increase in cycling follows. I need not go into the myriad benefits that accrue as a result of increased cycling. You've all heard them. It's time to take action! Continuing to be dominated by motordom is suicidal.

Thank you

Section 22

Please give cycling high priority in urban planning and develop more safe cycling lanes throughout Victoria.

That's it.

Respectfully,

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Council,

I just want to lend my support to the position of the Victoria Cycling Coalition and their recommendations for cycling improvements in this City.

I applaud your community consulting processes.

Thank you for all the hard work you are doing,

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Council,

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Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Section 22

The Mayor and

The Council City of Victoria

1)

Council commit to the design and construction of an all ages and abilities cycling network by 2018;

2)

Council triple the current level of funding for cycling infrastructure, from \$1 million per year to \$3 million, and invests a substantial portion of this year's \$4.5 million surplus into cycling;

3)

Council work to increase staff capacity, through additional hirings, training, and consulting services, to ensure the City has the resources and expertise to design and build a

world-class cycling network accessible to all.

Now is the time to dramatically improve active transportation.

Victoria can go much further still in getting more people on bikes.

The City's compact size, short travel distances, and agreeable climate

give it the potential to become one of the top biking cities in the world, but only with a network of high quality all-ages and abilities routes covering the city.

It's time to Copenhagenize Victoria.
Thank you,

Section 22

Victoria B C V8V-2P3

Phone Section 22

To the Council of the City of Victoria:

Greetings:

I urge you to spend more money to support cycling infrastructure in Victoria, and to introduce traffic calming measures.

Section 22
Victoria, BC

Dear Mayor and Council,

I have a renewed interest in cycling and would like to do more. Please consider making an improved safe cycling network in and around Victoria. Build it and they will come. I know I will.

sincerely,

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

As an avid cyclist (without a car), I am writing in support of an improved cycling network in Victoria. I use my bike to commute to work everyday and to explore the Greater Victoria area on the weekends. I love having the Galloping Goose and Lochside trail nearby for safe, enjoyable cycling. I hope that the City of Victoria can build a cycling network that gives me the same level of safety for shorter trips within the city, so that even more people will be comfortable riding. Currently, it is dangerous and frightening to bike on many city streets, even those with bike lanes painted on. Motorists often ignore the lanes, parked cars block them, intersections and turning lanes are unsafe, and many bike lanes end unexpectedly.

Committing the \$4.5 surplus would make a huge difference in achieving this vision for Victoria, creating connected bike networks with barriers from traffic. Victoria is lucky to enjoy weather that allows for year-round biking, and should be a model for the rest of Canada as a bikeable city. After living in cities such as Montreal with miles of separated bike lanes, I am eager for Victoria to make it happen. A bike-friendly city makes for a healthier, more equitable city that supports local businesses and is a great place to live.

Thank you for all of your hard work for this city!

Section 22

Thank you for your contribution to making Victoria safer and more accessible for cycling. Victoria could be a leader in providing a state of the art cycling infrastructure and that does not mean expensive high end materials. A complete bicycle network that connects schools, community centres, tourist attractions and employment centres will increase the quality of life of Victorians and make it so much more attractive to residents and visitors.

Please make the state of the art cycling network your priority. The current five-year cycling plan adopted by Council in 2014 is a strong start but needs to be expanded and accelerated to achieve a complete, safe, cycling network by 2018.

Thanks for your consideration.

Section 21

Hello Victoria Councillors,

I am writing in support of the proposed plan to build a modern, high quality cycling network that is safe for all ages and abilities by 2018. Victoria is a beautiful city that prides itself in its accessibility and stunning sites; having a bike network in place would help locals get around more easily, but also raise the exposure and appeal of Victoria for tourists and visitors.

I am often not comfortable in some narrow bends or roads with no bike lane as a cyclist myself; a safe and accessible network would enable me to bike more frequently as a primary mode of commuting to work/school.

Victoria also prides itself as being a green and sustainable city; we are still a long ways from being there however. Reducing GHG emissions in order to mitigate climate change should be a priority.

Communicating the importance of alternative commuting mechanisms, such public transport and cycling, are essential. I fully approve the steps already taken by the city to reduce parking congestion in the city by having people park in parkades instead... this has obviously had an impact. Lets continue on this line of progress and prioritize cycling.

Victoria is in a good position to allocate the surplus of funds for the 2015 fiscal year to such an endeavour. This is not just about better infrastructure for existing cyclists; it is about enabling folks who are not currently cycling to embark on the bandwagon. Let's make cycling accessible, safe, exciting and so on. It is good for our health, good for our city, good for the environment...

I would also encourage the city to look into a BIXI type of system (such as the one in Montreal or Vancouver); where bikes are locked and accessible to all, and can be dropped off at different points around town. This would significantly raise the accessibility of biking, and not limit biking to those who can afford their own bike.

Thank you for your time,

Section 22

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Tanya Taggart-Hodge

Tel: + 778 677 8080

tanya.taggarthodge@gmail.com

Dear Mayor and Council:

After reading through the 2015 Draft Budget and Strategic Plan, I would like to show support for an increase in cycling infrastructure in the City of Victoria. I am a cyclist and have seen great improvements throughout the city over the last few years, and many more cyclists on the road, but after travelling recently I realized this city is lagging behind in comparison. I am passionate about this because Victoria is a very 'bike-able' city, yet people don't get on their bikes due to the lack of connected and safe cycling routes.

I agree with the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition's recommendations for the following:

1. Council commits to the design and construction of an all ages and abilities cycling network by 2018;
2. Council triples the current level of funding for cycling infrastructure, from \$1 million per year to \$3 million, and invests a substantial portion of this year's \$4.5 million into cycling;
3. Council works to increase staff capacity, through additional hirings, training, and consulting services, to ensure staff have the resources and expertise to design and build a world-class cycling network accessible to all.

Sincerely,

Section 22 , Victoria resident

Dear Mayor and Council,

Most of us equate food security with supporting community gardens and urban farms. But there is a vast cornucopia of nourishing free food already growing abundantly in our parks, neighbourhoods and backyards—right now. Food that could be meaningfully and significantly supplementing the dietary needs of community residents and families—and vitally enhancing food security.

This is why [Gather Victoria](#) wants to encourage Victoria's mayor and city council to consider adding a new initiative, *Eating Wild: Community Supported Foraging* to Section 8 of the draft Strategic Plan to "Enhance and Steward Public Spaces, Green Spaces and Food Systems".

The Eating Wild: Community Supported Foraging Initiative brings together wild food educators and leaders, wild food artisans, chefs, ethnobotanists, indigenous food educators, ecologists, environmentalists and food security organizations. Its mission is to give wild foods a place at our tables and a place of their own in the emerging "agri-hood" of community gardens, urban farms, boulevard gardens and food forests. Its goal is to enable community residents and families in their local environments to feed and nourish themselves.

Eating Wild: Community Supported Foraging Initiative has two goals: a) to develop resources for community education and b) form partnerships between community groups interested in promoting food security and local government, parks and urban farms.

This initiative directly supports the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan by:

- Developing long-term policies for food security
- Introducing new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation of public and private land
- Enhancing food systems in general.

The *Eating Wild CSF Initiative* is consistent with the food-related provisions of the Official Community Plan, found primarily in Section 17. For example, the CSF supports: innovative food production (17.9); urban food supplies (17.A); food education (17.B); connecting people to food (17.5); local food security and sustainability (17.9, 17.A); planted boulevards (8.22.4); native plants (8.58); memorable places (8.a); and adaptive management (22.1). It is designed to enhance local food systems in general.

Commensurate with these objectives we ask that City council consider including Community Supported Foraging (CSF) as part of its Strategic Plan to "Enhance and Steward Public Spaces, Green Spaces and Food Systems".

This CSF initiative asks that space, funding and resources be allocated to:

- Support wild food education and community educational events in tandem with local community centres and city parks, to teach residents how to safely identify and sustainably harvest wild foods, as well as how to prepare, preserve and cook with the plants in their neighbourhood.

- Set aside protected spaces in city parks for community food foraging. Currently foraging is not permitted in city parks. The Eating Wild CSF initiative seeks to develop policy in cooperation with local parks and public green spaces to set up pilot “community foraging zones” where citizens are permitted to harvest wild foods.
- Promote the health of wild plants and green spaces by reducing the use of herbicides in our local parks for invasive plant control. Currently being used on a regular basis, these chemicals seep into our lands, water and biosphere, affecting the fauna and wildlife that live there and render wild foods toxic.

In closing we submit that “Food security can be defined as a situation that “exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (The Food and Agriculture Organization *FAO+, 1996, para. 11) And this is exactly what the *Eating Wild CSF Initiative* seeks to do.

Attached you will find a background document on the *Eating Wild CSF Initiative*. Currently we developing a draft plan for the CSF Initiative in tandem with wild food educators, First Nation indigenous food experts, ethno botanists, ecologists and food security organizations, and this proposal will be submitted to city hall for further consideration. We are seeking recognition and support to help subsidize the *Eating Wild: Community Supported Initiative* - to make wild foods and wild food education affordable and accessible to all Greater Victoria residents.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Danielle Prohom Olson

Jennifer Aikman

Gather Victoria

gathervictoria.com

www.facebook.com/

Hello,

I would first like to say thank you for having a vision for a bikeable Victoria in the future. I am a regular cyclist and commute to work/school almost everyday and I love riding in Victoria. I try to encourage my friends and family to ride but one of the main hesitations they have is that they don't think that it is safe. I think this has partially to do with limited cycling infrastructure in certain areas, and also perceptions of 'dangerous drivers'.

One of the best and easiest ways to change perceptions around cycling is to build safe cycling infrastructure that limits interactions with motor vehicles. I think that as more people start to ride, the safer cycling will appear to be.

I ask that you aim to commit most of the \$4.5 million surplus into cycling infrastructure with the aim of creating a complete, full, and safe cycling network by 2018.

It's much easier to travel around town by bike than a vehicle, and you can fit more bikes into a smaller area which has a positive impact on local business along with many health benefits associated with increased cycling.

I hope to see more cyclists out riding in the future and Victoria Council has the opportunity to make that a reality.

Thank you for your time,

Section 22

Dear Victoria City Councilors:

I support your active transportation vision and hope that in the upcoming budget and strategy discussions you will decide to accelerate current efforts towards a modern bike network, for three reasons:

1. Safety.

As a parent, I find that Victoria is not a safe biking city. I know many other parents feel the same way. I would never risk a bike-ride to downtown with my child, much less navigate Douglas or Blanshard. The old-school painted line cycle tracks, where they even exist, offer no safety, especially at intersections. This situation inhibits bike ridership and represents a lost opportunity, particularly given Victoria's small size, great weather and flat terrain. Localized projects alone will not change things; Victoria needs numerous uninterrupted, separated corridors so people can to, from, and around, all major neighborhoods safely.

2. Multiple social, economic and environmental benefits.

A safe, modern cycling network would allow more people, irrespective of age, ability, gender or fitness level, to enjoy biking, thus increasing social equity. As an example, and as I am sure you are aware, after age 25, far more men than women cycle in many cities; the presence of safe, separated bike lanes is a key variable in this discrepancy. The evidence also suggests that biking is good for social cohesion, local business, health, and well-being.

3. Opportunity for leadership.

Recent evidence from Dublin, Seville at other cities show that massive leaps can be made in terms of bike ridership in just 2-4 years. Fortunately, we have a Council that supports active transportation, recognises its positive social, economic and environmental outcomes, and is therefore in a position to act on

this evidence. Such an opportunity for a big leap in bike ridership may come again, and it is therefore important to act now, during the budget discussions.

Thank you for your efforts and for considering these views.

Best wishes,

Section 22

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Conserve the environment, don't print unless absolutely necessary!

Dear city councillors,

I understand that council is soliciting feedback on the city's strategic plan and budget this month. I am writing in support of high quality cycling infrastructure in Victoria as a top priority for city planning in coming years.

I'm a regular commuter cyclist, but sometimes I have to be tough in order to bike on these streets. In contrast, I lived for a time in the Netherlands, where almost everyone used bikes as a method of transportation: young and old, athletic and not. I've seen how safe cycle tracks, physically separated from cars on the streets, can encourage the "latent" cyclists out onto their bikes.

There are so many reasons why a city would want good cycling infrastructure. Biking is good for the environment. It's good for our health. It's good for the local economy, according to several studies. But to make cycling accessible can also be a great equalizer. Those who don't have access to cars, who rely on public transportation, bikes, and their own two feet to get around, deserve the same safety and dignity as those who can afford to travel the city by vehicle.

I know that sometimes spending money on cycling infrastructure can be unpopular. People will write letters to the editor and complain about parking spaces being taken away. But if Victoria is to change and become a truly modern city, this is an investment that needs to be made. And while I don't believe decisions like this should be made on the basis of what is politically popular, I'm willing to bet there are many voters who would really notice and be quite supportive if this council made great strides in making Victoria more bike-friendly. I'm one of them. I support the allocation of funds necessary to invest in cycling infrastructure, including some portion of the \$4.5 million surplus for the 2015 fiscal year.

Thank you,

Section 22

I would like to ask you to consider using much of the surplus to build world class cycling paths and secure downtown bike parking. This spending is good for the environment, health, economics and social justice.

Build it and they will ride!

Thank-you,

Section 22

Victoria, BC

V8S 1A4

RE: City of Victoria: Support Local Food Systems

Dear Mayor and Council,

I support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
- Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods;
- Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens;
- Developing long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening (including an inventory of City-owned land for food production);
- Introducing new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land, and
- Enhancing local food systems in general.

I note that these initiatives are consistent with the food-related provisions of the Official Community Plan, found primarily in Section 17. For example, the OCP supports: innovative food production (17.9); urban food supplies (17.A); food education (17.B); connecting people to food (17.5); local food security and sustainability (17.9, 17.A); planted boulevards (8.22.4); native plants (8.58); memorable places (8.a); and adaptive management (22.1). We believe that more progress can be made pursuing these objectives by increasing financial resources for food systems in the 2015 Financial Plan.

I also ask that you make a commitment, and allocate budgetary resources beginning in 2015, to the following initiatives (either as new initiatives within the Strategic Plan, or as detailed measures meant to help implement existing initiatives within the Strategic Plan):

(1) Shift focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants. For example, allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to food-bearing plants and trees, including natives, perennials, and fruit/nut trees (all across Victoria, and especially to enhance/maintain our urban forest);

(2) Provide City assistance with coordination of food-growing resources, including:

- materials pooling / depot (leaves, mulch, soil, cardboard, wood, irrigation materials);
- increase grant funding for existing and emerging food systems initiatives;
- support neighbourhood-level and city-wide food coordination;
- reduce water charges for irrigation of food plants;

- (3) Expand availability of City land for food growing, with a mechanism for 5-year security of tenure for growers;
- (4) Implement a mechanism for increasing social justice in the distribution of local food supplies (e.g. additional City support tied to “food sharing”);
- (5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Council,

My partner and I are young farmers operating a market garden in Metchosin. I am writing to indicate that:

We support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
- Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods;
- Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens;
- Developing long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening (including an inventory of City-owned land for food production);
- Introducing new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land, and
- Enhancing local food systems in general.

We note that these initiatives are consistent with the food-related provisions of the Official Community Plan, found primarily in Section 17. For example, the OCP supports: innovative food production (17.9); urban food supplies (17.A); food education (17.B); connecting people to food (17.5); local food security and sustainability (17.9, 17.A); planted boulevards (8.22.4); native plants (8.58); memorable places (8.a); and adaptive management (22.1). We believe that more progress can be made pursuing these objectives by increasing financial resources for food systems in the 2015 Financial Plan.

We also ask that you make a commitment, and allocate budgetary resources beginning in 2015, to the following initiatives (either as new initiatives within the Strategic Plan, or as detailed measures meant to help implement existing initiatives within the Strategic Plan):

(1) Shift focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants. For example, allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to food-bearing plants and trees, including natives, perennials, and fruit/nut trees (all across Victoria, and especially to enhance/maintain our urban forest);

(2) Provide City assistance with coordination of food-growing resources, including:

- materials pooling / depot (leaves, mulch, soil, cardboard, wood, irrigation materials);
- increase grant funding for existing and emerging food systems initiatives;
- support neighbourhood-level and city-wide food coordination;
- reduce water charges for irrigation of food plants;

(3) Expand availability of City land for food growing, with a mechanism for 5-year security of tenure for growers;

(4) Implement a mechanism for increasing social justice in the distribution of local food supplies (e.g. additional City support tied to “food sharing”);

(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Section 22

Hello Victoria Councillors!

I am writing to share my personal reasons for why more monetary resources should be allocated to making Victoria a more bike-safe and bike-friendly city!

1. Victoria could be the perfect city to bike in. No snow, lots of sunshine hours with fresh ocean air, and a geographical size that should be bikeable for many. Too often, the lack of *full* bike lanes on many major roads and busy side streets makes bicycling in Victoria a risky activity.

Make Victoria a more enjoyable city to bike in for all residents and visitors by allocating a large majority of the \$4.5 million surplus from the 2015 fiscal year to the construction of a high-quality cycling network.

2. This past week two of my pals in Victoria were discussing how they wished they could biked more often. They explained that they don't feel competent or confident when cycling alongside car traffic. The Councillors of Victoria need to listen to these voices. The voices of the all members of our community that would benefit from a more safe and accessible biking city.

I support councillor decisions that prioritize the biking and cycling needs of Victorians.

With kind spokes,

Section 22

Dear Victoria City Council,

Thank you for your vision for a bikable Victoria. As you consider the options and needs of Victoria residence in spending the \$4.5 million surplus, please know that taking a giant step forward to create a more bike friendly city would be a huge benefit to my family.

My family has been living in Victoria now for just under 4 years. Coming from Toronto, Victoria is much more bike friendly. We find ourselves biking to work, for pleasure and personal errands in our new home due to the great weather and basic infrastructure. Our family has recently expanded and I'm excited to introduce my baby to his bike trailer however the infrastructure that I thought was well connected does not look the same when you're pulling a baby. Popping in and out of bike lanes is no longer feasible and intersections are down-right scary! I've realized that although there is a good number of options for bike paths, it is not enough.

Please commit most of the \$4.5 million surplus to take a giant step forward toward making this vision happen now! The current five-year cycling plan adopted by Council in 2014 is a strong start but needs to be expanded and accelerated to achieve a full, safe, modern cycling network by 2018.

Kind Regards,

Section 22

Hello,

I am writing in support of a better bicycle infrastructure in the City of Victoria. Please consider making this a priority with the new budget.

My reasons for supporting this include:

- 1) I support the construction of a modern, high quality cycling network that is safe for all ages and abilities by 2018.
- 2) I support the allocation of the funds necessary to build it, including most of the \$4.5 million surplus for the 2015 fiscal year; and,
- 3) I support making effective investments in cycling can support healthier, happier, more equitable communities and strengthen local business.

To date, I am extremely pleased with the direction our Mayor and Council members are taking and wish to thank you for your vision and efforts.

Warm regards,

Section 22

Victoria, BC
V8V 4Z2

Dear Mayor and Council,

We support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
- Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods;
- Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens;
- Developing long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening (including an inventory of City-owned land for food production);
- Introducing new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land, and
- Enhancing local food systems in general.

We note that these initiatives are consistent with the food-related provisions of the Official Community Plan, found primarily in Section 17. For example, the OCP supports: innovative food production (17.9); urban food supplies (17.A); food education (17.B); connecting people to food (17.5); local food security and sustainability (17.9, 17.A); planted boulevards (8.22.4); native plants (8.58); memorable places (8.a); and adaptive management (22.1). We believe that more progress can be made pursuing these objectives by increasing financial resources for food systems in the 2015 Financial Plan.

We also ask that you make a commitment, and allocate budgetary resources beginning in 2015, to the following initiatives (either as new initiatives within the Strategic Plan, or as detailed measures meant to help implement existing initiatives within the Strategic Plan):

(1) Shift focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants. For example, allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to food-bearing plants and trees, including natives, perennials, and fruit/nut trees (all across Victoria, and especially to enhance/maintain our urban forest);

(2) Provide City assistance with coordination of food-growing resources, including:

- materials pooling / depot (leaves, mulch, soil, cardboard, wood, irrigation materials);
- increase grant funding for existing and emerging food systems initiatives;
- support neighborhood-level and city-wide food coordination;
- reduce water charges for irrigation of food plants;

(3) Expand availability of City land for food growing, with a mechanism for 5-year security of tenure for growers;

(4) Implement a mechanism for increasing social justice in the distribution of local food supplies (e.g. additional City support tied to “food sharing”);

(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Section 22

Section 22

Hello,

Thank you all for your intent to make Victoria a better, "bikeable" city by 2018.

I personally support this as I use cycling as my main mode of transportation, but not without some fear at times.

While there are many areas I love to cycle in Victoria, there are areas that I avoid at all costs, and the routes I take are heavily affected by the safety of these areas.

Using the surplus to create safer conditions for cyclists would be a fantastic use of the money, and would not only benefit residents but also could be used to bring in additional tourism. It's a win-win on all accounts.

I hope to see this vision carried out.

Thank you for your time,

Section 22

Hi Lisa Helps

well thanks for including me in your survey. Some of the information beyond the second half of the survey...well one link was a 315 or so page document...I honestly don't have time to while away though all that..I have a newsletter to write and some art to attend to.

...But once again let me bend your ear on spending.

By far the most important thing is not innovation or standing heads above others competing for the best looking city or whatever.

As a municipality in charge of public funds with debts loads. you have to realize the deep peril world economies are in. 12 countries have a debt to GDP ratio of over 300% (and Canada has a 221% ratio). 9 Countries in Europe "offer" negative interest rates on deposits! Over 20 countries this year lowered interest rates. What this means is money becomes scarcer...because the world is now in a deflation period. It becomes more difficult to pay off debt because it is a larger part of income. Greece cannot even pay the interest on it's debt. If they default (And they've admitted there's no possible way they can pay the debt back) it will be a tidal wave of defaults, money will be harder to borrow and cash will be king and buy far more, and this scenario is very close. Money is being transferred to the US, vacating countries of origin meaning less investment in other countries further making the problem worse in the home countries, further collapsing economies, ruining business and investments. What it all boils down to is a alarming need to pay off debt and build cash reserves! (no city or politician should be spending more than income anyway)

If debt paid off and cash is in reserve, we are in a very strong position. Overburdened with debt we become incredibly vulnerable especially in times like these and this period of financial peril will be a long one, 10- 20 or more years. Stabilizing expenditures and paying off debt now will make us in the long run the most vitalized city. Business and investments go to the place with the lowest tax rates, and contrary to thought, the lower the tax rates the higher the income as you attract far more business. Look at Reaganomics. He lowered taxes and even though the democrats demanded extra expenditures in trade for his tax cuts, his economic strategy still worked!

well anyway I hope this puts a bug in your ear and a concern in your mind... Don't let special interest groups screaming for goodies sway you. I'm an artist and I said in the survey arts and culture question "arts" was not important at all. If I'm an artist I should be good enough to make it pay or get a real job. For proof of that statement and as an example I've included a peice of my art here for your pleasure, but more to emphasize the point. I will not ask for goodies to support my artistic talent. I know I'm good enough...if I can ever find a gallery that will take me...to sell lots of art...if I can ever figure out how to promote myself. I'm now creating

Section 22

...not that that was my goal in doing the set, but my skill just might win out after all. I have people lining up to buy the set...I don't need City money to make me a success, city money would probably make me lazy.

My book is also starting to sell and when I finish my third edition I will spend more \$ to advertise it. It may surprise you to find

Section 22

but I spend my income and spend my time on trying to become less a burden.

So please please get debt out of the way, and don't let glitz and glamour yank money away from getting out of debt.

God bless in your efforts

Section 22

Section 22

Dear Mayor Helps and Councillors,

As a recent resident, the bike ability of this city is one of my favourite things about Victoria.

Thus, I am excited about your vision for a (more) bikable Victoria, and fully support it.

Section 22 live in James Bay **Section 22** . I cycle the ~25-30 minutes to campus each day along Fort to Foul Bay, using existing (but not separated) painted bike lanes most of the way.

I do find it nerve-wracking to cycle in painted lanes in the city — mostly due to crossing public buses, but also due to motorists pulling in and out of street parking. While these painted lanes are wide, they are easily ignored by buses and cars, and a quick accident could be fatal. They are a mere bandaid, at best. Separated bike lanes are the real effective way to encourage bicycle commuting, which in turn will lead to societal health benefits (physical and psychological), lower emissions, and aid in our transition away from a fossil fuel economy.

Thus, I fully support the construction of a modern cycling network that is safe for all ages and cycling abilities by 2018; and indeed, one that is safer for other road users, too. By separating bikers and pedestrians from cars and buses, we can only benefit.

I support the allocation of city funds to do so, as I strongly believe (as mentioned above), that the research strongly supports cycling as a part of a healthy, happy, equitable community, and one that better supports our local economy.

Everything I've read about cities that prioritize cycling tells me that doing so reduces traffic and pollution, increases air quality, improves health, opens the city to people of all incomes and improves local businesses bottom lines. I think a cycling network would particularly help to increase the viability and vibrancy of downtown Victoria and other neighbourhood hubs.

I believe that Victoria and this Council are at an exciting tipping point. We can move swiftly and surely toward a bikable city, or miss our chance, and suffer along as we are with a confusing mish-mash or dangerous streets and pretend bike lanes.

Thank you,

Section 22

Section 22

Hello Councillors

I am writing to thank you for creating a vision for a fully bikeable Victoria. I am 62 years old and enjoy cycling recreationally but would also like to be able to bike to town to do my shopping, errands, meet friends, etc. At the moment I do not cycle downtown because there is not a consistent bike route available. I have recently returned from visiting my daughter in the Netherlands and I now know what it feels like to ride on a safe, well-maintained bike path well away from traffic. I know we can do this in Victoria and I want to add my support for such a vision.

Please consider committing a large portion of the \$4.5 million surplus to make this vision happen now. The current five year cycling plan adopted by Council in 2014 is a strong start but needs to be expanded and accelerated to achieve a full, safe, modern cycling network by 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Section 22
retired school district #61 administrator

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am currently pursuing a PhD related to strengthening local food systems in BC, and I support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems in Victoria identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
- Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods;
- Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens;
- Developing long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening (including an inventory of City-owned land for food production);
- Introducing new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land, and
- Enhancing local food systems in general.

These initiatives are consistent with the food-related provisions of the Official Community Plan, found primarily in Section 17. For example, the OCP supports: innovative food production (17.9); urban food supplies (17.A); food education (17.B); connecting people to food (17.5); local food security and sustainability (17.9, 17.A); planted boulevards (8.22.4); native plants (8.58); memorable places (8.a); and adaptive management (22.1). We believe that more progress can be made pursuing these objectives by increasing financial resources for food systems in the 2015 Financial Plan.

I ask that you make a commitment, and allocate budgetary resources beginning in 2015, to the following initiatives (either as new initiatives within the Strategic Plan, or as detailed measures meant to help implement existing initiatives within the Strategic Plan):

(1) Shift focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants. For example, allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to food-bearing plants and trees, including natives, perennials, and fruit/nut trees (all across Victoria, and especially to enhance/maintain our urban forest);

(2) Provide City assistance with coordination of food-growing resources, including:

- materials pooling / depot (leaves, mulch, soil, cardboard, wood, irrigation materials);
- increase grant funding for existing and emerging food systems initiatives;
- support neighbourhood-level and city-wide food coordination;
- reduce water charges for irrigation of food plants;

(3) Expand availability of City land for food growing, with a mechanism for 5-year security of tenure for growers;

(4) Implement a mechanism for increasing social justice in the distribution of local food supplies (e.g. additional City support tied to "food sharing");

(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Section 22

Dear City Councillors,

I have recently moved here from Vancouver and wanted to thank you for providing such beautiful bike trails. I use them at least four times per week. I also use the streets to travel about for shopping and getting around town. Where there are bike lanes, biking is relatively safe.

I would urge you in your long range planning to continue to expand the trails, finish the E and N and plan more bike routes that get cyclists safely over to existing trails. I am presently unable to get from my house in Rockland to the two existing trails without going downtown. Discouraging vehicular traffic on designated quieter streets and designating them as bike routes works very well in other cities. Also, to encourage cycling in our beautiful city, certain scenic routes such as Dallas road could be closed to vehicular traffic on Sunday mornings.

Let's continue to work toward making Victoria the biking capital of Canada. We have the opportunity to do that as there are few other places in Canada that have the climate to support this year round healthy and environmentally friendly activity.

One less car user,

Section 22
Victoria, BC
Sent from my iPad

Dear councillors and Mayor,

Thanks you for your vision and desire to make Victoria a more bikable city.

Section 22 **My wife and I love biking and love to be out on the bikes with our kids. We don't however always feel safe. I often feel that I am trading in safety to be out biking with my children.**

All of the benefits of cycling from personal health to environmental health to community health to family values shouldn't be at the expense of safety.

Please allocate the majority of the 4.5 million surplus to create a modern and SAFE cycling network in the city of Victoria. Please make Victoria a leader in bikeability!

Section 22

- b. Tell them how cycling contributes to your own health and wellbeing and why it is important to have a full, safe, modern cycling network by 2018 that will allow people of all ages and abilities to feel safe riding their bike just about everywhere in the city.
- c. Ask them to commit most of the \$4.5 million surplus to take a giant step forward toward making this vision happen ***now!*** The current five-year cycling plan adopted by Council in 2014 is a strong start but needs to be expanded and accelerated to achieve a full, safe, modern cycling network by 2018.

Dear Mayor Helps and Victoria City Council,

I'm writing to say that I support local food in Victoria and that I want to see actions in the Strategic Plan implemented that increase food security and local food in Victoria. Growing, and sharing, food is such an important of food security and increasing a feeling of community connectedness. In particular, I would like to see items of Section 17 of the Official Community Plan enacted, i.e., 17.9, 17.A, 17B, 17.5, 8.22.4, 8.58, 8.A, and 22.1. Below are some of my specific priorities that I would like to see supported in the coming years:

- boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods, including shifting from purely ornamental to a mixture of ornamental and edible plants that are important for biodiversity too (i.e., bees, hummingbirds, migratory birds)
- micro-grants for volunteer coordinators of commons and community gardens
- the development of long-term policies regarding food security and boulevard gardening
- an inventory of city-owned land that can be used to produce food
- partnerships to increase food growing on public and private land
- emphasizing local food and sharing economies
- enhance our urban forest, especially to provide habitat for threatened biodiversity

Thank you for your attention. I value Victoria's local ecosystems, food producing capabilities, connection to the environment, and community feeling and stewardship.

Sincerely,

Section 22
Victoria, BC

Dear Mayor Helps and Council:

Since moving to Victoria just over 7 years ago, I've become an avid cyclist; commuting to work daily and enjoying the fantastic network of regional bike trails throughout the Greater Victoria area. I'm not a Victoria resident (I live in Saanich), however I often bike to, from and through various areas in Victoria.

Cycling is a great way to stay fit and healthy - and it's also an important way to ensure minimal negative impact on our environment. I believe it's critical to have a solid cycling infrastructure that will enable people of all ages and abilities to feel and be safe riding their bikes just about everywhere in the city.

To that end, I ask for your commitment to direct a significant portion of the city's \$4.5 million surplus to achieve a vision for a bikeable Victoria. Victoria's current 5-year cycling plan, adopted by Council in 2014 is a strong start, but it needs to be expanded and accelerated to achieve a full, safe, modern cycling network by 2018.

Thank you for your visionary leadership for a bikeable Victoria.

Kind regards,

Section 22

Victoria, BC V8N 3G4

RE: City of Victoria: Support Local Food Systems

Dear Mayor and Council,

We support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
- Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods;
- Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens;
- Developing long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening (including an inventory of City-owned land for food production);
- Introducing new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land, and
- Enhancing local food systems in general.

We note that these initiatives are consistent with the food-related provisions of the Official Community Plan, found primarily in Section 17. For example, the OCP supports: innovative food production (17.9); urban food supplies (17.A); food education (17.B); connecting people to food (17.5); local food security and sustainability (17.9, 17.A); planted boulevards (8.22.4); native plants (8.58); memorable places (8.a); and adaptive management (22.1). We believe that more progress can be made pursuing these objectives by increasing financial resources for food systems in the 2015 Financial Plan.

We also ask that you make a commitment, and allocate budgetary resources beginning in 2015, to the following initiatives (either as new initiatives within the Strategic Plan, or as detailed measures meant to help implement existing initiatives within the Strategic Plan):

(1) Shift focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants. For example, allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to food-bearing plants and trees, including natives, perennials, and fruit/nut trees (all across Victoria, and especially to enhance/maintain our urban forest);

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(4) Implement a mechanism for increasing social justice in the distribution of local food supplies (e.g. additional City support tied to “food sharing”);

(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Section 22

Dear Councillors,

Thank you for your vision for a bikeable Victoria.

Cycling contributes to my own health and wellbeing and it is super important to have a full, safe, modern cycling network by 2018 that will allow people of all ages and abilities to feel safe riding their bike just about everywhere in the city.

Please commit most of the \$4.5 million surplus to take a giant step forward toward making this vision happen **now!** The current five-year cycling plan adopted by Council in 2014 is a strong start but needs to be expanded and accelerated to achieve a full, safe, modern cycling network by 2018.

A full, safe and modern biking network means that people of all ages and abilities can: a) bike safely to and from downtown Victoria; b) bike safely to and around all of the city's neighbourhoods; and c) bike safely to all major destinations in the City.

Thanks so much!

Respectfully,

Section 22

Fairfield

Dear Mayor and Council,

We support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
- Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods;
- Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens;
- Developing long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening (including an inventory of City-owned land for food production);
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tenure for growers;

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(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Section 22

To the Mayor and Councilors,

Please add my voice to those who want you to enhance the quality and quantity of cycling services and infrastructure both in Victoria and in neighbouring municipalities. The experience of other cities, notably Amsterdam and Seville have proven the wisdom of similar investments.

Yours truly,

Section 22

Victoria, BC
V8V1V5

I am writing to thank Victoria council for their vision for a bike-able Victoria.

I have been a year-round commuter cyclist for many years. Cycling contributes to my health and well-being in oh so many ways. It is important to have a full, safe, modern cycling network by 2018 that will allow people of all ages and abilities to feel safe riding their bike just about everywhere in the city.

I beseech you as a council to commit most of the \$4.5 million surplus to take a giant step forward toward making this vision happen **now!** The current five-year cycling plan adopted by Council in 2014 is a strong start but needs to be expanded and accelerated to achieve a full, safe, modern cycling network by 2018. Let's show the rest of Canada how it's done! Go Victoria!

I truly hope my voice matters.

Thank you,

Section 22

Dear Victoria City Councillors

Thank you for your vision for a Victoria that is bike-friendly. I cycle 50-80 km several times a week for fitness reasons and like to begin (and end) my trips from home near Cook St. Village. It is important to have a full, safe, modern cycling network complete with bicycle-only paths and dedicated traffic signals. Such a system has existed in the Netherlands for almost 40 years (I lived there for a year in 1978-79 and it was established then) and it allows people of all ages and abilities to ride their bikes safely almost everywhere, for instance, in the city of Amsterdam and environs.

It is important to put such a system in place soon. I urge you to commit the bulk of the \$4.5 million surplus to take the big step forward to make the vision happen during your term of office. The current 5-year cycling plan adopted by Council in 2014 is a strong start, but the objective must be to have the full, safe, and modern cycling network in place no later than 2018.

Sincerely

Section 22
cyclist and CCCTS member
Victoria

Dear Mayor and Council,

I support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
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(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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Thank you for your time and attention.

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Section 22

"Spread love everywhere you go. First of all in your own house. Spread to your children, to your wife or husband, and to your next door neighbour. Let no one ever come to you without leaving better or happier."

-Mother Theresa

"There is no time to lose, so let us resolve to work together, guided by science, doing the math, appreciating the art of the possible, and at all times using our common sense for the common good"

-Todd Stern

Councillors,

Thanks for making cycling a big focus for the city and for planning to use the city surplus to upgrade the cycling infrastructure. I use the city's streets and cycling lanes many times a week for recreation and commuting and have for decades. Things are definitely going in the right direction and it's exciting that we are taking more advantage of being such a fantastic place to cycle. I attended one of the public consultation sessions and was pleased to see the level of commitment from the city and the number of public attendees.

Could you please speed up your investment plan? The councillor who attended the public consultation session I was a part of said that council would spread the spending out over a number of years to get more political wins out of it.

That is unfortunate and counterproductive thinking. Investing the money in a one year period creates an opportunity to make a transformational change in Victoria's cycling infrastructure. There is more political impact from this spending when the public can actually see a significant improvement in bike safety and services, which will encourage them to use their bike more. If the money is dribbled out over time through one small improvement after another – each of them will have little impact and there will be no overall impression of a big step up.

We can build a great reputation as a cycling town for locals and tourists if our downtown area is made more safe and accessible for cyclist in one fell swoop!

Thanks for your efforts,



Catherine Holt, Principal
Sage Group Management Consultants

Shoal Point, 21-21 Dallas Road, Victoria BC V8V 4Z9
250-384-2124 www.sagegroup.bc.ca
Mobile: 250-888-4943



Dear Mayor and Council,

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Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Section 22

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(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Alex Harned

Oaklands Sunset Market Coordinator. alex@oaklandscommunitycentre.com

Oaklands Community Centre. 1-2827 Belmont Ave. Victoria, BC. V8R 4B2

250-370-9101

Check out Oaklands Market here: <http://vimeo.com/101544130>



Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to request that you make food security in Victoria (and CRD where your powers and influence allow) a top priority, certainly over the coming 4 years, but also in ways that extend beyond the length of your term.

Supporting food security in our city and region is a strategic and necessary move for several reasons, including:

- island communities are more susceptible to emergency situations; we need to be growing more of our own food in our own communities
- smaller, diverse approaches to growing food are more resilient and less susceptible to negative impacts (whether they are climate-change related weather incidents, or otherwise)
- local food security projects are usually community builders (i.e. Haliburton farm, Moss St. market, allotment gardens, food forests in parks)

I ask that you set aside a portion of the surplus, and even consider carving out some dedicated budget funds, for food security projects in Victoria. A couple of ideas are:

- small business food security related start up grants
- dedicated city hall staff time to help implement, maintain, and grow different forms of communal food growing practices (community gardens, plot allotments, commons, boulevard gardens, etc), especially or specifically on city property

Many thanks for your time and consideration. I hope to attend next week's Town Hall Meeting.

Sincerely,

Section 22

Dear Mayor Helps and Councillors,

I am excited about your vision for a bikable Victoria. And fully support it.

I'm an active 72 year old (almost) who gave up his car for ecological and financial reasons five years ago. I cycle on Dallas Road and Beach Drive regularly. And, if I can get up the nerve to dodge the traffic and the construction downtown, I ride the Lochside trail from time to time.

But I find it difficult and nerve-wracking to cycle elsewhere in the city — even with the painted bike lanes that currently exist. I suspect that they are as dangerous or more so than no bike lanes, giving cyclists a false sense of safety and easily ignored by motorists. A mere bandaid, at best.

A fine use for the city's current surplus would be creating an interconnected net of bike lanes. Some could be separated from traffic by permanent barriers. But I recommend that most be created using “floating parking.” See this short video: <https://vimeo.com/20302720>

Floating parking is cheap and quick to implement and as effective as million dollar plus barriers. Less cost = more miles of bike lanes! Please consider it in the mix.

Everything I've read about cities that prioritize cycling tells me that doing so reduces traffic and pollution, increases air quality, improves health, opens the city to people of all incomes and improves local businesses bottom lines. I think a cycling network would particularly help to increase the viability and vibrancy of downtown Victoria and other neighbourhood hubs.

I believe that Victoria and this Council are at an exciting tipping point. We can move swiftly and surely toward a bikable city, or miss our chance, and suffer along as we are with a confusing mish-mash or dangerous streets and pretend bike lanes.

Carpe Diem!

Thank you for your good work on our behalf.

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Council

I attended the town hall meeting-don't think I will ever attend another one. I was there at 7 pm and stayed until 11:15. To me it seemed like there were just a few very vocal groups of people and that the 200 or so that were in attendance do not represent the views of the rest of the population in Victoria. **I hope that the mayor and council will take that into account when they are making their decisions around the budget, but I highly doubt they will. Council's decisions should be based on what benefits the majority of the citizens of Victoria and not just a few vocal groups.**

I don't think the meeting was very well advertised. I only found out as a friend mentioned it.

As for your online twitter etc. there are a lot of older people in Victoria and they don't tweet and they don't use computers. So, there is a very large population in Victoria that will have next to no input.

I also believe that a lot of people are just getting so frustrated with what goes on at City Hall that they don't bother anymore. They feel that it doesn't matter what they say the Mayor and Council just do what they will do anyway so what's the point. I must admit that I'm starting to feel that way.

My take was that it was mostly cyclists, foodies and affordable housing people that attended. Also ones that just want to get everyone out of their cars and close down more streets.

I took note of where the people said they lived. It seemed to me that about 75% were from Fernwood, a few from James Bay, a few from Saanich, two from Fairfield, one from Oak Bay, one from Vic West and one from Jubilee area. Not a very even distribution of people from the various areas of Victoria.

I believe that any spare funds should be kept until we know what the costs of the bridge are going to end up at.

I also believe that there are a lot of things that the city should be fixing before spending millions of dollars on bike lanes! I would like to know what percentage of the population of Victoria actually ride bikes? My guess is that it wouldn't be a great number in relation to the population. Victoria has a lot of seniors and while some may ride bikes I don't believe that the numbers of cyclists justify spending

millions on bike lanes and that there are many other things that should be done before this amount of money is spent on bike lanes!

We have miles of aging sidewalks that are crumbling and have tripping hazards. How about fixing those? We have lots of roads that need cracks filled and pot holes fixed.

The Crystal Pool needs repairs.

How about increasing the parks department budget so that they can prune the trees on the boulevard instead of allowing them to hang over the sidewalk and force people to duck to in order avoid being hit in the face? Some of the boulevards are in terrible shape-they are just weeds.

There was a lot of talk about affordable housing, street people and their carts and them having homes and storage for their carts.

I believe that there are some people that simply choose to live on the street and there are others because of addictions/behaviours wouldn't last very long in any type of housing situations. I have friends that have rented to some of these people and they cause damage and problems and so they no longer will rent to them. Not to mention that the shopping carts that they are pushing in 90% of the cases are stolen. Why are they allowed to continue to do this? Those carts are I'm sure over \$100 a piece and this is added costs for the business's that they steal them from which I'm sure is past on to the people that shop in their stores.

I am very tired of these homeless people taking over our green spaces and by closing Rockland the City is just providing more space for homeless people. Less traffic in the area and less people to see what is going on. I would suggest that the mayor and council don't have a clue what really goes on in this park.

The panhandling on our streets is getting out of control. On my way to work there are at least a dozen people begging. After work there are even more. You don't see this if you go to the malls. There are so many empty store fronts in town and I'm sure this is just one of the many reasons. Why would people want to come to town when they can go to the malls-parking is free and no one is asking for handouts. Not to mention the business tax rates the City wants to charge! So, how many people that ride bikes are going to be making purchases at the stores-as they would have limited means to take these things home?

As for the foodies wanting to grow food in the boulevards this should not be allowed for the following reasons:

- pipes, electrical lines etc that could be buried in the boulevard and damaged as people dig them up
- how much boulevard is left to garden when you open a car door unto the boulevard?
- how do you get out of your vehicle when you park next to these gardens?
- tripping hazards
- probably have to erect fencing to keep the deer out which would also cause issues for people getting out of cars etc.
- Deer, raccoons, squirrels, rats etc will just be having a buffet
- Kids of course will be throwing things-ie tomatoes etc.
- currently some boulevards that are planted are not kept up and are untidy

As for the person that suggested the city plant nut and fruit trees in the boulevards this should not be allowed for the following reasons:

- fruit falling off the trees onto sidewalks, cars etc
- slipping, tripping hazards
- animals-deer, raccoons, rats etc
- will attract more wasps

How about spending some money to deal with the deer problem in Fairfield? My yard is covered in netting everywhere but it still doesn't seem to be keeping them out. I take pride in my garden and I spend a lot of money on plants, watering etc only to have the shrubs destroyed. I also believe it is only a matter of time until someone is seriously injured by a deer, not to mention the risks associated with the ticks. I'd be happy to have a trap set in my yard. There is 1 buck and 3 does that are constantly in my area.

Several people also mentioned about getting people out of their cars by closing down streets, limiting parking in new buildings etc.

Well, you are not going to get the majority of people out of their cars. I believe that there are certain council members that this is on their personal agenda.

Council is there to try and do what is best for the majority not just a few groups.

There is also the issue of secondary suites, garden suites etc and the parking. I feel like I am banging my head against a wall trying to get through to city hall that

there must be parking for these suites especially in the older areas of town

where there are large houses. **Section 22** and parking is becoming a huge problem. Some people on council seem to think that single family houses only have 1 car. Well, that's not true on my street. Many of the houses have 3 and 4 cars per house. Also there are a lot of illegal non-conforming houses with suites and they have anywhere from 3 to 5 suites with one parking spot or no parking at all. You are not going to get people out of there cars so you must ensure that there is parking if you are going to allow these secondary suites.

Open Beacon Hill roadways back up so that the park is available to everyone! I no longer go to the park. I don't like how the roads have been changed. I know several seniors that do to mobility issues no longer go to the park either. They used to enjoy driving through the park but as they can no longer go where they want to, so they no longer go.

I am tired of City Hall just doing things for a very small minority of people. They do the surveys and public sessions-but if your working you don't have time to be attending these types of events. The on line surveys to get the feed back from people don't get any information from the people that don't use computers and Victoria has a lot of seniors. Also the surveys don't really allow you to give the input that you want. I think some of them are geared to get the outcome that the city wants.

So, put the money aside in case we need it for the bridge.

Fix things that are already in place but need work done to them. Ie roads, sidewalks, Crystal Pool etc.

Stop bowing to pressure from these small vocal groups!

Yours truly

Section 22

Section 22

Park it Ignored at: 3/23/2015 11:19:55 PM

(Mayor and Council) The Johnson Street Bridge is going to be massively over budget, and it will likely be a number of years before the final number is known. In the intervening years, a number of major infrastructure projects may begin (Fire Hall #1, Library, Crystal Pool, Sewage Treatment). Will the council and staff ensure that an investigation is completed which makes public what went so terribly wrong with JSB?

New

To be asked

Asked

Duplicate

Not related

Block user

03/23/2015 23:19:55 Web

From: kroueche@shaw.ca [<mailto:kroueche@shaw.ca>]

Sent: Tuesday, Mar 24, 2015 12:00 PM

To: Councillors

Cc: Jason Johnson

Subject: Fw: STRATEGIC PLAN

Dear Mayor and Council::

Congratulations to you and city staff on producing our first four year strategic plan. If we can deliver on even half of the actions/outcomes it will be a job well done. A few observations:

Objective 4: "Put city lands to best and highest use including market rate commercial leases." I would ask that action be taken immediately deal with the Crystal Garden. The building is currently costing us about \$450,000 per year in operating deficits and forgone rents, with no end in sight. I would also ask that a complete inventory/status report on the city's commercial properties be prepared and updated quarterly.

Objective 5: "Set up economic development office". Perhaps the new office evaluate the costs and benefits for the city of disruptive technologies. I am thinking of services such as AIRBNB, UBER, LYFT and probably others that are on the way. These are powerful forces that need to be assessed. For example AIRBNB currently has over 600 listings for Victoria making it the largest "hotel" in the region. New York City now has more UBER cars than yellow taxis. These services are clearly popular for a reason and if properly addressed could potentially provide great benefits to Victoria.

Objective 7: "Facilitate social inclusion and community wellness". This appears to be the only place in the vast array of budget related documents where the VICPD gets a mention. I think we all need to be more engaged in setting the budget and the priorities for our police force. A governance model that has only one member of council sitting on the Police Board and offers very little opportunity for council or for the public to review and comment on the police budget is not helpful. I would also note that both the Mayor and the Chief have commented in recent months on the substantial police resources devoted to dealing mental health and substance abuse calls, issues that officers are not well equipped to deal with. The Chief indicated that he successfully addressed the issue in Sudbury. Please can be deal with this pressing budget and humanitarian issue on a priority basis.

With respect to the \$4.8 million in “extra” money that we have in the budget, I would urge you to reserve at least half of it for the capital projects contingencies fund, we will need it.

Respect,

Ken Roueche
47 Howe Street
Victoria V8V 4K2
Canada

Tel: 250-384-7606



LifeCycles Project Society
1A-625 Hillside Ave Victoria, BC V8T 1Z1
Tel: 250-383-5800 info@lifecyclesproject.ca

March 30, 2015

Dear Victoria Mayor and Councilors,

Good day, my name is Maurita Prato and I am the current Director of LifeCycles Project Society. For 21 years LifeCycles has helped people learn to grow and access healthy local food, often working with vulnerable populations, in the urban context. We have roughly 1700 supporters, the majority of which hail from the city of Victoria.

LifeCycles supports the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems as outlined in your draft strategic plan, in it's entirety and in particular: Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens, creating inventories of city-owned land accessible for food production, and increasing food education, and food sovereignty in general, meaning having community control over local food production, and supply.

Within the parameters of the Strategic Plan or in addition, we look to you to engage with the community through your leadership capacity towards these 5 actions:

- Shifting focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants- prioritizing native edibles and perennials- such as fruit and nut trees.**
- Provide food-growing resources, funds, and materials for urban agriculture in the city.**
- Expand availability of City land for food growing and mechanisms for long term tenure for growers.**
- Increasing distribution of fresh, local food supply to vulnerable populations**
- mandate a city staff member to engage with the community around local food systems.**

All over the world these kinds of municipal policies are making headway in places such as Havana

Detroit and LA, showing strong leadership and forward thinking. Sometimes these policies are moved forward only through necessity- when there is no other option due to fuel shortages or 'food deserts'.

I applaud the Mayor and council for moving these plans into action as soon as possible, and giving the issue of secure local food systems the consideration and attention they deserve now, so that Victoria residents can be assured safe, local abundant food system into the future.

I look forward to the 'fruition' of your strategic plan and continued collaborations.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Maurita Prato,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maurita Prato", is displayed on a light blue rectangular background.



Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable Society

PO Box 46002 QUADRA

Victoria, BC V8T 5G7

Phone: 250-896-7004

Email: info@crfair.ca

Web: www.crfair.ca

March 27, 2015

Dear Mayor and Council,

A number of food organizations and enthusiasts met over the past month to review the Strategic Plan and the proposed budget being circulated by the City of Victoria. We would like to express our support alongside these groups for the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
- Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods;
- Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens;
- Developing long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening (including an inventory of City-owned land for food production);
- Introducing new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land, and
- Enhancing local food systems in general.

In the 1990's the City adopted an Urban Agriculture Resolution - it is so good to see that the City is following through with their pledge to support food growing and sharing in Victoria. The recent OCP was a great leap forward and we note that the initiatives in the Strategic Plan are consistent with the food-related provisions of the OCP, found primarily in Section 17. For example, the OCP supports: innovative food production (17.9); urban food supplies (17.A); food education (17.B); connecting people to food (17.5); local food security and sustainability (17.9, 17.A); planted boulevards (8.22.4); native plants (8.58); memorable places (8.a); and adaptive management (22.1). We believe that more progress can be made pursuing these objectives by increasing financial resources for food systems in the 2015 Financial Plan.

We also support allocating budgetary resources beginning in 2015, to the following initiatives (either as new initiatives within the Strategic Plan, or as detailed measures meant to help implement existing initiatives within the Strategic Plan):

- (1) Shift focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants. For example, allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to food-bearing plants and trees, including natives, perennials, and fruit/nut trees (all across Victoria, and especially to enhance/maintain our urban forest);



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(2) Provide City assistance with coordination of food-growing resources, including:

- materials pooling / depot (leaves, mulch, soil, cardboard, wood, irrigation materials);
- increase grant funding for existing and emerging food systems initiatives;
- support neighbourhood-level and city-wide food coordination;
- reduce water charges for irrigation of food plants;

(3) Expand availability of City land for food growing, with a mechanism for 5-year security of tenure for growers;

(4) Implement a mechanism for increasing social justice in the distribution of local food supplies (e.g. additional City support tied to “food sharing”);

(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

The final point is very important as we believe that without having a dedicated body to monitor and support implementation of these great plans, they will remain “great ideas”. There is a whole community of support, expertise and resources that are willing to work alongside the city. It is time to get growing!

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Lee Fuge, President

Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable Society (CRFAIR)



1715 Government Street
Victoria, BC
V8W 1Z4
250.386.5501

Mayor and Council
City of Victoria
No.1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
V8W 1P6

28 March 2015

Re: Comments on the City of Victoria Draft Strategic Plan 2015 - 2018

Dear Mayor and Council,

The comments below follow from discussions and consensus reached among community associations at the Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN) meeting held on March 10, 2015, and further discussions at the DRA Board meeting held on March 16, 2015.

Objective 9: Active Transportation Network

Various community associations, including the DRA, submitted priorities regarding safe streets and active transportation initiatives. We would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the vital importance of these initiatives. We are encouraged that one of the actions in the Strategic Plan is to "*manage and create a collaborative neighbourhood process*".

These are the relevant priorities as submitted by the DRA:

- Engage in a participatory neighbourhood approach to solving transportation challenges
- Encourage City Staff to support this participatory neighborhood approach
- Commit a substantial capital budget to achieve active transportation objectives as identified by neighborhoods
- Improve cycling infrastructure by completing the cycling network
- Enhance walkability and pedestrian infrastructure

Objective 3: Planning and Land Use

Various community associations expressed concern at the pace of completion of neighbourhood land use plans that is identified in the Strategic Plan. Many of these plans are very old and in urgent need of updating. The Downtown has benefitted from recently updated plans and the DRA supports other community associations in their quest for updated plans. We recommend a higher priority be allocated for local area plans, so that more plans can be updated quickly.

Objective 2: Engage and Empower the Community

We are encouraged to see initiatives identified in the Strategic Plan, including dedicated staff to work with community associations, great neighbourhoods initiative, participatory budgeting, creation of a neighbourhoods unit, and establishing engagement metrics. We also recommend that the funding model for community associations be clarified, the funding process streamlined, and inequities among neighbourhoods be addressed. A process for reporting on how community input is used in the Strategic Plan process should form part of the initiative to establish engagement metrics.

Objective 8: Enhance and Steward Public Spaces, Green Spaces

We note that the plan provides for identification of greenspace opportunities for "have not" park neighbourhoods. We submit that downtown is such a neighbourhood, and this was one of the action priorities identified at the recent Downtown Livability Solutions forum, which was held by the DRA. We would like to see a collaborative process that includes City Staff, representatives of the DRA, and the DVBA, to identify various options for additional park space, that might include small parks, parklets, pop-up parks, and waterfront park space. Regarding waterfront park space, the DRA submitted a detailed plan regarding public realm green space on the eastern approach to the Johnson Street bridge. This submission should be included as one of the 2015 actions in the Strategic Plan.

Thank you very much for the invitation to comment on the Draft Strategic Plan 2015 - 2018, and for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Harrington
Kaela Schramm
Co-Chairs
Downtown Residents Association



CITY OF VICTORIA DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN: 2015-18

Objective 1: Innovate & Lead.

The DVBA applauds your commitment to innovation and leadership. To ensure the very best for the future of Downtown Victoria, we share your commitment to continue to collaborate and develop innovative approaches to our challenges and opportunities within the downtown. We believe that for this strategic plan to be a success, the City will need to create an atmosphere of cooperation so that there is a genuine sense of teamwork and utilization of all resources available within the region.

In moving forward, we ask that strong emphasis be placed on your commitment to involving leaders from the community on advisory committees and the opportunity of the DVBA working with the inter-disciplinary team on investments dealing with the downtown.

Objective 3: Strive for Excellence in Planning & Land Use

2015 Actions

Placemaking. As part of the DVBA's ongoing commitment to create placemaking strategies, we will be commissioning a series of designs to stimulate discussion and investment in private and public spaces in Downtown Victoria. As an example, the following conceptual drawing from Chris Foyd & Cascadia Architects stems from a January 2015 DVBA design charette focused on the future form and function of Douglas Street. We would welcome the City's engagement in these undertakings.



FODO Junction: the future of Fort & Douglas

Chris Foyd

The DVBA wishes to encourage the creation of beautiful streets that people find interesting and want to wander along as well as sit and look at. We are prepared to invest funds to implement concepts developed through the design concepts above, beginning in 2015.

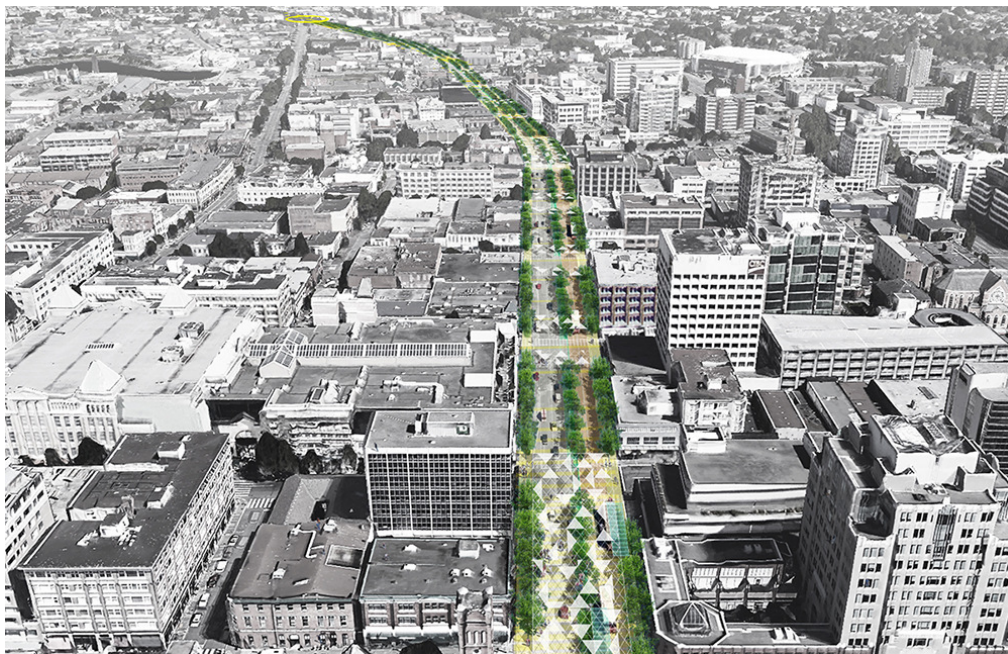
The DVBA will be proceeding this year – hopefully in partnership with the City – to hold a similar roundtable focused on Government Street to develop economic, social, and physical concepts for the revitalization of the street.

2016 Actions

Douglas Street. Even though Douglas Street has been included as part of the Burnside Gorge/Douglas Street Local Area Plan, the DVBA believes that a distinct and complementary plan should be developed in 2015/16 for the two-kilometer, 20-block public right-of-way from Hillside to Belleville inspired in part by a design charrette commissioned by the DVBA, the results of which may be found at this link:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/dwnlz29opn1jien/Charrette%20Report_Draft8_Print.pdf?dl=0

We believe the physical enhancement of the street will be a catalyst for the economic and social revitalization of these twenty blocks of Douglas and should be given high priority.



The future Douglas Street

Cascadia Architects

2018 Outcomes.

Enliven Public Space. The DVBA recommends that plans be developed now to fully revitalize the look and use of Centennial Square and Bastion Square as part of the objective to ‘enlivened public spaces’.

Centennial Square. Centennial Square should become one of the most active and engaging focal points of the downtown. At present, it is an under-utilized and under-designed resource that will experience much greater demands with development of 1515 Douglas and continued

residential development in nearby blocks. We need to #takebackthesquare and the DVBA is more than willing to lead or work with you on a wide public consultation and idea fest as soon as possible. Possibilities include a family-focused recreation amenities, such as a world-class playground with water features in the summer, or a large-scale event venue – available for both public and private functions – or café and patio use of the full north side of the square instead of the current offices, and a long-overdue beautification of that space and the Fisgard Parkade elevation. As a minimum, the Centennial Fountain should be relocated to the Blue Bridge Plaza (east of the Johnson Street Bridge), at Johnson/Wharf/Store to make space for these future options.

Bastion Square. Bastion Square itself needs a total ‘re-think’ and public consultation about its future use, look, and feel. Possible options include a much stronger link across Wharf Street and directly down to the waterfront, restoration and reuse of the former courthouse (Maritime Museum), more emphasis on creating a ‘café culture’ with use of the perimeter of the square by restaurants and cafés, and stronger illumination of buildings which define the square and the square itself and surrounds.

Harbour Plan. We offer full support for continued development of the Harbour Plan, with special emphasis being placed on full redesign and revitalization of the Belleville Terminal, the sensitive development of under-utilized lands between the harbour and Wharf Street, and a substantially enhanced David Foster Way around the Inner Harbour and beyond.

Objective 5: Create Prosperity through Economic Development

2015 Outcomes.

Economic Development Office. The DVBA is committed to work with the Economic Development Office and to co-sponsor a downtown business attraction and retention strategy, including a gap analysis in 2015/16.

2016 Outcomes.

Vacancies. A number of strategies should be employed to reduce downtown retail and office vacancies, a few of which are listed below:

- a. **UVic & Enterprise.** Encourage and support UVic to utilize some of its downtown properties for programs and courses best suited to a downtown environment and supported by business mentorship. DVBA has made a presentation to the UVic Board and Senate to this effect, but it would be valuable to work as a team to further encourage the development of a ‘downtown term’ and creation of incubator space for students to test some of their concepts and acquired skills.
- b. **Innovation.** There may also be a will by the City to acquire and develop strategically-located buildings as business incubators as part of its stated objective to exert more ‘strategic influence’ (as stated in 2015 Outcomes in Objective 4: Build the Financial Capacity of the Organization). Alternatively, the City may even wish to develop a revolving fund for the acquisition and resale of downtown properties, owned by those who clearly have no interest in them, as a means of breathing new life into moribund sections of downtown.

- c. **Incentives & Inducements.** Evaluate and act on the value of creating financial incentives and inducements to revitalize and rejuvenate buildings (e.g. City of London, Ontario). One specific example might be to reinforce and emphasize the value of start-up businesses by providing pro-rated tax abatements (based on the size of space being revitalized) to downtown buildings which are being stabilized and rehabilitated for innovative incubator use or ground floor retail.

Residential Bonus Density Fees. City of Victoria residential bonus density fees should be reversed and instead, City staff should focus on seeking the highest quality of design from developers and thereby enhance the overall image of our downtown and create for us the identity of a city renowned for design quality.

2018 Outcomes.

Tax Levels. The DVBA would like to ensure Council recognizes the importance of 'balanced responsibility' of the residential and business community in sharing the cost of community expenses. Progress was made by the previous Council in bringing down the ratio of residential to commercial property rates, but this should continue. The DVBA would like to ensure that fees in which commercial property owners are expected to pay disproportionately higher rates – such as public transit – are addressed and reduced.

Objective 7: Facilitate Social Inclusion and Community Wellness

2015 Actions.

Supervised Consumption Services. Priority should be placed on restoring order to the streets instead of the current emphasis on establishing supervised consumption services. The DVBA believes in a downtown for everyone, in which residents and visitors respect and adhere to social norms and comply with civic by-laws. At the present time, downtown streets do not reflect this ideal.

Shared responsibilities. To more effectively address downtown street issues, a 'creativity task force', comprised of all affected stakeholders, should be convened to develop innovative approaches to providing low-barrier, motivational employment opportunities, safe storage facilities, and other initiatives which contribute to a downtown for everyone. In the meantime, the City of Victoria should allocate more resources to hire distinctively uniformed by-law officers to deal with by-law infractions related to the public's apprehension to come downtown.

Dispersal of Service Providers. To disperse some of the street issues which the downtown contends with, an assessment should be conducted which evaluates the merit of relocating some community services within the larger Greater Victoria community.

Objective 9: Complete a Multi-Modal & Active Transportation Network

2016 Outcomes.

Complete Street. The DVBA trusts that the societal shift to greater sustainability will lead to an accelerated demand for more multi-modal streets and to this end, recommends that Douglas Street be designated as the City's first 'complete street'. As referred to earlier, under Objective 3, the DVBA has supported a design developed by Cascadia Architects which offers the first glimpse of Douglas as a 'complete street'. The DVBA offers to partner with the City to develop specific plans and to begin their implementation.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/dwnlz29opn1jien/Charrette%20Report_Draft8_Print.pdf?dl=0

Government Street. The DVBA supports the extension of the Government Street Mall, with widened sidewalks and vehicular/cycling provisions, north from Yates Street to Chinatown and ultimately to Rock Bay. We encourage immediate removal of the hornbeam trees and accompanying planters and replacement with a more slender tree type and caliper better suited to the street. This change will make the existing sidewalk appear much wider and appealing as a pedestrian promenade.

Objective 10: Nurture Our Arts, Culture and Learning Capital

2017 Outcomes.

Arts Centre. The DVBA is very supportive of creating a non-profit arts centre focused on the Legacy Gallery and including UVic-owned properties north on Broad Street to create an exciting and affordable focal point for visual, literary, and performing arts in the heart of our downtown. This arts centre could be modeled on the non-profit Artspace, a 35,000 square foot facility created in Winnipeg's downtown in the 1980s. The DVBA would like to work with UVic and the City of Victoria to explore the creation of such an Arts Centre as part of an Arts & Culture Master Plan.

Objective 12: Plan for Emergencies

2018 Outcomes.

Seismic Upgrading. The DVBA considers the survival of heritage buildings an important objective, but an even higher priority is saving the lives of downtown employees and residents in the event of an earthquake. To this end, we believe an incentive program should be created to stimulate investment in seismic upgrading in all downtown properties not already upgraded or recently constructed. An evaluation process must be developed to establish priorities of which types of buildings are assisted first.

Crisis Communications for Emergencies. The DVBA believes the City should work with VEMA and other stakeholders (eg. DVBA, Tourism Victoria, etc.) to create a crisis communications protocol for the city and a comprehensive contact list of downtown property and business owners, in order to forge a business continuity plan, develop a call to

action for all residents and visitors, better communicate the realities of the emergency, and to communicate how day-to-day life and business is continuing within the city.

Overall Minor Editorial Comments:

Objective 10: Nurture Our Arts, Culture and Learning Capital

2018 Outcomes: one entry should more correctly be placed under 2015 Outcomes and read as follows: Successful WCMA/BreakOut West/Rifflandia event boosts Victoria's chances to host future JUNO Awards.

Objective 13: Demonstrate Regional Leadership

2018 Outcome: what is the recommendation which is to be put in front of the public?

I am a visitor in Lkwungen Territory.

Proposal for a Provisional City Fund
for a Micro-housing Community for the Homeless, Pilot Project for the
City of Victoria

Presented by: The Committee to End Homelessness, Victoria.

Background:

The **Committee to End Homelessness** recognizes that **diverse approaches are needed** to provide housing to the diverse community of people who, for many different reasons and life circumstances, find themselves homeless in the City of Victoria. The growing gap between the rising cost of housing and people's access to financial resources is a problem for a growing percentage of the Victoria population, with Victoria being amongst the most expensive cities in which to live. Our most vulnerable citizens, those struggling with addictions and mental health issues, those living with physical and mental challenges, young people unable to access employment, seniors, urban First Nations and single parent families are amongst the most heavily affected by poverty and the lack of affordable housing.

As municipalities continue to experience the crunch from decades of funding cuts from provincial and federal governments who have been slowly dismantling the welfare state in favor of policies that provide 'corporate welfare', rather than helping the poor and the growing ranks of the marginalized, municipalities must make wiser choices of how to utilize dwindling public resources. It is clearly cheaper and more ethically appropriate for society to house the homeless than police them on the streets. It is estimated that 75% of the Victoria annual \$35 million police budget is spent in managing the segment of Victoria's homeless population that is suffering from mental health and addiction issues. Homelessness only exacerbates these problems and it is time for our City Council to invest in adequate housing and harm reductions supports and services that will allow people to recover and rebuild their lives. Policing alone cannot achieve these goals and it a waste of public resources to

continue funding growing police budgets at the expense of affordable housing and harm reduction.

Micro-housing Villages for the Homeless:

The Committee to End Homelessness is interested in exploring the viability of micro-housing village communities for the homeless, a low-cost, grassroots community solution to building semi-self-managed affordable housing that is emerging in the U.S where lack of welfare state supports for the poor, has led to more effective grassroots community organizing, resourcefulness and creativity in housing the homeless.

Micro-housing villages for the homeless are an interesting hybrid of the tent city movement of democratically-operated encampments of homeless people that go back to the Depression era AND a new trend in sustainable housing design favoring tiny houses, that allow people to live more materially simple lives, with less "stuff" and with less of an ecological footprint on the planet.

Micro-housing is a low-cost solution to homelessness with the average unit for a single person at about 1/13th the building costs of a conventional low-income apartment unit. These tiny dwellings often assembled from modular prefab panels can be built with a team of volunteers, housed and unhoused, working together, in 4 hours, per unit. A hundred square foot space, has enough room to fit a loft bed, desk, closet, counter space, shelving, storage, small couch and could have lots of windows, a small porch, for \$3500 before heating an electrical and lend themselves nicely to solar power installation. Low impact, affordable housing design is provided within a supportive village environment, managed by its residents with the helpful oversight of the partner non-profit organization, to provide both transitional and permanent housing.

To ensure the safety of its residents and a healthy, supportive village environment, residents commit themselves to a non-violence code of conduct and strong community agreements against the use of drugs and alcohol, theft and actions that harm themselves or one another. Residents carry out weekly volunteer duties to maintain a clean and healthy environment. There is a communal kitchen, shared bathroom facilities,

meeting and recreational spaces and self-help programs including nutritional counseling, skills training and income-generating initiatives that empower residents to rebuild their lives.

There are now ten communities across the Pacific Northwest that have some form of successfully operating micro-housing communities for the homeless. One shining example is OpportUNITY Village in Eugene Oregon, where thirty tiny, tastefully-designed approximately 100 sq. ft. houses were built on city-leased property, in the tradition of a village barn-raiser, with the housed and the unhoused members of the community, working together.

Members of the Committee to End Homelessness Victoria are inspired by the wisdom, creativity and pragmatism of the tiny home village model. . We envision **a local pilot project: Solidarity Village**, to be built with the support of both public and private funding, providing transitional -semi-permanent supported housing for homeless residents in Victoria, B.C. If there is sufficient support from our local City council, it is possible that a non-profit society dedicated to developing micro-housing villages for the homeless could start-up in Victoria, mentored at first by an existing housing provider and then generating capacity to manage these projects with the co-operation of its members, housed and unhoused working together, to provide supportive housing solutions to those who are ready and who would choose this option for themselves. It cannot be overstated the extent to which a safe, warm, dry home of one's own, in a caring, supportive community---to someone who has had neither-- can be a big leg-up in a person's life.

We are excited that our local community with the lively interest of our Mayor and many council members, is entering a conversation about tiny house villages as one in a diverse number approaches to addressing homelessness in our community.

AS you know, on May 11th and 12th, the Committee to End Homelessness and the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group will be hosting two speakers, Andrew Lakeman, a world-renowned community design

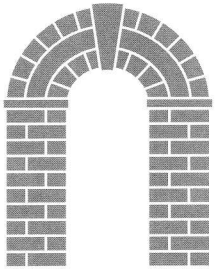
architect and organizer in the Portland Tent city-come- micro-housing community, Dignity Village and Andrew Heben, founder of OpportUnity Village, two pioneers of this progressive and exciting movement.

From this conversation with them, we are hoping to move in the direction of the development of Canada's first micro-housing village for the homeless.

Members of the Committee to End Homelessness Victoria take the position that micro-housing may be an extremely wise investment of the City of Victoria into perhaps **the most** cost-effective social housing investment around. Therefore, we are requesting that the City of Victoria set aside a provisional start-up fund of **\$500, 000 for a micro-housing village pilot project** on a piece of designated city property, in the City of Victoria. We consider this a worthy investment, from the City's 4.5 million surplus, into the lives of some of the most marginalized members of our community.

Thank you

Bobby Arbess
Committee to End Homelessness Victoria



North Jubilee
Neighbourhood
Association

c/o: **Section 22**

Victoria, B.C.

March 16, 2015

Mayor Helps and City Councillors

#1 Centennial Square

Victoria, B.C., V8W1P6

Re: Draft Strategic Plan Framework for 2015-2018...Begbie Green

Dear Mayor Helps and Victoria City Councillors:

As greenspace is limited in our "have-not" North Jubilee neighbourhood, it was exciting to read that included in the draft strategic plan framework for 2015-2018 are the following actions and estimated resources: invest in Begbie Green (Council); develop, design and make investment to improve Begbie Green (Staff) and estimated capital cost for Begbie Green improvements: \$100-150K, depending on scope. The North Jubilee Neighbourhood Association, on behalf of the community, has contacted the City re Begbie Green through the years in connection with utility easements, maintenance and resident's concerns.

The Association respectfully requests that the draft plan for Begbie Green is considered a strategic priority and that it be adopted. Hopefully, we will be working together on this project in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Jean Johnson, Director

Dear City of Victoria Councillors:

The establishment of supervised consumption services (SCS) in Victoria is important to me.

I support SCS in Victoria because the implementation of this service would signify a proactive and science based approach to working with and for people who use drugs in our communities. Safe consumption site services prove that our city is committed to health care and human rights for all individuals, particularly our most vulnerable citizens. An extensive body of evidence has shown time and again that safe consumption services reduce not only the harms associated with drug use, but also create extensive benefits to the community at large. Victoria has an abysmal record when it comes to protecting vulnerable persons from the harms associated with drug use and homelessness, with nearly 300 people living in poverty dying over the last 8 years. I find the current state of the issue and the city's slow response embarrassing on a provincial and national level. Victoria has an opportunity to set an example of how to provide appropriate and adequate health care to all of its citizens and yet has avoided this opportunity for many years.

I am both a front line worker in harm reduction services and for people living with HIV. I am also an owner of a small business that is located near the current needle exchange at 713 Johnson Street. I have seen first-hand how short sighted and incomplete it is to provide needle exchange without an accompanying safe consumption site. It is not simply enough to provide clean harm reduction supplies, there must also be the creation of a safe space in which people can consume drugs. This would benefit not only the drug users themselves but also protect the wider community from harms and the waste associated with people using drugs out in the open on the streets.

For over a decade, people who use drugs, researchers, politicians, health care workers and other community leaders have been calling for SCS in our city (see: <http://www.yes2scs.ca/background/10-years-of-recommendations-for-scs/>). **Our community is ready and we must take action.**

The City of Victoria has an opportunity to re-prioritize these essential health services and show leadership by **facilitating a collaboration between City Hall, the Island Health Authority, the Victoria Police Department, and YES2SCS** to develop SCS within our existing continuum of health care services.

YES2SCS is a community-based coalition that includes participation of members of SOLID and other people who use drugs, and their voices are critical in relation to social inclusion and effectiveness of health service provision. **A Councillor-facilitated process** would strengthen

community collaboration on these issues and **provide access to City resources such as information and advice on land use, zoning, maintenance, etc.**

I urge you to make the establishment of SCS a priority by **including the above process in the City of Victoria 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.**

Sincerely,

Sarah Wilson, CCHt, BSW

Co-Founder & Creative Director, Amethyst Dance & Fitness
112-733 Johnson Street, Victoria BC

Programs Coordinator
Society of Living Illicit Drug Users
857 Caledonia Avenue, Victoria BC

Programs Coordinator
Vancouver Islands Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Society
110 – 1139 Yates Street, Victoria BC

Residential Support Worker
Housing Department, Our Place Society
919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria BC

Streetlife Committee members
Fairfield Gonzales Community Association

February 16, 2015

Re: City of Victoria Support for Local Food Systems

Dear Mayor and Council,

We support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
- Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods;
- Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens;
- Developing long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening (including an inventory of City-owned land for food production);
- Introducing new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land, and
- Enhancing local food systems in general.

We note that these initiatives are consistent with the food-related provisions of the Official Community Plan, found primarily in Section 17. For example, the OCP supports: innovative food production (17.9); urban food supplies (17.A); food education (17.B); connecting people to food (17.5); local food security and sustainability (17.9, 17.A); planted boulevards (8.22.4); native plants (8.58); memorable places (8.a); and adaptive management (22.1). We believe that more progress can be made pursuing these objectives by increasing financial resources for food systems in the 2015 Financial Plan.

We also ask that you make a commitment, and allocate budgetary resources beginning in 2015, to the following initiatives (either as new initiatives within the Strategic Plan, or as detailed measures meant to help implement existing initiatives within the Strategic Plan):

(1) Shift focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and green spaces from ornamental to edible plants. For example, allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to food-bearing plants and trees, including natives, perennials, and fruit/nut trees (all across Victoria, and especially to enhance/maintain our urban forest);

(2) Provide City assistance with coordination of food-growing resources, including:

- materials pooling / depot (leaves, mulch, soil, cardboard, wood, irrigation materials);
- increase grant funding for existing and emerging food systems initiatives;

- support neighbourhood-level and city-wide food coordination;
- reduce water charges for irrigation of food plants;

(3) Expand availability of City land for food growing, with a mechanism for 5-year security of tenure for growers;

(4) Implement a mechanism for increasing social justice in the distribution of local food supplies (e.g. additional City support tied to “food sharing”);

(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

If you have questions, or wish to discuss any aspect of this letter, please do contact me:

[Section 22](#) land line [Section 22](#) or on my mobile at [Section 22](#)

Sincerely,

James Pratt MA, MCIP, RPP

& other Streetlife Committee members, Fairfield Gonzales Community Association

Cc: Board Chair and Streetlife Committee members, Fairfield Gonzales Community Association

Law@Large

Box 8735, Station Central, Victoria, BC V8W 3S3

March 15, 2015

RE: City of Victoria: Support Local Food Systems

Dear Mayor and Council,

We support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
- Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods;
- Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens;
- Developing long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening (including an inventory of City-owned land for food production);
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- Enhancing local food systems in general.

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- support neighbourhood-level and city-wide food coordination;
- reduce water charges for irrigation of food plants;

(3) Expand availability of City land for food growing, with a mechanism for 5-year security of tenure for growers;

(4) Implement a mechanism for increasing social justice in the distribution of local food supplies (e.g. additional City support tied to “food sharing”);

(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "E. J. ...", written in a cursive style.

GVCC Letter to council re: 2015 Draft Budget and Strategic Plan

Dear Mayor and Council:

Over the last year, the City of Victoria and Council have demonstrated growing support for improving biking in the city. The Cycling Master Plan Update and the planned protected bike lane on Pandora Ave are first steps on the path to building a high quality, all ages and abilities cycling network.

The individual and societal benefits of more people cycling are well documented: improved health outcomes, reduced congestion and GHG emissions, more business for the local economy, etc. Everyone benefits from more people cycling. Cycling offers a healthy, cost-effective and equitable way to improve the sustainability of urban transportation, and it creates more livable cities.

The Strategic Plan, Objective 9, lists a variety of outcomes related to cycling, including completing six priority projects (identified last year) by 2018, and the more ambitious goal of completing 4-8 high quality cycling facilities by 2016. However, the draft Financial Plan active transportation budget only accounts for the six priority projects approved by Council last year, totaling \$5 million over 5 years, or \$1 million per year.

There is much talk of being 'bold' and 'building it now.' We agree, and think that now is the time to seize the opportunity to dramatically improve active transportation in the City of Victoria, and to invest in a safe, high quality cycling network designed for all ages and abilities.

Recommendations:

- 1) Council commits to the design and construction of an all ages and abilities cycling network by 2018;
- 2) Council triples the current level of funding for cycling infrastructure, from \$1 million per year to \$3 million, and invests a substantial portion of this year's \$4.5 million into cycling;
- 3) Council works to increase staff capacity, through additional hirings, training, and consulting services, to ensure staff have the resources and expertise to design and build a world-class cycling network accessible to all.

Now is the time to dramatically improve active transportation. Victoria can go much further still in getting more people on bikes. The City's compact size, short travel distances, and agreeable climate give it the potential to become one of the top biking cities in the world, but only with a network of high quality all-ages and abilities routes covering the city.

Thank you,

Edward Pullman
President
Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition



Musicians' Association of Victoria & the Islands - Local 247, CFM

Serving Professional Musicians of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands since 1902
201-732 Princess Ave. Victoria, BC V8T 1K6 Phone: 250-385-3954 Fax: 250-480-1518
info@cfm247.ca www.cfm247.ca

March 28, 2015

Councillor Ben Isitt
c/o 1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Follow-up to Musicians' Association's Presentation at the March 23 Town Hall Meeting

Hi Ben,

Thanks for your part in facilitating the City's invitation to Victoria's residents to provide input on the City's 2015 Budget and 2015-18 Strategic Plan. I'm responding as Secretary-Treasurer of the Musicians' Association of Victoria & the Islands, Local 247 of the Canadian Federation of Musicians. I appreciate being on your email list. Thanks.

Our Vice President, Gary Preston, who is also a popular and busy Victoria-based musician, gave a presentation at the City's Town Hall Meeting on March 23. We will complete the survey, too. Would you please add the following written version of Gary's presentation to the public record for Council's consideration?

Please feel free to contact me anytime, if you would like more information about our partnership with the City in producing the City's Summer Concert Series both in Centennial Square and Beacon Hill Park or for any other matter concerning Victoria's musicians – unionized or not.



I like that I occasionally bump into you and/or Melissa at some of the local demos (and theatre shows). It'd be nice to sit down and have a chat, some day. In the meantime,

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Reed', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Reed

Secretary-Treasurer

mark@cfm247.ca

copies

Fergus Heywood, President CFM Local 247

Gary Preston, Vice-President CFM Local 247



Musicians' Association of Victoria & the Islands - Local 247, CFM

Serving Professional Musicians of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands since 1902
201-732 Princess Ave. Victoria, BC V8T 1K6 Phone: 250-385-3954 Fax: 250-480-1518
info@cfm247.ca www.cfm247.ca

Follow-up to Musicians' Association's Presentation at the March 23 Town Hall Meeting

The following information is presented to you by Local 247 of The Canadian Musicians Association (CFM). We are based here in Victoria, and represent professional musicians on Vancouver Island and the other islands in the area. The Federal Status of the Artist Act recognizes the CFM as THE group representing *all* professional musicians in Canada.

In response to your call for information related to your budgetary planning, this information is offered in support of your stated goals to promote the well-being of the people of Victoria, to make the City livable and vibrant, and to nurture the arts and culture in the City.

LIVE MUSIC IS A GOOD THING FOR THE CITY

You have recognized that music is an essential part of people's lives - of course we always find it in movies, elevators, restaurants; but we also know that a thriving arts community is important in a city for which tourism is an important part of its national and international presence.

CFM 247 IS A GOOD SOURCE FOR LIVE MUSIC

Over the past many years, our association has had a very successful partnership with the City of Victoria in the presenting of musical concerts; mainly in Beacon Hill Park and Centennial Square.

Our main message is this: there is a good program already in place with this partnership. A program that is good for tourism and for the general vibrancy of a community like ours. Well done Victoria!

We strongly recommend that this partnership continue as a core part of the City of Victoria's plans for



quality of life in Victoria. In the past years of co-presenting music programs to the people of Victoria, Local 247 has done the booking and payment administration; the City pays one lump sum (two cheques: pay and pension contribution) and a City representative specifies the available concert dates and advises us of any preferred music styles, groups, or acts within the Concert programs.

What does our Association bring to the table?

Essentially we bring:

1. Quality & professionalism from the players we represent;

- quality of product - our players are professional, experienced, and guided by a code of ethics and behaviour
- variety of product - our players represent a broad range of musical styles - folk, jazz, rock, children's music, world, classical, blues, Latin - you name it.

2. Sharing the benefits of our infrastructure

- we have experience in finding the right players for the right event
- we have a data base with information about the players and the varieties of music we represent
- experience and facilities to find the players, contract them for the job, and arrange for payment
- follow up - we review the concert series afterwards, both in-house and with the City, and look for ways to improve the process

3. Effective use of the money spent

- our administering of musical events is done at no charge to the City
- virtually all of the money goes to the musicians, including a contribution to their pension plan; our Local office collects only a very small amount of work dues from the musicians in order to support our administration work.



That's essentially it:

- 1. Live Music is a Good Thing** - the City of Victoria - both its own citizens AND Visitors - benefit from a thriving presence of the ARTS.
- 2. The Canadian Federation of Musicians , with it's Victoria based office "Local 247" is a reliable source of the best in music**, providing quality, variety, and the infrastructure to partner with you in programs that provide music

Let the Soundtrack to the City of Victoria be the quality professional sounds of the Canadian Federation of Musicians.

Some Statistics

The City's budget for concerts by Local 247 musicians in Centennial Square and Beacon Hill Park

\$36,025.81 in 2014

\$45,575.00 in 2013

The number of concerts

Year	Beacon Hill Park	Centennial Square
2015	24	5
2014	36	21
2013	32	47
2012	35	41
2011	30	43
2010	34	43
2009	32	?

Respectfully submitted by

Musicians' Association of Victoria & the Islands, CFM Local 247

March 28, 2015



GREATER VICTORIA PLACEMAKING NETWORK

City of Victoria Placemaking & Public Engagement Proposal

Placemaking is the process through which we work together to shape our public spaces. Rooted in community-based participation, Placemaking involves the planning, design, management and programming of shared use streets and spaces. More than just designing spaces, Placemaking brings together diverse people (including professionals, elected officials, residents, and businesses) to improve a community's cultural, economic, social and ecological situation.

It is a creative but intentional process. Placemaking builds on our growing environmental awareness by helping communities adapt and thrive within our constructed and our natural world.

Public and business interest in placemaking as a method of creating healthy, safe and vibrant communities is growing rapidly in Greater Victoria. The Greater Victoria Placemaking Network was formed in September 2014 in response to two years of growing interest in a series of urban walks and public gatherings. Since then, participation has expanded quickly, with well over 150 people involved in recent events, including 50 at our March 2015 meeting. There is a public appetite for co-designed urban streets and spaces.

At the same time, planners and elected officials are seeking new ways to actively engage the public, to move forward on active transportation, and to create streetscapes that 'people never want to leave.'

Proposal

Greater Victoria Placemaking Network proposes to work collaboratively with the City of Victoria and other groups to create urban change in a nimble, economical, effective manner. With support from the City of Victoria, the Placemaking Network can contribute significant energy and 'community wisdom' to help our city thrive. Our ability to bring the 'wisdom of the crowd' and significant volunteer energy to projects is an opportunity for the City to maximize its active transportation, public engagement and public space initiatives.

Projects

In consultation with City staff and a number of other community organizations, and in response to City Council's draft Strategic Plan, we have identified a series of projects where placemaking can help lead to meaningful innovation:

Complete Streets Pilots

- Pandora Bike Lanes: assist City of Victoria and key stakeholder groups in designing, conducting and evaluating bike lane pilots with a broad perspective on Pandora street experience for all users
- Cook St. (Park Blvd to Dallas Road): design, conduct and evaluate a pilot of Complete Street design to demonstrate the process and street configuration options to the public, including broad community engagement
- North Park repaving: collaborate with City of Victoria and stakeholders in using a placemaking lens in viewing possible street configurations, while also continuing to refine the pilot project process itself
- Burnside Gorge neighbourhood plan: support City of Victoria planning department with on-street pilot(s)
- Street Pilot 'Kit': in collaboration with stakeholders, design a 'kit' for street innovation that addresses processes and materials to facilitate rapid innovation; propose a 'kit' for implementation in 2016 and beyond

Deliverables: pilot project events, a report with recommendations & a proposed Street Pilot Kit

Active Streets and Places Weekend (September or October, 2015)

- in partnership with City of Victoria, advocacy groups, professional associations, other municipalities, developers - plan a weekend of training workshops and on-street events that increase community capacity for innovative street and public space use
- program likely to include guest speakers, urbanism films, training workshops and an outdoor street event (ideally on a street that is currently a re-design project)
 - o in discussions to involve Gil Penalosa / 8-80 Cities; Project for Public Spaces & other experienced urban innovators

Deliverable: host a major Active Streets & Places Weekend in Victoria

Open Streets

- build community interaction and awareness of businesses through a series of Open Streets pilots (car-free or with managed vehicle access)
- Government Street: partner with Walk On Victoria, others, to conduct a workshop, test one or more street configurations in 2015, and propose options for 2016
- Douglas Street: support DVBA street festival, June 21, and co-design future street enhancements and/or programs
- Harbour Road: support Vic West Community in a street event
- develop a plan and proposal for a series of 2016 Open Streets events for City of Victoria

Deliverable: recommendations report on Open Streets policy and program for Victoria

Rockland Greenway

- collaborate with City of Victoria Parks in design and public engagement for the functional conversion of Rockland Ave at Pioneer Square from a “closed road” to a vibrant, attractive multi-use public space

Other

- in addition to the above-noted collaborative* projects, the Placemaking Network will be conducting a number of ‘active streets’ activities in 2015, including Jane’s Walk urban walks (May 1-3) and ‘Chair-Bombing’ social gatherings in public space beginning April 7
- the Network operates a blog site, Facebook page, and Meetup group to encourage community conversations about urban space

The overall intent of our network is to build community capacity for creating healthy urban communities in Greater Victoria.

Budget Request

The Greater Victoria Placemaking Network is seeking seed funds to enhance and extend the City of Victoria placemaking and active streets programs. Our request is for a \$40,000 grant that will advance the pace and quality of City active transportation and placemaking initiatives over the next year.

We also look forward to the City contributing support-in-kind through staff time and access to existing City resources as we work collaboratively to promote a healthy and vibrant city.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorne Daniel for
Greater Victoria Placemaking Network
March 2015

*Collaborations

We have held discussions with and look forward to ongoing collaboration with Walk On Victoria, Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition, Fairfield Gonzales Community Association, Fabulous Fort business group, Downtown Victoria Business Association, U Vic Urban Development Club, Dockside Green, Resilient Neighbourhoods, Greater Victoria Public Library, Urban Systems Inc, Project for Public Spaces, Friends of Government Street, and others.



1609 Blanshard Street, Unit 2
Victoria, BC, V8W 2J5
www.proartalliance.ca
info@proartalliance.ca
tel: 250-858-3079

City Council
City of Victoria
c/o 1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6
Telephone: 250.361.0200

March 5, 2015

Dear Mayor Lisa Helps and Councilors:

I am writing on behalf of the ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria – a cross-disciplinary organization of 20 non-profit professional arts organizations in Victoria.

ProArt has had an opportunity to review the Draft City of Victoria Strategic Plan Framework 2015 – 2018 and we are pleased to see the arts in a more central role in City plans. In particular we are encouraged by the proposed Arts and Culture Master Plan. It has sent a clear message to the professional arts community that the City values the work that is done to make Victoria a more livable and caring city.

As an alliance that includes every artistic discipline ProArt would like to offer the City assistance with the development of the Master Plan. Our roots into the artistic life of Victoria are deep and sustained, we place equal value on each type of practice and our profile as a fair and measured organization can help to add weight to the Planning Process.

We greatly appreciate the arts being on the City of Victoria's agenda for the next four years and commend the City on acknowledging the importance of culture within the Municipality. We are available to help in any way possible to make the planning process and the Master Plan a success.

On behalf of the ProArt membership, sincerely yours,

Doug Jarvis
Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Jarvis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "D" and "J".

cc: Jason Johnson, City Manager.



James Bay Neighbourhood Association

234 Menzies St
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 2G7

www.jbna.org

March 27th, 2015

Mayor and Council
City of Victoria

Dear Mayor Helps and Members of Council:

The James Bay Neighbourhood Association (JBNA) commends you for seeking **public input on your draft Strategic Plan**. As you know, JBNA provides a broad-based community voice on a number of municipal issues, including those related to the Victoria Harbour, Beacon Hill Park and activities in our closest neighbourhood – downtown. JBNA determines policies and priorities through extensive community consultation.

JBNA has determined many ways in which the City's draft Strategic Plan, its objectives, outcomes and actions and the proposed 2015/2016 budget align with JBNA's purposes and priorities. We have also determined key areas of interest to James Bay residents that are not reflected in the Strategic Plan or the budget. Please see the attached appendix.

JBNA appreciates the Strategic Plan's focus on public engagement, community input and transparent decision-making, particularly in land development and use, as well as the focus on stewardship of public spaces and green spaces. JBNA welcomes the City's general commitment to strengthening neighbourhoods and the specific commitment to enhancing support for neighbourhood associations.

Although many JBNA priorities are reflected in the draft Strategic Plan and draft 2015/2016 budget, there are three areas we would like to see strengthened:

1. Add Strategic Plan outcomes and 2015/2016 actions in Objective 9: Create a Multi-model and Active Transportation Network to: a) mitigate the negative impact of tour buses on residential communities and b) reduce heliport and float-plane noise and emissions.
2. In the Strategic Plan's Objective 5: Create Prosperity Through Economic Development, add specific references, outcomes and 2015/2016 actions specifying the City's rights, roles and responsibilities related to the Victoria Harbour and the need to foster responsible tourism, particularly in the cruise ship sector, that takes into account the needs of residents and individual property-owners on a basis equal to that of the business sector.

...2

JBNA ~ honouring our history, building our future

- 2 -

3. Add a specific statement in the Strategic Plan's Objective 10: Nurturing Our Arts, Culture and Learning Capital supporting a James Bay branch of the Greater Victoria Public Library and add line items in the operational and capital budgets, beginning with 2015/2016, supporting initial planning for and completion of such branch library by the conclusion of Capital Park, Phase 1.

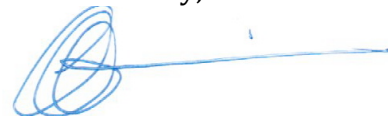
JBNA also highlights four areas in – or missing from - the draft Strategic Plan and budget that have the potential to undermine James Bay community-wide interests:

1. the push to streamline development processes and/or delegate more decision-making power to the staff level;
2. the voices of individual or single issue or special interest groups, regardless of neighbourhood or vested interest, will out-weigh the input of open, participatory, neighbourhood associations.
3. public parks and public spaces may be used for activities such as allotment gardens in a manner that may run counter to JBNA's Parks Policy.
4. there is no objective aimed specifically at making Victoria a cleaner, quieter, safer, healthier city.

JBNA would also like the City to assign staff resources in the 2015/2016 budget to align the various (sometimes conflicting) existing and proposed plans (e.g. neighbourhood plans, Official Community Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, Cycling Master Plan, Greenways Plan, Parks Master Plan and the proposed Arts and Culture Master Plan).

JBNA looks forward to working with City staff and elected representatives during the coming four years to realize our mission: *"Enabling the community to be actively involved in the preservation, rehabilitation and planned development of James Bay, so as to preserve and enhance the quality of the environment and life therein."*

Sincerely,



President, JBNA

Cc: JBNA Board

JBNA ~ honouring our history, building our future

Appendix to Submission to City re Strategic Plan: Examples of Alignment, Areas to Address, and Matters Requiring JNBA Input

City's Strategic Plan
(those in **bold** may be of concern)

JNBA's Purposes (**bold**) and Priorities (in *italics*)

Objective 1: Innovate and Lead 2015 Action: Collaborative, holistic planning coupled with public input	JNBA Purposes: To enable the community to be actively involved in the preservation, rehabilitation and planned development of James Bay so as to preserve and enhance the quality of the environment and life therein.
Objective 2: Engage and Empower the Community 2016 Outcomes: Build capacity of neighbourhood/ community associations. Empower neighbourhood residents, place makers and others to lead and implement projects. 2015 Actions: Identify dedicated staff to work with community/ neighbourhood associations to inform, collaborate, and educate community association/ neighbourhood boards and staff on City processes, expectations and opportunities. Make open government actions routine – require automatic posting of reports, etc. (Create and implement a plan and timeline for open government enhancements.) Create “great neighbourhoods initiative” based on Edmonton’s model; amend to fit our local circumstances. Work with community to design participatory budgeting opportunities. Be engaged in a meaningful two-way conversation with the public. Neighbourhoods unit to be created in spring 2015. Neighbourhood engagement to be initiated soon after. Establish engagement metrics to measure increased engagement. Design of participatory budgeting will begin in 2015; implementation 2016.	JNBA Purposes: To insure that all development proposals reflect the James Bay Community Plan and accurately reflect the values, issues and concerns of James Bay residents. To seek representation on committees of Council which relate to the purposes, goals and objectives of the Society. To provide an open forum for discussion with a view to promoting input into the decision making processes that concern James Bay. To support community groups and individuals in their efforts to meet these objectives. To actively liaise with other neighbourhoods to insure all residents of Victoria have informative public forums to discuss issues that affect their quality of environment and life. <i>JNBA Priorities: Communications</i> <i>1. Develop an effective communications strategy, with the objectives of building bridges to other community organizations and agencies, and strengthening JNBA in the process.</i> <i>2. Work to improve JNBA's effectiveness in getting the City to listen to, and work actively on, community issues raised by JB residents.</i> <i>3. Maintain the JNBA web-site as a link to our community and beyond.</i>

<p>Objective 3: Excellence in Land Use and Planning</p> <p>2016 Outcomes:</p> <p>Reduced processing time for all types of applications from building permit to rezoning.</p> <p>South Block is through Phase 1.</p> <p>2015 Actions</p> <p>Local Area Planning focused on urban villages and transportation corridors.</p> <p>Work through planning process to deliver acceptable form & density for proponent & community.</p> <p>Make a decision with regard to whether we are going to delegate more decision-making authority to staff.</p> <p>Empower the City Manager to make/lead the changes required to streamline our processes at City Hall.</p> <p>Increase emphasis on placemaking in our planning. Inc. active transportation impacts and opportunities listed in all planning and land use reports.</p> <p>2016 Actions:</p> <p>Work through planning process to deliver acceptable form and density for South Block proponent and community.</p>	<p>Purposes: Land Use and Development</p> <p>To insure that all development proposals reflect the James Bay Community Plan and accurately reflect the values, issues and concerns of James Bay residents.</p> <p>To hear, research and assess through consistent procedures all proposals for land use development in James Bay.</p> <p>To advise the City government on proposals for land use development in James Bay.</p> <p><i>Priorities: City of Victoria Development Projects</i></p> <p><i>1. Work with the City to ensure that the CALUC process is effective, that the community has opportunity to participate, and that special attention is paid to those projects which overlap with the downtown core area and the harbour.</i></p> <p><i>2. Work to ensure that the Ogden Point Master Plan provides for development that is compatible with, and not antagonistic to, the residential neighbourhood of James Bay.</i></p>
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<p>Objective 5: Create Prosperity Through Economic Development</p> <p>2015 Outcome:</p> <p>Economic Development Office is set up.</p> <p>2016 Outcomes</p> <p>Downtown is the hub of both large and small business.</p> <p>Reduced retail and commercial vacancies downtown.</p> <p>Improved health, consumer purchasing power, and social solidarity with implementation of Municipal Incomes Strategy.</p> <p>Victoria's two largest private sector industries – tech and tourism – have grown.</p> <p>2017 Outcome:</p> <p>Downtown is vibrant and is a draw for residents and visitors alike.</p>	<p><i>JBNA Priorities: GVHA</i></p> <p><i>2. Monitor GVHA's implementation of agreed-upon goals to increase the proportion of cruise- ship passengers that make their way downtown from Ogden Point by walking, cycling, or taking a watercraft shuttle.</i></p> <p><i>3. Persuade GVHA to establish near-term goals to reduce systematically, until phase out, the number of large highway buses that are licensed to transfer cruise-ship passengers, replacing these buses with lighter, quieter, and more community friendly vehicles.</i></p> <p><i>7. Work to ensure that the Ogden Point Master Plan provides for development that is compatible with, and not antagonistic to, the residential neighbourhood of James Bay.</i></p>
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<p>Objective 8: Enhance & Steward Public Spaces, Green Spaces & Food Systems</p> <p>2016 Outcome:</p> <p>Complete 3 high profile projects, identified through consultation in Parks Master Plan and food security discussions.</p> <p>2017 Outcomes:</p> <p>Boulevard gardens exist in all neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Increased waterfront park space at Ship Point resulting in community wellness and economic vitality.</p> <p>David Foster Harbour Pathway celebrated for its wayfinding that links all harbourfront developments.</p> <p>2018 Outcome:</p> <p>Greenspace, parks & food systems enhanced, well-maintained, fully utilized.</p> <p>2015 Actions:</p> <p>Initiate Parks Master Planning process, including:</p> <p>City greenspace and opportunities for “have not” park neighbourhoods; commitment to a high-quality park and festival site at Ship Point; include public dialogue on waterfront park at Ship Point</p> <p>2016 Actions:</p> <p>Introduce new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land.</p> <p>Build upon input from Parks Master Plan process and hold a placemaking activity at Ship Point to advance a site plan in the Harbour Principles. Consult public on specific design, and allocate money in 2018 capital budget to complete.</p> <p>2017 Action:</p> <p>Complete two of the “special sites” at Heron Cove and Ship Point, along the David Foster Harbour Pathway corridor.</p>	<p>JBNA Purposes</p> <p>To promote community awareness of and involvement in environmental issues and their impact on the community, and facilitate community input to the continuous review and upgrading of the James Bay Plan.</p> <p>To be sensitive to community concerns, to educate and assist individuals and community groups with respect to environmental and ecological developments.</p> <p><i>JBNA Priorities: Lands and Parks</i></p> <p><i>1. Contribute to the improvement of traffic management and trail systems in Beacon Hill Park.</i></p> <p><i>2. Contribute to the City Parks Planning and consultation process.</i></p> <p><i>3. Ensure that the City adheres to the JBNA policy of no encroachments or encumbrances on any parkland within James Bay.</i></p> <p><i>4. Urge the City to develop a land acquisition plan in James Bay in advance of future provincial and federal government land use changes, with property set aside for green-space.</i></p>
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<p>Objective 9: Complete a Multi-Modal and Active Transportation Network</p> <p>2016 Outcomes:</p> <p>Improved quality of life, public safety, air quality, placemaking, & pedestrian & cycling trips through implementation of neighbourhood-led transportation planning and “complete streets” lens for all transportation projects.</p> <p>Public transit is accessible to all and rivals private automobile trip duration.</p> <p>Substantial increase in number of trips by bicycles, w/ the completion of a skeletal cycling network.</p> <p>2017 Outcomes:</p> <p>Extend Government Street Mall.</p> <p>David Foster Harbour Pathway almost completed.</p> <p>2018 Outcomes:</p> <p>Victoria is a national leader for cycling infrastructure and complete streets planning, having completed 6 cycling improvement projects, inc. Wharf/Belleville Streets route between Pandora Avenue and Oswego Street</p> <p>Completed Phase 2 of the Belleville Terminal Project, inc. improvements to Belleville Street public realm</p> <p>Phase 2 = David Foster Harbour Pathway</p> <p>Walking is safe, comfortable and enjoyable.</p> <p>2015 Actions:</p> <p>Mandate and create a collaborative neighbourhood process and “complete streets” lens for all projects.</p> <p>Collaborative design & completion of network of 4 – 8 high quality cycling</p>	<p>JBNA Purposes:</p> <p>To enable the community to be actively involved in the preservation, rehabilitation and planned development of James Bay so as to preserve and enhance the quality of the environment and life therein.</p> <p>To promote community awareness of and involvement in environmental issues and their impact on the community, and facilitate community input to the continuous review and upgrading of the James Bay Plan.</p> <p>To be sensitive to community concerns, to educate and assist individuals and community groups with respect to environmental and ecological developments.</p> <p><i>JBNA Priorities: Streets, Sidewalks, Transportation and Traffic</i></p> <p><i>1. Work with the City of Victoria to address the traffic volume, mobility and street safety issues identified by the JBNA residents survey, and by analysis of traffic volume and speed data provided by the City of Victoria.</i></p> <p><i>2. Place a crosswalk on Erie Street to improve resident access to Fisherman’s Wharf Park, and resolve the street safety and traffic issues.</i></p>
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<p>corridors by 2016.</p> <p>Build protected cycling facilities, more bike parking, and start an Active Transportation Advisory Committee. Begin to see all planning and engineering through multi-modal lens.</p> <p>Designate money in 2015, 2016, 2017 and just build it (cycling network).</p> <p>Sign pedestrian-only lanes just as prominently as streets. Distinguish between “No Exit” and “No Exit for Motor Vehicles”.</p> <p>Review policy for desired right of way widths for road dedications & statutory right of ways.</p> <p>Develop task force including Government Street property owners to consider a Local Area Improvement Project.</p> <p>2016 Actions:</p> <p>Move to full-time bus lanes on Douglas and fewer stops (in accordance with Rapid Bus plans).</p> <p>Work in partnership with First Nations, Province, ferry operators and others to identify financial opportunities for the Belleville Terminal. Allocate money in 2017 Capital Budget for Belleville Street.</p> <p>2017 Actions:</p> <p>Prioritize “special places” along the David Foster Harbour Pathway and identify funding opportunities.</p>	
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<p>Objective 10: Nurture Our Arts, Culture and Learning Capital</p> <p>2017 Outcome:</p> <p>Victoria has an Arts and Culture Master Plan.</p> <p>2018 Outcome:</p> <p>Support for arts and culture is increased, inclusive and strategic</p> <p>A new Central Library serves the community.</p> <p>2015 Actions:</p> <p>Identify resources required to develop Arts and Culture Plan.</p> <p>Provide background on arts and cultural mapping to the public.</p> <p>2016 Actions:</p> <p>Develop Arts and Culture Master Plan.</p> <p>Fund an Economic Impact Study linked to a Cultural Master Plan.</p> <p>Identify scope and develop budget strategy for a new Central Library.</p> <p>Arts and Culture Master Plan proposed to be initiated in 2016 after Parks Master Planning process.</p> <p>Minimizes community consultation fatigue and maximizes staff resources.</p>	<p>JBNA Purposes:</p> <p>To enable the community to be actively involved in the preservation, rehabilitation and planned development of James Bay so as to preserve and enhance the quality of the environment and life therein.</p> <p>To preserve the heritage character of the neighborhood.</p> <p><i>JBNA 2015/2016 Priority:</i></p> <p><i>Branch library in Capital Park</i></p>
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Areas JBNA would like to see addressed in the Strategic Plan and/or 2015/2016 Budget, primarily related to cruise ship, tourist bus, helijet and float plane noise and pollution. Such matters could be added to Objective 9.

<p>JBNA Priorities Not Reflected in draft Strategic Plan or Budget:</p> <p>JBNA Priorities: Noise Pollution and Airshed Emissions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Urge the City of Victoria, as landlord and as land use regulatory authority, to adopt World Health Organisation (WHO) standards for airshed emissions, pursuing regulatory or other means to generate compliance with standards by both point and mobile sources of emissions.2. Urge the City to adopt WHO guidelines for community noise, utilising best-in-class methods for measuring and remediating sources of urban noise.3. Work to create three permanent air quality monitoring stations adjacent to Victoria harbour.4. Work to ensure that significant reductions occur in the excessive noise and airshed pollution generated by floatplanes, helicopters, and cruise-ship activities.	<p>JBNA Priorities Not Reflected in draft Strategic Plan or Budget:</p> <p>JBNA Priorities: GVHA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hold GVHA, as Ogden Point landlord, responsible for ensuring that North American Emission Control Area requirements are adhered to when cruise-ships enter GVHA water-lots.4. Insist that GVHA respect residents' needs for quiet hours by limiting evening industrial, commercial, and transportation activities.5. Persuade GVHA to reduce the number of evening cruise-ship calls, and to schedule earlier departures, with the objective of providing quiet hours from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.6. Persuade GVHA to cease using Ogden Point as a parking lot for non-cruise-related buses.
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Examples of initiatives in the Draft 2015/2016 Budget that may call for JBNA input

Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning: Proposed Initiatives for 2015

- Support new strategic planning process and improved reporting on strategic initiatives
- Increased online engagement, open government and customer service initiatives focussed with greatest potential impact and service
- Exploring options for participatory budgeting
- Outcomes from Development Summit
- Accessible public notices and signage
- Playground and park consultations
- Boulevard Gardening policy and community gardens policy
- Engagement on David Foster Harbour Pathway for Heron Cove and Raymur Point bridges
- Review of neighbourhood consultation
- Wayfinding program for City
- Education program to support stormwater utility
- Education and awareness to support implementation of 40 km zones
- Engagement related to Official Community Plan amendments

Engineering and Public Works: Proposed Initiatives for 2015

- Complete scheduled Capital Projects
- Dallas Road seawall rehabilitation project
- Policy review – parking removal and reinstatement for construction sites
- Downtown recycling bins pilot project, including green waste
- Litter bin collection program review
- Post-construction boulevard restoration review
- Implementation of Development Summit initiatives
- Update Development Cost Charges Bylaw
- Update Sidewalk Café Bylaw
- Monitoring/Reporting – annual GHG, Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program, Carbon Disclosure Project
- Projects – building energy studies, hazardous waste disposal, Tap by Tap, Green Business certification pilot
- Douglas Street Transit Priority corridor lanes(Phase1/2)
- Bicycle Master Plan community engagement and plan development
- Traffic Control Procedure update
- Active Transportation projects
- Review parking enforcement services

Community Planning and Sustainable Development

- City-wide and Local Area Planning
- Heritage Policy, Programs and Applications
- Heritage Alteration Permits, Heritage Designations and Tax Incentive Program Applications
- Urban Design
- Zoning/Rezoning including Community Association Land Use Committee processes
- Development and Variance Permits including support to Community Association Land Use Committees, Advisory Design Panel and Board of Variance
- Current Policy and Regulatory Initiatives
- Official Community Plan Implementation
- Downtown Core Area Plan
- Community Planning
- Official Community Plan implementation
- New Downtown Zoning Regulation Bylaw
- Potential Density Bonus System outside Downtown
- Housing Action Plan
- Input to Regional Sustainability Strategy Seismic Risk – Building Assessment Study Heritage Thematic Framework and Designation Approaches
- Development Summit Action Plan Implementation
- Placemaking-related projects: Citizen-Initiated Heritage Conservations Areas, Heritage Register update, Civic Placemaking Award program
- Heritage Interpretation Strategy
- Cultural Heritage Landscape Policy
- Rental Housing policy
- New heritage conservation areas and updated heritage register
- Grants: The City provides support to a number of non-profit organizations in the form of cash grants. There are two grant categories: Direct-award grants to organizations that provide service on behalf of the City; and grant programs that are based on the City's Strategic Plan. Through the Direct-Award category, the City's Community and Seniors Centres also receive support for facility-related costs such as janitorial and strata fees.

March 27, 2015

JBNA ~ honouring our history, building our future

Hey, Victoria! Imagine Driving on Sunshine!

Dear Mayor Lisa,

Thanks for giving me the chance to speak tonight.

The following are the suggestions I offered at the Town Hall Meeting, intended to lower the threshold of entry into the EV and solar market for families in Victoria.

1. Create a streamlined permit process for residential and workplace Electric Vehicle Service Equipment (EVSE or commonly called EV charging stations) installation with no fees for the next 2 years.
2. Create a streamlined permit process for residential and workplace Solar Photovoltaic System installations with no fees for the next 2 years.
3. Add as a requirement of building permits for all new residential construction, the provision of electrical rough-in suitable for the installation of a Level 2 (50 amps @ 240 volts) EVSE.
4. Add as a requirement of building permits for all residential renovations resulting in an increase of 50% or more in living space, the provision of electrical rough-in suitable for the installation of one Level 2 (50 amps @ 240 volts) EVSE for each residential unit.
5. Add as a requirement of building permits for all new commercial / retail development, the provision of electrical rough-in suitable for the installation of one Level 2 (50 amps @ 240 volts) EVSE. for every 5 rental units)
6. Provide grants or Low Interest Loans (prime +1%) for part of (e.g. 10%) of a prescribed number of workplace or home installed EVSE or solar PV systems.
7. Provide free "Commercial Vehicle Parking Permits" for electric commercial vehicles.
8. Provide an "EV Parking Only" space with Level 2 EVSE in all downtown city lots, for permitted electric commercial vehicles
9. Provide a (4 to 6 sites) of solar-powered Level 3 Quick-Charge DC stations strategically located at the edges of town exiting and entering into Victoria, for inter-urban commuters, on a subscription service basis for members or by credit card payment for guests.
10. Provide grants, Low Interest Loans (prime +1%) and Feasibility Coaching local commercial EV fleets, giving priority to local food producers, local food delivery and local food service enterprises that purchase an EV, EVSE and / or solar PV systems.

Why does Victoria want more EVs and fewer fossil fuel cars?

(7 good reasons aside from fighting climate change.)

- 1. Improved local air quality- EVs emit no toxins*
- 2. Reduction in soil and water contamination on city streets. - No oil or fuel leakage.*
- 3. Reduction in curbside pavement damage and repair costs - EVs don't leak oil and fuel.*
- 4. More peaceful urban soundscape- EVs run quiet and don't idle.*
- 5. Nicer neighbourhoods and elevated property values- Homes near busy routes would become quieter, cleaner, more people-centric communities.*
- 6. Electricity is a local form of energy and supports our BC economy, not foreign oil profits- Plus!! SOLAR POWER puts your car on 100 meter diet*
- 7. The quality of life benefits of EVs and Solar send a powerful signal of positive social change that citizens love to share. As a popular tourist destination, Victoria is in a position to influence change beyond it's boundaries, showing visitors what can be accomplished when good people care enough to step up and demonstrate what is possible in a post carbon era.*

I welcome your questions and comments on this and wish you well with your courageous new approach to making Victoria a great place to live.

Section 22

From: Paul Mably, on behalf of Fernwood Community Garden Email : [Section 22](#) Reference :
Daytime Phone : [Section 22](#)
RE: City of Victoria: Draft Strategic and Financial Plan: Support Local Food
Systems March 25, 2015

Dear Mayor and Council,

We support the actions, goals and objectives regarding local food systems identified in the draft Strategic Plan, including the following initiatives in 2015 and 2016:

- Completing three high profile projects linked to food security;
- Encouraging boulevard gardens in all neighbourhoods;
- Creating micro-grants for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens;
- Developing long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening (including an inventory of City-owned land for food production);
- Introducing new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land, and
- Enhancing local food systems in general.

We note that these initiatives are consistent with the food-related provisions of the Official Community Plan, found primarily in Section 17. For example, the OCP supports: innovative food production (17.9); urban food supplies (17.A); food education (17.B); connecting people to food (17.5); local food security and sustainability (17.9, 17.A); planted boulevards (8.22.4); native plants (8.58); memorable places (8.a); and adaptive management (22.1).

We believe that more progress can be made pursuing these objectives by increasing financial resources for food systems in the 2015 Financial Plan.

We also ask that you make a commitment, and allocate budgetary resources beginning in 2015, to the following initiatives (either as new initiatives within the Strategic Plan, or as detailed measures meant to help implement existing initiatives within the Strategic Plan):

(1) Shift focus in the management of City parks, boulevards and greenspaces from ornamental to edible plants. For example, allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to food-bearing plants and trees, including natives, perennials, and fruit/nut trees (all across Victoria, and especially to enhance/maintain our urban forest);

(2) Provide City assistance with coordination of food-growing resources, including:

- materials pooling / depot (leaves, mulch, soil, cardboard, wood, irrigation materials);
- increase grant funding for existing and emerging food systems initiatives;
- construction assistance for the start-up of new community gardens (e.g. land clearance, fencing, raised beds, access to water);
- support neighbourhood-level and city-wide food coordination;
- reduce water charges for irrigation of food plants;

(3) Expand availability of City land for food growing, with a mechanism for 10-year security of tenure for growers;

(4) Implement a mechanism for increasing social justice in the distribution of local food supplies (e.g. additional City support tied to "food sharing");

(5) Examine hiring dedicated staff and forming an advisory committee or task force, to spur implementation.

Thank you for your time and attention. We would like to be kept informed of your deliberations on enhancement of local food systems.

Sincerely,
Coordinating Group
Fernwood Community Garden
(Paul Mably, Kathelene Metzger, Michaela Louie, Barb Ruddell)

Good morning,

I completed the survey on-line on the [Strategic Plan and Budget Consultation](#). I hope the process will prove to be successful. I'd like to underscore a few key points here.

Victoria's Urban Forest

On January 13 I wrote to each of you raising concerns again about the state of Victoria's urban forest, a diminishing asset with rising liabilities. At that time I shared with you a report entitled, "Victoria's Urban Forest: Asset or Liability" which I prepared in the hope Mayor and Council would take action to address a chronic problem. City Manager Jason Johnson also was sent a copy and I am aware Councilor Isitt has asked him for a response. Is the City working on an action plan with an implementation timetable and when will it be available for review?

Permit Approval Process

In my opinion, the permit approval process is unfair when the City approves permits without consulting other affected parties. At the very least there should be a requirement to notify affected neighbours before work starts and better yet there should be an opportunity for affected parties to comment on permit applications before approval. Both will reduce rather than raise conflict and protect the rights of neighbours and the neighbourhood. I have written to you before about this issue and it was referred to and seems to have disappeared with staff. Is there a review underway ?

Storage and Servicing of boats and other RV's on residential properties – It's not only an eyesore but salts and chemicals are washed into the ground and sewer system just as they are when residents do car cleaning and repairs on driveways, aprons and streets. Why do we allow this practice?

I appreciate your attention to these matters. I look forward to your reply.

Thank you

Section 22

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please accept the following comments as Council deliberates on its plans for the next four years. I would like to highlight the prospects and potential for active transportation initiatives in Victoria.

There is growing and strong public support for a more walkable and bike-friendly Victoria. The City also has amongst the highest walk and bike numbers in Canada – largely due to Victoria’s compact size and boundaries. In just 25 minutes, you can cross most of the city by bike. Downtown is readily accessible from adjacent neighbourhoods.

By building on those attributes with smart and sustained investments in active transportation, Victoria could be one of most walkable and bikeable cities on the planet. Of the many reasons to prioritize such investments, two are worth highlighting:

1. Economic and Competitive Advantage - As a small city in a highly mobile global economy, Victoria can stand out and excel by enhancing its unique urban qualities. Building a truly walkable and bikeable city can generate economic dividends for local business, tourism and economic development. In the words of urban design consultant Christopher Beynon: *Cities must work hard to attract the best talent to drive the ‘innovation economy.’ These new workers are demanding robust, creative and interesting downtowns and districts where they can live, commute without a car, and feel inspired by their physical surroundings - the nexus between economics, social behavioral patterns, and urban design.*^[1]

Achieving those aims requires accelerated investments and ongoing commitments to high quality pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. However, to date Victoria’s investments have been modest and routine – e.g. rarely more than \$250K a year in capital spending on conventional bike facilities. Victoria needs to do much more, and instill a culture of creative, high quality urban design. [Dozens of cities](#) in North America now have better and safer bicycle routes and networks than Victoria. As Christopher Beynon emphasizes: “Average won’t work.”

2. Well-Being and Community Health – People in cities with a range of transportation options are less sedentary, get more exercise and are happier and healthier as a result. ^[2] Moreover, the provision of safe facilities – such as protected bike lanes – provide broad community benefits as well, anchoring a more vibrant, connected and livable city. Those benefits extend even to drivers and pedestrians, who gain from improved clarity and safety on our public right of ways. For example, protected bike lanes reduce bike riding on sidewalks, and lower vehicle speeds and fewer collisions on the improved street.

Recently, City Council and staff have demonstrated significant support for advancing cycling goals and objectives. The current Bike Plan update process is quite promising.^[3] The identified project priorities are a good start – but they represent only small segments of the complete network of well-connected, safe and attractive bike routes that Victoria needs.

The city’s Draft Strategic Plan sets out an ambitious set of objectives: *‘Innovate and Lead’ ‘Strive for Excellence’ ‘Create Prosperity’ ‘Make Victoria Affordable’ ‘Facilitate Community Wellness’ ‘Enhance Public Spaces.’* I submit that the most cost-effective, productive and immediate means to achieve all those objectives would be substantial commitment to increase investments in bicycle facilities, quality urban design and placemaking.

Now is the time to advance those goals. Following are a number of ways to demonstrate and secure those commitments.

a. Most immediately, Council should target an annual ongoing budget of \$2 - \$3Million for bicycle facilities and related urban design. The city’s reserve funds and current budget surplus are viable envelopes to draw from.

- b. Explore senior government programs and funds to supplement municipal budget outlays. Both federal gas tax dollars and the provincial BCBike program enable the cost sharing of municipal bicycle infrastructure. (However, these senior government programs are often over-subscribed and highly competitive; such funds can't be relied on, nor can they replace municipal budgetary commitments).
 - c. Additional city funding resources should be reviewed and explored. Development cost charges is one pertinent example – especially given the robust commercial and mixed-use development projects underway in Victoria. My understanding is that Victoria's DCCs are quite low on a comparative basis.
 - d. The City should boost its staffing levels and consulting services to expedite current project plans and ensure quality urban design and best practices in active transportation.
- Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome further dialogue and discussion with you on these issues.

Regards, [Section 22](#)

Dear City of Victoria Councillors:

The establishment of supervised consumption services (SCS) in Victoria is important to me.

I support SCS in Victoria because I believe it is a matter of human rights.

Also, it saves lives and money. This world needs more compassion. For over a decade, people who use drugs, researchers, politicians, health care workers and other community leaders have been calling for SCS in our city (see: <http://www.yes2scs.ca/background/10-years-of-recommendations-for-scs/>). Our community is ready and we must take action.

The City of Victoria has an opportunity to re-prioritize these essential health services and show leadership by facilitating a collaboration between City Hall, the Island Health Authority, the Victoria Police Department, and YES2SCS to develop SCS within our existing continuum of health care services.

YES2SCS is a community-based coalition that includes participation of members of SOLID and other people who use drugs, and their voices are critical in relation to social inclusion and effectiveness of health service provision.

A Councillor-facilitated process would strengthen community collaboration on these issues and provide access to City resources such as information and advice on land use, zoning, maintenance, etc.

I urge you to make the establishment of SCS a priority by including the above process in the City of Victoria 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.

Health and Happiness,

Section 22

Dear City of Victoria Mayor, Councillors and City Staff,

I applaud the **establishment of supervised consumption services (SCS)** in the *City of Victoria Draft Strategic Plan 2015-2018*, and urge you to prioritize this life-saving intervention by including it in the final Strategic Plan.

The benefits of SCS cannot be understated. In Vancouver, where SCS has operated for years through the Dr. Peter Centre and Insite, SCS has proven to **save lives** by reducing deaths related to overdose, **prevent the spread of disease** by providing clean supplies and education on their use, **connect service users** with other health and social supports (e.g., housing, detox and recovery services), and **reduce public drug use and improper disposal of drug equipment litter** by providing safer and welcoming places for people to use and dispose of their equipment.

Bottom line, **SCS is beneficial for our entire community.**

I currently work as a Project Coordinator, conducting research on the needs of structurally vulnerable people at the end of their life (i.e., street involved, homeless/unstably housed, using illicit drugs or alcohol and/or living with mental health issues, who are living with serious illnesses). For years, I've worked as a front line worker in downtown agencies serving people who use drugs.

Through my research and work, I've witnessed the **harmful effects** of the **lack of SCS** for people who use drugs. Without SCS, people are forced to use drugs in **inappropriate and undignified spaces** in our City (e.g., bathrooms, alleys, alcoves) and are put at **further risk** of harm, violence, criminalization and public shaming (i.e., injecting quickly in bad light in public spaces).

I've personally discovered **2 people down** in bathrooms, not breathing from overdose, and luckily had access to the training and supplies to administer breath and Naloxone, an injectable, opioid-antagonist to temporarily reverse overdose. **I know many more who have not been so 'lucky.'**

As a member of the **YES2SCS campaign**, I see the **tremendous support** that the establishment of SCS has in our community. People recount the deaths of their mothers, fathers, family and friends and the difference this service would have made. For more information about this campaign see www.yes2scs.ca or our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/yes2scs> that currently has 812 likes. Our current mayor, and almost all of the elected City of Victoria Councillors **expressed statements of support** for SCS through our "I support YES2SCS" campaign.

I support a **City of Victoria led process** to establish these essential health services, with the inclusion of **YES2SCS as a key stakeholder group** as a coalition that includes people who use drugs, and people who work and research in this field. A **Councillor-facilitated process** would strengthen community collaboration on these issues and provide access to City resources such as information and advice on land use, zoning, maintenance, etc.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Section 22

Dear City of Victoria Councillors,

The establishment of supervised consumption services (SCS) in Victoria is important to me. I support SCS in Victoria because this model has proven to be a simple and effective means of addressing drug-related harms. For over a decade, people who use drugs, researchers, politicians, health care workers and other community leaders have been calling for SCS in our city (see: <http://www.yes2scs.ca/background/10-years-of-recommendations-for-scs/>). Our community is ready and we must take action.

The City of Victoria has an opportunity to re-prioritize these essential health services and show leadership by facilitating a collaboration between City Hall, the Island Health Authority, the Victoria Police Department, and YES2SCS to develop SCS within our existing continuum of health care services. YES2SCS is a community-based coalition that includes participation of members of SOLID and other people who use drugs, and their voices are critical in relation to social inclusion and effectiveness of health service provision.

A Councillor-facilitated process would strengthen community collaboration on these issues and provide access to City resources such as information and advice on land use, zoning, maintenance, etc.

I urge you to make the establishment of SCS a priority by including the above process in the City of Victoria 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.

Sincerely,

Section 22

Dear City of Victoria Councillors,

SOLID supports supervised consumption services (SCS) in Victoria because this model is an essential health service for people who use illicit drugs. For over a decade, people who use drugs, researchers, politicians, health care workers and other community leaders have been calling for SCS in our city (see: <http://www.yes2scs.ca/background/10-years-of-recommendations-for-scs/>). Our community is ready and we must take action.

The City of Victoria has an opportunity to re-prioritize these essential health services and show leadership by facilitating a collaboration between City Hall, the Island Health Authority, the Victoria Police Department, and YES2SCS to develop SCS within our existing continuum of health care services. YES2SCS is a community-based coalition that includes participation of members of SOLID and other people who use drugs, and their voices are critical in relation to social inclusion and effectiveness of health service provision.

A Councillor-facilitated process would strengthen community collaboration on these issues and provide access to City resources such as information and advice on land use, zoning, maintenance, etc.

We urge you to make the establishment of SCS a priority by including the above process in the City of Victoria 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.

Sincerely,
SOLID Board of Directors

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Society of Living Illicit Drug Users (SOLID)
250-298-9497
solidinfo@shawbiz.ca
857 Caledonia Ave
Victoria BC
V8T 1E6
www.solidvictoria.org

April 6, 2015

Dear City of Victoria Mayor, Councillors and Manager,

I was encouraged to read Objective 1 in the City's *Draft Strategic Plan 2015-2018* that states the intention of enacting "bold, innovative leadership" and includes establishing focused working groups to build community capacity and public input. This objective fits well with *Objective 7: Facilitate Social Inclusion and Community Wellness*, which is of particular interest to me as a **Section 22** and someone who has spent the **Section 22**.

I fully support the inclusion of a proposal by the City to facilitate a collaborative process among Island Health, the Victoria Police Department and the YES2SCS campaign to add supervised consumption services to the existing continuum of care available in Victoria to people who use drugs. Given the current federal government's stance around harm reduction, this objective demonstrates the bold leadership identified as a priority in the *Draft Strategic Plan 2015-2018*.

Over the last few years, I have had the opportunity to participate in national teleconferences with policy makers, health care leaders, and community workers from across Canada who are working towards establishing supervised consumption services in their own communities and who are not deterred by the federal government's anti-health stance on harm reduction initiatives. We know that the examples of Insite and the Dr Peter Centre in Vancouver, and safer injections sites in Australia and Europe, have shown strong scientific evidence and community support for engaging people who use drugs in a way that is accessible, pragmatic, empathic, and fits with best practice in nursing care. Such services provide primary health care and the opportunity for healing, and are essential 'gateways' for detox, treatment options and supported housing.

As someone who has worked in a harm reduction health care setting for over a decade, I cannot overestimate the importance of providing safer spaces for all members of our community, including those who use illicit drugs. Providing safer drug use supplies such as sterile needles is a practice that is acknowledged by authorities such as the World Health Organization as necessary for preventing HIV and other serious conditions. Providing sterile needles without offering safer spaces for those needles to be used in a community such as Victoria where homelessness is a significant issue will ensure that public drug use continues, stigma and marginalization thrive, and the basic safety of people who use drugs is very limited.

I have been working with the YES2SCS campaign since its inception and we are an incredibly committed group of people who want to see action on this issue. We also need access to resources as we cannot do this alone. A City-facilitated process would bring the parties who need to be involved to the same table and increase our capacity through City support. The objective of establishing supervised consumption services in Victoria is absolutely achievable. I look forward to working on this exciting and important initiative with you.

Sincerely,

Section 22

Dear City of Victoria Councillors:

The establishment of supervised consumption services (SCS) in Victoria is hugely important to me.

Harm reduction saves lives. I support SCS in Victoria because they are a vital health service- access to safe and dignified health care is a right for all people regardless of financial, housing or health status. As a commitment to safer spaces in Victoria for people who use drugs, SCS would prevent deaths caused by overdose, provide people with better access to health and social services, reduce the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C by providing sterile equipment and safe disposal of that equipment, and decrease public drug use and reduce drug equipment litter.

For over a decade, people who use drugs, researchers, politicians, health care workers and other community leaders have been calling for SCS in our city (see: <http://www.yes2scs.ca/background/10-years-of-recommendations-for-scs/>). Our community is ready and we must take action.

The City of Victoria has an opportunity to re-prioritize these essential health services and show leadership by facilitating a collaboration between City Hall, the Island Health Authority, the Victoria Police Department, and YES2SCS to develop SCS within our existing continuum of health care services.

YES2SCS is a community-based coalition that includes participation of members of SOLID and other people who use drugs, and **their voices are critical** in relation to social inclusion and effectiveness of health service provision. A Councillor-facilitated process would strengthen community collaboration on these issues and provide access to City resources such as information and advice on land use, zoning, maintenance, etc.

I urge you to make the establishment of SCS a priority by including the above process in the City of Victoria 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.

Sincerely,

Section 22

April 2nd, 2015

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to express my thanks to you for including in your survey to city residents the possibility of engaging in a process that would see the creation of Supervised Consumption Services in the city of Victoria. I am excited at the prospect of this item being included in your 2015-2018 strategic plan and likewise look forward to working with the Victoria City Council on seeing this life saving service become a reality in our community.

I would like to take a moment to explain my interest in this service, and why I'm taking the time write to you today. I feel it is important, in the interest of clarity that I explain my reasons so that perhaps we might better understand each other, and why I feel Supervised Consumption Services are so necessary.

I have been working for a downtown social service agency [Section 22](#). I work almost exclusively with people who use illicit drugs, and while my position in the agency concerns client education I am daily faced with a level of deprivation that will often bring tears to my eyes. I daily witness persistent poverty, homelessness, and an almost total lack of comprehensive services to abate a downward spiral of health and wellbeing that too few escape. We do what we can, and I am proud to say that I work with some of the most skilled and caring support workers that you could ever hope to meet, but we are faced with a crisis that we did not create, or can we fix.

Our clients are faced with tremendous daily hardship, to the point where persistent, and often dangerous, drug use becomes more than an option but a reasonable coping strategy to a maddening existence. When you must walk all day, carrying or pushing all that you own regardless of the weather, to acquire your necessities for survival, one begins to understand why someone might rely on persistent and sometimes chaotic drug use. While I acknowledge that there are a myriad of reasons people have for using illicit drugs, we persistently hear from our clients that drug use helps people cope and survive another day of grinding poverty. We also know that once someone is housed, fed, and otherwise cared for their drug uses declines, sometimes drastically. Homes are Safe(er) Consumption Sites, but in the midst of a housing crisis we must seek other remedies.

In the course of our work we come to know and really care for our clients. We get to know where they're from, if they have family, where they're sleeping, how their health is and details more personal than that. In short, we get close to our clients, and care deeply for their wellbeing. We offer something that many of our clients don't get in the normal course of their days. We *see* them. Not as a homeless person, or a bum or some stain on our city, but we see them as people, as individuals worthy of love and affection. This connection is powerful and very, very meaningful.

We know that death is a part of our jobs too. As much as we fight to help people survive, and maybe even thrive, we are very aware that seeing our clients die is a part of the job. Too often the people we work with, and have become close to, die for no other reason than that they're not *seen* by society as worthy of the

sort of care and services that we know are proven to save lives. Sometime this sort of death leave a mark that cannot be removed and leaves a hole that cannot be filled. The only thing that can possibly redeem these sorts of deaths is learning from them, and committing to not seeing another person die in such a manner, alone, in an ally, or behind a dumpster.

Over the course of my **Section 22** of working with members of the Illicit drug using community I can no longer count the dead. People I would now count as friends died from the use of drugs in a post Insite world where we know the science, we have the data, and we know what Supervised Consumption Services can do, but still, people keep dying. Why?

I understand that just as I did not cause the war on drug nor its prolific consequences neither did the Victoria City Council. I know that you are not able to do this alone and should not be expected to do so, but I also know that we are all responsible for the expected consequences of our inaction. I acknowledge that the process of seeing a Supervised Consumption Site become a reality in Victoria will take time, negotiation, and some serious investment on the part of government. I am also aware, as I'm sure you are, that the federal government seems determined to stop these lifesaving services from opening. This is all, from my perspective, inconsequential to the fact that these obstacles must be overcome nonetheless as we are all responsible for ending preventable deaths in our community.

I will not take more of your time to outline the extensive research available that highlights the clear effectiveness of Supervised Consumption Services as I'm sure other letters have thus outlined but urge you to explore the research if you are unfamiliar with the data behind these services.

Thank you for your time and I urge you to include the opening of Supervised Consumption services in your 2015-2018 strategic plan.

Respectfully,

Section 22

Tuesday, April 7th, 2015

Re: Budget Amendments to Draft Budget

Dear Mayor and Council

We congratulate the city of Victoria on an extremely successful public consultation for the draft four year strategic plan and budget. The large number of responses received during this process allows staff and council to be better informed about the priorities of the citizens they serve, enhances the knowledge and agency of those citizens, and strengthens the democracy of our local government.

We are elated to see completing a multimodal active transportation network selected as the number one priority for both the strategic plan objectives and preference on direction of the \$4.5 million of unallocated funding. In terms of capital budget investments, active transportation was the only option where a majority of respondents expressed a desire for more spending.

We support staff's recommendation for allocating gas tax funding to accelerate the construction of an all ages and abilities (AAA) cycling network, and spending an additional \$500,000 on consulting services. Our further suggestions are as follows:

1. A decision regarding the construction of a 1 or 2 way protected bike lane on Pandora Avenue is forthcoming. Should a 2 way option be built, we recommend the city reprioritize projects based on the greatest gaps needing to be filled, for example, looking at NorthSouth route such as Wharf Street over another EastWest connection.

2. We recommend that additional funding be made available for the cycling priority projects if additional features, protections etc are deemed necessary to design these bike routes to the highest standards. It is important to meet the overall goal of AAA quality.

3. We note a substantial cost increase on the proposed Vancouver St bike lane (from \$500,000 to \$2.4 million) and Haultain (from \$500,000 to \$750,000) to ensure they are AAA. Other cities have been able to take advantage of the quieter nature and lower traffic volumes of such roads to implement safe, pleasant and comfortable AAA cycling experiences at much lower costs using auto traffic diversion and closure options.

Looking ahead to 2017 and 2018, we greatly look forward to working with the city to identify other major facilities to be built and gaps to be closed as we work towards completing a minimum grid of high quality cycling routes across the city and the region.

Thank you very much,

Edward Pullman

President

Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition

Appendix E: Discussion Guide from the City of Victoria Youth Council

Parks, Recreation and Culture

- Parkades
 - We approve
 - Promote parkades to tourists, perhaps on city maps
 - Could have bigger signs
 - Youth council could apply for a grant to do art
 - Crystal pool
 - If upgrades increase fees for the public, that might decrease user-ship especially for youth
 - A lounge or meeting rooms would be great to incorporate and could create safe spaces for youth
 - Spaces for live music?
 - Late night adult swims are popular!
- Spaces for youth in parks are important! Perhaps intramural sports could take place in them.
- Better signage on the use of tennis carts
- Community gardens are also a way to engage youth

Downtown beautification

- Way finding
 - Footprints on the sidewalks leading to different sites
- Anything that brings attention to small businesses is great. Lots of youth don't take advantage of all the places in Victoria.
- A scavenger or passport program to get people to new places around the city
- Show art, posters or advertisements in the windows instead of "for lease" signs
- Anything bright and colourful is great

Ready? Let's go!

Please tell us a bit about yourselves

How many people in your group live in each area?

1 Burnside Gorge
1 Downtown
1 Fairfield/Gonzales
1 Fernwood
1 Harris Green
1 Hillside-Quadra
1 James Bay
1 North and South Jubilee
1 North Park
1 Oaklands
1 Rockland
1 Victoria West
2 I live in another municipality

How old is everyone?

5 of us are under 18
0 of us are 18-24
0 of us are 25-39
0 of us are 40-59
0 of us are Over 60

Please indicate your genders

9 of us are female
2 of us are male
0 of us are transgender
0 of us are other/prefer not to say

Does anyone in your group own property in Victoria and if so how many?

Yes Number: 0
 No Number: 0


Does anyone in your group rent property in Victoria?

Yes Number: 2
 No Number: 0

Does anyone in your group run a business in Victoria?

Yes Number: 0
 No Number: 0

Thanks for telling us a bit about yourself. Now it's our turn to let you know more about who we are, what we do and our proposed projects.



The collage features several photographs and icons. The photographs show: a group of people on bicycles; a person in a red shirt standing by a swimming pool; a person kneeling in a garden; a person sitting at a desk with a 'CITY OF VICTORIA' sign; and a large modern building with a crane. The icons include: a building and bus, a globe and leaf, a truck and person with a tool, and a truck and person with a tool.

Approach

- Budgeting by priorities, outlining services and capital projects including the costs, revenues and benefits of each.
- Improved information, access and opportunity to provide input.

[illegible]

Engagement

- Two phased approach over 2015 and 2016



New This Year



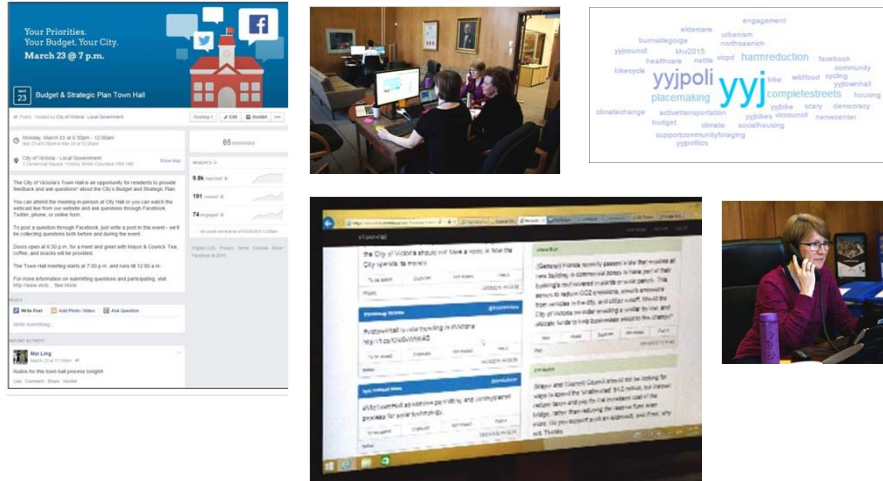
How We Engaged the Public



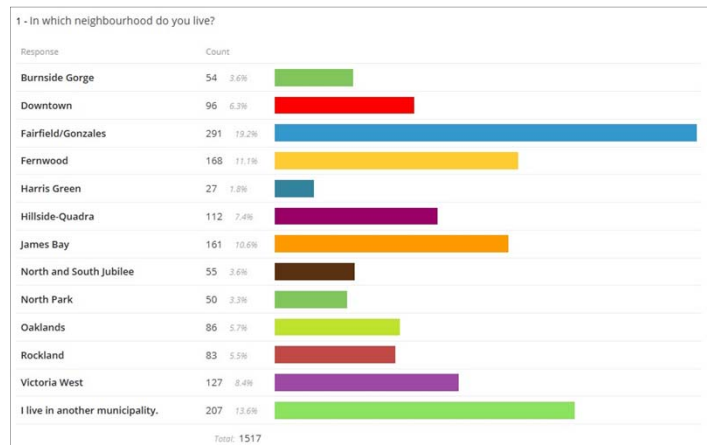
Town Hall



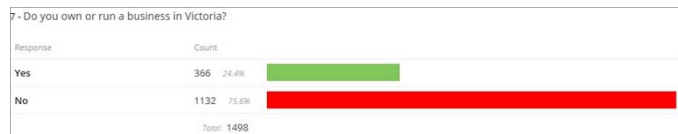
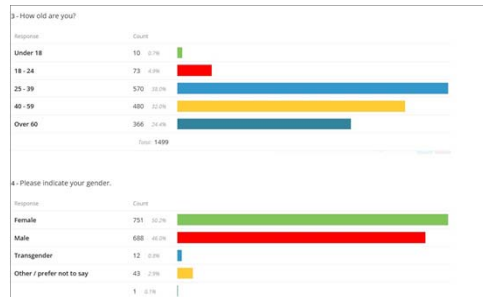
e-Town Hall



Online Survey



Who We Heard From



What We Heard

How important is each strategic objective?:

- Complete a multi-modal active transportation network
- Strive for excellence in planning and land-use
- Steward water systems and waste streams responsibly
- Enhance and steward public places, green spaces and food production
- Engage and empower the community

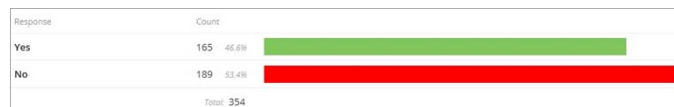
What We Heard

The City has an estimated \$4.5 million available that is unallocated and can address community priorities. Please rank your top five objectives on a scale of 1 to 5 in terms of where you would prioritize spending the \$4.5 million (1 being most important and 5 being less important)

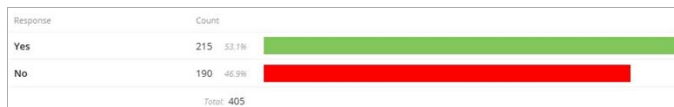
1. Complete a multi-modal active transportation network
2. Enhance and steward public places, green spaces and food production
3. Create prosperity through economic development
4. Strive for excellence in planning and land-use
5. Make Victoria more affordable

What We Heard

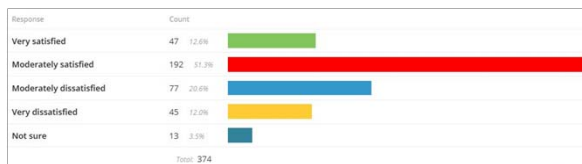
Do you think the City is doing enough around economic development?



Do you feel that \$15,000 annually for a health and dental plan for Councillors is a reasonable expense?



Thinking about all the programs and services you receive from the City, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for your tax dollars?



Recommendations

That Council:

1. Provide direction regarding funding needs for items identified by the public or through responses to the Council's motions passed during budget discussions.

Recommendations

That Council:

2. Approve the following ongoing allocation of \$1.832 million in non-market change revenue:
 - a. Any ongoing funding needs identified by the public or through responses to Council's motions during budget discussions, as determined by Council.
 - b. Supplementary budget requests:
 - i. Sidewalk maintenance upgrades \$80,000

Recommendations

That Council:

- c. Strategic Plan initiatives:
 - i. Inter-disciplinary team to support implementation of strategic plan - \$300,000 (to be evaluated each year).
 - ii. Additional funding for the Victoria Affordable Housing Reserve as determined by Council.
 - iii. The remainder into a Council Strategic Objectives Account from which Council can allocate funding toward:
 - 1) An integrated facilities and real estate arm once the scope has been determined.
 - 2) Arts and Culture Master Plan.
 - 3) Capital projects identified in the Strategic Plan including implementation of the Douglas/Blanshard Corridor, fenced dog park, Harbour Pathway special places, and facilities and cycling network projects.
 - 4) Other strategic objectives as determined by Council.

Recommendations

That Council:

- 3. Approve the following one-time allocation of the \$2.848 million 2014 surplus and the \$143,532 in the Strategic Initiatives Reserve:
 - a. Any one-time funding needs identified by the public or through responses to Council's motions during budget discussions, as determined by Council.
 - b. Strategic Plan initiatives:
 - i. Parks Master Plan - \$250,000
 - ii. Begbie Green – up to \$150,000

Recommendations

That Council:

- c. Supplementary Requests
 - i. Concrete and brick paver intersection maintenance
 - 1) \$10,000 in 2015
 - 2) \$12,000 in 2016
 - 3) \$15,000 in 2017
 - ii. Zoning regulation bylaw renewal
 - 1) \$265,000 in 2015
 - 2) \$335,000 in 2016
 - iii. Hosting UBCM conference 2015 \$155,000
- d. The remainder to the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve, which can be used for capital investments for Crystal Pool and Fire Hall #1.

Recommendations

That Council:

- 4. Approve the following allocation from the City's Gas Tax Reserve:
 - a. Bicycle Master Plan Implementation
 - i. \$7,250,000 if Council approves the increase to ensure sufficient bike lane protection for all ages and abilities and the City is not successful in its grant application under the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund.
 - ii. \$4,900,000 if Council does not approve the increase to ensure sufficient bike lane protection for all ages and abilities and the City is not successful in its grant application under the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund.
 - iii. An additional \$500,000 should Council wish to expedite these projects as outlined in this report.

Recommendations

That Council:

5. Defer decision until the 2016 Financial Plan on additional allocations from the City's Gas Tax Reserve pending the result of the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund grant applications.
6. Direct staff to bring forward the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw, 2015, as amended, to the April 23, 2015 Council meeting.

Council Member 2015 Budget Proposals

2014 Surplus \$2.9-million - for one time expenses (could include tax relief this year and/or into reserve funds)			
	Proposed Amount	# of people	<u>Surplus Total:</u>
			\$ 2,991,532.00 (with Strategic Plan.Initiatives Reserve)
Proposals for Tax Reduction			
Tax reduction	\$500,000.00	2 people	
Tax reduction	\$1,000,000.00	2 people	
Tax reduction	\$1,500,000.00	1 person	
Tax reduction	\$1,750,000.00	1 person	
Proposals for Housing Reserve			
Increase housing reserve - Motion Carried	\$750,000.00	2 people	\$ 750,000.00
Increase housing reserve	\$250,000.00	2 people	
Proposal for Renter Subsidy			
Renters Subsidy - Motion Defeated	\$1,000,000.00	1 person	
Proposal for Micro Housing			
Micro Housing Pilot Project	\$150,000.00	1 person	
Proposal for Storage of Homeless Persons Belongings			
Storage of homeless persons belongings - Motion Carried	\$45,000.00	4 people	\$ 45,000.00
Proposal Secondary Suites			
Reinvigorate secondary suites grants	\$250,000.00	1 person	

Council Member 2015 Budget Proposals

Proposals for Accessibility Capital Fund				
Accessibility capital fund - Motion Carried	\$263,000.00	2 people	\$	250,000.00
Proposals for Parks Master Plan				
Parks Master Plan - Motion Carried	\$250,000.00	2 people	\$	250,000.00
Proposal for Neighbourhood Support				
Funding for Victoria Community Association Network - Motion Carried	\$1,100.00	1 person	\$	1,100.00
Proposal to Support Rail				
Study of Rail Crossings (Island Transformations) - Motion Carried	\$4,000.00	1 person	\$	4,000.00
Proposal for Arts Funding				
Arts funding - especially for economic impact assessment of	\$150,000.00	1 person		
Proposals for Begbie Green				
Begbie Green - Motion Carried	up to \$150,000.00	2 people	\$	150,000.00
				Strtgc.Plan.Initiat. Reserve
Proposal for Vic High Upgrade				
Vic High Upgrade	\$250,000.00	1 person		
Proposals for Expediting Local Area Plans				
Expediting local area plans - Motion Carried	\$200,000.00	3 people	\$	200,000.00

Council Member 2015 Budget Proposals

Proposals for Emergency Management				
Emergency Preparedness through VFD to VEMA - Motion Carried	\$250,000.00	1 person	\$	250,000.00
Proposals for JSB Landscaping and Public Art				
Landscaping and Public Art JSB	\$250,000.00	1 person		
Proposals for Concrete and brick paver maintenance (Staff supplementary)				
Concrete and Brick paver maintenance - Motion Carried	\$37,000.00	3 people	\$	37,000.00
Concrete and Brick paver maintenance	\$10,000.00	1 person		
Proposals for Hosting UBCM Conference				
Hosting UBCM conference - Motion Carried	\$155,000.00	2 people	\$	155,000.00
Proposals for Zoning Bylaw Update (Staff supplementary)				
Zoning bylaw update (2015) \$265,000	\$265,000.00	3 people		
Zoning bylaw update (2016) \$365,000 - Motion Defeated	\$365,000.00	3 people		
Proposals for Transfer to Reserves				
Transfer to reserves	\$750,000.00	1 person		
Transfer to reserves - Building & Infrastructure - Motion Carried	\$500,000.00	1 person	\$	500,000.00
Transfer to reserves	\$250,000.00	1 person		
Proposal for Economic Development				
Set up of Economic Development Office	\$650,000.00	1 person		

Council Member 2015 Budget Proposals

Proposal for Crystal Pool

Upgrades to Crystal Pool \$500,000.00 1 person

Proposals for Dallas Road

Split Rail Fencing and Maintenance for Dallas Road - Motion Carried \$125,000.00 \$ 125,000.00

Proposals for Centennial Square Washrooms

Upgrade Washrooms - Motion Carried \$125,000.00 \$ 125,000.00

Total Remaining \$ 149,432.00

Council Member 2015 Budget Proposals

New Assessed Revenue \$1.8 million (for ongoing expenses)

Proposals for Housing Reserve

Transfer to Housing Reserve	\$250,000.00	3 people
Transfer to Housing Reserve	\$550,000.00	1 person
Transfer to Housing Reserve	\$750,000.00	1 person

Proposals re: Temporary Shelters and Storage

Increase in temporary shelters and creation of storage soluti	\$200,000.00	1 person
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Proposals for Downtown Community Centre

Downtown Community Centre	\$41,000.00	4 people
Downtown Community Centre	\$45,000.00	1 person

Proposals for Community Centre Funding

Inflationary increase for community centres/seniors centres	\$4,108.00	3 people
Increase to annual allocation - 11 community centres	\$110,000.00	1 person

Proposals to Support Neighbourhood Associations

Victoria Community Association Network meeting support	\$1,800.00	2 people	from surplus
Neighbourhood engagement coordinator (planning)	\$80,000.00	2 people	
New Neighbourhood/Food Security Staff Person	\$72,500.00	2 people	

Proposals for Health Benefits

Health benefits for council members	\$15,000.00	3 people
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Council Member 2015 Budget Proposals

Proposals for Douglas Street Improvements

Improvements to Douglas Street	\$750,000.00	1 person
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Proposals for Urban food Systems

Urban Food Coordinator (parks)	\$80,000.00	2 people
Community Garden volunteer coordination grant program	\$36,000.00	2 people

Proposals for Planning

2 new planning staff	\$145,000.00	1 person
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Proposal for Real Estate Arm

Real Estate Management Branch	\$145,000.00	1 person
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Proposals for Traffic Calming

Traffic Calming in Public Works capital budget	\$100,000.00	2 people
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Proposals for Youth Engagement

Youth engagement coordinator (civic engagement dept.)	\$35,000.00	2 people
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Proposals for Village Centre Beautification

Village centre beautification (banners, etc)	\$10,000.00	2 people
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Proposals for Interdisciplinary Team

Interdisciplinary team	\$300,000.00	4 people
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Council Member 2015 Budget Proposals

Proposals for Sidewalk Upgrades

Sidewalk maintenance upgrades	\$80,000.00	3 people
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~~Proposals for Dallas Road~~

Split Rail Fencing and Maintenance for Dallas Road	\$125,000.00	1 person	from surplus
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~~Proposals for Centennial Square Washrooms~~

Upgrade Washrooms	\$125,000.00	1 person	from surplus
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Proposals for Transfer to Council Strategic Objectives Fund

Transfer Council Strategic Objectives Fund	\$767,000.00	2 people
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Transfer Council Strategic Objectives Fund	\$282,500.00	1 person
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Proposals for Reducing 1.25% Capital Levy

Annual funding for capital projects (to reduce tax levy)	\$500,000.00	1 person
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Gas Tax Reserve Fund \$9 million - for active transportation infrastructure only, 2015 only

(next year's allocation decided at next year's budget)

Proposals for Cycling Network

Expedite design of cycling network	\$500,000.00	3 people
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Complete cycling network (2015-2017)	\$8,500,000.00	2 people
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Cycling Network	\$7,250,000.00	2 people
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Cycling Network (2015)	\$4,900,000.00	1 person
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Proposals for David Foster Harbour Pathway

Investment in Harbour Pathway	\$1,000,000.00	1 person
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Council Member Motion

For the Special Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting of April 9, 2015

Date: April 8, 2015

From: Mayor Helps

Subject: Council Members' 2015 Budget Proposals

Summary

The City has engaged the community and staff in a fulsome consultation regarding strategic and financial plan priorities for the term of this Council. Each member of Council has had the opportunity to hear from a broad spectrum of stakeholders whose input will inform our decision-making.

In response to this feedback, I encouraged Council members to provide budget proposals that reflect the public input received and strategic priorities identified to date. The attached list describes these proposals, and it is my wish that Council consider these proposals and determine which ones will receive final approval in the 2015 Financial Plan.

Recommendation

That Council members consider and recommend to Council specific budget proposals from the list of 2015 Budget Proposals appended to this motion.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Helps".

Lisa Helps
Mayor

Council Member 2015 Budget Proposals

2014 Surplus \$2.9-million - for one time expenses (could include tax relief this year and/or into reserve funds)

	Proposed Amount	# people on council who suggested it
Proposals for Tax Reduction		
Tax reduction	\$500,000.00	2 people
Tax reduction	\$1,000,000.00	2 people
Tax reduction	\$1,500,000.00	1 person
Tax reduction	\$1,750,000.00	1 person
Proposals for Housing Reserve		
Increase housing reserve	\$750,000.00	2 people
Increase housing reserve	\$250,000.00	2 people
Proposal for Renter Subsidy		
Renters Subsidy	\$1,000,000.00	1 person
Proposal for Micro Housing		
Micro Housing Pilot Project	\$150,000.00	1 person
Proposal for Storage of Homeless Persons Belongings		
Storage of homeless persons belongings	\$45,000.00	4 people
Proposal Secondary Suites		
Reinvigorate secondary suites grants	\$250,000.00	1 person
Proposals for Accessibility Capital Fund		
Accessibility capital fund	\$263,000.00	2 people

Council Member 2015 Budget Proposals

Proposals for Parks Master Plan

Parks Master Plan	\$250,000.00	2 people
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Proposal for Neighbourhood Support

Funding for Victoria Community Association Network	\$1,800.00	1 person
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Proposal to Support Rail

Study of Rail Crossings (Island Transformations)	\$4,000.00	1 person
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Proposal for Arts Funding

Arts funding - especially for economic impact assessment	\$150,000.00	1 person
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Proposals for Begbie Green

Begbie Green	\$100,000.00	2 people
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Proposal for Vic High Upgrade

Vic High Upgrade	\$250,000.00	1 person
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Proposals for Expediting Local Area Plans

Expediting local area plans	\$200,000.00	3 people
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Proposals for Emergency Management

Emergency Preparedness through VFD to VEMA	\$250,000.00	1 person
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Council Member 2015 Budget Proposals

Proposals for JSB Landscaping and Public Art

Landscaping and Public Art JSB	\$250,000.00	1 person
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Proposals for Concrete and brick paver maintenance (Staff supplementary)

Concrete and Brick paver maintenance	\$37,000.00	3 people
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Concrete and Brick paver maintenance	\$10,000.00	1 person
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Proposals for Hosting UBCM Conference

Hosting UBCM conference	\$155,000.00	2 people
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Proposals for Zoning Bylaw Update (Staff supplementary)

Zoning bylaw update (2015) \$265,000	\$265,000.00	3 people
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Zoning bylaw update (2016) \$365,000	\$365,000.00	3 people
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Proposals for Transfer to Reserves

Transfer to reserves	\$750,000.00	1 person
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Transfer to reserves	\$500,000.00	1 person
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Transfer to reserves	\$250,000.00	1 person
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Proposal for Economic Development

Set up of Economic Development Office	\$650,000.00	1 person
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Proposal for Crystal Pool

Upgrades to Crystal Pool	\$500,000.00	1 person
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Council Member 2015 Budget Proposals

New Assessed Revenue \$1.8 million (for ongoing expenses)

Proposals for Housing Reserve

Transfer to Housing Reserve	\$250,000.00	3 people
Transfer to Housing Reserve	\$550,000.00	1 person
Transfer to Housing Reserve	\$750,000.00	1 person

Proposals re: Temporary Shelters and Storage

Increase in temporary shelters and creation of storage soli	\$200,000.00	1 person
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Proposals for Downtown Community Centre

Downtown Community Centre	\$41,000.00	4 people
Downtown Community Centre	\$45,000.00	1 person

Proposals for Community Centre Funding

Inflationary increase for community centres/seniors centre:	\$4,108.00	3 people
Increase to annual allocation - 11 community centres	\$110,000.00	1 person

Proposals to Support Neighbourhood Associations

Victoria Community Association Network meeting support	\$1,800.00	2 people
Neighbourhood engagement coordinator (planning)	\$80,000.00	2 people
New Neighbourhood/Food Security Staff Person	\$72,500.00	2 people

Proposals for Health Benefits

Health benefits for council members	\$15,000.00	3 people
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Council Member 2015 Budget Proposals

Proposals for Douglas Street Improvements

Improvements to Douglas Street	\$750,000.00	1 person
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Proposals for Urban food Systems

Urban Food Coordinator (parks)	\$80,000.00	2 people
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Community Garden volunteer coordination grant program	\$36,000.00	2 people
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Proposals for Planning

2 new planning staff	\$145,000.00	1 person
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Proposal for Real Estate Arm

Real Estate Management Branch	\$145,000.00	1 person
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Proposals for Traffic Calming

Traffic Calming in Public Works capital budget	\$100,000.00	2 people
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Proposals for Youth Engagement

Youth engagement coordinator (civic engagement dept.)	\$35,000.00	2 people
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Proposals for Village Centre Beautification

Village centre beautification (banners, etc)	\$10,000.00	2 people
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Proposals for Interdisciplinary Team

Interdisciplinary team	\$300,000.00	4 people
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Council Member 2015 Budget Proposals

Proposals for Sidewalk Upgrades

Sidewalk maintenance upgrades	\$80,000.00	3 people
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Proposals for Dallas Road

Split Rail Fencing and Maintenance for Dallas Road	\$125,000.00	1 person
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Proposals for Centennial Square Washrooms

Upgrade Washrooms	\$125,000.00	1 person
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Proposals for Transfer to Council Strategic Objectives Fund

Transfer Council Strategic Objectives Fund	\$767,000.00	2 people
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Transfer Council Strategic Objectives Fund	\$282,500.00	1 person
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Proposals for Reducing 1.25% Capital Levy

Annual funding for capital projects (to reduce tax levy)	\$500,000.00	1 person
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Gas Tax Reserve Fund \$9 million - for active transportation infrastructure only, 2015 only

(next year's allocation decided at next year's budget)

Proposals for Cycling Network

Expedite design of cycling network	\$500,000.00	3 people
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Complete cycling network (2015-2017)	\$8,500,000.00	2 people
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Cycling Network	\$7,250,000.00	2 people
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Cycling Network (2015)	\$4,900,000.00	1 person
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Proposals for David Foster Harbour Pathway

Investment in Harbour Pathway	\$1,000,000.00	1 person
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Governance and Priorities Committee Report

For the meeting of April 9, 2015

To: Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** March 29, 2015
From: Susanne Thompson, Director, Finance
Subject: Proposed Adjustments to the Draft 2015-2019 Financial Plan

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek direction regarding adjustments to the draft 2015-2019 Financial Plan based on the feedback from public consultation before Council gives final approval to the Financial Plan Bylaw prior to May 15 as required by the *Community Charter*.

On February 26, 2015 following review and fulsome discussion of the draft 2015-2019 Financial Plan, Council passed first reading of the Financial Plan Bylaw indicating preliminary approval and signalling to the public that Council had an opportunity to review the draft prior to commencing public consultation. Council also directed staff to bring forward options, upon completion of public consultation, for the use of assessment growth property tax revenue, 2014 surplus, annual gas tax funding, Strategic Planning Initiatives Reserve funding, and funding for supplementary budget requests (Appendix A).

In addition to the content of the entire draft Financial Plan and draft Strategic Plan, the City sought feedback on how to allocate the 2014 surplus and the 2015 assessment growth property tax revenue, which was estimated at \$4.5 million. The 2014 surplus (one-time revenue) has now been determined at \$2.898 million and the assessment growth property tax revenue (new and ongoing revenue) at \$2.332 million for a total of \$5.23 million. Council already allocated \$500,000 to the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserves, \$25,000 for a grant for the Western Canada Music Awards, and \$25,000 to move the unspent 2014 greenways grant funding to 2015 leaving \$4.68 million to be allocated.

The consultation results indicate that the community is generally satisfied with the service and funding levels in the draft Financial Plan and the initiatives outlined in the draft Strategic Plan. There is strong support to allocate the available funding for active transportation; public places, green spaces and food production; economic development; planning and land use, and affordability which includes housing and taxation levels. A separate report summarizing the consultation results will be presented at today's meeting and a summary of the public input will be included in the final Financial Plan itself.

A number of initiatives outlined in the draft Strategic Plan require funding including an interdisciplinary team to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, an integrated facilities and real estate arm, master plans for parks and arts and culture, affordable housing, and capital investments including active transportation, parks and facilities. Some of these initiatives, such as the creation of an integrated facilities and real estate arm and capital projects, require further scoping before funding levels can be determined.

The highest area of interest during the public consultation process was multi-modal transportation. Many expressed a desire for protected bike lanes for all ages and abilities. As part of the draft Financial Plan, Council gave preliminary approval to \$4.9 million in funding for the implementation of

the Bicycle Master Plan; however the projects proposed did not all provide the desired protection for all ages and abilities. Providing additional bike lane protection for all ages and abilities requires additional funding of \$2.35 million and expediting this work, as outlined in the draft Strategic Plan, would require an additional \$500,000. These projects are eligible for funding from the City's Gas Tax Reserve which has approximately \$9 million available; and the City has applied for a grant under the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund; award announcements are expected in the fall.

During the budget meetings on February 16, 17, 19 and 23, 2015 Council passed a number of motions requesting additional information. The focus for this report is the motions that may impact the 2015 budget. Two require legal advice and will be provided separately; the remaining responses are attached as Appendix B.

For Council's consideration, it is recommended that any initiatives requiring ongoing funding be provided through assessment growth property tax revenue, and that any one-time initiatives be funded through 2014 surplus. Since a number of initiatives require further scoping before funding needs can be determined, it is also recommended that Council establish a Council Strategic Objectives Account to set aside funding to be allocated once those funding needs have been finalized.

All Council direction will be incorporated into the 2015-2019 Financial Plan and the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw, which is scheduled to be given second and third readings on April 23, 2015 and adoption on April 30, 2015.

Tax notices will be sent out once the financial plan and tax rate bylaws have been adopted by Council.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Provide direction regarding funding needs for items identified by the public or through responses to the Council's motions passed during budget discussions.
2. Approve the following ongoing allocation of \$1.832 million in non-market change revenue:
 - a. Any ongoing funding needs identified by the public or through responses to Council's motions during budget discussions, as determined by Council.
 - b. Supplementary budget requests:
 - i. Sidewalk maintenance upgrades \$80,000
 - c. Strategic Plan initiatives:
 - i. Inter-disciplinary team to support implementation of strategic plan - \$300,000 (to be evaluated each year).
 - ii. Additional funding for the Victoria Affordable Housing Reserve as determined by Council.
 - iii. The remainder into a Council Strategic Objectives Account from which Council can allocate funding toward:
 1. An integrated facilities and real estate arm once the scope has been determined.
 2. Arts and Culture Master Plan.
 3. Capital projects identified in the Strategic Plan including implementation of the Douglas/Blanshard Corridor, fenced dog park, Harbour Pathway special places, and facilities and cycling network projects.
 4. Other strategic objectives as determined by Council.
3. Approve the following one-time allocation of the \$2.848 million 2014 surplus and the \$143,532 in the Strategic Initiatives Reserve:
 - a. Any one-time funding needs identified by the public or through responses to Council's motions during budget discussions, as determined by Council.
 - b. Strategic Plan initiatives:

- i. Parks Master Plan - \$250,000
 - ii. Begbie Green – up to \$150,000
 - c. Supplementary Requests
 - i. Concrete and brick paver intersection maintenance
 - 1. \$10,000 in 2015
 - 2. \$12,000 in 2016
 - 3. \$15,000 in 2017
 - ii. Zoning regulation bylaw renewal
 - 1. \$265,000 in 2015
 - 2. \$335,000 in 2016
 - iii. Hosting UBCM conference 2015 \$155,000
 - d. The remainder to the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve, which can be used for capital investments for Crystal Pool and Fire Hall #1.
4. Approve the following allocation from the City's Gas Tax Reserve:
- a. Bicycle Master Plan Implementation
 - i. \$7,250,000 if Council approves the increase to ensure sufficient bike lane protection for all ages and abilities and the City is not successful in its grant application under the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund.
 - ii. \$4,900,000 if Council does not approve the increase to ensure sufficient bike lane protection for all ages and abilities and the City is not successful in its grant application under the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund.
 - iii. An additional \$500,000 should Council wish to expedite these projects as outlined in this report.
5. Defer decision until the 2016 Financial Plan on additional allocations from the City's Gas Tax Reserve pending the result of the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund grant applications.
6. Direct staff to bring forward the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw, 2015, as amended, to the April 23, 2015 Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,


Susanne Thompson
Director, Finance

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager: _____

Date: April 2, 2015

Attachments:

Appendix A: Supplementary Operating Budget Requests

Appendix B: Responses to Council Motions Passed During Budget Meetings

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek direction regarding adjustments to the draft 2015-2019 Financial Plan based on the feedback from public consultation before Council gives final approval to the Financial Plan Bylaw prior to May 15 as required by the *Community Charter*.

Background

Section 165 of the *Community Charter* requires that a financial plan be approved annually following public consultation as required by section 166. The financial plan must be approved after the tax rate bylaw is approved, but before May 15 as required by section 197.

The draft 2015 Financial Plan was developed based on Council's direction for a maximum tax increase of 3.25% (2% for operating and 1.25% for capital) as well as the City's Financial Sustainability Policy as the guiding document for budget development. Budgets were developed to maintain existing services and service levels; staff's recommendations to Council on service level changes are presented as supplementary budget requests for Council's consideration.

The draft operating budget totals \$213 million and the draft capital budget totals \$79.5 million for 2015. The proposed budgets would result in:

- A property tax increase of \$3.6 million or 3.09% (1.84% for operating and 1.25% for capital).
- An overall increase, including utility user fee increases, of 2.91% for an average home and 2.98% for a typical business.

On February 23, 2015, Council passed the following motions, for which direction is sought today:

- Approved transferring \$500,000 of non-market change revenue to the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve and direct staff to bring forward options for the use of the remainder once public consultation has been completed.
- Direct staff to bring forward options for the use of 2014 surplus once public consultation has been completed.
- Direct staff to bring forward options for funding supplementary budget requests once public consultation has been completed.
- Direct staff to bring forward options for the allocation of gas tax funding once Council direction has been given regarding the Federal Gas Tax Fund Strategic Priorities Fund grant applications.

After review and fulsome discussion, Council gave first reading to the Financial Plan Bylaw on February 26, 2015 prior to commencing public consultation.

Public consultation, through an online survey and a Town Hall/eTown Hall supported by a budget toolkit and video explaining municipal budgets, took place during the month of March. A separate report will be presented at today's meeting outlining the results of the consultation.

On March 26, 2015, as part of the review of the City's Reserve Fund Policy, Council directed staff to bring forward options for the allocation of the funding in the Strategic Planning Initiatives Reserve.

Issues & Analysis

1. Available Funding

A number of funding sources are yet to be allocated by Council:

- Non-Market Change (Assessment Growth) - \$1.832 million
- 2014 Surplus - \$2.848 million
- Strategic Planning Initiatives Reserve - \$143,000
- Gas Tax Funding - \$9 million

Non-Market Change (Assessment Growth)

Assessment growth revenue is new property tax revenue that the City will be collecting each year on an ongoing basis. Council adopted the Financial Sustainability Policy in 2009. This policy recommends that all new property tax revenue resulting from new construction is transferred to reserve. At the January 22, 2015 Governance and Priorities Committee meeting, Council directed staff to review this policy. The policy review will take place in 2015, but not prior to finalizing the 2015 Financial Plan. Therefore, direction is sought on the use of the assessment growth revenue for 2015.

Council could consider using this revenue to fund supplementary requests, fund projects such as active transportation or other strategic plan items, address feedback from public consultation, transfer additional funds to reserve, or reduce taxes.

The funding available is \$2.332 million. On February 23, 2015, Council approved allocating \$500,000 to the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve, leaving \$1.832 million to be allocated. The current reserve contribution to the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve is \$5.3 million in 2015; the estimated balance at the end of 2014 is approximately \$38 million. The non-market change amount is equivalent to an approximate 2% tax reduction.

The following table outlines the assessment growth for the last five years:

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
\$1.88 million	\$1.66 million	\$328,000	\$108,000	\$1.37 million

2014 Surplus

Surplus is one-time funding arising from the previous year's expenditure budgets being underspent or revenue budgets being exceeded, or a combination of the two. Per the Financial Sustainability Policy, prior year surplus can be used for one-time expenditures and/or is transferred to infrastructure reserves.

The 2014 surplus is \$2.898 million. On February 23, 2015, Council approved allocating \$25,000 for a grant for the Western Canada Music Awards and to move the \$25,000 unspent greenways grant to 2015 strategic plan grants, leaving \$2.848 million to be allocated. As part of the report on 2014 Financial Statements coming to Council on April 23, details about the 2014 surplus will be provided.

The following table outlines the surplus allocation for the past four years:

2010		2011		2012		2013	
Victoria's 150 th Celebration	\$100,000	Victoria's 150 th Celebration	\$150,000	Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve	\$1,228,387	Additional staffing to expedite planning applications	\$350,000
Customer Service Strategy	\$150,000	Customer Service Strategy	\$180,000			Active transportation	\$124,559
Buildings & Infrastructure Reserve	\$3,142,221	Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve	\$520,900			Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve	\$2,800,000
		UBCM conference	\$100,000				
		Twin City delegates	\$65,000				
Total	\$3,392,221		\$1,015,900		\$1,228,387		\$3,474,559

Strategic Planning Initiatives Reserve

This reserve has approximately \$143,000 that can be used to partially fund some capital strategic plan initiatives such as quality-of-life infrastructure for the Douglas/Blanshard Corridor, park improvements, or cycling network projects.

Annual Gas Tax Funding

The City receives annual funding from the Federal Government through their gas tax program. Prior to 2014, the annual allocation was approximately \$2.1 million. Starting in 2014, as a result of a renewed gas tax agreement with the Federal Government, the City is receiving additional annual funding of \$1.1 million for a total of \$3.2 million. Each year, amounts received are transferred to the City's Gas Tax Reserve which Council approves allocations from through the annual capital plan. The majority of the projects funded through the gas tax reserve to-date have been storm drain infrastructure projects. There currently remains \$9 million in this reserve to be allocated.

The City is required to report annually through the Union of BC Municipalities on which projects have been funded using gas tax and the agreement outlines which types of projects are eligible. There are a number of capital projects that would qualify for this funding including Bicycle Master Plan Implementation, storm drain projects and David Foster Harbour Pathway.

2. Funding Considerations for Council

Strategic Plan

The draft Strategic Plan identified a number of initiatives requiring funding:

For 2015:

- Inter-disciplinary team to lead and coordinate the strategic plan initiatives - up to \$300,000 annually for three years
- Creation of an integrated facilities and real estate arm - amount to be determined
- Creation of an economic development function - funding of \$250,000 exists in the draft Financial Plan
- Additional funding for the Victoria Housing Reserve - amount to be determined
- Parks Master Plan (design of two special places, off leash area, Victoria West Park) - \$250,000
- Expediting design of projects outlined in the cycling network - \$500,000
- Begbie Green - \$100,000-150,000 depending on scope

For future years:

- City-wide village planning process with associated transportation corridors - amount to be determined
- Grant funding for Vic High sports facility - \$250,000
- Arts and Culture Master Plan – amount to be determined
- Capital funding for:
 - Implementation of Douglas/Blanshard Corridor – amount to be determined
 - Facilities such as Crystal Pool, Fire Hall #1 and Central Library – amounts to be determined
 - Fenced dog park (approximately 0.7 acres in flat area) – \$35,000
 - Harbour Pathway special places – amount to be determined

It is recommended that the ongoing initiatives (inter-disciplinary team and additional funding for the Victoria Housing Reserve) be funded through non-market change (assessment growth) property tax revenue; that one-time initiatives be funded through the Strategic Planning Initiatives Reserve and the 2014 surplus (parks master plan, expediting design of cycling network and Begbie Green); that the \$250,000 in the economic development budget be used to create an economic development office; and that a Council Strategic Objectives Account be established to set aside funding from the non-market change (assessment growth) property tax revenue for the remaining items that are yet to be scoped (integrated facilities and real estate arm, arts and culture master plan, and capital projects). Council will determine how the funding in this account is allocated once the scope and funding needs of those items have been determined.

Public Consultation Input and Council Motions

Through the opportunities for public input, the community indicated general satisfaction with the service and funding levels in the draft Financial Plan and the initiatives outlined in the draft Strategic Plan. There is strong support for active transportation; public places, green spaces and food production; economic development; planning and land use, and affordability

During the budget meetings on February 16, 17, 19 and 23, 2015 Council passed 19 motions requesting additional information. Staff focused first on the motions that have an impact on the 2015 budget. A few of the motions require more information to be gathered; staff will report back with additional information at a later date. Two require legal advice and will be provided separately; the remaining responses are attached as Appendix B.

It is recommended that Council provide direction to staff to address the public feedback and any actions regarding the information provided in response to the Council motions passed during the budget discussions in February.

Supplementary Operating Budget Requests

The following table summarizes the supplementary budget requests; additional details on each are attached as Appendix A:

Description	2015	2016	2017
Concrete and brick paver intersection maintenance	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$15,000
Sidewalk maintenance upgrades	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
Zoning regulation bylaw renewal (net of proposed funding for the Downtown Core Area Plan Implementation)	\$265,000	\$335,000	
Hosting UBCM conference	\$155,000		

It is recommended that the on-going sidewalk maintenance upgrades be funded from the non-market change (assessment growth) revenue and that the remaining one-time items be funded from 2014 surplus.

Bicycle Master Plan Implementation – Gas Tax Funding

The area of highest interest during the public consultation process was multi-modal transportation. Many expressed a desire for protected bike lanes for all ages and abilities.

In the draft financial plan, Council had given preliminary approval for the following projects for a total budget of \$4.9 million:

- Pandora Avenue between Store and Cook: \$1.3 million in 2015
- Johnson Street between Store and Cook: \$1.3 million in 2016
- Vancouver Street: \$500,000 in 2017
- Off-Bay Street: \$500,000 in 2018
- Wharf Street/Bellville Street: \$1.3 million in 2019

However, providing the desired level of bike lane protection for all ages and abilities would require additional funding of \$2.35 million as follows:

- Johnson Street - from \$1.3 million to \$1.5 million (fully protected, one-way bike lane, with signal improvements)
- Vancouver Street - from \$500,000 to \$2.4 million (all ages and abilities facility)
- Off-Bay Street - from \$500,000 to \$750,000 (all ages and abilities facility)

Should Council wish to expedite the above projects, as was outlined in the draft Strategic Plan, an additional \$500,000 would be required for civil consulting services; the services of the interdisciplinary team identified in the draft 2015-2018 Strategic Plan would also be required.

These projects are eligible for funding from the City's Gas Tax Reserve, which has approximately \$9 million available. The City has applied for a grant under the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund; successful applications will be announced in the fall.

3. Next Steps

Council feedback has been sought and updates have been provided over the last 10 months regarding the development and implementation of the new financial planning process. The following table outlines the remaining timeline for this year's process.

Dates	Task
April 9 Special Governance and Priorities Committee	Present consultation results and seek direction on changes to financial plan.
April 23 Special Council	Final report on financial plan including incorporated changes; report on 2015 tax rates. Second and third reading of financial plan bylaw; first, second and third reading of tax bylaw.
April 30 Council	Adoption of financial plan bylaw and tax bylaw
July 2015	Lessons learned report to Council; seek direction on 2016 financial planning process.
During 2015	Develop options, in consultation with the community, for participatory budgeting opportunities to be implemented for the 2016 financial planning process.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Provide direction regarding funding needs for items identified by the public or through responses to the Council's motions passed during budget discussions
2. Approve the following ongoing allocation of \$1.832 million in non-market change revenue:
 - a. Any ongoing funding needs identified by the public or through responses to Council's motions during budget discussions, as determined by Council
 - b. Supplementary budget requests:
 - i. Sidewalk maintenance upgrades \$80,000
 - c. Strategic Plan initiatives:
 - i. Inter-disciplinary team to support implementation of strategic plan -\$300,000 (to be evaluated each year)
 - ii. Additional funding for the Victoria Affordable Housing Reserve as determined by Council
 - iii. The remainder into a Council Strategic Objectives Account from which Council can allocate funding toward:
 1. An integrated facilities and real estate arm once the scope has been determined
 2. Arts and Culture Master Plan
 3. Capital projects identified in the Strategic Plan including implementation of the Douglas/Blanshard Corridor, fenced dog park, Harbour Pathway special places, and facilities and cycling network projects.
 4. Other strategic objectives as determined by Council
3. Approve the following one-time allocation of the \$2.848 million 2014 surplus and the \$143,532 in the Strategic Initiatives Reserve:
 - a. Any one-time funding needs identified by the public or through responses to Council's motions during budget discussions, as determined by Council
 - b. Strategic Plan initiatives:
 - i. Parks Master Plan - \$250,000
 - ii. Begbie Green – up to \$150,000
 - c. Supplementary Requests
 - i. Concrete and brick paver intersection maintenance
 1. \$10,000 in 2015
 2. \$12,000 in 2016
 3. \$15,000 in 2017
 - ii. Zoning regulation bylaw renewal
 1. \$265,000 in 2015
 2. \$335,000 in 2016
 - iii. Hosting UBCM conference 2015 \$155,000
 - d. The remainder to the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve, which can be used for capital investments for Crystal Pool and Fire Hall #1.
4. Approve the following allocation from the City's Gas Tax Reserve:
 - a. Bicycle Master Plan Implementation
 - i. \$7,250,000 if Council approves the increase to ensure sufficient bike lane protection for all ages and abilities and the City is not successful in its grant application under the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund
 - ii. \$4,900,000 if Council does not approve the increase to ensure sufficient bike lane protection for all ages and abilities and the City is not successful in its grant application under the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund
 - iii. An additional \$500,000 should Council wish to expedite these projects as outlined in this report.

5. Defer decision until the 2016 Financial Plan on additional allocations from the City's Gas Tax Reserve pending the result of the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund grant applications
6. Direct staff to bring forward the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw, 2015, as amended, to the April 23, 2015 Council meeting

Appendix A – Supplementary Operating Budget Requests

Concrete and Brick Paver Intersection Maintenance

Overview:

This supplementary request is in regard to concrete and brick paver intersection maintenance. On Government Street, the cross walks at Yates, View, Fort, Broughton, Courtney and Humboldt are all composed of brick pavers.

The bricks and mortar are failing and creating a tripping hazard to pedestrians and cyclists. As the work area is in a high traffic volume area, the work is done on the weekends and the area is closed for traffic until the following Tuesday to allow the mortar to set.

5 Year Forecast

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Expenditures					
9211 WO Regular Time	10,000	12,000	15,000		
Total Expenses	10,000	12,000	15,000		
Net Request	(10,000)	(12,000)	(15,000)		

Appendix A – Supplementary Operating Budget Requests

Sidewalk Maintenance Upgrades

Overview:

This funding request is for additional sidewalk maintenance to:

- Remove and replace surrounding sidewalk panels when new bases for poles are installed to meet current code.
- Repair or replace sidewalk panels and tree well pavers that are sunken or raised by growing tree roots.

This additional work will increase safety for pedestrians by reducing tripping hazards.

5 Year Forecast

		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Expenditures						
9411	WO Contracted Services	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Total Expenses		80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Net Request		80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000

Appendix A – Supplementary Operating Budget Requests

Zoning Regulation Bylaw Renewal

Overview:

The current bylaw is difficult to interpret and has been developed in a piece-meal fashion over several decades without a comprehensive or holistic approach.

The proposed zoning bylaw renewal would utilize best practices to make the bylaw easier to understand and remove inconsistencies resulting in improved customer service, internally and externally.

This funding would be used to engage external support as well as increase staffing by 0.5 FTE for a two-year period to undertake a comprehensive review, analysis, community consultation and rewrite of the Zoning Regulation Bylaw. The scope would include new Downtown Core Area Zones, Schedule C (parking), specific review and improvements related to the Rockland Zones, addressing issues related to developing sloped sites and ensuring best practices are utilized throughout.

The Downtown Core Area Plan Implementation proposed budget includes \$270,000 of funding for schedule C (parking) and downtown zoning bylaw. To complete the renewal of the entire zoning bylaw, an additional \$600,000 is required.

5 Year Forecast:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Expenditures					
	435,000	385,000	50,000	0	0
Total Expenses	435,000	385,000	0	0	0
DCAP funding	170,000	50,000	50,000		
Net Request	265,000	335,000	0	0	0

Appendix B

Installation of Banners and Other Beautification Initiatives: that Council direct staff to report back with information on the cost of assisting village centers with the installation of banners and other beautification initiatives.

BACKGROUND:

A banner program in village centres would trigger initial capital expenditures, as there are few, if any, banner poles installed in village centres, and banner installation on third-party utility poles is not permitted. Typical costs for installing a banner pole and base is approximately \$4,500 per location. Operating costs consisting of contractor installation and removal costs will be incurred of approximately \$40.00 per pair of banners for the existing downtown banner program.

The full cost of implementing this program will be dependent on the number and size of village centres being addressed (there are 8 Large Urban Villages, 1 Small Urban Village, and 1 Small Urban Villages Heritage designated in the OCP), the number of banners used in each village, and the number of banner poles installed. Other beautification initiatives included would also impact capital and operating costs, and would have to be determined following the consultation and development of projects/programs.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The cost for each banner pole and base is approximately \$4,500. Typically as outlined below, a small urban village would have 8 poles and a large one 16 poles, but can be scaled back to reduce costs.

The financial implications are estimated to be based on the following assumptions:

- 8 Large Urban Villages: 16 poles each, 128 poles combined
- 2 Small Urban Villages: 8 poles each, 16 poles combined

Banner and Other Beautification Initiatives

Capital Costs

Pole Installation 144 poles @ \$4,500	648,000
Total Capital Costs	648,000

Operating Costs

Banners 288 (2 banners per pole replaced once every two years) @ \$65	18,720
Install Banner 144 @ \$40 per pair (twice per year)	11,520
Pole Maintenance	10,800
Plan Development Consultant	10,000
Total Operating Costs	51,040

Appendix B

Crosswalk Implementation Plan: that Council direct staff to report back on the crosswalk implementation plan.

BACKGROUND:

The following information is evaluated when considering a marked crosswalk request:

- Pedestrian volumes
- Pedestrian demographics (additional weighting is given to children, seniors, and people with disabilities)
- Main-street vehicle volumes and arrival patterns (platoon vs. random arrivals)
- Vehicle speeds
- Physical conditions, including:
 - Road geometry
 - Stopping sight distance
 - Grades
 - Lighting
 - Intersection layout

Proposed crosswalk for 2015:

- 800 block Yates
- 3000 Block Cedar Hill

500 Block Fisgard deferred as per Council Motion

Proposed crosswalk projects for 2016:

- Vancouver/Caledonia
- Vancouver/Bay
- Vancouver/Hillside
- Fifth/Finlayson
- Michigan/Menzies
- Erie Street between Dallas and St. Lawrence

Higher detail concept plans will be developed for these projects, vetted with stakeholders and the general public through a consultation process, and forwarded to Council for approval. Following Council approval, civil designs will be completed, and the projects will be constructed in 2016.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Order-of-magnitude cost estimates for these projects are as follows:

- Vancouver/Caledonia – \$150,000
- Vancouver/Bay – \$150,000
- Vancouver/Hillside – \$150,000
- Fifth/Finlayson – \$150,000
- Michigan/Menzies – \$50,000
- Erie Street between Dallas and St. Lawrence – \$50,000

Appendix B

Garbage in Public Areas: that Council direct staff to report on service levels for garbage collection in public areas including separating waste streams, during the tourist season.

BACKGROUND:

There are two issues, and two separate approaches:

1. Improved garbage collection in public areas during the tourist season
 - a. Due to increased use of street refuse containers, some may be overflowing later in the day. In order to deal with this situation, staff have moved one collection crew from the morning shift (4am to 12:30pm) to work the afternoon shift (12 noon to 8:30pm). There is an existing seven month seasonal position to cover the vacancy left on the morning shift, however, it will require five more months of funding for a position to cover off the gap for the morning shift that remains for the balance of the year.
2. The Capital Program for Separate Waste Streams for street refuse containers
 - a. A pilot program has been put forward to buy/build twelve or more multi-stream waste containers (food/recycle/garbage) is planned for 2015, and deploy them downtown and in Beacon Hill Park this spring. The design will be similar to the current City of Victoria street garbage containers, and will include clear signage as to the disposal options. Staff recommend deploying these in place of existing garbage cans on two blocks of the Government Street Mall, Bastion Square, one block of Blanshard Street, and in the main playground area at Beacon Hill Park off Arbutus Way. An evaluation throughout the spring to early fall period will be undertaken to gauge their effectiveness.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

1. An additional \$55,000 of funding for one staff (5 months), additional vehicle usage and increased disposal fees on an annual basis.
2. Budget is included in the 2015 Capital Budget at \$43,500.

TIMELINE:

1. This funding and program will be ongoing. If approved by Council, the goal is to hire and implement in May 2015.
2. We plan to install the first of the units in May 2015, or as soon as they are fabricated. Monitoring will begin immediately and continue through late fall. The units will be left in place until a report can be taken to Council late in 2015; at that time a decision will be sought to either leave them in place to expand the program, or to remove them.

Appendix B

Centennial Square Washrooms: That Council direct staff to provide a report on what it will take to upgrade the Centennial Square washrooms and impacts on other projects.

BACKGROUND:

The public washroom facilities at Centennial Square have male and female rooms with a total of six toilets, four urinals and four sinks. The facility was originally constructed in 1964. The washrooms used by approximately 300-400 citizens a day are open year-round, 24 hours a day. The current washroom facility is outdated and unappealing which likely discourages use from some members of the public.

It is proposed that the washrooms be completely renovated with new flooring, partitions, urinals and sinks. All new fixtures will be designed and installed to meet current building and plumbing codes. The washrooms will also be upgraded to make them accessible to persons with disabilities.

The treatments and finishing will be similar to recent renovations completed at the Stadacona Park public washrooms. New treatments include slip resistant epoxy flooring, stainless steel fixtures and partitions and new paint.

During construction the washrooms will be unavailable to the public. Temporary trailer mounted washrooms will be rented and placed at an appropriate location within Centennial Square.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The estimated cost to upgrade the washrooms is \$125,000. This cost includes consulting, permits, temporary washroom rental, construction and contingency.

At current staffing levels there is no capacity to add this project without deferring another facilities project identified in the draft Financial Plan.

TIMELINE:

The timeline to complete washroom upgrades is estimated at 6 to 8 months from the date of Council approval and includes design, tender and construction.

Appendix B

Traffic Calming: that Council direct future Engineering budgets to include consideration of funding for traffic calming, including specific projects and locations.

Traffic calming will be a consideration in all projects and will be detailed in the budget requests for each.

Currently, the operating budget includes \$50,000 annually for traffic-management related items, primarily to implement projects in the various Neighbourhood Transportation Management Plans.

Appendix B

Belleville Terminal Phase 2 Project: that Council direct staff to assess the possibility, as outlined in the letter from the Province dated January 28, 2015, and to report back to Council with information on including infrastructure work related to the Belleville Terminal Phase 2 Project in the 2017 Capital Budget.

BACKGROUND:

Infrastructure work integral to the Belleville Terminal Phase 2 Project currently identified includes only the replacement/enhancement of approximately 80m of sidewalk on the north side of Belleville Street, east of Oswego Street, along with a viewing area and supporting walls/structures. As noted in the January 28, 2015 Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure letter, a detailed design and refined cost estimate would be appropriate, as would reconfirmation with all parties on the proposed design. As a stand-alone project, staff would estimate consultant design costs for this work at \$85,000.

However, the desire to expand David Foster Harbour Pathway improvements in front of the Steamship Terminal Building (noted in the January 28, 2015 letter) triggers the need for a larger conceptual design and consultation exercise, which should be done in conjunction with the development of All Ages and Abilities cycling facilities on the Wharf/Government/Belleville corridor and the design of the special place.

In addition to property owners and businesses/tenants being impacted by reconfiguring this block of Belleville Street, a number of tourist-related sightseeing operators currently lease on-street space in this area.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Once the scope of work has been confirmed through the conceptual design and consultation exercises, detailed design drawings can be developed. The sidewalk realignment is impacted by the work identified for expediting cycling facilities and the two should be developed in conjunction.

TIMELINE

Following Council approval, work towards completing consultation and design process could begin in 2016 for implementation in 2017.

Appendix B

Bus Stop Terminal Relocation: that Council direct staff to report back on human resource implications of potentially relocating the bus terminal stop in the 2016 budget funded by BC Transit.

BACKGROUND:

Staff are scheduled to meet with the stakeholders to gain a greater understanding of the details of the proposal, and determine what the potential human resource implications may be. While no specific site for a motor coach terminal is required at this time, the proponent's proposal recommends that an on-street bus terminal for commercial buses be located on Douglas Street south of Humboldt Street. The proposal also includes increased space for BC Transit buses on Douglas Street, Humboldt Street, and on Fairfield Road.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

A report to Council will be provided once the specific requests have been determined, and the human resource and potential costs to the City have been identified (on-street improvements, storefront space, etc.)

Appendix B

Expediting Cycling Facilities: that Council direct staff to report back on expediting the cycling facilities on Vancouver Street, the off-Bay Street route, Johnson Street and Craigflower/Skinner by the end 2016.

BACKGROUND:

To expedite the design of these projects, civil design consulting services would be required. These projects are included in 2015-2018 Draft City of Victoria Strategic Plan (Objective 9 - Complete a Multi-Modal and Active Transportation Network) identified in the February 22, 2015 GPC report.

The Craigflower/Skinner project, started in 2014, is currently under construction, and will be completed in Q2 of 2015.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are two separate financial implications for these projects:

Expediting

As identified in the draft Strategic Plan, an additional \$500,000 would be needed for civil consulting services. In addition, the services of the interdisciplinary team identified in the draft Strategic Plan would be required.

Expanded Scope

The original budget for these projects was \$2.3 million which included cycling facilities at a lower protection level than the new proposed cycling facilities structure. Increasing the level of protection for cycling facilities designed for all ages and abilities will increase the budget by \$2.35 as follows:

- Johnson Street (fully protected, one-way bike lane, with signal improvements) - increase from \$1.3 million to \$1.5 million
- Vancouver Street (all ages and abilities facility) – increase from \$500,000 to \$2.4 million
- Off-Bay Street (all ages and abilities facility) – increase from \$500,000 to \$750,000

TIMELINE:

Work on this project could proceed through 2015 and be complete by the end of 2016.

Appendix B

Dallas Road Pathway: That Council direct staff to report on options and implications of the Dallas Road pathway and the conflicts between the pathway and the leash optional area along Dallas Road

BACKGROUND:

The Dallas Road waterfront pathway and leash-optional areas adjacent to the pathway have been a source of conflict between pedestrians and other pathway users. Complaints are frequently received from the public regarding pedestrian safety as well as from motorists concerned that dogs may unexpectedly enter the roadway.

To provide Council with options and implications staff suggest that the public is engaged to confirm the scope of issues and to receive input on possible infrastructure improvements that will minimize conflict, improve safety for dogs and pedestrians and improve the overall experience along Dallas Road. The proposed approach will include the development of an engagement strategy, public consultation and the development of concept options and implications for Council consideration.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Additional planning, design and capital funds are required to complete this project. The amount of capital funds will be determined based on the public consultation process and the desired improvements but may include:

- fencing
- pathway improvements
- additional signage costs

With capital improvements, there will be additional operating costs. These costs would be quantified and included as an implication with each of the concept options.

Order of magnitude costs, should split rail fencing be considered are as follows:

- split-rail fencing – approximately \$120,000 depending on the size of the area fenced plus annual maintenance of \$5000/year
- chip pathway without cribbing – approximately \$50,000 plus annual maintenance of \$12,000/year

This project is not in the workplan and may cause delays for other projects identified in the financial and strategic plans. Costs for planning, design and consultation, should Council wish to proceed with this project, are estimated at \$10,000. Capital budgets would be developed for consideration in the 2016 financial plan.

TIMELINE:

Engagement strategy and public consultation could take place in Fall of 2015

Report to Council in 2016

Capital improvements 2016

Appendix B

Royal Athletic Parking Revenue: that Council direct staff to reassign the revenue from the parking lot at Caledonia Avenue and Vancouver Street to the Parking Services budget beginning 2016

This budget will be reassigned to the Parking Services budget in the 2016-2020 Financial Plan.

Appendix B

Daylighting of Bowker Creek: That Council direct staff to report on the feasibility of daylighting Bowker Creek parallel to the Doncaster Pathway

BACKGROUND:

The bottom of the Bowker Creek culvert is approximately 4.6 meters below the surface at Doncaster Green and the top is 1.8 metres below the surface.

The map below shows the location of the Bowker Creek box culvert in purple. The orange area shows the area extent needed to create a 3:1 slope to the top of the culvert. The yellow areas show the extent needed to create a 3:1 slope to the bottom of the culvert. As can be seen in both of these scenarios, the area required to slope the banks to expose Bowker Creek would require land acquisition.

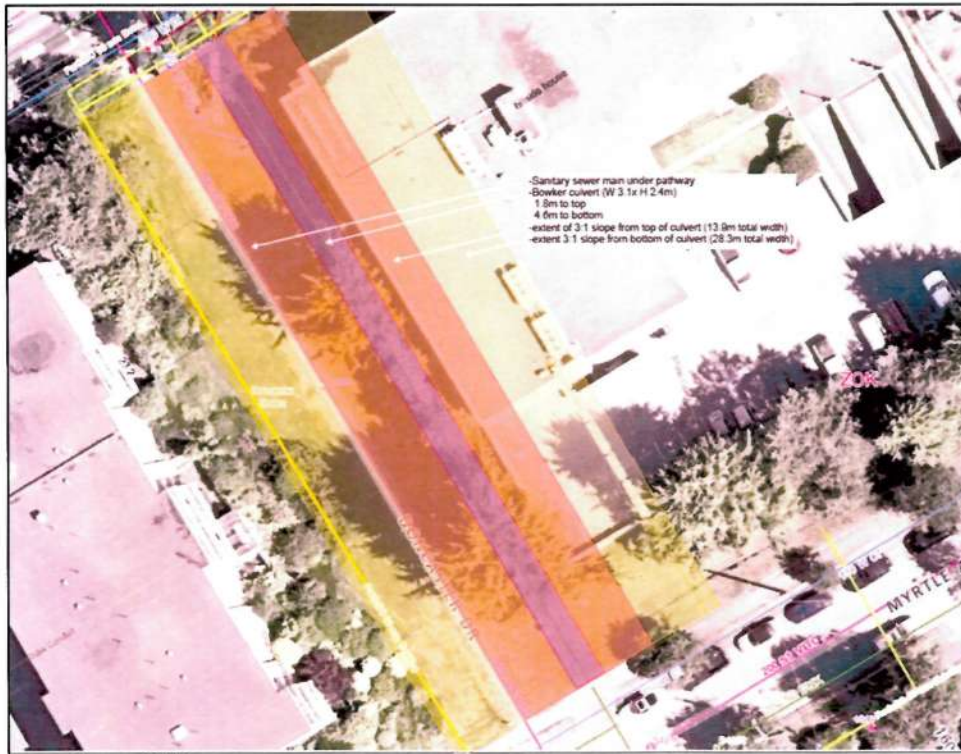


Photo 1: Likely extent of area needed to daylight Bowker Creek in Doncaster Green at 3:1 slope

In addition, in order to daylight, other infrastructure located in the right of way would need to be relocated. This includes a sanitary sewer main, water pressure control valve and electrical kiosk. Due to the above reasons, day-lighting would require extensive retaining structures, culvert head walls, utility relocation and land acquisition. In addition, the steep slopes required would mean the likely elimination of the pathway. The net benefit of this option would be limited as the creek would not be restored to its natural state so there would be no improvements to water quality.

As such, daylighting Bowker Creek at this location may not be feasible unless Council is willing to acquire additional land.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The cost estimates are undetermined at this time but would include:

- Preparation of a design by an engineering consultant
- Acquisition of additional lands
- Costs to construct retaining walls and culvert head walls
- Relocation of other utility servicing

Appendix B

Digitization of Archival Records: that Council direct staff to provide an update on digitization of archival records.

BACKGROUND:

The goal of digitizing archival records is to enhance customer service through increased accessibility of archival records. This is achieved by developing a searchable online database of digitized records supported by a well-organized index and classification system. This approach will enhance public access by providing an alternative to accessing records in person at the City Archives. A second initiative is to enhance access to Archives' records by reducing or eliminating fees charged for licensing the use of Archives records.

To facilitate these initiatives there are several steps:

1. Elimination of licensing fees for non-commercial customer groups
2. Simplify process for licensing archival material for reuse
3. Prioritize records for digitization according to significance and frequency of use
4. Describe and index target records and develop an online tool populated with digital records

City Archives has an existing digital collection of 10,000 photographs that could provide the initial content.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The first three steps do not require additional funding and current staff capacity exists for this work.

Funding would be required to digitize records and develop the online tool; a cost estimate has not been established at this time, but funding is available in the Archives Reserve. This reserve has approximately \$50,000 of funding.

A funding request will be brought to Council for consideration once options for digitization and online tools have been developed.

Appendix B

Bylaw Officer Service Levels: that Council direct staff to report back on what can be accomplished with current service levels provided by Bylaw Officers and what is required for additional service levels.

Staff are in discussions with the City of Vancouver's Internal Audit department to complete a value added audit of our Bylaw and Licensing Services Division in 2015. The City of Vancouver's Internal Audit department is well established and is recognized as a leader amongst BC municipalities. The City of Vancouver's audit team is experienced in the management of bylaws and is familiar with the most efficient and effective models being used today.

A value added audit will provide recommended improvements to the business model and processes, including benchmarking and best practices from other municipalities. The ultimate goal of this audit is to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and enforcement approach of the Bylaw and Licensing Services Division. The audit will also seek to align the enforcement approach with the Council's expectations for customer service and risk mitigation.

The start date for this audit is yet to be scheduled as Vancouver is currently establishing their workplan for the year.

In the interim, should additional staffing be required to address call volumes in the short-term, temporary staffing will be hired similar to what was done last year.

The City's auditor has in the past outlined their support for an internal audit function. This opportunity to engage the City of Vancouver aligns with their recommendation and provides a high level of expertise. In addition, Vancouver is only seeking to recover costs which makes this option very cost-effective. The plan is to complete two audits each year and funding is available through the corporate consulting budget.

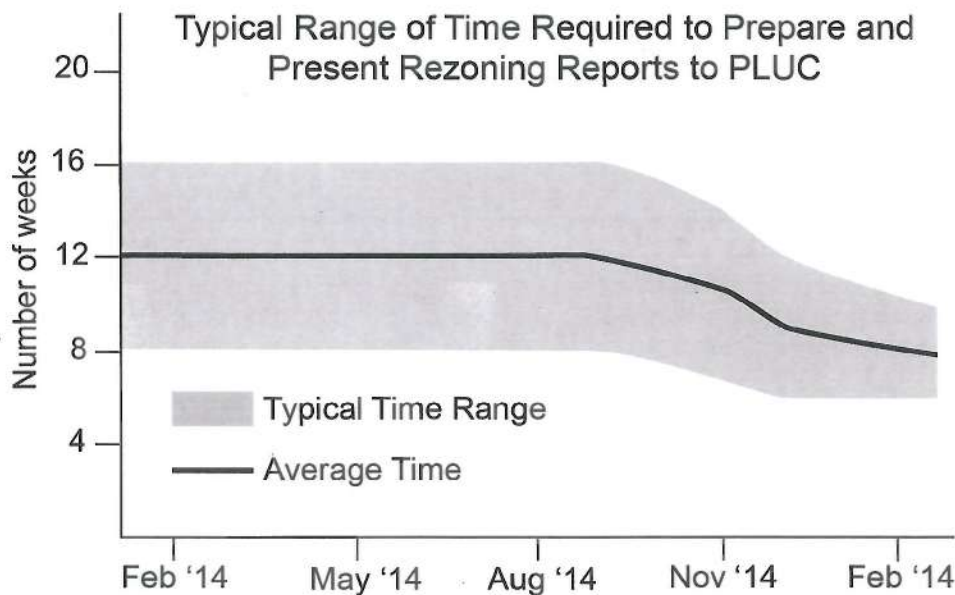
Should the audit findings indicate that additional resources are required, a budget request would be brought to Council for consideration.

Appendix B

Development Services Turn-Around Timelines: that Council direct staff to report back on what resources are required to shorten the two proposed timelines for application turn-around timelines as outlined on page 619 of the 2015 Financial Plan "Deliverables/Metrics".

BACKGROUND:

Currently, the Development Services Division has temporarily increased their staffing level to include a part time secretary (.6 FTE / duration 18 months) and a fulltime planner (duration two years). This temporary increase in staff resources has been in place for approximately eight months and as a result, the timeframe required to write reports and advance applications for consideration at the Planning and Land Use Committee has been reduced to a time range of approximately six to nine weeks from the typical time range of eight to sixteen weeks.



There are a number of opportunities to shorten these timelines further, including accelerating technical review committee comment writing and delivery, and electronic plan submissions. There may also be an opportunity to increase the service level by funding additional staffing through development permit revenue rather than taxation.

A separate detailed report will be brought to Council for consideration once a review of the current process has been completed.

Appendix B

Health and Dental Benefits for Council Members: that Council approve the following motion: BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Victoria consult the public on whether coverage of health and dental benefits for Council members is a reasonable expenditure to include in the Financial Plan Bylaw.

This was a question on the draft Financial Plan and draft Strategic Plan survey.

53% of respondents were in favour and 47% were not. Those that were in favour, the majority indicated coverage should be implemented in 2015.

The budget impact is \$15,000.

Appendix B

Funding for Legal Issues: that Council direct staff to provide a report on the feasibility of providing a fund for Council members to access for conflict of interest or other legal issues, and review best practices in other municipalities.

BACKGROUND:

Council regularly receives legal advice from either the in-house legal team or from external lawyers retained by the City for specific projects. However, lawyers working for the City cannot provide specific legal advice to individual Council members. This is particularly true in the context of potential conflict of interests arising out of matters before Council.

The *Local Government Act* authorizes indemnification of Council members, including for legal expenses. Therefore, it is legally permissible for the City to establish a fund from which Council members could be reimbursed for the cost of obtaining independent legal advice in relation to their performance of their duties as Council members. Establishment of such a fund would require creation of a clear policy with regard to when and how it could be used.

An informal canvassing of a few B.C. municipalities has revealed that at least one of them (District of North Vancouver) has a policy authorizing reimbursement of council members for seeking independent legal advice regarding potential conflict of interest. Other municipalities either deal with these situations on a case-by-case basis or do not reimburse council members for the cost of independent legal advice. There does not appear to be a clear "best practice" in this regard, although it must be noted that in the time available only four municipalities (Saanich, Vancouver, Richmond, and District of North Vancouver) provided responses so far.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Financial implications would depend on the amount Council would budget. At an hourly rate for an external counsel of at least \$350 per hour, and assuming that legal advice would only be sought in more complicated cases, a \$5,000 annual budget should be sufficient in most years, especially if reimbursement were limited to 75% of the actual costs (following the DNV model). This should be sufficient to cover approximately two hours of independent legal advice for each Council member.

There are no human resource implications.

Appendix B

Senior and Community Centres: that Council direct staff to report on options for providing an inflationary increase to the direct award grants to senior and community centres.

The proposed 2015 Financial Plan includes a \$40,000 operating grant for each of the ten community and senior centres and an additional \$8,063 for the seven community centres that offer youth programming for a total of \$456,441.

Adding the 2014 Victoria Consumer Price Index of 0.9% equals \$4,108.

Funding options are:

1. If ongoing increase, the assessment growth new property tax revenue
2. If one-time increase, the 2014 surplus

To provide Council with additional information on increasing the level of Streetlight and Signal pole painting in the 2015 budget.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Victoria has approximately 1700 metal streetlight and signal poles, some which are galvanized and therefore not painted. It is estimated that approximately 1200 poles require painting. The primary effort of the pole painting program has been to repaint the downtown poles.

It is proposed that the poles be painted to a quality to last five years, which would include cleaning and priming prior to painting. Although more expensive than simply applying paint on the existing worn surfaces, this approach will yield a longer paint coating life and a lower cost over the five years; the simple approach would yield more poles painted in a year, but would only last for 2 years. It is anticipated that staff will be able to paint approximately 350 streetlight poles in this proposed program in 2015.

At current staffing levels the City does not have the capacity to increase the level of pole painting in 2015. To achieve an increased level of pole painting, and therefore appearance, it is proposed to hire a TQ painter from May 1 to October 31, 2015. The main areas of focus, in priority, would be:

- All streetlight poles on the Douglas and Blanchard corridors
- Poles in very poor or primed only condition in the Downtown
- Poles in very poor or primed only condition on other arterial streets or major intersections.

This program will result in the main corridors and major intersections being well maintained, and prolong the life of the streetlight assets. Current budget for pole painting would enable repainting of approximately 50 streetlight poles in 2015.

This will be a one-time project and will not bring the City's entire surface infrastructure to an acceptable standard; it will only deal with high profile areas and poles requiring the most maintenance. An ongoing program will be developed for subsequent years for the painting and maintaining of all City owned surface infrastructure, including Public Art, to a better standard.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The current service level is painting of approximately 50 poles per year.

The estimated cost to paint 350 poles in 2015 would be \$140,000. An alternate is to span the work over 2015 and 2016; thus increasing the budgets in 2015 and 2016 by \$70,000.

To provide Council with additional information and options for advancing and completing local area planning for urban villages by 2018.

BACKGROUND:

Following completion of the Burnside-Gorge/Douglas Area Plan, staff will initiate the project to commence local area planning for other large urban villages. The Burnside-Gorge/Douglas Area Plan scope will include planning for one town centre (Mayfair), two large urban villages (Humber Green and Selkirk), a small urban village (Burnside at Harriet) and one transit corridor (Douglas Street).

In addition to the villages within the Burnside neighbourhood, there are eight other large urban villages throughout the city. These include:

1. Cook Street Village
2. James Bay Village
3. Jubilee Village
4. North Park Village
5. Quadra Village
6. Ross Bay Village
7. Stadacona Village
8. Victoria West Village

Local area planning for large urban villages aligns with and supports the OCP growth strategy which seeks to accommodate 50 percent of population growth within the urban core, 40 percent in or within close walking distance of town centres and large urban villages, and 10 percent across the remaining areas of the city (including small urban villages). Recent planning has been completed for most of the urban core through the Downtown Core Area Plan (2011) therefore planning for large urban villages fulfills the objective of planning where planning is needed.

There are options available to Council regarding the number of large urban villages that could be planned within this Council term. The options vary by the number of villages which can be completed and the breadth of topics covered in each plan.

Option 1: Three Urban Villages with Comprehensive Scope

- As identified in the draft 2015-2018 Strategic Plan current staff capacity exists to take on three urban villages upon completion of the Burnside-Gorge/Douglas Area Plan
- The scope would include the development of policies and guidelines based on OCP directions including:
 - Land use and density (reaffirming or reconsidering)
 - Placemaking considerations that include:
 - Building forms, heights and design
 - Fit with the surrounding neighbourhood including building transitions to surrounding areas
 - Public realm improvements and amenities
 - Urban village boundaries
 - Transportation, infrastructure and parks
- These villages have yet to be selected.

Option 2: Six Large Urban Villages (Existing Staff Resources) with Limited Scope:

- Of the eight remaining villages, it is estimated that staff could complete planning for **six** large urban villages upon completion of the Burnside-Gorge/Douglas Area Plan during 2016-2018 under current staff resources with a more focused scope. The remaining two large urban villages would need to continue beyond 2018 (under the current staff complement) into the next Council term.
- The limited scope for Option 2 would include the following topic areas that are deemed to be the critical considerations in how future growth is affecting large urban villages:
 - Density (reaffirming or reconsidering)
 - Placemaking considerations that include:
 - Building forms, heights and design
 - Fit with the surrounding neighbourhood including building transitions to surrounding areas
 - Public realm improvements and amenities
 - Urban village boundaries
 - Transportation considerations focused on the main corridor within the village boundaries
- This process would not include an Engagement Advisory Committee in order to streamline the process. However, staff would rely on key stakeholder meetings, focus groups or other means to help tailor the engagement approach to each village.
- This process would not include transportation considerations related to vehicle and bicycle parking standards, which can be dealt with as part of a separate project to update parking regulations in Schedule 'C' of the *Zoning Regulation Bylaw* that apply across the city.
- This process would also not include Neighbourhood Transportation Management Plan content primarily regarding bicycle access and mobility, and traffic calming within the surrounding local area in order to streamline the process.
- Budget for public engagement would be required; the amount would be determined once the form of desired engagement has been determine. Approximately \$90,000 (\$15,000 per village) for a transportation consultant may also be necessary.

There are two proposed options for completing the remaining two large urban villages:

Option 2A: Final Two Large Urban Villages (Additional Staff Resources):

- This option has the same scope as outlined in Option 2, but with additional resources to complete all eight large urban villages during 2016-2018.
- This option would require a budget of \$200,000 over two years. This would include a two-year contract position for a full time Planning Analyst at \$85,000 per year plus \$30,000 for additional transportation corridor planning.

Option 2B: Final Two Large Urban Villages (Consultant-led Process)

- This option has the same scope as outlined in Option 2, but with additional resources to complete all eight large urban villages during 2016-2018.
- The estimated cost for this approach is \$85,000-100,000 per plan for a total of \$170,000-200,000.

In all options, efficiencies may be found if the proposed interdisciplinary three-staff person project team is able to assist. All options would also be supported through shared collaboration and support from a Transportation Planner and a Citizen Engagement Advisor.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayors and CAO's of Affected AVICC Municipal Members

FROM: Chair Joe Stanhope, Past President

DATE: March 20, 2015

RE: **Gas Operating Fee Revenue Estimates**

Recently your municipality received revised gas operating fee revenue estimates based on a new targeted date for implementation of fees based on July 01, 2015 rather than March 01, 2015, as had previously been hoped.

As a result of this revised information, we received a member enquiry about the impact on 2015 budgeted revenues. This is just a reminder that operating fees are received a year following collection as they are calculated based on actual consumption volumes. Accordingly, the new estimates impact fees to be collected beginning in 2015, but are to be **received in 2016**. Obviously, fully annualized fee revenues will, therefore, not be available until 2017.

This has always been the case, and is, we believe, understood by most members. This significant detail was, however, apparently not communicated internally to at least one finance department so we are providing clarification to all members.

Any questions may be directed to Jerry Berry at gdberry@shaw.ca.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Affected AVICC Municipal Members

FROM: Councillor Barbara Price, President
Chair Joe Stanhope, Past President

DATE: March 16, 2015

RE: Update on Natural Gas Operating Agreements

The Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) has been involved in a five-year cooperative process with FortisBC to implement 'common rates' for residential and business gas customers resulting in significant price reductions for citizens and members; and to provide for a new operating agreement for municipal members which would provide for the payment of 'operating fees' related to the costs of gas distribution.

In the Fall of 2014, all 26 municipalities within AVICC eligible to enter into new agreements authorized and endorsed the AVICC recommended agreement in the format developed cooperatively with FortisBC. Accordingly, operating fee collections were to be implemented on March 01, 2015. For a variety of reasons, FortisBC has recently advised your Executive that the March 01 objective was not achievable, and the new target date to begin collecting operating fees is July 01, 2015 (May 01, 2015 for View Royal, Highlands and Saanich due to existing contractual provisions). This obviously impacts future revenue projections, and we attach the latest data on revised estimates as provided by FortisBC.

Submission of the 26 municipal operating agreements to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) has been delayed; however, at this time, the entire group of agreements are being submitted to the BCUC for approval under a single application submitted by FortisBC. Your Executive met on this issue on March 12, 2015 and provided the above direction. We continue to advocate on your behalf, and we hope this is the final hurdle in resolving this long-standing issue. AVICC is strongly supporting this application and will, once again, seek intervenor status with the BCUC to ensure this new revenue stream is not further delayed.

We will provide a comprehensive update on this issue at the upcoming AVICC Conference. This circular is merely to provide notification of the present status. All municipal CAOs have recently received further background information on this issue. Questions may be referred to AVICC through Joe Stanhope (jstanhope@shaw.ca), or to Jerry Berry of Jerry Berry Consultants Inc. (gdberry@shaw.ca or 250-713-6331).

Please note that this issue does not affect the implementation schedule for common rates, the first phase of which began on January 01, 2015.

525 Government St, Victoria, BC V8V 0A8
Email: avicc@ubcm.ca • Tel: 250-356-5122 • Fax: 250-356-5119 • www.avicc.ca

2016 Vancouver Island Franchise Fee Estimate

Based on July 2014 to December 2014 Revenues

	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Total	Operating Fee 6 Months
Campbell River	1,534,401	975,029	110,445	2,619,875	80,954
Central Saanich	647,829	475,496	50,512	1,173,837	36,272
Colwood	577,902	314,785	-	892,687	27,584
Comox	860,558	641,033	43,986	1,545,577	47,758
Courtenay	1,205,600	982,384	13,890	2,201,874	68,038
Cumberland	143,505	58,905	126,491	328,901	10,163
Duncan	113,374	248,287	13,512	375,173	11,593
Gibsons	294,475	205,386	-	499,861	15,446
Highlands	15,814	-	74,069	89,883	2,777
Ladysmith	472,874	136,416	198,194	807,484	24,951
Langford	881,368	895,871	17,177	1,794,416	55,447
Lantzville	133,022	22,642	-	155,664	4,810
Metchosin	34,009	89,601	-	123,610	3,820
Nanaimo	4,099,952	3,290,358	723,528	8,113,838	250,718
North Cowichan	885,022	539,658	474,252	1,898,932	58,677
North Saanich	298,141	300,543	38,436	637,120	19,687
Parksville	844,563	539,516	14,560	1,398,639	43,218
Port Alberni	671,176	529,827	141,751	1,342,754	41,491
Powell River	892,426	457,677	35,391	1,385,494	42,812
Qualicum Beach	616,496	175,806	29,871	822,173	25,405
Saanich	3,632,461	2,412,517	41,983	6,086,961	188,087
Sechelt	777,549	262,549	-	1,040,098	32,139
Sidney	449,542	389,242	-	838,784	25,918
Sooke	151,458	110,063	-	261,521	8,081
Victoria	2,091,590	6,637,044	1,059,088	9,787,722	302,441
View Royal	402,221	163,925	226,695	792,841	24,499
	22,727,328	20,854,560	3,433,831	47,015,719	1,452,786