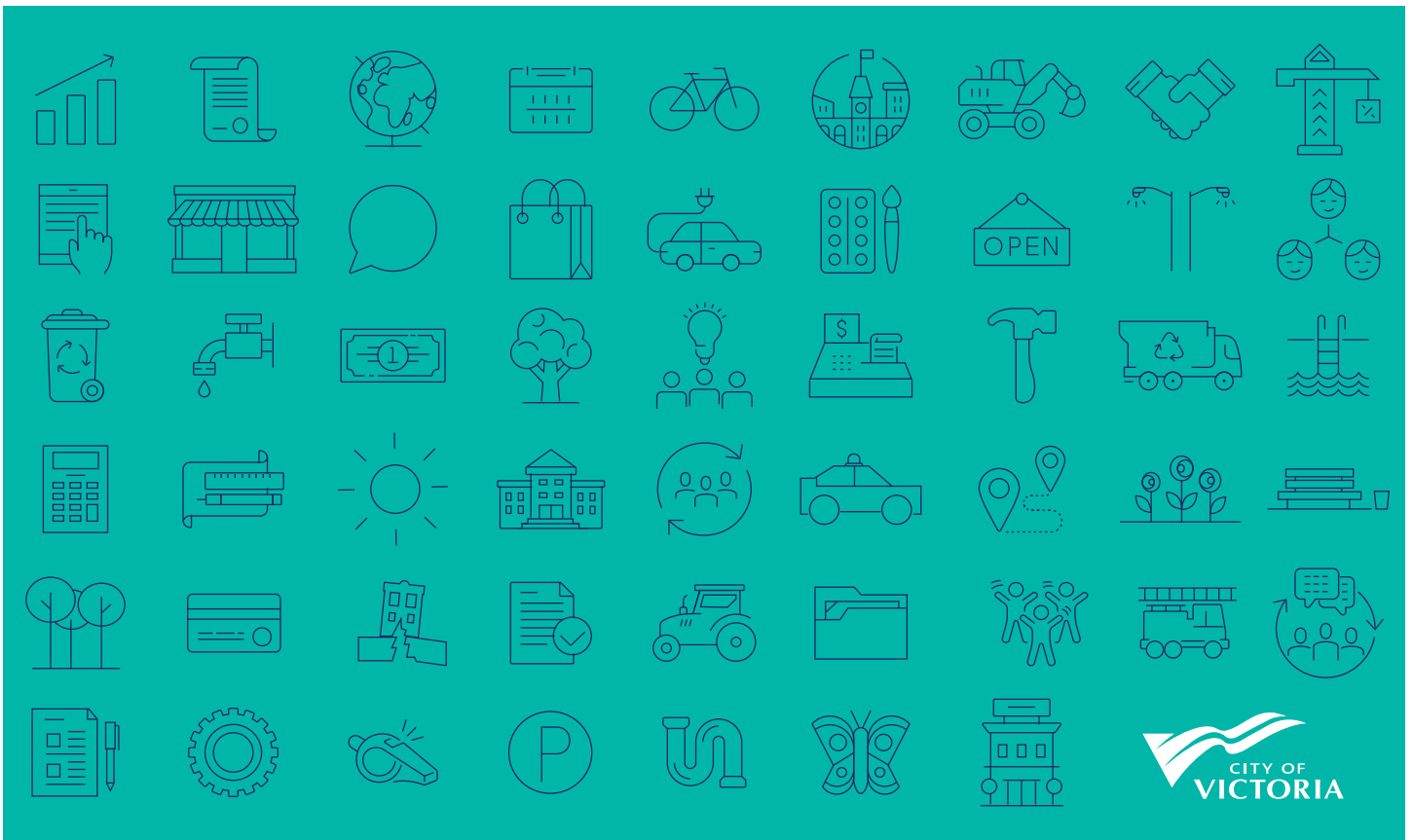


2021

ATTACHMENT A

Virtual Budget Town Hall

Online Submissions



2021 Virtual Budget Town Hall Online Submissions

Hi @TogetherVic and @CityOfVictoria @lisa_helps My #victownhall question. In #USA there is a growing energy around people like @MichaelDTubbs and @mayorsforagi Would #yyj consider steps towards #UBI pilots or its advocacy. As its reasons are many I have attached the following: <https://t.co/ePIPqLuISK>

Upon reading the draft budget, I note that \$270k has been earmarked for revising the roads at Mile 0. Resulting in enlarged Beacon Hill Park. Will this not just focus more traffic along Douglas from Niagara to Dallas? An unnecessary expense with little public gain. The enlarged parks pace would be in an awkward location unless further funds were allocated to enhance Mile 0 with seating etc.

Please outline the concrete plans to house all the citizens forced to camp out in the parks.

Why in the midst of a global movement to combat racism and police brutality and defund police forces across so-called "North America" is the city of Victoria proposing an increase in the police Dept. operating budget and decreasing funds to other public works? It's clear over policing has been counter productive for a truly healthy community. Why aren't real solutions in the budget? Please help

Why is the emergency housing fund not being used for the ongoing emergency needs of the residents of victoria who are living outside without their basic needs met? There is more than 2 million in that fund that could be used to provide housing needs to over 200 people on the street.

Why does council think that increasing the police budget will help all residents of victoria? Increasing the police budget directly affects the amount of violence committed against homeless people, and this is not addressed or acknowledged anywhere in the budget.

Why would you increase the police budget, which is already way too high, when you should be reallocating a portion of the funds they already have and create specifically tailored programs to help with the opioid epidemic, homelessness, mental health issues and other problems the police often demonstrate that they are not trained and/or properly motivated to deal with? Prove it's us you represent.

I call upon the City of Victoria to heed calls to defund VicPD and to redirect funding into mental health crisis training and social services that can help marginalized populations here in Victoria. It is unacceptable that the VicPD are set to be funded further in the coming year. VicPD's disregard for populations most in need of aid cause them to be distrusted by those they claim to protect.

The City continues to prioritize surveillance, criminalization, and punishment. The decision to once again prioritize policing over people's needs has a double impact on marginalized people, who are targeted by policing through racial/social profiling, and also because of societal injustice face the most barriers in meeting basic survival needs.

We must include more funding for police in the 2021 budget.

Why not triple the budget related to graffiti removal & enforcement. And install more surveillance cameras in areas that incur repeated incidents, as well as diligently prosecuting all offenders. Your current budget is a pittance & the results show.

I do not see anything in the budget concerning upgrading Crystal Pool. As the only public recreation facility in the city I feel this is a priority. We keep densifying housing but not providing facilities.

As a Pokémon go player I'd like to see more beautification projects! Utility boxes with historic wraps, trail markers and art displays are all acceptable pokestops! #victownhall #togethervictoria <https://t.co/H7cQJUEero>

Instead of increasing the VICPD fund, I believe we should be putting our money and time into helping the homeless population. Having mental health nurses at the frontline would be the most beneficial. A majority of people living on the streets are using because of undiagnosed mental health issues or growing up in a unstable household. Helping rather than hurting those who need it most!

The Accessibility and Inclusion Policy states that "Through the annual financial planning process , staff will identify resources required to advance accessibility actions, including potential trade-offs address priorities for Council consideration." How can Council make decisions about funding the Accessibility Short Term Action Plan when the draft Financial Plan does not identify the resources?

After a year full of protests calling to defund the police and many people suffering financial loss due to the pandemic, how do you justify increasing the spending for Victoria police services by \$880,320? Moreover, do you think the .52% increase in property tax going towards police operations will be benefit the home and business owners of Victoria?

Is there a plan to build more true green spaces in this budget? Victoria has neighbourhood parks but our downtown green space is lacking - too many paved spaces. If we look at dense cities, Toronto's downtown has 17% green space & lowest carbon footprint in Canada. World leaders hit mid-40 to mid-50%. With an expected 10k population boost to the core by 2038, we can't become a concrete jungle.

Why does the city spend such a high percentage of its budget on policing? This money should be spent on affordable housing and services for the un-housed.

I keep hearing statements from both municipal and provincial members on making our city more affordable. When is this going to be taken seriously. I see all these new building projects (condos in particular) going up with rents that are beyond the reach of the majority of our young adults. The housing market has escalated and rentals are far too high. When are we going to address affordability???

Does the city have a plan to restart the local economy? Strategically thinking of creating new habits for consumers to buy local products and interact with small businesses.

No increase to police budgets now or ever! This is the most tone-dead budget recommendation. Defund the police @SarahPottsH @JeremyLoveday @deardubow #victownhall

The unhoused in Beacon Hill Park are the refugees in our backyard. They need emergency relief and care. Would you consider calling in the Red Cross before matters get totally out of hand and someone dies?

How is it that Victoria City Council is constantly dealing with provincial and federal, rather than municipal issues, at city council meetings? How is it that some City Councillors do not understand that they are not elected to address provincial and federal, but municipal issues?

Please consider spending a portion of the budget on affordable rental housing. Preferably 3 bedroom units, with outdoor space. There is a need for these units in our communities especially where density currently comes from illegal suites and unaffordable bachelors or one bedrooms. Please consider housing options for the unhoused community by centering their voices and lived experience. Thank you

2020 saw a surge in the global movement to resist police brutality against Black and Indigenous people and to reallocate police budgets to underfunded social services. Municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets. Given this, how does the City of Victoria justify the proposed 1.5% increase to the Victoria Police budget?

I don't see a budget line for the funding for the alternative response model being developed. Is this because the funding is external? Where is the funding coming from and what kind of control will community have over this initiative? In a recent statement from the Mayor, this initiative is said to include VicPD. Why are VicPD partners in this initiative when it is meant to be an alternative?

What is the City doing in regards to affordable housing? Currently the average price for a 1bdrm apartment is \$1600. #victownhall #youthspeak

How does the City justify increasing the police budget while it's BIPOC communities are calling to defund the police? #victownhall #youthspeak

I would like to express how essential it is to provide as much extra funding as possible to affordable and supportive housing, alternative response teams, and other budget support for humane mental health and addictions care and housing in Victoria. Will you reallocate some of the staggering 23% (as well as the proposed 1.5% increase) of the policing budget to better supports and social programs?

I work as a city bus driver, and as such this is not my real name. But, to say that I feel unsafe at work would be an understatement. The decisions of this council bear a huge amount of responsibility for that. Any notions of cutting the police budget, especially those affected by ideological factors (BLM, etc) is going to make a bad situation worse and for all the worst reasons. Do right for YYJ.

Hi.I've noticed an increase in vandalism in the city in the past few weeks. Graffiti ++ and at least 3 broken plate glass windows on Fort St. businesses. Any plans to do anything about this?
Thanks #victownhall

My family is anxiously awaiting the Topaz bike park construction. We sorely need more recreation opportunities close to home. Please consider fast tracking this project. We also strongly support the AAA bike route plans, and the 30km/ h speed reduction proposal. Thanks!

Hi there! I was hoping someone could briefly explain the background on the \$45,000 "wayfinding" project under the "Neighbourhoods" section of the budget? How did this project come about and what community issue does it solve or respond to? Thank you.

Why are VicPD and Bylaw Services the only two functions not reducing their operational expenditure in 2021?

How does the city reconcile VicPD's reduction in expenditure on their Community Services Division with City Council's motion to pursue alternative approaches to policing, when the Community Services Division was the division responsible for exploring alternative approaches? What are your thoughts on this reduction given VicPD's increase in expenditure on social media for 2021?

Hello, I've read recently in couple news articles that a new central library plan is in the works. Is this reflected in the budget?

Would you consider reducing the budget to bylaw (given camping in parks is expected to end March 31) and instead redirect that money towards opening a new office of homelessness?

the proposed \$60 million to the VicPD (police) resources violence against Indigenous and Black people, the street community, people who use illicit drugs, people perceived as mentally ill, who are disproportionately targeted by the criminal punishment system. #victownhall
<https://t.co/ZG4uPHbQqG>

When will we topaz bike park be completed? Pls prioritize.

I'm wondering what the reasoning is behind the City of Victoria's decision to allocate \$200,000 to the 2021 Canada Day celebrations in their city budget proposal for this year? We are in the midst of a global pandemic and this type of spending seems unnecessary... #victownhall

I am a screen reader user who has a seeing disability. The accessible summery document does not include information regarding the Accessibility Reserve. I have been told that the full

document does include this information and a sighted peer has informed me that only \$17,000 of the 1.5 million reserve is to be transferred out in 2021. Many accessibility concerns raised by the Accessibility Working Group in the past five and a half years were deferred to the Accessibility Framework. Given that the Accessibility Framework and Short Term Action Plan was adopted in November 2020, I am concerned that so little of the reserve funds are to be used in 2021. What accessibility improvements does the \$17,000 include? Have departments included accessibility improvements identified in the Action Plan in their operating budgets and therefore do not plan to use reserve funds? If so, please explain what these are as I cannot access the information.

Hello #victownhall! I want to talk about community infrastructure for children 5-15. Currently, many of our playgrounds do not work for kids this age. They are looking for more active and exciting opportunities. There is a huge need for a new bike track, small-wheel park,

#victownhall Has the bus shelter budget been increased for 2021? If so, by how much?

here is no need for Victoria families to drive to View Royal, Langford, or Nanaimo for great bike/small wheels facilities for youth. Let's get stakeholders together and build something amazing right in our own City! Kids on bikes = a healthy city! #victownhall

Will you use the city's power of the purse to keep less ethical businesses from pandemic profiteering through eliminating decent paying jobs and replacing them with lower paid workers?

Police budget is 23% of the City's operating budget... why aren't we able to have our questions asked regarding the police budget #victownhall

you say Indigenous reconciliation is your #2 priority in your strategic plan. Please list your immediate actions regarding this #victownhall #youthspeak

Thank you for holding this town hall! How has the police budget been determined? What outcomes does council expect from the police given this budget, and what alternative funding/outcome profiles were considered?

I understand the need for better access from Beacon Hill Park to the Mile O monument and Terry Fox Statue, closing the road entirely would be a bit extreme and make things worse for traffic and residents nearby. I live right across the street from the Terry Fox Monument and I believe that with additional crosswalks and new pathways you can achieve what you desire without removing the road.

#victownhall with the questions re: meegan/beacon hill, perhaps council can just briefly touch on the reasoning behind that project? i can understand why it might seem a little low-priority to some, with everything else going on right now.

I have two kids watching #victownhall with me. Great way to help them learn about government and community. One (4) is asking for a new "roller slide" and a "roundabout" for her park. Other (8) is asking for a small-wheels park or youth skate/bike park. Anything for kids yet?

One final question for #victownhall - what is the city doing about anti-racism training? Are there plans to expand this work moving forward? Also - any plans for newcomers (including immigrants or refugees). This is so important for building our community and inclusivity. #yyj

can you explain more about the zero waste strategy? #victownhall #youthspeak

how much funding are you allocating this year for mental health supports and organizations #victownhall #youthspeak

#victownhall Will any money be allocated towards proper disposal of recyclable plastics, foils and glass?

#victownhall What measures is the city working on to protect vulnerable workers, including women, POC, and immigrants, from pandemic profiteering (having good jobs replaced by poverty wage jobs)?

South Jubilee represent! Good point re the skate/bike park. Glad to hear there is something coming, even tho not directly to your #yyj neighbourhood. #victownhall #yyjpoli

#victownhall a little off topic but... why is no one wearing a mask as per Dr. Bonnie Henry's newest Covid guidelines for City Halls.