

2022

ATTACHMENT A

# Virtual Budget Town Hall

## Online Submissions



## 2022 Virtual Budget Town Hall Online Comment Submissions

1. If it hasn't been asked or offered up, where exactly is \$240,000 in VicPD bonuses (and surrounding comms campaign) being funded from within VicPD's budget? It's for the current year, but is instructive for how VicPD will spend its requested budget in 2022 as well. #victownhall
2. I appreciate seeing that the city of Victoria has emergency preparedness and a business continuity plan in its priorities. Also add that it should be kept as a priority given the new climatic conditions that we are facing
3. I oppose the reconciliation levies. BC First Nations currently get money from other sources (Prov and Fed) we have a lot of other priorities as a city. Starting April 2019, approximately \$3 billion over 25 years will be shared with B.C. First Nations, meaning every First Nation community in B.C. will be eligible for between \$250,000 and \$2 million annually through the agreement from BC gov.
4. Reconciliation is everyone's responsibility, not something we wait for the feds to achieve. Municipal infrastructure is a permanent impact on Indigenous lands. Sharing wealth generated from new development is a small step in the right direction #victownhall
5. My son (9): "they should make more water slides in the pools." Crystal Pool needs replacing soon. First design wasn't good enough - it's needs to be a true community hub, with a range of amenities, maybe a cafe and library & art space (and more water slides). #yyj
6. The accessibility Framework outlined a two pronged approach: prevent & remove barriers. When staff say that accessibility is built into capital project plans, this means other priorities determine what projects are chosen, and accessibility improvements are incidental. This approach also means it will take centuries to remove existing barriers, and some of the worst barriers could be the last to be removed. Are there any proactive plans to address longstanding barriers in the built environment (such as utility poles in the middle of narrow sidewalks) on the basis of a system that prioritizes the work on the basis of the risk those barriers pose for people with disabilities and the effect the barriers have in limiting ability to participate and move around the City?
7. Offering very strong support for additional investments in Bylaw Services. This is the front-line for the City and a critical interface with the growing issues in the public realm.
8. Regarding the VicPD request for a "cyber crime sergeant" slash "ICE investigator" - can you elaborate on what exactly this position will entail? and what evidence supports its creation?

9. Will any of the existing parks bathrooms ever be made wheelchair accessible? I am thinking of places like Gonzales Beach with a stair at the entrance, Dallas road at memorial crescent stall too narrow to get through, or the bathroom at Dallas and Government too narrow to shut the door, amongst others. It is 2022, how long have people been using wheelchairs in this city?
10. #victownhall - Last suggestion - we need more investment in traffic calming, improved crosswalks, and pedestrian infrastructure. Huge need, particularly around schools and parks. As our neighbourhoods densify, slow and safe streets needs to be a priority.
11. I notice there was \$0 budget increase to the Victoria Public Libraries. This seems like a bad move - we need libraries more than ever, especially in the post-pandemic period. Big funding for police/bylaw, but nothing for libraries?
12. VicPD have the most expensive police force in BC. Their proposed budget increase will continue to funnel \$ away from actual supports and increase harms. Decrease VicPD's budget and stop pretending they can ever be mental health workers, despite their proposed titles. #victownhall
13. More picnic tables and covered spaces in our parks please. Redfern in South Jubilee is a great example of the need for increased parks funding: the community has spent 1 year designing a natural food forest, but need \$50k to build, including tables and cover.
14. I also support the funding request for a new planner position and urban forest positions. We need to accelerate development approvals, and expand our tree-canopy base. Money well spent. #yyj
15. More funding for safe bicycle infrastructure. South Jubilee is surrounded by 3/4 main roads that are busy, have no bike lanes, and aren't safe. Lots of kids want to bike to school, but can't. Oak Bay Ave could really use AAA. #yyjbikes
16. More funding for accessible playground equipment, and parks/amenities for older kids and teens. We need a skate/scoot park in East-Victoria, or a bike pump track. View Royal/Topaz is too far for many families. Many playgrounds don't work for kids over 8+!
17. Regarding the distribution of the so called reconciliation grants, described by learned counsel permissible as part of a (voted) budget. However to distribute grants outside of core services would appear to conflict with the Community Charter, sections 7 "Municipal Services" and 11 "Area of Jurisdiction" It would appear that grants to other communities is outside the core scope of the municipality.
18. Request to approve the full budget for Vic PD/bylaw. I have had to call both the police/bylaw the past year. Appalled that I was told the area I live in was safe when at the same time your own city staff was told to exercise caution. Your own staff was also warned when certain individuals were there. Council seems to support the vulnerable at the expense of the other vulnerable tax paying residents.
19. The Reconciliation levy is an excellent initiative. We need meaningful restitution for Indigenous communities at all levels of government and if local government can lead on

this, all the better. We can't sit around waiting for the feds to take action.

20. Could @JocelynJenkins (City Manager!) please explain why there are multiple supplemental requests for additional FTE's for Urban Forest and other similarly non-essential initiatives while there are no additional resources for basic City operations such as Public Works?
21. I also do not think that we should be funding more bylaw officers, especially if it is to enforce the 7-7 camping bylaw. Enforcing this bylaw is like playing whack-a-mole. It doesn't help people get off the street and leads to their further marginalization.  
#victownhall
22. Public safety and the perception of public safety also include street cleanliness and appearance. Could @JocelynJenkins (City Manager!) please outline what additional investments are being made in street cleaning and sanitation in this proposed budget.
23. With the hiring of more police and civilians for the police. Are we still going to catch and release or are we going to prosecute those who violate the law. I can understand mental health issues, but when a person is arrested several times a day. They need help and locking them up may get them off the street and civilians and businesses won't suffer losses because of vandalism or other problems!
24. We wanted to share our thoughts: Food prices are really rising, how does this budget support food security systems, community gardens, and other ways to keep citizens healthy? We would love to see an integrated approach.
25. I used to support \$ for @ourplacesociety for storage but since the province bought all those motels w/ a plethora of storage space/meeting rooms/etc they can pay to staff & monitor storage for anyone from the homeless community (even if they've declined a room/housing) #yyj #victownhall
26. Very excited for the continued implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan. We are so lucky to have the cycling infrastructure we do in #yyj & this will only become more important as we increasingly feel the impacts of climate change. I hardly touch my car these days #victownhall
27. Could @SusanneThompson (Deputy City Manager and Director of Finance!) please outline the maintenance funds and resources available for the \$1M Johnson Street Bridge in the proposed budget.
28. Back to the VicPD for a moment. I know the narrative is that VicPD are under-resourced and under-staffed. Some say throw more \$ at the problem. I say, it's time to get creative. Did you know that their tank is worth over \$300K? That's 3 new hires. Just saying.  
#victownhall
29. Could @JocelynJenkins (City Manager!) please outline what investments are being made in Public Works operations at the City of Victoria in this proposed budget.

30. We need to start focusing on housing that meets the needs of low and very-low income folks. The Missing Middle initiative is important, but ironically, it misses out on those who are most vulnerable to housing insecurity. #victownhall @CityOfVictoria
31. I think given the unfolding natural disaster across our whole province, combined with the economic uncertainty around the pandemic, it is not prudent for @CityOfVictoria to increase tax rates this year. We need a freeze this year more than ever. #townhall #YYJ #YYJpoli
32. Could @SusanneThompson (Deputy City Manager and Director of Finance!) please explain what a reserve fund is and where these are utilized in the City of Victoria operating budget.
33. HECK YES to a reconciliation levy in the form of an ongoing grant to Songhees & Esquimalt FNs. It's not quite 'land back', but it's a step in the right direction by putting money where our mouth is. Reconciliation is not just a land acknowledgement. #victownhall @CityOfVictoria
34. Getting ready for the @CityOfVictoria #victownhall tonight. 1st things 1st - the VicPD budget is far too high. I disagree with allocating \$ to mental health officers (3) when the city is already working with @CMHABC to bring an alternative response. Where is the \$ for that?
35. This is an easy one: YES TO MORE PATIOS via the Build Back Victoria program. Our downtown has never been more vibrant. #victownhall @CityOfVictoria
36. I support the creation of a designated position Homelessness Advisor position @ city hall. We will not end homelessness without a coordinated effort. If you don't like people camping in parks, you better be supporting this investment. #victownhall
37. Another no-brainer: sexual violence training for nightlife and hospitality venues. If we have learned anything this past year, it's that sexual violence and rape culture are major issues in #yyj (despite what certain city councillors might think). #victownhall @CityOfVictoria
38. The budget survey refers to a "multidisciplinary parks team". Can you please explain this? Is this just code for more bylaw officers in parks? I do not support further bylaw enforcement of folks who are already on the margins. Bylaw officers were out ticketing people in the atmospheric river. Is that the best use of my taxpayer dollars?
39. How can you/the VicPD justify funding to hire an ACT team officer when even the province wouldn't provide supplementary funding for ACT officers because there is very little evidence to support the inclusion of police on these teams?
40. Can you please update us on the Peer Assisted Crisis Team work with the CMHA? Is this initiative a budget item in the 2022 budget and if not, why is VicPD proposing three new officers for a mental health team? Does this not defeat the purpose of an alternative response that is meant to ensure police are not the ones responding to mental health

and other related calls?

41. When we are going to have swimming pool rebuild? or improved?
42. When will you carbon means test all new development permits and cut police spending down to focusing resource on violent crime, as this Forbes Magazine article recommends, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2017/08/07/how-much-do-u-s-cities-spend-every-year-on-policing-infographic/?sh=50cf5890e7b7?>
43. Please use any and all available funds to hire additional Police Officers to help support and manage the homeless transients coming into Victoria. Funding for managing all initiatives should come from the province and if they say the initiative is worthy, they can pay for it.
44. RE: \$1,070,000 for more bylaw officers: Yes! Safety of ALL who spend time in Victoria is vital. Bylaw is under resourced resulting in Victorian's being underserved and issues falling through cracks. #victownhall
45. RE: \$50,000 to fund storage of belongings at Our Place: Not the taxpayers responsibility!! #victownhall
46. Re: do you support \$50,000 to fund storage of belongings at Our Place: #victownhall NO. This idea would cause more harm than good. There are enough Prov. hotels with lots of big conference rooms to store stuff in available & they already have storage. The more space for things the less space for the humans.
47. #victownhall I want more pedestrian safety, to keep crossing guards (!), better parks & amenities for vulnerable people #yyj
48. As a road safety professional, I am thankful that the City wants to fund vision zero positions. Part of that is reducing the speed of vehicles through design. How much funding in the 2022 budget is targeted towards measures like traffic calming and better crosswalk infrastructure?
49. Is one new planning assistant position sufficient to really bolster the affordable housing priority?
50. Within the proposed budget, bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks, & taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelter of those who are tenting because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove "illegal" sheltering, why is this money not being funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures?
51. Victoria Police Department: A budget increase is proposed for crowd management in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. How can this money be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators?
52. There is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options currently available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. Current plans reflect an intent to

incentivize developers and landlords rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. How will concrete solutions be enacted to address this housing crisis in 2022 that centre those insecurely housed?

53. Advanced Homeless Shelters and transition housing. Regulating landlords and housing. Affordable housing. Paper, plastic and organic Recycling in all shopping cores (downtown streets, cook st village etc) Healthcare access, doctor shortage issues, mental health resources New library and rec centre
54. I support @ourplacesociety managing a STAFFED and SECURE storage space. Important for people who are unhoused to have peace of mind that their property will be safe. Will have a positive impact on their health and will help with street disorder issues. #victownhall #yyjpoli <https://t.co/PSOVF5o8jQ>
55. We are not in favour of the City Council's unilateral, pre-budget proposal for a Community Reconciliation Levy. Matters regarding financial and land-based Indigenous reconciliation settlements should be managed by the Federal and Provincial Governments. Such unilateral municipal acts of reconciliation can only lead to complication and confusion going forward.
56. Why an additional planner, vs. simplifying policies and application processes? - Vision Zero: Victoria roads are unsafe because road infrastructure is terribly deteriorated. Why not fix roads, and then bring safety programs? - Why 8 FTE's for Sheltering support when this issue was typically resolved by Province in the past? Please justify need for staff, as opposed to new shelter options.
57. Can we improve access to the Gorge Waterway via Arbutus Park and Banfield Park to create a water based recreational zone for residents and tourists?
58. Re. the Accessibility Short Term Action Plan, what specifically will accomplished in 2022? The October 7 update does not specify 2022 deliverables (or deferral) for most actions. Everything in the Plan is "Subject to budget approval" but the budget does not identify the actions and allocate resources. How can the public know if it is resourced and being implemented commensurate with need?
59. @CityOfVictoria needs to focus on the basics first Until public safety is restored don't squander our scarce tax dollars on pet/vanity/ideological projects Residents are already struggling financially and emotionally the least you could do is keep us safe #victownhall

60. There are several footnotes, "Surplus - Accessibility Framework Implementation" (pp. 173, 251, 259) but the amount is not specified. How was this \$250,000 operational funding used, how much is left and is it being carried over or going into general operating? How can the Framework be both "Complete" (Strategic Plan, p. 22) and a 2022 City-Wide Major Projects and Initiatives for EDI (p. 85)?
61. What will the accessible public parking project accomplish in 2022 (new & retrofitted stalls)? Council gave authority to spend up to \$350,000 over the next 5 years from the Accessibility Reserve but there no reference to it in the budget. Does the projected \$1.4 million year-end balance include this or has it been debited?
62. Victoria tax payers should not be paying more in taxes to push forward Reconciliation. This would be divisive. If you start taking from those who are trying to make ends meet and give it to further your agenda only anger will ensue.#victownhall
63. #victownhall OPS received \$130k approx 3 years ago to build storage spaces in their court yard. Is this \$50k for more spaces or is this a maintenance thing. Could be good example here of more homeless moving to #yyj that city denies is happening.  
<https://t.co/LyHjOEAP8g>
64. @CityOfVictoria #victownhall best budget to fix roads like Vancouver and Richardson that none of the public wanted changed in the first place. It's going to cost alot to change these back to what they should be.
65. #victownhall @CityOfVictoria spending priorities 1) Crime and Safety fully fund the VicPD 2) Health & Recreation - get on with Crystal Pool & Topaz/Finlayson Park Turf fields 3) clean up Pandora Street 4) Public Engagement: Canada Day 4) fix Quadra Street till #saanich border <https://t.co/dkE5FhVnrY>
66. @CityOfVictoria The budget survey asks that we rank the city's strategic objectives. However, the objectives are not clearly mapped to specific budget items. For example, which objective covers the VicPD budget? #victownhall
67. Does Victoria City Council have the legal authority to give First Nations a portion of city taxes, especially without a city vote? I believe that Victoria should not carry this burden...it should be a federal matter.
68. @CityOfVictoria #victownhall - Fund the short fall on the police. The residences of Victoria need to feel safe in our community!
69. @CityOfVictoria #victownhall - we need to make sure that mobility challenged individuals that call Victoria home can still access the parks and services! Budget for this as well as all that can still ride bikes. Keep Victoria a walkable city!
70. Two quick comments for the #victownhall. First, on the reconciliation grant, I would strongly urge council to think about designing this grant in a manner that will ensure transfer stability rather than linking it to a volatile revenue source.



71. Appreciation to council/staff for hard work in challenging times. Feedback for consideration: Prioritize equity & access to parks and public amenities (shelters and washrooms!), safety for people who walk and roll on neighbourhood streets, save the crossing guards #victownhall
72. Second, given the fiscal pressures regarding policing and its disproportionate growth relative to revenues, how is progress towards some form of regional policing model to ensure fiscal sustainability and appropriate policing resources? #victownhall
73. A #victownhall caller argued that council should give VicPD whatever they want. Is that responsible governance? I don't think so. For example, did you know that in 200, VicPD went ahead and purchased blue lights for their cars for a pilot they had not yet received approval for?
74. Back in July, Council said that they heard "loud and clear" that library service in @HillsideQuadra @OaklandsCA and @WeAreNorthPark is a top priority. So why are the additional funds for @gvpl only enough to cover the Central branch feasibility study? #victownhall @CityOfVictoria
75. There's actually an increase of \$114,000 for @gvpl to cover the Central Branch feasibility study - but we need funding for library services near Hillside! #victownhall <https://t.co/UUmCueXRQH>
76. I'm not fooled by the deception from @CityOfVictoria regarding the #victownhall 2022 Budget Survey Join us in stopping the mismanagement of #yyj tax dollars Complete the Survey and provide detail in the open fields within Don't let them bankrupt us any further <https://t.co/WzGOqrxB3t>.
77. @CityOfVictoria Example: Bike Lanes Was the funding adequate If you say agree, they will claim Bike Lanes were a success If you say disagree, they will claim Bike Lanes need more money Either way they will ALWAYS say residents want more money towards Bike Lanes, which is a lie #victownhall
78. @CityOfVictoria #victownhall i encourage all residents of Victoria to read the 2022 draft budget. Get involved as city council steps out of their lane once again. Housing and shelter are not municipal issues they're provincial. #asshatcouncil is wasting time and money.
79. ?? Picnic Point: Even nicer than last time #victownhall #yyj #bcstorm <https://t.co/A6zrzLPJti>
80. #urbanspaces #yyj #victownhall #negative <https://t.co/gfwYTVVeow>
81. This place has way more people than last time! #yyj #victownhall <https://t.co/HZBjhkhzY>
82. @CityOfVictoria @CMHABC Point of personal privilege: not everyone in #yyj thinks council is "foolish" and "simple-minded". I actually think it's pretty foolish and simple-

minded to think everyone thinks like you! I appreciate the vision this council has laid out for our city. #victownhall

83. @CityOfVictoria It seems like it's always the same few people participating in these meetings. Not many people calling in... CityGov seems to achieve a lot without much community input. What is the local gov doing to increase engagement? #victownhall

84. Thanks @CityOfVictoria for taking the time to consider our feedback on the budget! #victownhall