



MAYOR'S update 2021



A Personal Message from Mayor Bonnie Crombie

As summer approaches, I hope that you and your family are staying healthy and safe.

It has been an incredibly difficult time for so many residents in Mississauga, and as we work towards recovery from the pandemic, I recognize that many are still feeling a significant amount of financial pressure.

At the City, we are also facing financial pressures and we are once again facing a significant deficit in 2021. This is due to a large decrease in MiWay ridership and a drop in revenue from cultural and recreational facility closures. Like all cities, we had to make some tough decisions to continue managing the ongoing financial impact of the crisis.

We are, however, making progress and are committed to delivering the essential services you rely upon every day.

Through our strong advocacy efforts, we secured recovery and relief funding from federal and provincial levels of government to ensure that Mississauga not only survives, but thrives in the years to come. Mississauga is an economic engine in this province and country and the sooner we get back to business, the sooner the country gets back to business.

This year's budget was designed after extensive input and consultation with residents, local businesses and community organizations. It is a fiscally responsible plan that recognizes the financial pressure on residents while being mindful that we need to continue building our City.

The City's modest budget increase in 2021 has resulted in a small increase on the property tax bill. This increase, however, still keeps the average residential property tax in Mississauga below the GTA average.

Our financial priorities in 2021 are returning to a normal fee schedule and collection as soon as possible, no new material increase to service levels and reducing discretionary spending once again.

While we are also doing a critical assessment of capital expenditures, we have once again put money aside into our capital reserves so we can continue to advance the major infrastructure projects that are essential to the future of our City. Mississauga is still relatively young and our population is growing. Despite the pandemic, Mississauga must move forward with investments in transportation, fire safety, road safety and climate change.

We do know, however, there are still many residents who are struggling. That is why in January, the City introduced a new program that allows eligible residential and business property owners to defer their property tax payments in 2021.

You can apply to defer payment of your 2021 taxes until December 15, 2021 if you have experienced prolonged suspension of pay, loss of employment, extreme business revenue loss, a business closure, or insolvency or bankruptcy. We hope this financial assistance will ease the burden on families and business owners who are facing challenges. Visit mississauga.ca/propertytaxdeferral.

We pride ourselves on running a lean and efficient city and we will continue to do everything we can to deliver value for taxpayers as we look towards recovery.

On behalf of Council and the entire City, thank you for your patience and support as we continue to navigate the pandemic. We know that better days are ahead.

I encourage you to read the enclosed information carefully. For more information, please call 311 or visit mississauga.ca/budget.

Warmest regards,

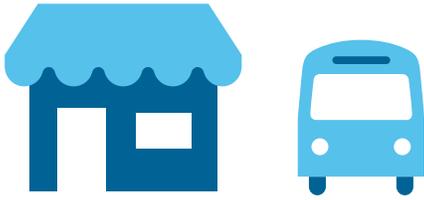
Bonnie Crombie, MBA, ICD.D.
Mayor of Mississauga

Supporting Our Communities

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic is still having a significant impact on residents. That's why we continue to support our communities by keeping the tax rate low, finding efficiencies, deferring eligible tax payments and more.

In January, Council approved a 2021 Property Tax Deferral program. Eligible property owners experiencing financial hardship are able to apply to have their final tax payments deferred to December 15, 2021. This gives eligible property owners the flexibility to decide when and how to make tax payments throughout the year, providing assistance to those who need it most.

Reopening and Recovery Support



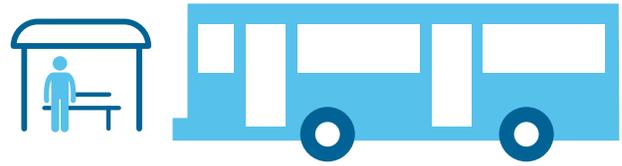
2020 – 2021

Safe Restart Agreement (transit and non-transit)

We continue to advocate for sustainable funding from higher levels of government. Funds allocated from the federal-provincial Safe Restart Agreement have been applied to the City's \$56 million deficit incurred in 2020. This funding will also help cover pandemic-related lost revenues in transit and recreation in 2021.

It was announced in January that Mississauga will receive \$113.5 million in federal and provincial funding for transit infrastructure through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The City is also contributing \$44.5 million to create more accessible and sustainable public transit.

More Transit Infrastructure

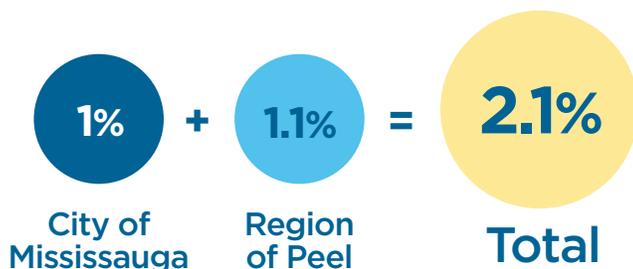


\$158 Million

in total from ICIP and the City of Mississauga

2021 Property Tax Impact – 2.1%

The overall residential property tax increase for 2021 is 2.1 per cent, of which 1 per cent is the City of Mississauga's portion and 1.1 per cent is the Region of Peel's portion. For the typical single family home, this means an increase of about \$125 more per year. Some households will pay more or less, depending on their assessed value.



Strong and Ready for Recovery

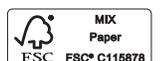
Mississauga is ready and has a plan for recovery. The City's COVID-19 Recovery Framework guides our reopening and recovery. It aligns with Ontario's 'Framework for Reopening our Province' and focuses on four pillars of recovery:

- Community
- Economic
- Finance
- Corporate

All recovery actions incorporate these principles:

- Protect the Health and Safety of the Public and Employees
- Mental Wellness and Psychosocial Support
- Phased Approach
- Building Back Better
- Whole Community Approach

Learn more about our plan for recovery at mississauga.ca/recovery.

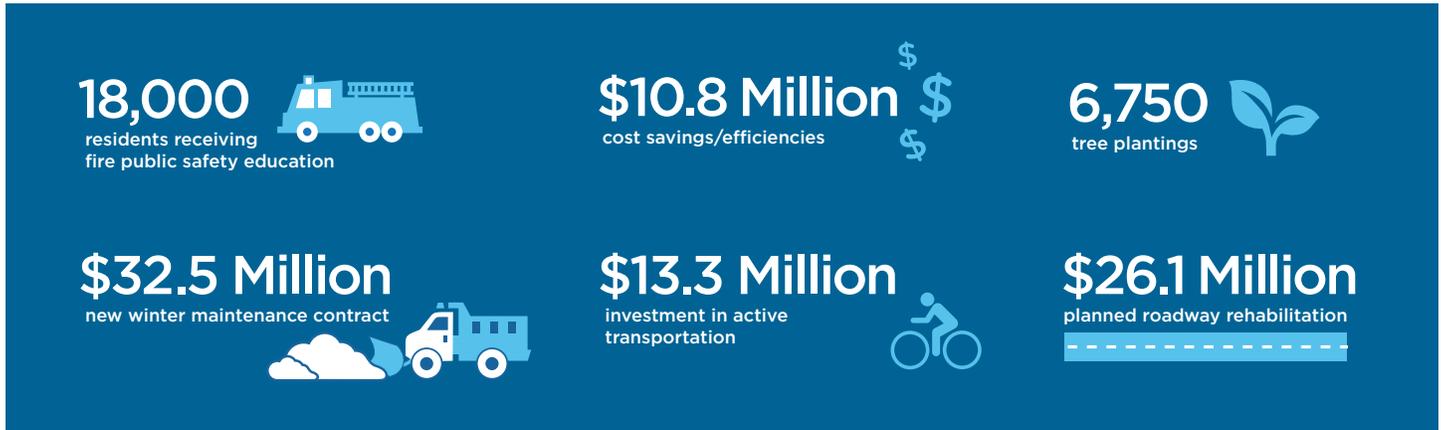


Investing in Our City

We have to keep buses on the road, get people to work and maintain our facilities — all of which costs money.

In 2021, Mississauga continues to invest in transportation and road safety, climate change and infrastructure improvements. We are building new fire stations and will complete the construction of a new community centre in

Churchill Meadows this year. We take advantage of every opportunity to secure funding from programs such as ICIP to support these projects. These priorities align with the five pillars of Mississauga’s Strategic Plan — move, belong, connect, prosper and green. We will continue to plan, invest and budget wisely to ensure we keep building our future city in a financially responsible manner.



Keeping Your Property Taxes Competitive

Now more than ever, we understand the importance of keeping Mississauga affordable for all.

Through innovation and continuous improvement, we are able to keep the average residential property tax below the GTA average, and the City’s portion of the tax bill increase at or below the annual rate of inflation.

A Comparison of Average Residential Property Taxes in the GTA



Source: 2020 Municipal Study - BMA Consulting Inc.

About Your Property Tax Bill

The City, the Region of Peel and the Government of Ontario set their own tax rates each year. The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) updates the assessed value of residential properties every four years. These tax rates and your property assessment are used to calculate your property tax bill.

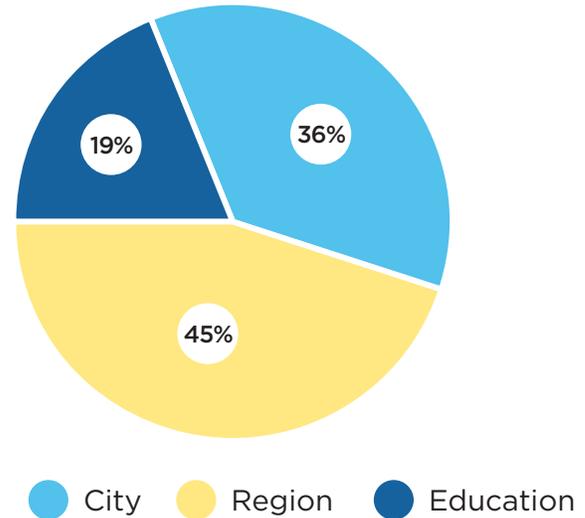
The City collects taxes from residents and businesses to pay for our day-to-day operations and to help fund future city-building projects.

Your property taxes help fund services delivered by the City of Mississauga, the Region of Peel and the Government of Ontario for the Ministry of Education.

Did You Know?

Only 36 cents of every tax dollar collected go towards funding the services delivered by the City. The rest goes to the Region of Peel and the Government of Ontario.

Residential Property Tax Bill



Finding Efficiencies and Saving You Money

We understand the effect the pandemic is having on our residents. The City's 2021 Business Plan and Budget strives to provide the necessary services and build back better while keeping the tax rate down.

Efficiencies and cost savings reduced the 2021 net operating budget by about \$10.8 million or 2 per cent.

We know we are not yet done with the impacts COVID-19 has had on our community, and we continually look for ways to deliver value for money.

Fiscal prudence, efficiencies and identifying cost savings are City priorities.

As an example, through the Lean process, staff are trained to find efficiencies, think differently and transform the way we do business across our organization.

This allows us to keep your taxes competitive, improve our processes, provide exemplary customer service and deliver the quality services our residents expect every day.

Since 2009, the City has achieved efficiencies and cost savings totalling \$68.4 million without compromising existing services.

Savings:



\$17.65 million in cost avoidance



\$4 million in cost savings



336,308 hours in freed capacity

As of November 2020

Results:



194 completed improvement projects



4,797 just-do-it small improvements



1,130 environmental improvements



863 safety improvements

For more information, please contact:

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