



MAYOR'S update 2021



A Personal Message from Mayor Bonnie Crombie

I hope that you and your family are staying healthy and safe.

It has been an incredibly difficult time for so many of our business owners, in particular our small business owners. 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.

Working together, we will ensure Mississauga remains a hub for jobs and prosperity in the years to come. I encourage all business owners to visit the City of Mississauga's Economic Development website to find out about the business supports available to you. Visit thefutureisunlimited.ca/covid-19.

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 businesses while being mindful of the 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.

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 businesses that are struggling. That is why in January, the City introduced a new program that allows eligible 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 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

2021 Property Tax Impact - 1.3%

The overall commercial property tax increase for 2021 is 1.3 per cent, of which 0.61 per cent is the City of Mississauga's portion and 0.69 per cent is the Region of Peel's portion.



Supporting Our Communities

COVID-19 and its impacts have been at the forefront of our budget discussions and decisions this year. We are doing all we can to support our businesses through this challenging time 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 business 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.

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.

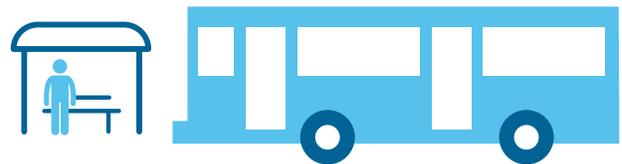
Reopening and Recovery Support



2020 - 2021

Safe Restart Agreement (transit and non-transit)

More Transit Infrastructure



\$158 Million

in total from ICIP and the City of Mississauga

Supporting Our Business Community

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on many segments of Mississauga's business community — particularly small businesses — and its impacts will continue to be felt long after the pandemic is officially over.

Since the onset of COVID-19, we have engaged with the business community to understand evolving needs and to advocate on their behalf. We have done our best to support our local businesses, and will continue to do so as we collectively recover from the impacts of this pandemic.

Supports provided for businesses include:

- **COVID-19 Relief Portal** - Self-selection tool that provides 135+ resources, relief programs and incentives that can support businesses. This tool has been updated on a weekly basis and has been a key source of information for business owners, since the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020.
- **Free Business Advisory Services** - With professionals in legal, accounting, business operations and sales and marketing.
- **Outbound Advisory Services** - Engaging with businesses to determine COVID-19 impacts and offer supports to key industry sectors, recent investors and small business/main street businesses.
- **Free Business Planning & Recovery Support Webinars** - A series of COVID-19-related webinars was created to build essential business skills with a focus on the current crisis environment. Webinars cover topics on SEO tools, E-commerce, Social Media and more.
- **Guidelines on Safe Reopening** - Central digital location of resources to inform and support main street businesses on safe reopening throughout the COVID-19 recovery.
- **Starter Company Plus Program** - Provincially-funded program providing free training, business skills development, mentorship and guidance with the opportunity to apply for a program grant of up to \$5,000.
- **Digital Main Street** - This partnership with the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Business Improvement Area Association was reignited in response to the COVID-19 impacts on the main street community and has helped these businesses embrace technology and transform their digital presence to grow their operations. Two hundred and twenty-six businesses received support.
- **ShopHere** - Resources for independent businesses and artists to launch an online store at no cost.
- **MississaugaMade.ca** - A shop local campaign and marketplace inspired to support and promote Mississauga-based businesses, products, services and talents across the city. The free local directory features over 340 local businesses across 45+ categories and has received over 50,000 page views since October 2020.
- **Patios Expansion** - More outdoor patios were permitted as a response to the COVID-19-related restrictions on restaurants around physical distancing including waiving of fees.

For more information or support, visit:
mississauga.ca/business-covid-19

Helping Local Businesses



**GUIDANCE
& SUPPORT**



**TRAINING
WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS**



**PROGRAMS
& RESOURCES**

Join The Movement



Transit Infrastructure – Building a Connected Community

Accessible, reliable transit is an essential element of a connected and prosperous community, and the City of Mississauga is committed to developing a transit-oriented city.

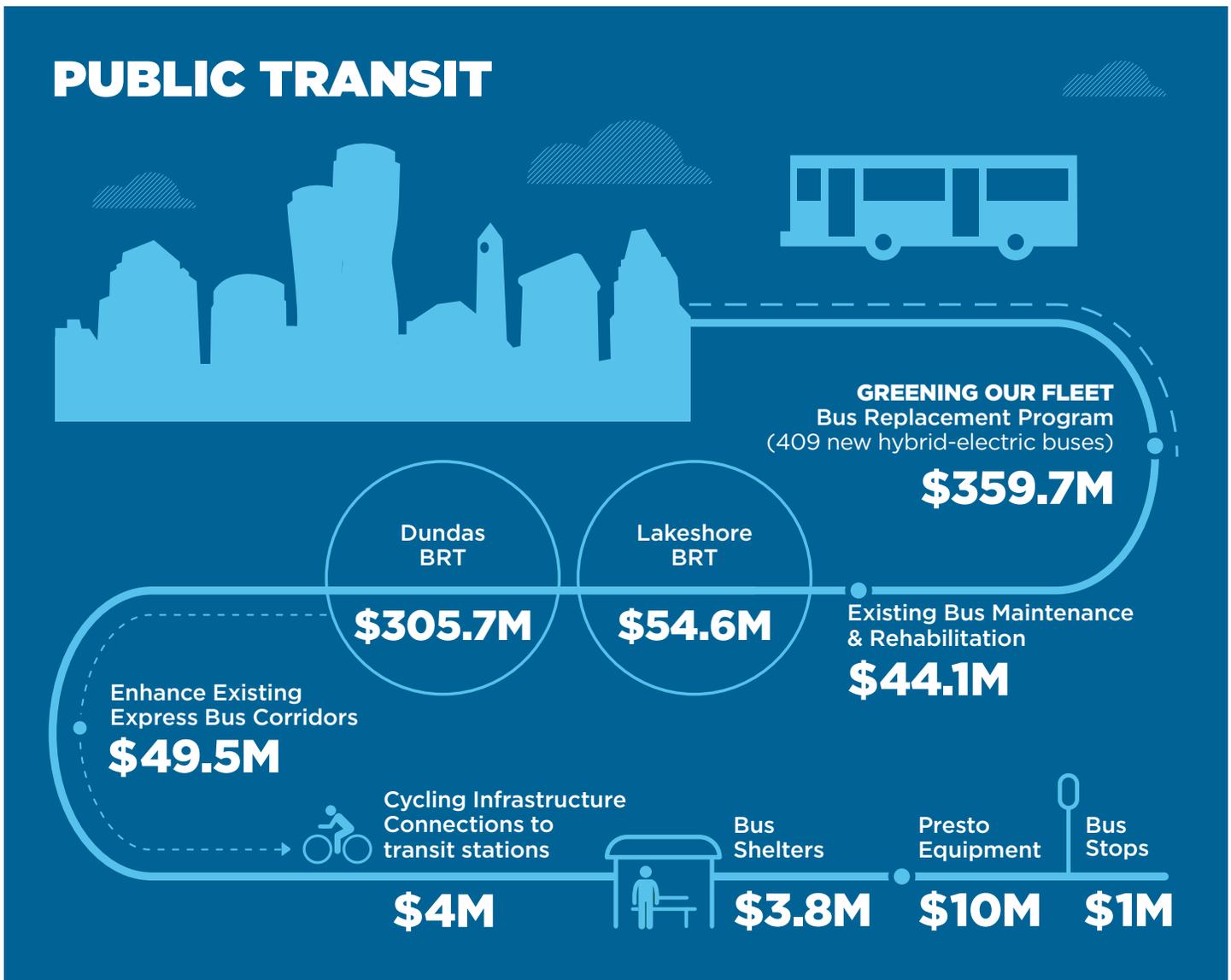
Building upon the successful construction of the Mississauga Transitway, the City is currently working with Metrolinx to implement the Hurontario Light Rail Transit system. We have received a funding commitment from the Investing in

Canada Infrastructure Program to build a two-kilometre section of Bus Rapid Transit infrastructure at the east end of Lakeshore Road. The City has also applied for funding to build a seven-kilometre segment of Bus Rapid Transit infrastructure on Dundas Street.

In addition, the City has developed the MiWay Infrastructure Growth Plan to direct the allocation of funding investments to transit

infrastructure to make transit more reliable and enhance the customer experience, making transit the mode of choice for residents and workers.

Our continued commitment to developing our transit infrastructure will help ensure that Mississauga has the pieces in place to grow and succeed as a 21st century city where people choose to be.



The dollar figures shown represent expected funding which the City of Mississauga will receive over multiple years.

For more information, please contact:

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