

## ***Ottawa on the Move: Affordable, innovative spending plan presented for Budget 2012***

On October 26<sup>th</sup>/2011, the City of Ottawa tabled a spending plan for 2012 that will keep Ottawa on a course that is sustainable for the long-term. Following on the solid fiscal framework Council put in place last year, Budget 2012 proposes a tax increase of just 2.39 percent - below the annual maximum target of 2.5 percent.

The draft budget includes a continued freeze on fees for City recreation programs, Council budgets and salaries and a transit-fare increase limited to 2.5 percent. Additionally, for the first time since 2004, the City is reducing its workforce.

While the budget limits new demands on taxpayers, it will also make Ottawa an even better place to live and help prepare the capital city for the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation in 2017. Budget 2012 contains an acceleration of capital works projects – *Ottawa on the Move* – that will provide needed upgrades and repairs to existing roads, sidewalks, bridges and sewers.

The City of Ottawa is in strong financial shape, with the lowest debt per capita among the big Canadian cities. By accelerating our capital investment in capital projects, at interest rates below three per cent, it's estimated the City will save \$12.9 million.

The draft budget, which will be discussed at Council Standing Committee meetings and four public consultations this fall, includes a number of major initiatives that respond to pre-budget concerns expressed by citizens, and emphasize practical projects. They include:

- Building facilities that improve quality of life. These include construction of new recreation facilities at Barrhaven and Kanata North and construction of 17 new parks across the city. The \$12-million redevelopment of Arts Court is to proceed and \$18.3 million is budgeted for continued upgrading of the City's sewer system to further improve the quality of water in the Ottawa River. The City will spend \$24 million over the next three years on cycling infrastructure and will spend \$21.3 million to improve the stormwater-system in Kanata.
- The City will take advantage of historically low borrowing costs to proceed with 150 infrastructure projects, including 200 kilometres of road construction, 70 kilometres of bicycle-lane and road-shoulder construction, 20 kilometres of sidewalk building and a number of bridge constructions. The City – which has the lowest per capita debt load among large Canadian cities – will borrow money at the lowest interest rates in 40 years, saving an estimated \$12.9 million and tripling the planned investment in roads over the next two years.
- Strengthening the City's transportation system. This budget is about maximizing transportation choices for our residents during Ottawa Light Rail Transit construction - not just ensuring our road network is in a state of good repair. We are also improving cycling infrastructure by implementing an east-west bikeway from Vanier to Westboro as well as filling in critical missing links to our pathway network, providing more active mobility options to residents.
- An additional \$5.5 million will be spent to increase bus service to meet the rising demand for transit and ease bus overcrowding. OC Transpo will see the introduction of the smart-

card payment system and a system that allows riders to know when their buses will arrive.

- Doing business differently at City Hall. The City will change its planning-approval process to give express-lane service to development projects that meet high standards for environmental sustainability. The City will also change frontline operations to improve service to citizens and will spend on technology to make its employees more mobile, cost effective and efficient.

#### Ward Specific Information:

- \$4.4 million to plan, design and construct new parks in growth areas to meet the parkland and leisure needs of developing communities outside of the Greenbelt, including Kanata, Greely, Barrhaven, Stittsville, Cumberland, Goulbourn and Orléans. Includes \$77 000 for Par-La-Ville Park and \$40 000 for Coyote Run Park.
- Full Transit service extended to Stittsville. Securing 100 parking spaces for Park & Ride use at Scotiabank Place.
- Road resurfacing: Huntmar Drive from Maple Grove Road to Palladium Drive, Rothbourne Road from Highway 7 to Lloydalex Crescent, Beverly Street from West Ridge Drive to Stittsville Main Street, Jonathan Pack Street from Abbott Street to Beverly Street.
- Bike lanes and paved shoulders as part of resurfacing projects on over 15 projects, including Old Prescott Road, Huntmar, Church Street, Tenth Line Road and Galetta Side Road.

A full package of budget information can be found at [ottawa.ca/budget2012](http://ottawa.ca/budget2012).

To comment on Budget 2012, call 311 (TTY: 613-580-2401), e-mail [311@ottawa.ca](mailto:311@ottawa.ca) or fax 613-560-2126.

To give your ideas to Council residents may register as a public delegation at the upcoming Standing Committee budget review meetings or attend one of four public consultations. Details on dates and locations can be found at [ottawa.ca/budget2012](http://ottawa.ca/budget2012).

A special meeting of Council will be held on November 30 to consider the recommendations from Standing Committees of Council and relevant City boards. Council will debate and finalize Budget 2012 on November 30.