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Item No. 3.1
Committee of the Whole
January 27, 2016
February 2, 2016

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council
Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Amanda Whitewood, Director of Finance & ICT/CFO

DATE: December 21, 2015

SUBJECT: Shape Your City, Shape Your Budget 2016 – Public Consultation

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

- The Budget Consultation Plan approved by Council on 22 October 2013, Item 14.2
- The Preliminary Fiscal Direction Council Report was approved by Committee of the Whole on 20 October 2015, Item 3.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Charter, section 35 (1) The Chief Administrative Officer shall (b) ensure that an annual budget is prepared and submitted to the Council.

BACKGROUND

One of the key deliverables approved by Council for the 2013-14 fiscal year was citizen engagement for the 2014-15 Budget. To achieve that outcome, staff recommended that three key items be implemented: public discussions during Community Council meetings; an on-line budget tool, which allows the public to better understand the municipal budget process and provide input; and a public participation session at the end of each Committee of the Whole meeting, during the budget presentations.

Council stated that they were pleased that the budget included a participatory budget process and requested that it be continued in the future.

DISCUSSION

This is the third year for the public consultation on the Budget, where residents of HRM were invited to contribute to the 2016 Budget consultation by sharing their thoughts on service priorities and how they would like to see their municipal tax dollars allocated.

In order to engage as many people as possible, the consultation was promoted in print and electronic ads, through social media, on Halifax.ca and the Halifax Regional Libraries site. The Consultation cost \$6,500 in Advertising and staff were able to utilize the current Software contract without any additional expense.

The consultation process began on October 1, 2015 and continues during the Budget presentations to Committee of the Whole. The public engagement strategy included the following elements:

- reviewing informational fact-sheets, FAQ's and a Municipal Budget Video on the Engagement site
- utilizing the Budget Allocator, an on-line Budget Tool
- attending Community Council Presentations
- Public participation at Committee of the Whole

The on-line information included services that the public encounters or utilizes on a day to day basis, as well as the Administrative costs of Governance and Support Services. These services cost \$422.9 million in the 2015-16 fiscal budget, which included:

1. Protective Services
 - a. Police
 - b. RCMP
 - c. Fire
 - d. Emergency Services
2. Community & Recreation Services
 - a. Recreation (Arenas, Aquatics, Programs, Community Centres, etc.)
 - b. Sports fields and Playgrounds
 - c. Parks, Trails & Open Green Space
 - d. Municipal Compliance / By-Law Enforcement
 - e. Libraries
 - f. Culture/Heritage/Events
 - g. Customer Service Centres & 311 Call Centre
 - h. Transit
3. Infrastructure
 - a. Roadway Maintenance
 - b. Right of Way and Traffic Management (including Streetlights)
 - c. Snow Removal & Ice Control
 - d. Solid Waste
4. Planning & Property Development
 - a. Regional & Community Planning, Urban Design and Transportation Planning
 - b. Development Approvals, Permits and Inspections
 - c. Economic Development
5. Governance and Support Services

Informational fact sheets were available for viewing to provide background information on the various services, prior to engaging the Budget Allocator for the opportunity to re-balance the budget of \$422.9 million, based on an individual's priorities. Each service showed the Budget allocated for the 2015-16 year, with the choice and impact for the following options:

1. to maintain the current budget
2. to increase the budget by 5%
3. to increase the budget by 10%
4. to decrease the budget by 5%
5. to decrease the budget by 10%

The percent amounts used were limited by the Consultation software. A 5% option should be interpreted as adding or removing some funding and 10% would indicate more significant spending or cuts are suggested.

Budget staff also provided a presentation on the budget process to both the public and Councillors at the following Community Councils.

01 Oct 2015 – Community Council – Harbour East

14 Oct 2015 – Community Council – Halifax West

26 Oct 2015 -- Community Council – North West

Consultation Findings

Since this was an open invitation to all citizens of HRM, the results are not necessarily a statistically correct sample of the average citizen in HRM. The Consultation software did not provide an opportunity to collect data on age, community and/or income.

This year, all advertising promoted the Budget Allocator with a link to go directly to this tool. This increased the number of participants who completed the Budget Allocator by 148, from 434 to this year's 582 participants, a growth of 34%. However, the number of citizens who then reviewed the supporting material in the Shape Your City, Shape Your Budget was greatly reduced as summarized below. (Appendix 4)

The following summarizes participation in the engagement process:

- 882 visitors to the Shape your City engagement site
- 632 views of the on-line information video
- 230 views of the FAQ's – additional statistics posted to inform the public
- 582 participants completed the Budget Allocator
- 24 individuals attended the Presentations at Community Council
- 8 individuals representing themselves or stakeholder groups spoke during the public participation at both Community Council and COW.

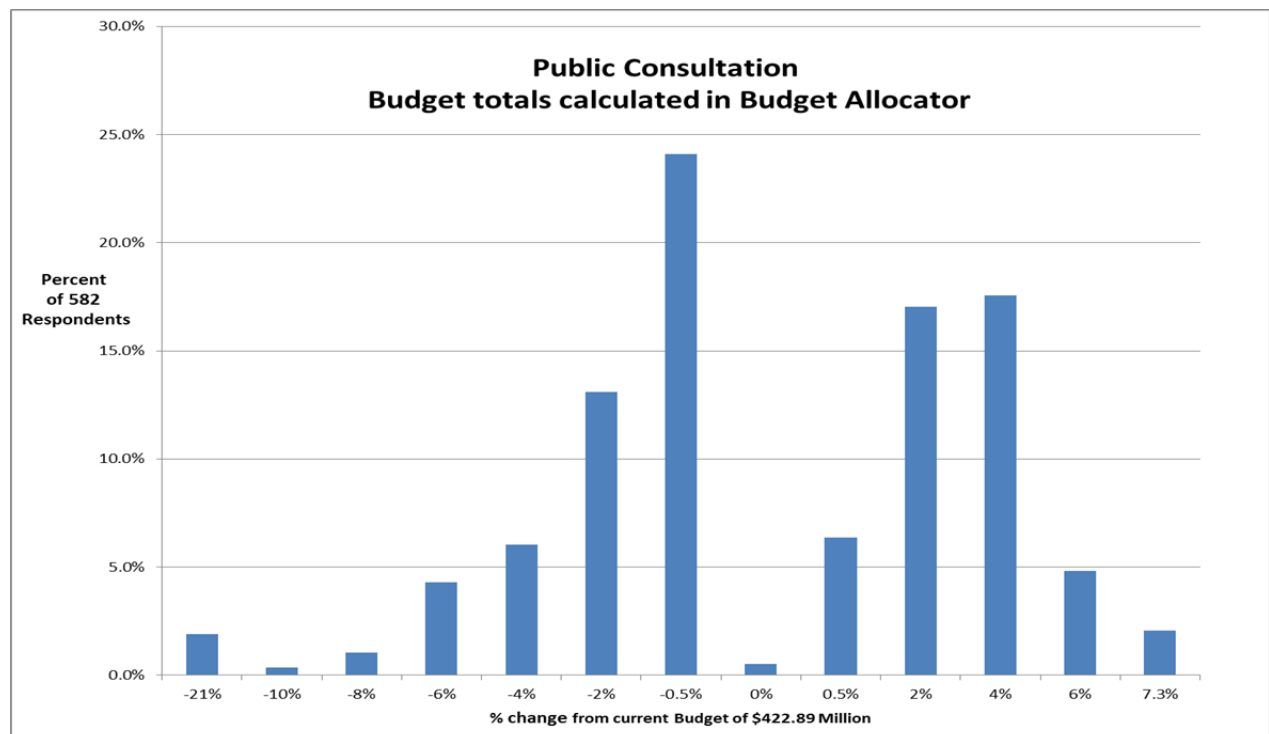
Summary of citizen participation in the Budget Consultation:

Citizen participation	Budget Consultation		
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Visitors to the Shape your City engagement site	7,585	5,939	882
Views of the on-line information videos*	2,369	2,081	632
Views of the FAQ's – additional statistics posted to inform the public	744	375	230
Number of citizens completing Budget Allocator	367	434	582
Percent of visitors, who completed Budget Allocator	5%	7%	66%
Citizens attending Presentations at Community Council	95	25	24
Citizens speaking during Open Mike during COW	4	10	8

*Only the Municipal Budgeting Video was available in 2016-17

The citizen's participation resulted in the following results:

1. 8% of citizens that completed the Budget Allocator, expressed positive thoughts at being invited to participate in the budget process; down from 20% in the previous two years.
2. The average budget calculated by the 582 respondents was \$421.7m; \$1.2 million less than the 2015-16 budget of \$422.9m for these services.
3. The citizens were almost evenly split between decreasing and increasing the budget for current services.
 - a. 51.5% completed their budget priorities below the current spend vs. 65% and 51% from previous years;
 - b. with 0.5% maintaining the current budget vs. 1% and 14% from previous years.
 - c. 48% were willing to increase the budget and the tax rate, vs. 34% and 35% from previous years. This was voiced in many of the comments as well.



The priorities for the Budget Distribution (Appendix 1) were:

1. To increase the current budget.

- a. **Roadway Maintenance** - the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (28%) or increase the budget (64%), up from last year.
- b. **Transit** - the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (27%) or increase the budget (56%); an increase from last year.
- c. **Snow Removal & Ice Control** - the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (44%), or increase the budget (47%), an increase from last year.
- d. **Parks, Trails & Open Green Space** - the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (35%) or increase the budget (47%).
- e. **Sports fields & Playgrounds** – the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (39%) or increase the budget (45%).
- f. **Recreation** (Arenas, Aquatic, Program, Community Centres, etc.) – the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (37%) or increase the budget (45%) in this area.
- g. **Economic Development** - the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (36%) or increase the budget (37%), up slightly from last year.
- h. **Culture/Heritage Events** - the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (40%) or increase the budget (32%); up slightly from last year.

2. Maintain the current budget.

The same services remained in this category from last year, with the exception of Snow Removal which moved to the increase the budget category.

- a. All of the Protective Services fell into this category:
 - i. RCMP – 61% of respondents wanted to maintain; 64% last year.
 - ii. Police – 57% of respondents wanted to maintain, the same as last year.
 - iii. Emergency Measures – 57% of respondents wanted to maintain, vs. 59% last year.
 - iv. Fire – 55% of respondents wanted to maintain; 59% last year
- b. **Solid Waste** - the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (58%), up from last year – 53%
- c. **Customer Service Centres & 311 Call Centre** - the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (53%), slightly down from last year – 56%
- d. **Libraries** - the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (52%) the budget, just slightly down from last year – 54%.
- e. **Right of Way and Traffic Management** - the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (50%), down slightly from last year – 55%
- f. **Development Approvals, Permits and Inspections** - the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (50%), similar to last year – 51%
- g. **Regional & Community Planning** - the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (44%), up from last year – 37%

3. To decrease the current budget.

- a. **Governance & Support Services** – the majority of respondents wanted to decrease (53%) or maintain the budget (40%); down slightly from last year
- b. **Municipal Compliance / By-Law Enforcement** - the majority of respondents wanted to maintain (44%) or decrease the budget (40%), down slightly from last year.

Along with balancing the Budget, participants were invited to provide general comments on HRM's budget, as well as comment on why they made their choice with each particular service. There were 64 service related comments and 233 general comments provided by participants. (Appendix 2)
The following are typical of comments repeated by many participants.

1. More spending for Economic Development
2. Willing to pay more taxes for maintained, improved or new services; a small increase in property taxes is worth expanding some essential services that are underfunded.
3. More effective use of technology and automation
4. Let's make transit and active transportation a priority in this city.
5. More bike lanes and transit with dedicated lanes.
6. Focus on core services and increase administrative efficiencies.
7. Council should revisit Fire Strategy and follow Chief's and expert's advice.
8. Snow removal must be a priority; provide additional support.
9. A city of two police forces, too expensive!
10. The city over spends on Consulting and Studies.
11. Time for major Infrastructure investment

The engagement site also requested participants to respond to questions on the following topics....Future Services, Revenue Fees, Capital projects and Municipal Infrastructure. (Appendix 3)
A summary of the comments are:

1. **Future Services – Would you be willing to pay more taxes for enhanced or improved services?** - 7 of 10 respondents replied yes, with emphasis on the following services.
 - a. To enhance green building and infrastructure.
 - b. Make it easier to walk and bike around Halifax, not just downtown
 - c. Transit, youth programs and community services.
 - d. Infrastructure (not car related)
 - e. Snow Clearing, Police, Fire, Street maintenance and extra playgrounds/parks.
2. **Revenue Fees – account for \$47m or 5.6% of revenues received by the municipality (excluding Transit). This includes everything from recreation fee, permit fees for parking and facility rentals. Do you support increasing these user fees and/or creating additional user fees to maintain a lower tax rate or provide additional services?**
 - There was no general consensus among the 6 citizens who chose to answer this question. Responses ranged from subsidized programs for children, to pay as you go.
3. **Capital Projects – Where would you like to see your capital dollars spent?** (12 respondents)
 - a. More money on neighbourhood design for walking and biking.
 - b. Spend money on investments that pay. Building culture, recreation, walkability, creates a high-status city that can make people happier, more connected, and more creative.
 - c. Don't widen roads to accommodate traffic; all it does is create more traffic.
4. **Municipal Infrastructure – Given the current Infrastructure in the municipality, do you feel it is more important to maintain our existing infrastructure or to build new infrastructure?**

Of the 6 respondents, 3 suggested a mixture of both.

 - a. Both are necessary.
 - b. The spending needs to be targeted at really improving people's daily lives and making the city more efficient.
 - c. Decision should be made by what can be done most cost effectively.
 - d. If you build new infrastructure, it lasts longer as well as new tech ideas have come along that in the long term will save the city more money in the long run.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications from this Report. The information in this report will assist Council in the development of a proposed budget for 2016-17. The broader financial implications will be discussed and debated as the budget is developed in more detail.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As outlined in the Discussion section above, the budget consultation included a number of ways to engage citizens to provide insight and direction into the priorities for the 2016-17 Budget.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1 – Budget Allocator – Budget Distribution
Appendix 2 – Budget Allocator – Comments
Appendix 3 – Engagement questions & responses
Appendix 4 – Marketing Communication Report

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Barb Wilson, Budget Coordinator, 902-490-4280

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Report Approved by: _____
Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy & Planning, 902-490-4493

Budgets

This report includes data from unverified budget submissions

Protective Services

Respondents: 582

Police

Increase budget by 10%	39	6.75 %	
Increase budget by 5%	116	20.07 %	
Maintain existing budget	330	57.09 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	45	7.79 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	48	8.30 %	

RCMP

Increase budget by 10%	17	2.98 %	
Increase budget by 5%	71	12.43 %	
Maintain existing budget	350	61.30 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	76	13.31 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	57	9.98 %	

Fire

Increase budget by 10%	41	7.13 %	
Increase budget by 5%	147	25.57 %	
Maintain existing budget	317	55.13 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	40	6.96 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	30	5.22 %	

Emergency Measures

Increase budget by 10%	62	10.78 %	
Increase budget by 5%	85	14.78 %	
Maintain existing budget	325	56.52 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	65	11.30 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	38	6.61 %	

Default Category

Community & recreation services

Recreation (Arenas, Aquatics, Programs, Community Centre, etc.)

Increase budget by 10%	104	18.09 %	
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Increase budget by 5%	152	26.43 %	
Maintain existing budget	211	36.70 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	67	11.65 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	41	7.13 %	

Sports Fields & Playgrounds

Increase budget by 10%	97	16.84 %	
Increase budget by 5%	162	28.12 %	
Maintain existing budget	223	38.72 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	56	9.72 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	38	6.60 %	

Parks, Trails & Open Green Space

Increase budget by 10%	121	20.93 %	
Increase budget by 5%	153	26.47 %	
Maintain existing budget	198	34.26 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	70	12.11 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	36	6.23 %	

Municipal Compliance / By-Law Enforcement

Increase budget by 10%	32	5.58 %	
Increase budget by 5%	58	10.12 %	
Maintain existing budget	253	44.15 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	138	24.08 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	92	16.06 %	

Libraries

Increase budget by 10%	60	10.40 %	
Increase budget by 5%	107	18.54 %	
Maintain existing budget	298	51.65 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	66	11.44 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	46	7.97 %	

Culture/Heritage/Events

Increase budget by 10%	85	14.73 %	
Increase budget by 5%	107	17.68 %	

Maintain existing budget	232	40.21 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	91	15.77 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	67	11.61 %	

Customer Service Centres & 311 Call Centre

Increase budget by 10%	27	4.69 %	
Increase budget by 5%	81	14.06 %	
Maintain existing budget	304	52.78 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	119	20.66 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	45	7.81 %	

Transit

Increase budget by 10%	136	23.65 %	
Increase budget by 5%	187	32.52 %	
Maintain existing budget	157	27.30 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	39	6.78 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	56	9.74 %	

Infrastructure

Roadway Maintenance

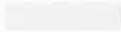
Increase budget by 10%	180	31.20 %	
Increase budget 5%	190	32.93 %	
Maintain existing budget	162	28.08 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	25	4.33 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	20	3.47 %	

Right of Way and Traffic Management (including Streetlights)






Increase budget by 10%	48	8.36 %	
Increase budget by 5%	130	22.65 %	
Maintain existing budget	288	50.17 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	64	11.15 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	44	7.67 %	

Snow Removal & Ice Control

Increase budget by 10%	116	20.07 %	
Increase budget by 5%	156	26.99 %	






Maintain existing budget	256	44.29 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	31	5.36 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	19	3.29 %	

Solid Waste






Increase budget by 10%	15	2.60 %	
Increase budget by 5%	42	7.29 %	
Maintain existing budget	337	58.51 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	125	21.70 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	57	9.90 %	

planning & Property Development






Regional & Community Planning, Urban Design, and Transportation Planning

Increase budget by 10%	81	14.01 %	
Increase budget by 5%	79	13.67 %	
Maintain existing budget	254	43.94 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	96	16.61 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	68	11.76 %	

Development Approvals, Permits and Inspections

Increase budget by 10%	38	6.63 %	
Increase budget by 5%	59	10.30 %	
Maintain existing budget	286	49.91 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	115	20.07 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	75	13.09 %	

Economic Development

Increase budget by 10%	117	20.24 %	
Increase budget by 5%	94	16.26 %	
Maintain existing budget	207	35.81 %	
Decrease budget by 5%	83	14.36 %	
Decrease budget by 10%	77	13.32 %	

Governance & Support Services

Mayor, Council, Chief Admin Office, Communications, HR, Finance, IT, Legal and Auditor General's Office

Increase budget by 10%	7	1.21 %
Increase budget by 5%	36	6.22 %
Maintain existing budget	229	39.55 %
Decrease budget by 5%	154	26.60 %
Decrease budget by 10%	153	26.42 %



Budget Consultation 2016

Service Comments

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
Infrastructure	Roadway Maintenance	Increase budget by 10%	1	Please address the Windsor Street exchange. You can't keep building up the suburbs without addressing this. Take the tax money you are getting from all this development and use it on fixing this embarrassment.	Tue Oct 20 18:52:22 2015
Planning & Property Development	Economic Development	Increase budget by 10%	1	Please consider giving tax breaks to start up companies. Stop giving money to ferries and promote us as a start up destination. Put some constraints around who's eligible and see not only our economy improve but see retention of our young people!	Tue Oct 20 18:52:22 2015
Community & recreation services	Parks, Trails & Open Green Space	Increase budget by 10%	2	Create a new recreational park -to be available to all Haligonians and Nova Scotians -that includes all lands around Williams Lake, build a new and essential dam so that Williams Lake doesn't dry up annually as it now does, particularly in summer and fall. Entrance to new park would be from Wyndrock Drive, Halifax. Get required moneys from federal and provincial governments and private sources(e.g. crowd-funding)	Wed Oct 21 09:50:48 2015
Community & recreation services	Sports Fields & Playgrounds	Increase budget by 10%	3	I would support this increase IF there were more naturalized playground and play structures - not just for children but for adults too. I realize there are safety regulations but I'd like to see some adventure-type play structures and facilities that allow for some "risky" play - within guidelines of course. Natural can also mean lower capital and maintenance costs.	Wed Oct 21 17:52:42 2015
Community & recreation services	Sports Fields & Playgrounds	Maintain existing budget	4	Also very important, but there are other pressing needs.	Thu Oct 22 12:05:13 2015
Community & recreation services	Parks, Trails & Open Green Space	Maintain existing budget	4	Parks are important, and I'd love to see improvements, but for me, there are more pressing needs in HRM right now.	Thu Oct 22 12:05:13 2015

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
Community & recreation services	Libraries	Increase budget by 10%	4	Libraries are the hearts of our communities. The reaction to the new Central library shows us that. They are not only depositories for books, they are free learning and networking institutions. They are for everyone, no matter what demographic you fall into. Libraries should be vibrant, busy, community centres. Lets keep ours that way.	Thu Oct 22 12:05:13 2015
Community & recreation services	Culture/Heritage/ Events	Increase budget by 10%	4	We don't spend enough on art or community. The temporary cut to the Atlantic Fringe Festival this year was disgraceful. We have amazing amounts of cultural talent and industries here and we care, but we don't care enough to put the same kind of money into them that we do into other ways of life. Culture and community is what makes life worth living.	Thu Oct 22 12:05:13 2015
Community & recreation services	Transit	Increase budget by 5%	4	Better transit is needed. Our roads cannot handle the pressure if anything goes wrong with our commutes. Re: the morning and afternoon of October 19. More people on buses would clear some of the traffic congestion. We have to move away from a single person in a car, to a more transit based society.	Thu Oct 22 12:05:13 2015
Infrastructure	Right of Way and Traffic Management (including Streetlights)	Increase budget by 5%	4	Given the number of pedestrian and cyclist deaths every year in HRM, we should be increasing this budget more than this. As someone who walks, bikes, and drives, our city is a very scary place to move about.	Thu Oct 22 12:05:13 2015
Governance & Support Services	Mayor, Council, Chief Admin Office, Communications, HR, Finance, IT, Legal and Auditor General's Office	Maintain existing budget	4	I would hate to see the staff who most need work (and most need to be employed by the city to do the work council deems appropriate) lose their jobs. Ideally if a decrease was needed, the people making the most would take the hit, not the people who are making the least and providing the services.	Thu Oct 22 12:05:13 2015
Governance & Support Services	Mayor, Council, Chief Admin Office, Communications, HR, Finance, IT, Legal and Auditor General's Office	Decrease budget by 5%	5	Instead of reducing staff, why don't we look at salaries/benefits of our highest members of city council?	Sat Oct 24 03:28:02 2015

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
Infrastructure	Snow Removal & Ice Control	Increase budget by 5%	6	Never mind the focus on clearing bus stops- this is not as important as ensuring that snow removal contractors have the PROPER equipment to do the snow clearing. We have lived on the same street in wellington for 35 years and this past winter was the first time our street was reduced to 1 lane all winter because of the inadequate equipment the contractor used. It was Easter Monday before we had any sort of semblance to a 2 lane street.	Sat Oct 24 05:30:47 2015
Infrastructure	Solid Waste	Decrease budget by 5%	7	There are efficiencies that could be implemented to improve service while keeping expenditures constant! You are underestimating the intelligence of your citizens--our leaders seem to be afraid of taking a stand to avoid controversy and this is costing us dearly. Please implement changes, have the courage to defend your actions and hold the few disgruntled citizens to account--the vast majority of us are anxious to do it right and are angry at the few who are able to hold up progress because of failed leadership. Get on with it !!!	Fri Nov 13 01:19:35 2015
planning & Property Development	Development Approvals, Permits and Inspections	Maintain existing budget	7	There are efficiencies that could be implemented to improve service while keeping expenditures constant! Please reduce red tape and don't be afraid to make timely decisions. We need intelligent decisions and Halifax has nothing if not intelligent people--USE THEM!	Fri Nov 13 01:19:35 2015
planning & Property Development	Economic Development	Maintain existing budget	7	There are efficiencies that could be implemented to improve service while keeping expenditures constant!	Fri Nov 13 01:19:35 2015
Community & recreation services	Recreation (Arenas, Aquatics, Programs,	Decrease budget by 10%	8	Not a necessary service.	Fri Nov 13 01:25:54 2015
Community & recreation services	Sports Fields & Playgrounds	Decrease budget by 10%	8	Not a necessary service. Can charge user fees for some things.	Fri Nov 13 01:25:54 2015
Community & recreation services	Parks, Trails & Open Green Space	Decrease budget by 10%	8	Not a necessity.	Fri Nov 13 01:25:54 2015
Community & recreation services	Municipal Compliance / By-Law Enforcement	Decrease budget by 5%	8	Not time critical service.	Fri Nov 13 01:25:54 2015
Community & recreation services	Culture/Heritage/Events	Decrease budget by 10%	8	Not necessary service	Fri Nov 13 01:25:54 2015
Community & recreation services	Transit	Increase budget by 10%	8	Would like to see more routes in more areas of HRM, e.g. Lawrencetown.	Fri Nov 13 01:25:54 2015

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
Community & recreation services	Transit	Increase budget by 5%	8	Would like to see more routes in more areas of HRM, e.g. Lawrencetown.	Fri Nov 13 01:25:54 2015
planning & Property Development	Development Approvals, Permits and	Decrease budget by 5%	8	Service is needed, but not time critical	Fri Nov 13 01:25:54 2015
planning & Property Development	Economic Development	Increase budget by 10%	8	All areas of government hinge on the state of the economy. More companies hire more people who pay more taxes.	Fri Nov 13 01:25:54 2015
planning & Property Development	Economic Development	Increase budget by 5%	9	Support small business, cap housing and rental prices so people have pocket money to spend, lower the cost of living and increase opportunities, less red tape, yadda yadda yadda!!!	Fri Nov 13 01:44:26 2015
Community & recreation services	Transit	Increase budget by 10%	10	More transit and infrastructure for alternate forms of transportation.	Fri Nov 13 13:19:25 2015
Infrastructure	Roadway Maintenance	Increase budget by 10%	10	Yes maintenance but also add paved shoulders when road is resurfaced.	Fri Nov 13 13:19:25 2015

General Comments

User	Comment	On
1	I think more needs to be spent on infrastructure and making the city better for business. A bit of spending will be able to attract more businesses and people to Halifax increasing our population and GDP as a city. More needs to be done to attract people to our city and investment in the city is the best way to do that. More people need to be attracted and we can bring in immigrants and retain graduates from other countries.	Tue Oct 20 18:22:25 2015
2	Priority should be placed on making transit a viable option for people, keeping the population healthy through community and activity, and growing the economy through Halifax. We are bleeding young people to other provinces.	Tue Oct 20 18:27:52 2015
3	Money needs to be spent where we see it. The roads in this city are an absolute mess and here we are spending got knows how much to plant trees in Fairview/Clayton Park. A neighbour removed a tree in front of their home to then half dead saplings. We don't need trees in well established neighbourhoods, we need roads that are fit to drive on.	Tue Oct 20 2015
4	I DON'T CARE THAT I'M OVERBUDGET. RAISE TAXES. TAKE CARE OF YOUR PEOPLE.	Tue Oct 20 2015
5	Now is not the time for HRM to engage in frivolous spending.	Tue Oct 20 18:48:23 2015
6	I think the snow removal budget should be at least double. What happened last winter was unacceptable. 3 co-workers were in leg casts for weeks/months, 2 requiring extensive surgery. For several weeks I didn't leave my downtown office for lunch, coffee, dinner, haircuts etc. It had to have had disastrous consequences for businesses in the downtown area.	Tue Oct 20 18:49:13 2015
7	The money needs to go into supporting communities and infrastructure. Give people things to do and ways to get there. Accessibility is top priority. More for families and communities. Less on big business.	Tue Oct 20 18:50:50
8	Please fix the Windsor Street exchange! It's such an embarrassment. Even Saint John has this infrastructure!	Tue Oct 20 18:52:22 2015
9		Tue Oct 20

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
				Time for some tough decisions to be made regarding municipal spending.	2015
10				This is a great idea. More people need to understand where taxes are spent and provide input on HRM services. Helps the city understand what is important to residents. I hope you get lots of responses.	Tue Oct 20 19:00:36
11				I don't think taxes are evil. They allow us to collectively provide services and infrastructure nobody could afford alone.	Tue Oct 20 19:00:46 2015
12				I would approve an increase in the budget for implementation of the Urban Forest Master Plan (all *planned* activities), and am making this comment here as I was not sure which line item in the survey was applicable.	Tue Oct 20 19:02:49
13				It is my hope that by increasing funding to community based programs and centers (libraries, sports and rec facilities, cultural events, public parks) that we can prevent some of the problems that police currently have to deal with. I also believe snow removal was done so badly last year that an overview of how this service is administered needs to be undertaken. I do not believe throwing more money at the situation will fix the problem - rather a better use of existing resources needs to be found. For example, last year I saw somebody was paid to dig out the bus stop. They put the snow into the side walk area. The sidewalk plow would come through and need to spend extra time to move the snow the bus stop person just put plow would come and put all their snow into the bus stop and side walk. So the bus walk person and side walk person would have to come back to do their job again. They would put their snow on the road, decreasing the effectiveness of what the plow had just done. A better use of resources would be to have these three different snow removal services working together and they didn't all undo each others work. Putting more money into the problem might just result in more people out there but not more productive work being done. Lets make better use of the resources.	Tue Oct 20 2015
14				A small increase in property taxes is worth expanding some essential services that are underfunded. Any property tax increase should be tied to a specific budget item to prevent it from being reallocated. I would support an increase in the public transit portion of the property taxes provided it went transit network, which really needs to be 10-15 minutes all day for all corridor routes.	Tue Oct 20
15				Interesting exercise	Tue Oct 20 19:14:07 2015
16				We would pay the extra.... We are capped, but since we only purchased this older property in 2010, we are already at the higher range now for assessment. Most of our neighbours pay significantly less...	Tue Oct 20 19:15:55
17				It was very difficult to choose, I had to go with what affected me the most.	Tue Oct 20 2015
18				Staff are at a skeleton level and there are too many middle managers. Trust your staff. Hire more front line people and fewer managers. Create policies which allow staff to make decisions instead of downloading onto Managers. More free reception access for the people and use the sportsplexes. More local rec centre's as most community gathering spots are disappearing. Nothing fancy. But something like titans which is affordable to run.	Tue Oct 20 2015
19				Lets make transit and active transportation a priority in this city!	Tue Oct 20 19:39:08
20					Tue Oct 20

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
				Thank you for asking for my input. For the most part, I believe the budget has been managed very well.	2015
21				I'd love to be able to increase some things more than 10%, but I understand that a decrease in any area results in poorer service, loss of jobs or wages, and is generally never a fun thing to deal with... I'd be fine with paying a bit of extra tax to keep Halifax sustained and growing.	Tue Oct 20 19:46:15 2015
22				I would make equal minor changes to the budget of each line item to match the overall budget. On the other hand although I cannot afford a tax increase as I am on a relatively constrained income I am prepared to support progressive policies that enhance the quality of life in this city.	Tue Oct 20 19:50:21 2015
23				Lessen administration and high cost of governance; allocate funds altruistically; maintenance and infrastructure improvements benefit EVERYONE and equate to larger economic gains in the future!!	Tue Oct 20 20:08:40
24				I really don't mind a deficit at first as long as we get safe and strong city that's growing. As a 20 year old I would rather stay in Halifax knowing I can get a job, it has emergency services that are up to date with the best anyone can offer, with a snow plan that's stronger than Canadian winters, a full of parks that I can take my children to. I want Halifax to be one of the best tourist destination, and the best city to live in. So if we have to pay more to first to get there then I'm ok with a deficit!!!!	Tue Oct 20 20:12:30 2015
25				My budget worked to an overspend but I feel the overage would be covered if Council had the ability to take back control and authority from the bureaucrats. It is ridiculous that near everything has to be sent out then comeback at a take back some measure of control would help make the budget easier.	Tue Oct 20 20:18:26 2015
26				Running a defect for programs and resources the people want is ok.	Tue Oct 20 20:21:06 2015
27				HRM's existing tax burden on property owners is TOO HIGH!!! HRM spends OUR money like it comes from a BOTTOMLESS PIT - long past time to tighten the belt at HRM!!!	Tue Oct 20 20:50:57 2015
28				Need to invest in transit and green spaces for a sustainable city. Worth the slight tax increase.	Tue Oct 20 2015
29				Thank you for allowing citizens to weigh in on this budget, greatly appreciated.	Tue Oct 20 20:58:51 2015
30				Transit is the Most Important piece of the Budget- Road works is part of the infrastructure for Transit Too many Councillors as it is with too much bickering	Tue Oct 20 21:00:20 2015
31				My budget spent what funds were there (only slightly off - ~3 million) but prioritized expanding services for low-income people. I reduced spending on police.	Tue Oct 20 21:19:00 2015
32				A less than 5% option on the largest budget items would be nice. H/LIF/X extends beyond the fricken Peninsula i.e. Moose River	Tue Oct 20 2015
33				I do not feel we can spend more money at this point give most of us are going to receive a 0% economic increase in the next 3 years. We should move to municipal policing in all areas of HRM. Especially in areas close to the inner city such as Sackville and Cole Harbour.	Tue Oct 20 21:24:56 2015
34				You are not factoring ways to generate corporate support e.g. on cultural events to deliver on items at lower costs. You also have not factored in challenges to cost save and streamline corporate services. The modest overspend I have presented is reasonable, but I still want to know how the city is challenging themselves to do more with less. Definitely no cuts to policing, The city is growing and we need to be on top of the criminal element that comes with urban growth. Also, given a new government that has presented options to safely legalize pot, opportunity for Halifax to show leadership as a pilot city? The	Tue Oct 20 2015

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
				faster the province and the city look at options to legalize sales, this will result in sales tax increases. It is important that Hfx start working with other levels of government on opportunities. similarly what is Halifax doing to partner senior care with day care space? Halifax needs to start being global and comparing itself to the best corporate practices.	
35				If there is a need to trim budgets, look for savings in management and administrative salaries and services first.	Tue Oct 20 21:45:05 2015
36				I hope HRM decides to cut some expenses and use the gear and people more to promote increase and monitor city services More... give out more fines for cell phones when driving good lord you would eliminate the provincial debt in no time...!! Also more enforcement on building projects/permits inspections. Should consider privatizing the transit service it's a bloody mess for HRM and is run by people that don't have a clue.. The fuel spill cost how much over 2 million and now lawyers will double easily. 200,000 litres of diesel seeped out of an underground fuel line before it was detected last year really the management doesn't give a shit about transit other than racking up over time and collecting their pensions, put it to sleep and get a private operator that you can subsidize and control your costs...	Tue Oct 20 2015
37				interesting and informative exercise. I appreciate more the decisions you need to make.	Tue Oct 20 2015
38				If citizens expect better service (Snow removal, road repair, facilities maintenance) then it will cost extra. Paying an additional \$18 per year on the tax bill would be unnoticeable to most people, yet the results would be tangible. Of all the areas that need more investment I believe economic not have to be repeated year after year and the city would continue to improve recreation facilities, repair response time and pay down debt.	Tue Oct 20 22:53:32 2015
39				fed up with poor transit schedules for nights and Sundays provide better service! Snow removal needs to be improved!	Tue Oct 20 2015
40				We need to be investing in community development. It is under looked and under appreciated but research shows it helps reduce crime and is great for society. Please please please invest in this.	Tue Oct 20 22:56:44
41				Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I'd welcome consideration of a mid-to-long term strategy for reduction in redundancy of police services, and additional pursuit of private sponsored public infrastructure (particularly those projects like the Emera Oval that reduce overall health spend of province through encouraging physical together this exercise. I'm continually impressed by the quality of our municipal public servants. Thanks for all you do.	Tue Oct 20 23:15:58 2015
42				Creating a animal husbandry corridor that could link the two down towns to the rural agricultural world as a means of fostering better cooperation between farmers and city. A great city can not exist without a great supporting farming community to feed it. The corridor could be shared with wild animals so as to prevent animal car interactions. The corridor could also enable horse and buggy transit. Implement a city building code change that requires all roofing to be green means of reducing strain on storm water infrastructure, improving air quality and reducing noise pollution while creating long term sustainable employment around the service and	Tue Oct 20 2015

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
				maintenance of the green roofing. Furthermore green roofing reduces our cities carbon footprint and eliminates the toxic waste that are roofing shingles.	
43				Thank you for this opportunity. I am comfortable with being over budget and seeing an increase in my property taxes, since I see areas of municipal service that need improvement and I know that this takes money to accomplish.	Wed Oct 21 00:11:00 2015
44				HRM is spending too much money overall and raising taxes to support the recent tax and spend agenda. Most wages are frozen or flat but not HRM's and water rates which are an HRM stealth tax, are going up. Cumulative impact is being ignored. Amalgamation costs are putting too much pressure on residents through fire and police expansions. Garbage is out of control. Snow clearing is being mismanaged over budget and inadequate, more money is not the answer. Overtime and being abused by unions, this has to be brought under control. Services have to be cut or priorities reordered. Comparison to other cities is not valid as we have higher unemployment, higher taxes overall and a higher cost of living all ignored by HRM. We need a tax fighter and efficiency approach more aggressive than we have now.	Wed Oct 21 2015
45				I wouldn't be the first person (if in office) to go over budget.	Wed Oct 21 00:56:38
46				Please remove municipal snow removal contracts and resort back to relying on homeowners for side walk clearing. Bring back fines for non-compliance this would allow MORE spending for ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT instead of being a drag on the economy...	Wed Oct 21 01:05:35 2015
47				I would develop a plan for more pedestrian only streets downtown to increase people's desire to live downtown and attract small businesses. Also develop a long-term plan to have street cars or LRT on peninsular Halifax. sponsor it in return for free advertising. ...i.e. metro center changing to Scotia Bank Centre.	Wed Oct 21 2015
48				We need a new recreational park surrounding Williams Lake and a n essential new dam to prevent the summer and fall drying up of Williams Lake. The Head of HRM Snow Removal should take a learning trip to Montreal. They totally avoid our prolonged snow removal failures.	Wed Oct 21 09:50:48 2015
49				My concern is for the quality of life for Nova Scotians. That is why I made the choices I did. It's important that existing Nova Scotians wish to stay in the province and not leave due to a potential for a better quality of life in another province with better services. It's tough enough to live with the Nova Scotia climate. We should be able to enjoy what the province has to offer when possible.	Wed Oct 21 10:51:42 2015
50				I would have liked to cut Transit service funding by 50% or more. It is absurd that \$75 Million tax dollars goes to supporting this ineffective, inefficient service. The Transit service needs to stand on its own (or receive minimal gov't assistance). Most urban centres fund between 45-50% of the cost, of their operating costs. That money could really go a long way to improving other, more important services.	Wed Oct 21 2015
51				Good luck!	Wed Oct 21 11:03:31 2015
52				I changed a few items to be "under budget" but system didn't seem to register.	Wed Oct 21 11:45:58 2015
53				Police/Fire - They abuse the overtime process in order to make more money. Remove that option by reducing their budget.	Wed Oct 21 11:48:50 2015
54				I believe it is high time we as a city start to look at the cost of providing services versus the cost of administering services. Our government is in place to supply services not employ those that administer. Our civil service is far too big for a city of our size.	

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
				When we cut our civil service, we often cut those that provide the service and not the high paid management of the service. yes, people notice this. The ironic aspect of this, we expectations we have to employee everyone is not sustainable and completely unreasonable. A side note. far too many family tree's, nepotism in our city service. There is a culture that needs to addressed here. Supplying my name as I'd be happy to expand on my thoughts raised above. Good Luck	Wed Oct 21 12:09:49 2015
55				Balanced budgets and maintaining infrastructure should be the primary goal before secondary, community and cultural events are even considered. Government has taken on too many roles outside of its scope, these are jobs for NGO's and community groups.	Wed Oct 21 12:38:51 2015
56				I'm tired of this city hiring expensive consultants who create "solutions" leave and go home with their tries to clean up the mess left behind. There are things we can do to cut costs reduce the number on increases, bus tickets 20 dollars for 10 to 21.	Wed Oct 21 2015
57				The budget is a very challenging endeavour. Good luck in developing a plan which supports our community, infrastructure and service needs.	Wed Oct 21 12:59:22 2015
58				This was a really great idea! Gave me some perspective on how tough your decisions are before I start whining about the next budget!	Wed Oct 21 13:08:08 2015
59				my overage in budget can be reduced by putting a freeze on mayor, councillor and staff salaries. i.e. a freeze for 4 years.	Wed Oct 21 13:26:32 2015
60				The wording of the descriptions is transparently biased and probably reflective of where staff would like to direct opinion. Disappointing. For example, 5% reductions would increase wait times from 5 to 15 days? Really? amounting to \$200k, would "greatly improve" delivery in another area?	Wed Oct 21 2015
61				At 0.47% over budget this would mean a ~\$9 increase in taxes per household. That seems pretty great for what the budget could do, if the descriptions are accurate. Overall this is maintains the status quo on services, but updates a lot of infrastructure, and attempts to increase the population/stimulate the economy.	Wed Oct 21 13:47:11 2015
62				Thank you for this opportunity to voice my priorities.	Wed Oct 21 13:50:34 2015
63				This mock budget process does not afford much flexibility or room for real input. You will obtain more useful feedback by providing participants the option to comment on each component of the budget. For example:- The snow budget shouldn't be increased. The savings are better spent to upgrade the winter tires on my vehicle for added safety even outside HRM and less inconvenience to my fellow motorists because I won't be the person dragging traffic to a halt on icy hills during rush hour. - cut the size of council further to save on expenses. We don't need that many elected. - I would support more transit spending but not as it is presented here. spend more on link bus and high speed ferry/rail type of initiatives. Not increased frequency for existing routes. - Fire - homes don't burn like they used too. cut the fire service and stand up to the firefighters union. - I disagree with the direct tying of online service expansion to operating budgets. Are some of those initiatives not capital expenditures which are a one time item and shouldn't be directly included in your operating budget, or if they are, should be amortized over a number of years? - You didn't ask the public for feedback on	Wed Oct 21 14:11:34 2015

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
	how to deal with union demands. wages governed by collective agreements are one of your greatest expenses. If you want useful information ask the participants if they support taking the risk of service disruption to take a hard line with unions and obtain the required wage concessions to keep the municipality and the taxpayer healthy. I certainly support HRM through any work disruption to lower costs. You didn't include the cost of sick days in the this budget work through. You should ask the tax payer what he/she thinks about the average number of sick days used by HRM employees such as the bus drivers. This process can be much more insightful if structured differently to solicit input from tax payers on the moral questions like sick days and other structural challenges caused by collective agreements.				
64	I understand costs of living rise, but union wages are way ahead of the rest of us, and my lower wage taxes are subsidizing these higher paid employees. I pay higher bills too, with no raises. I don't eat as well as you.				Wed Oct 21 14:21:44
65	Stop telling us on the Eastern Shore what we can do with our land. HRM by design is very bad for our area.				Wed Oct 21 14:28:34 2015
66	Increase taxes on new Rental properties. Remove green space charges on minor subdivisions of properties. Stop further development that increases traffic on Bedford Hwy. Add and allow student rental housing to your(in law(nanny) apartment rule) allowance for R1 zoning.				Wed Oct 21 14:57:00 2015
67	There should be a "decrease budget by 100%" button. The descriptions of what would happen in various scenarios don't seem to reflect what a citizen would like to see, rather a staff outcome.				Wed Oct 21 15:03:59
68	The visible and tangible effect of increasing funding to low budget categories will have a much greater effect on the community than the relatively large increases to large budget categories. There is more bang for the buck and I think this will help generate a positive feeling in Halifax planning for the future. I won't notice one more cop on the street, but I will notice better bus connections, more on-line services, and more recreational programs.				Wed Oct 21 2015
69	Please add additional support for snow removal during the winter. 2014-2015 was a clusterfuck of epic proportions and the city did NOT have the resources to deal with it. I take public transit, and with how lax the schedule get value for the money that I pay for a bus pass. This is not acceptable.				Wed Oct 21 2015
70	This survey was a great idea. Educational and informative, should be promoted to residents of HRM. Well done!				Wed Oct 21 16:34:00 2015
71	Increase spending in our Parks and Recreation, trails and other outdoor related activities that promote healthy lifestyles. This is huge in reducing the amount of future health care costs, and something the Province and Federal governments should be contributing to at a Municipal level.				Wed Oct 21 17:30:33 2015
72	I thought this would be an anonymous questionnaire. I put a lot of effort into this and now find out that I have to give you my email address which basically tells you who I am. so I put in fake email too.				Wed Oct 21 17:36:41
73	I think a tax increase in keeping with the consumer price index is acceptable. I would like to see the municipality shift spending onto long term strategic areas like transit.				Wed Oct 21 17:48:25 2015
74	when I went back to try to change an entry, all my comments appear to have been deleted. You should warn people about this.				Wed Oct 21 17:52:42 2015
75	Improving transit is my top priority. You cannot be a world class city without reliable transit that goes beyond catering to commuters.				Wed Oct 21 18:15:39 2015
76	Please make this city a place where people want to live with				

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
	public spaces and excellent transit. I do not understand why there is a reluctance to investing in improved public transit that includes light rail, dedicated bus lanes promoting rapid transit. Every progressive city in the world focuses on public spaces and excellent transit. Unfortunately, for whatever reason, our city cannot see beyond snow removal issues. Can we please move beyond talk to decisive leadership to city? There is a clear choice, we either build for the future or manage the decay of our fair city. Leadership is about shaping vision, selling ideas, taking a long view and celebrating the milestones along the way. It is not just responding to the whimpering of the few in the here and now. Here's hoping for a bright future.....				Wed Oct 21 2015
77				Would happily pay more taxes towards the library system, better transit and MUCH BETTER cycle lanes	Wed Oct 21 19:06:35 2015
78				Good survey format, enabling trade-offs and showing how these affect totals. Thanks for the opportunity to participate!	Wed Oct 21 2015
79				Believe most spending lines should be held at existing levels with the major acceptance of firefighting which needs more spending. My allocations are reasonable and a modest tax reduction would be welcomed by most tax/rate payers. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.	Wed Oct 21 21:15:23 2015
80				I love this city. We all do. Let's give it some love people. Give us green and space and protect our natural beauty.	Wed Oct 21 2015
81				Most cultural and recreational services are surprisingly cheap, you can increase their funding without making much of a dent in the overall budget. Transit is important, I think increases there are worthwhile.	Thu Oct 22 00:15:00
82				Development is the key to building a city. HRM BY DESIGN IS A POLICY WHICH STIFFLES GROWTH.	Thu Oct 22 2015
83				Unfortunately your survey does not account for the economic benefit that will offset some of the budget expenditures. For example improved bylaw enforcement when done properly would result in fine revenue, create a safer workplace and environment, reduce accidents, illegal dumping, work Enhanced emergency service results in a safer community and helps to prevent loss of life and property. Balance is possible with smart spending.	Thu Oct 22 02:35:45 2015
84				Libraries are a huge drain. Close all regional libraries. Its the 21st century for god's sakes. Nobody uses a library anymore. Return the surplus budget to me in the form of a tax cut. Thanks.	Thu Oct 22 11:26:07 2015
85				The comments of for % decreases were not a real reflection of what would happen. Innovation should be short term expense for long term savings. We now have call centre services and along of online options, which should be translating into lower costs elsewhere. Economic Development is going to happen if we have the infrastructure in place to support it, so decreasing the budget just gets rid of some of the fluff impacting bottom line results. Also I decreased the SW costs, but would highlight I do find it important to have strong service in this category. NS as a whole as a huge opportunity for cost savings in SW if there is a regional partnership approach and folks stop fighting over the job count in their riding or area.	Thu Oct 22 2015
86				I specifically take issue with spending money on this 're-branding' silliness. Total waste of my money and for what?	Thu Oct 22 2015
87				Some of the potential impacts of decreases given seem extreme. A 5% reduction in budget to handle permits, etc, should NOT increase wait times from 5 to 15 days! Efficiency and productivity measures should be instituted, and staff empowered so they are motivated, and this would never happen.	Thu Oct 22 11:45:07 2015

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
88				I'm willing to accept a 2% tax increase to pay more for the items I selected.	17-05-13 2015
89				Obviously I'm just messing with you and telling you to cut everything by 10%, but to be fair, I consider this a disingenuous exercise. I think we all know that shifts in policy and implementation are the way to save money, just arbitrarily deciding whether spending more or less will get us more value. The city over spends on consulting because they believe that it gives them political cover. Regardless of who is consulted, the elected officials are responsible. Period.	Thu Oct 22 12:05:20 2015
90				Great tool! You should promote this more, I just stumbled across it!	Thu Oct 22 13:17:16 2015
91				Thank you for the opportunity to share my input. The final comment regarding cost allocation and impact on municipal taxes is biased as it states that a 1% decrease represents represents a \$18/year saving for the average home owner. This is false and misleading information because it mandatory level of cost which may not be reasonable. For example, a transit driver makes approx. \$50 000/yr. - this is ludicrous.	Thu Oct 22 2015
92				More development planners should be paid for through fees on large-scale developments that fully cover the cost of processing their applications. That way, developers will actually save money by being able to get their permits and build their projects faster. The current back-logged system helps no one. I disagree with the funding priorities of parks and trails. I would increase their funding if it would go to connecting Downtown Dartmouth to the Atlantic View Trail, and connecting the Halifax Urban Greenway to the Chain of Lakes Trails. These connections are crucial to Halifax's image as a city well-connected to see transit spending more money on the current system. If there budget is increased, it should be strictly for transforming their system to something totally new. The city must stop incentivizing high-cost development. Commercial taxes should be reduced on mainstreets and increased in places where businesses cost more to service, such as Bayer's Lake. We must also implement greater development charges to incentivize residential growth where it will cost the city much less to service.	Thu Oct 22 2015
93				Xx	Thu Oct 22 16:57:16
94				Spend money on the systems that will accelerate the return of the money back as taxes. Spending money to make money will only happen with certain subjects. Interfering with safety systems such as Police and Fire aren't necessary. Once the economy is accelerated, return the other subjects back to their traditional budgets. In this example, the budgets that were decreased are expected to return to normal or increased levels once the economic system returns and expresses the results. Evidently, this city desperately needs a new theme. The promote growth and create more regional importance. A City - Rural cyclic economic system is the only way to achieve this. Abundant resources throughout the province should be cheap to locals and expensive to foreign markets. This will promote the growth internally for accelerated development and evolution of added value products consumed or exiting the province. Profit. Profit. Profit!	Thu Oct 22 20:04:43 2015

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
95				I'd love to keep or increase, but recognizing that you cannot have it all, I believe economic development is the most important. Keep people here. For the people working here, give them more opportunity to increase their salary. Young people such as myself would benefit from making more money to invest into their future.	Fri Oct 23 03:20:20 2015
96				There is no way that the HRP & RCMP don't spend at least 10% of their local resources on marijuana-related enforcement. With the pending legalization of marijuana, even with a 10% reduction in budget, I'm sure they will still end up with a comparative surplus to apply to the enforcement of even more violent & weapons-related crimes. This would allow us to either maintain or increase (as I've done here) the budgets for every other service we provide for Haligonians.	Fri Oct 23 2015
97				Alternate transportation needs to be explored (no more bus investment) and we need to manage our snow removal/infrastructure repairs more efficiently- city is not doing enough right now with the budgets they have. We have more than enough money in our budget to make a difference already.	Fri Oct 23 14:31:36 2015
98				Thanks!	Fri Oct 23
99				This survey is totally inadequate and does not address necessary structural changes to services provided, nor does it address the possibility of new spending and programs or the possibility of greater increases or reductions through structural changes to the programs offered. You can do better.	Fri Oct 23 2015
100				I feel strongly that resources allocated for processing development agreements should be reduced even if this makes long wait times very very long. More funding should be spent on the Urban Planning area specifically the work on the Centre Plan so that it does not go longer than communities that are being negatively effected by the lack of this plan and by the out dated and faulty system of doing everything through development agreements.	Fri Oct 23 2015
101				I believe that a lower amount of spending is required at the municipal level because of the new federal government that will supposedly inject new monies into As such, an increase in residential taxes should not be required.	Fri Oct 23 2015
102				I'm sick of politicians acting like bums with our money. I pay my bills, why doesn't the city do the same? Here we are, a quarter of a billion dollars in debt, with a repayment plan that will take more than fifty years to settle this debt. Stop playing around and pay this debt down. You wouldn't put yourself in debt this way, but its all ok with our money. Start acting like the you claim to be, rather than the politicians that you are. A general pay cut for council is in order, that would be taking some responsibility for swamping us with debt. No wonder people don't vote anymore, all we have is politicians living off of us to vote for.	Fri Oct 23 2015
103				Paved bicycle lanes have to be placed along Lawrencetown road!! Several cyclists daily risking their lives, to access travel to link onto the cycling trails off of Lawrencetown road. Road conditions are extremely dangerous and narrow with fast moving traffic. The gravel shoulder is washed out in many locations leaving deep ruts and/or a huge shoulder and felt like I was playing Russian Roulette as my front tire suddenly swerved in front of a fast moving car, thankfully I gained controll Surprised there hasn't been any deaths.	Sat Oct 24 2015
104				Thank you for the opportunity to select budget expenditures!	Sat Oct 24 05:30:47

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
105				While I agree with the basic principle, there are some major flaws in this approach. For example increasing funding to economic development programs might place the city in an over budget position this year; in future years if done properly, economic development provides a stronger tax base to begin with. There are other ways to allocate funding that haven't been touched in this survey, for example. The salaries of city councillors seems to be going to people who, instead of discussing important issues such as urban development, urban sprawl, updated taxation methods, etc., is discussing whether or not the donair is vital to this city's image. One of the issues Halifax faces is that it spends money frequently, not wisely. A proper review of how this money is being spent once it is allocated could go a long way to address budget overruns in the future.	Sat Oct 24 14:30:01 2015
106				My budget is reasonable and will ensure a very good level of service to the residents of HRM for a small increase in taxes.	Sun Oct 25 22:46:11 2015
107				The most important thing is that no matter how much money is spent on new bus routes, amount of buses, maintenance of buses, amount of drivers and training of drivers, people who choose to use bus instead of car, etc...	Mon Oct 26 00:04:19 2015
108				Very useful tool that has allowed me to understand the allocation process, and understand the difficulties of creating a balanced budget.	Mon Oct 26 11:58:31 2015
109				Time for major infrastructure investment.	Mon Oct 26 12:17:54
110				Mayor and Council increased the Fire Department budget over expert advice from the Fire Chief that the increase was not necessary. Emergency Measures is another budget that needs trimming. When I get the verification E-mail I am not able to respond to confirm my budget results. I hope my budget is still looked at and reviewed.	Mon Oct 26 13:34:35 2015
111				Currently have a household income of less than \$17,000. Taxes, with transit, are making surviving an uphill battle. Our property taxes are capped; however, strongly believe that the capped amount is actually the 100% and the "uncapped" amount is just there to make us feel better about what we are being charged.	Mon Oct 26 13:38:00 2015
112				Property taxes are too high for quality of life and services offered in HRM.	Mon Oct 26 22:46:52 2015
113				I would like to see Halifax continue to increase bicycle infrastructure and support methods of active transportation. One thing that would not require any taxpayers money to be spent would be to require all new construction that will be a workplace to provide showers for employees who otherwise exert themselves to get to work. I would also like to see Halifax Police form a dedicated cold-case unit to focus on the 60 major unsolved crimes in the city.	Tue Oct 27 2015
114				This version of SimCity is interesting, but without a knowledge of all the past and present issues in each category I can only speculate. I don't say future because no one can predict that. Where I cut was departments I was not interested in, was disappointed in (trimming would cut waste to a point disgruntled managers would leave, refreshing the department), or clearly had no plans going forward ("increase service level by 10% for 10% more money." Are you kidding? I hope this comment is given more credit than my budget.	Tue Oct 27 08:06:54 2015
115				Good exercise to create more awareness.	Tue Oct 27 12:00:55 2015
116					Tue Oct

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
	We need law enforcement to be able to focus on the tragic unsolved homicides that are solvable with more resources.				27 2015
117	Although there were very limited explanations for some of the larger ticket items, I feel that a reasonable increase in taxes would make sense. I feel like it will be important for the municipal team to articulate the reasoning behind increases and decreases in funding and I would be curious to see if any work has been done to offset some costs with strategic partnerships and re-allocation of provincial funding.				Tue Oct 27 13:48:31 2015
118	HRM should not subsidize the transit system of Halifax. It should be a user fee based system with users fees set to recover costs.				Tue Oct 27 23:35:49 2015
119	Great exercise to make us think of what goes into a budget and how difficult it is to find the right balance. Our streets took a bad beating from last winter, holes galore, lines gone and bicycle lanes cut short, leaving cyclists at risk. I believe cyclists and walkers would benefit if intersections with street lights would have a red light for vehicles on all 4 sides of the intersection and no automatic right turns and give cyclists, walkers, seniors on scooters enough time to cross two streets, not one, so they can get where they are going. Drivers are unfriendly, unkind, impatient and careless at times yet they sit in the comfort of their vehicle while it is the pedestrian and senior, maybe on their chair scooter who have to wait in the elements of the weather to get to where they need or want to be. I really feel the system failed the lady cyclists who was killed by the driver of a vehicle than toward pedestrians/cyclists. I drive a 2 wheel scooter and I was run down by a lady driving through parking spaces to get to another lane of parking spaces while I was in the lane between parking spaces and intended for drivers to drive up or down in seek of a space. She damaged my electric scooter. She offered to help but didn't offer her driver's permit and insurance. I should have asked for it. Nonetheless, she should have looked more carefully and if the sun was in her eyes, stayed put until she could see. Where she came through the parking spaces, she could have easily parked as where she parked after hitting me was the same number of foot steps to the store she was headed.				Wed Oct 28 00:54:33 2015
120	No more Branding				Wed Oct 28 09:58:43
121	The standard of living in our city would be improved if there was better planning for getting places: better roads, better transit, better traffic management and so on. This would give us more time and ability to enjoy the library, recreation centres, parks and cultural events. Traditional services like policing and firefighting do some things well but are mostly just a major drain on our taxes and are better off focusing on functions well. Council members... well, I can't speak for all but mine is useless. I don't think he deserves the salary he gets! I don't even know what his purpose is. I want the city services to improve but I want to reward the services that have shown themselves able to accomplish a lot with the money they get.				Wed Oct 28 2015
122	Less urban focus please				Thu Oct 29 14:20:40
123	Focus of core services and increase administrative efficiencies.				Thu Oct 29 14:46:10
124	I see robust transit as a way to support the aging population who may not be able to drive anymore, and support youth who cannot yet drive or cannot afford a vehicle. This could attract youth to live in Halifax and choose to stay here, allows for more valuable and profitable land uses such as commercial or residential.				Thu Oct 29 15:35:16 2015
125					Fri Oct 30 22:28:01

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
				Stop wasting money on changing HRM to the stupid idea of H/LIF/X. It sucks.	2015
126				I am interested in seeing more funding allocated to rural development and it was difficult to indicate this with this mechanism. The rural communities of Halifax need but this format is a great start to inclusion.	Sat Oct 31 10:20:11 2015
127				I think that most things should be maintained but that overall we should stop sending out contracts to outside companies when we have city staff that should be able to complete that work and provide us with the same service. This is in part why we hired them and what they should be required to do in their job.	Sat Oct 31 19:49:13 2015
128				I am somewhat disappointed with the lack of consideration in this budget allocator for the concerns of those outside the cities of Dartmouth and Halifax.	Sat Oct 31 21:32:26 2015
129				Great idea, spend less on outsourcing surveys, ask the people what they want. The suburbs are not benefiting from these allocations as much as they should be. We should break down the costs further and continue to pare down less services outside the city is frustrating and disappointing. Hope to see change.	Sun Nov 1 10:04:54 2015
130				Interesting exercise!	Sun Nov 1 11:41:28 2015
131				Enlightening exercise.	Sun Nov 1 17:11:09 2015
132				Stop wasting money on dumb H/LIF/X signs and changes. We look like idiots.	Sun Nov 1 19:05:44 2015
133				Definitely need more resources in transit and snow removal. The rest, to me, can be variable, depending on the needs. Too much money is being spent on salaries and bureaucracy.	Mon Nov 2 00:55:39 2015
134				Good Exercise for Taxpayers to go through; Thanks for the opportunity	Mon Nov 2 2015
135				"Stop waisting money on rebranding the stupid HALIFAX. It sucks	Mon Nov 2
136				Freezing taxes is not sacred. We need to improve opportunity for youth in the city and provide essential services like snow removal	Mon Nov 2
137				Reduction on safety services scares people — but trends are not presented here. For example, policing. Issues with crime are becoming more concentrated (domestic violence and disadvantaged populations). General crime rates are decreasing. Preventative measures will be most effective. I have some issues with how this survey was presented. It can lead to reactive responses.	Mon Nov 2 18:04:00 2015
138				Stop the H/LIF/X crap	Mon Nov 2 20:56:32 2015
139				Thank-you for the opportunity to voice my opinion	Tue Nov 3 13:49:53 2015
140				This community is worth investing in and working hard for	Tue Nov 3 13:49:53 2015
141				Taxes should go up to cover need expenditures to create liveable cities focussed on arts, culture, public transit, parks etc. These increases should be done fairly and equitably, and made on those most able to afford it	Thu Nov 5 11:21:11 2015
142				Nowhere did I see the option to make existing services more efficient, rather than throwing more money at them to increase services. There are always economies to be had and more efficient ways to do things, just takes the will to embrace change	Wed Nov 4 12:20:17 2015
143				It will be interesting to see overall input from population"	Thu Nov 5 04:53:44 2015

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
144				"I dropped the funding for transit by 10% because there is another way to earn that financing. Increase ridership. We need to create congestion fees or on all major entrances to peninsular Halifax and major commercial parks. This has proven to immediately increase ridership. We can't afford to fully fund the best	Thu Nov 5 11:21:11 2015
145				Follow my budget, and your under Budget while maintaining Services. Butts can spare a few trips home to help save some cash as well	Thu Nov 5 13:12:14 2015
146				Stop the rebranding crap	Thu Nov 5 13:48:25 2015
147				"Focus on infrastructure, less on services such as police and fire which crowd out productive spending! "	Thu Nov 5 14:55:52 2015
148				"Thanks for giving us a chance provide feedback on the budget. I realize my proposal is over budget and an increase can be hard for some of us whose employers are not increasing our salaries with inflation but extra services via the library etc allow us to enjoy a great life in a great city	Thu Nov 5 20:36:15 2015
149				I am okay with a moderate increase in tax rates. I am hopeful that for infrastructure projects, the city will be able to benefit from the recent campaign promises of the new federal government. I would certainly like to see improvements to transit, which I don't think requires the purchase of additional buses (as opposed to replacement buses), but would include the construction of more shelters (particularly after the past couple of winters). I would like to see more money spent on creating bike lanes/separate bike paths, improving the access to the MacDonald bridge for cyclists, and improving the efficiency of public transit by creating more bus and HOV lanes in the city (at the expense of parking on main streets). I am not sure what sorts of new equipment is available to our policing services, but I would want any purchases of new equipment to be for things that they cannot live without (no need for fancy riot-control gear etc., but need to replace old vehicles). The fire department is an interesting issue. Council was presented with a cost-cutting scheme by the current chief, but voted against it despite the potential benefit to our pocketbooks and to the forces ability to fight fires. This is disappointing as it now looks like, in order to get complete coverage for the HRM (HALIFAX?), we will have to spend a lot more money and hire many more firefighters. I am not sure that the money we spend on economic development is worth it. It seems to be money spent on branding and advertising, rather than real economic development. Besides, isn't this the responsibility of the provincial government? Finally, with respect to the city's libraries, from what I understand, there is an increase in usage, so perhaps some small amount of money should be thrown their way, unless, of course, they can absorb the extra business with their current staffing levels and stock of books, ebooks, and periodicals.	Fri Nov 6 10:56:36 2015
150				Halifax is the only municipality with 2 police forces totally unaffordable Fire service level is way to high an unnecessary	Fri Nov 6 20:24:32 2015
151				I am a local business owner, and a fiscal conservative. My views are that our municipality, province and country need to be run like a business. When times are hard, money is tight, and spending needs to be restricted/directed towards those areas that will help spur economic growth. The fun spending in areas that I would consider non-essential, to the dismay of many, such as the arts and recreation are short term pains that need to be	

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
				implemented. As a small business owner, our largest expenses are related to municipal taxes as a part of our rent, and it hinders our ability to grow in a sluggish economy. Free up some cash to allow a reduction in overall property taxes, especially in the commercial and retail spaces, and let the local business increase their operating margins, so they can hire position of power, in some form of government (even on a local muni level), who has authority to make fiscal and budgetary decisions, should have had to have owned/ operated a SUCCESSFUL business for a minimum of 5 years, to qualify for the job. Spark some economic activity, and the fun spending will be able to blossom. Keep overspending to appease the whiny masses who feel entitled to just relax and play, while the economy rots and more young people leave, and there will be no budget to divide up. I know it's complex, and I make no assumptions. I do not envy the job you have. My 2 cents, for what it's worth.	Fri Nov 6 20:25:00 2015
152				Stop with the stupid rebranding.	Mon Nov 9 02:37:15 2015
153				Snow removal must be a priority. A repeat of last year, where seniors and the disabled could not safely go outside and navigate the sidewalks must not be allowed to happen again.	Mon Nov 9 14:26:16 2015
154				Interesting to get to play around with the budget. Seriously though no stadium. Fixing the hospital and other more important infrastructure projects will cost too much to let us do that. As a student, with the province causing students to go further and further into debt due to the elimination of the student tax credit and allowing schools to raise tuition like crazy, last thing we need is a stadium raising taxes even more. We want people to come to Halifax and I want to stay here, but at the current state this city is in and the direction it seems to be going, there is no way anyone wants to stay here.	Tue Nov 10 03:46:02 2015
155				HRM needs to achieve greater efficiency in resource allocation through more effective use of technology and automation. Benefits and staffing costs are a constant and ever increasing component of budgets. The easy solution is less fire services i.e.. CCTV coverage and scheduling/equipment replacement. Live up to the hype. Be bold	Wed Nov 11 15:27:56 2015
156				Increased or enhanced service by definition requires an increase in funding.	Wed Nov 11 15:27:56
157				Stop wasting money on this rebranding foolishness. The legal name of the municipality is Halifax Regional Municipality. Council has forgotten that they are elected administrators for the area that they represent. They are not dictators. Stop your war on communities.	Thu Nov 12 04:56:03 2015
158				This province needs growth in the worst kind of way. Economic development should be priority #1. In order to do that we need to create jobs. In order to create jobs, we need to attract people with money to come here and make jobs. With HRM being the hub of Nova Scotia, you have the best opportunity of doing this. Running a province at a deficit of 600 million province can afford. A reduction of taxes would certainly entertain the prospect of attracting business growth, which in turn would attract people to move here. Thank you for reading this comment.	Thu Nov 12 16:56:04 2015
159				Snow removal is cyclical and should be a flexible budget. Some winters may be heavy and others extremely light. Last winter was a blip. Emergency services needs to be maintained and a small increase in budget (recommend 3 vice 5%).	Thu Nov 12 23:47:58 2015
160					Fri Nov 13

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
	We need serious transit improvement. I don't exactly know why we use municipal taxes on a federal department.				0:00:50 2015
161	Interesting exercise although of course it is pretty rough!				Fri Nov 13 00:04:54 2015
162	HRM has skewed priorities, and spends too much of taxpayers money on studies. HRM is a cultural backwater, and giving away the Exhibition Park lands, the debacle over the St. Pat's site, and the proposal for the Cogswell St. interchange lands, are classic examples of the ineptitude of HRM mayor & councillors are evident when they discuss donair days.				Fri Nov 13 00:12:17 2015
163	I realize that based on my choices a tax increase would be necessary, however I feel that sometimes to provide better services we must make sacrifices, if I am not willing to cut anything out because I feel that it is important then I am willing to pay a little bit extra. An additional \$18.00/year is not going to break me, and I am more than willing to pay that and even a bit more if it means increasing the safety of everyone by increasing services.				Fri Nov 13 00:31:55 2015
164	We need to invest in better public transit, development process and streetscapes. We have a very safe city and most basic services can be depended on. We have a horrible transit system and a major need for a better development process that can see less red tape when it comes to getting approvals.				Fri Nov 13 00:33:03 2015
165	The reduction in administration should be targeted in a reduction in the cost of the AG's office. There is no need for the pace of reports we are currently seeing.				Fri Nov 13 00:41:03 2015
166	I'm quite fine with a 1-3% tax increase if it is directed to services that we require as a municipality to enhance our community and our quality of life. With reduced crime rates protection we should be able to it all and more.				Fri Nov 13 00:41:55 2015
167	reduce salaries of top staff, find other ways to reduce costs, ensure staff have integrity, have a ceiling on per diem and travel costs, ensure there is less waste -				Fri Nov 13 0:48:27 2015
168	I overspent a bit. Basically on police and recreational areas. We need places for people to become active in sports or just walking the trails. I also think that we waste our transit dollars on bus routes that don't provide appropriate services - for example the bus route that goes through my neighbourhood - Portland Estates basically is unused between 0900-1500 and again after 1900 to midnight - the bus is 95% empty during these times yet it still runs. Even Christmas morning - starts at 0600 hours and runs all day - now really - is that necessary - the cost of running the bus, the driver's salary, etc. I have mentioned this before in this kind of forum and yes there was going to be a review of schedules - but still it runs. I wonder how many other buses are servicing areas that don't use them - and how many areas could use them but don't have them. I was really disappointed to hear that there will not be a stadium built in Metro - we need a stadium to attract concerts, CFL, etc. - these bring in money people! Really, City Council can be very frustrating at times. And HOW MANY CONDOS do we need or have the population to support!! There will soon be a condo building for every person in Metro - can't Council get a handle on developers and their plans - it's getting to be a joke. As you can tell I am rather frustrated with City Council and am not the only one.				Fri Nov 13 00:48:40 2015
169	Need better/reliable public transit, better traffic flow to lessen congestion, and parking. It is almost impossible to find parking around the Oval during the day since spots were removed from Windsor Street. Cycling is not the only way to stay in shape, many families drive to the Commons for sports and skating.				Fri Nov 13 00:52:45 2015

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
170				With some of the increases I have put into my budget. I would like to see more accountability with the tenders awarded to contractors for work not being done by City Field Workers. The accountability I think would work would be a hold back of money until an inspector has gone and seen the work was done properly and with care and to specifications. the contractor to perform work at a high standard for the City of Halifax. If a contractor can't perform a high standard of work for the city. They should be weeded out before they cost the city money over and over again each year.	Fri Nov 13 01:00:10 2015
171				Efficient operation of municipal offices such as tax collection and others would reduce costs greatly. There are many companies that have saved by converting to paperless if possible.	Fri Nov 13 01:04:28 2015
172				I applaud HRM's investment in green spaces, public transit strategies and urban forests. This is transforming our downtown and suburban areas. I would like more investment in a modern transit system - not the current piecemeal approach. I would like to see HRM join forces with the Province to create a new performing arts/visual arts/media centre in the location of the Cogswell interchange. This would provide performing space for our symphony and other talented NS musicians, exhibition space for the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia new collection of Fran Lebowitz photographs and other art from our excellent collection and a celebration of our media and film successes. This could be an important tourist destination. Thank you!	Fri Nov 13 01:10:08 2015
173				Please become more efficient, even BOLD, and trust your citizens when you have to make difficult decisions-don't take 'forever' to change, make new policy, or admit a mistake. This city (and Province) has wonderful potential. Don't squander our future or our potential-we are sinking in a morass of high taxes and engrained inefficiencies. We can and MUST do better.	Fri Nov 13 01:19:35 2015
174				That was so fun! I'm really happy you are trying this out. Very interesting and educational--- everyone at all ages should do it!!!	Fri Nov 13 1:44:26 2015
175				Note is not the time for frivolous spending. It's time for fiscal responsibility.	Fri Nov 13 1:46:42 2015
176				I loved this challenge. I think it shows people how hard it is to balance a budget and the tough choices there are to make.	Fri Nov 13 2:04:12 2015
177				Great way to show how funds are being allocated for municipal services. Also shows how increasing property taxes are all part of providing better services and improving our community. HRM is a great place to live and we should be willing to pay a little more to help it grow.	Fri Nov 13 02:05:01 2015
				Sidewalk snow removal in Halifax this past year was a waste of money. City should concentrate on keeping the sidewalks clear along city owned property (i.e. Parks/Schools/Bus Stops). There are times when we get a few centimeters of snow and the contractors will go up and down our street 3 times on each side when one pass each way would be fine. Better management of snow clearing is needed. Better management does not mean more managers. Roundabouts are a great improvement. I cannot believe you did not proceed with the one in the north end on Novalea and Lady Hammond. I would be supportive of more funding for additional roundabouts. I would also be supportive of moving forward with the removal of the Cogswell overpass. This would be a smart investment. Let's get the ball rolling. What an improvement to the downtown and reconnecting the north and	

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
178				south ends of the city. Great opportunity for some added green and public space. I liked the video presentation showing the re-development. Old Main Library would be a great green space as it is a former burial ground. No need for a with the Provincial and Federal Govs for funding. The view of the Harbour entrance from York Redoubt is awesome - yet the parking lot is now closed most of the year. I believe we have a good balance between development and heritage. Don't be afraid to spend to make investments in our future. Support for local university sports is more important than wasting money on the Rainmen/Hurricanes. Losing the Atlantic Bowl and the final 8 basketball has hurt the city. We have the CIS hockey finals here this year and it looks like we have the basketball back in 2017 & 2018. Support for these events are important and bring money into our city. Let's upgrade the SMU stadium to host soccer, football, track and field and other events. A venue to seat 5,000 to 8,000 people would work well. Proper washrooms and concessions are needed. Should be easy to get all three levels of government, as well as the AUS and SMU to make this happen at a reasonable cost to taxpayers. Build it to last.	Fri Nov 13 02:39:06 2015
179				Just cut all salaries and bring transit out of the dark ages. The only place in Canada with worse transit than us is Sydney, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, and they have free wi-fi on	Fri Nov 13 3:10:53 2015
180				I think the city is doing well over all. It is a hard job and I appreciate your work. There is not much I would change. Though my comments are above. I would like to take the time today I am sad that we have chosen to not identify as HRM in our branding. I agree Halifax is a good way to advertise ourselves outside our city. That we keep HRM for official documents and there was public consultation. Though I feel it has alienated some of our communities. I like change, I like boldness and don't mind the new look. I simply miss the presence of Regional Municipality or city is more than the peninsular Downtown. Cheers	Fri Nov 13 04:08:22 2015
181				many thanks for the opportunity to participate	Fri Nov 13 05:03:49 2015
182				Everything the city does from now on should be done with climate change in mind. It should be the top priority. For e.g. there will likely be more hurricanes and extreme weather events - emergency budgets need to be increased. Protected bike lanes, more transit with dedicated lanes, increased parking fees, an urban congestion toll (make those who drive in to the city for work pay a toll to leave their cars parked in the city all day). Climate change is killing the planet and councillors should be making decisions that try to mitigate the consequences which we are already seeing and will only get worse.	Fri Nov 13 10:50:55 2015
183				Things that are not necessary, REDUCE!	Fri Nov 13 11:37:04 2015
184				I believe the implementation of new technology can help reduce budget but improve efficiencies (i.e. your call centre and new workstyles like enabling people to work from locations other than a head-office); I also commend CAO Richard Butts work in building better efficiencies. Please continue the young people here, and bring young families HOME to Halifax from elsewhere, we need great recreation, health-focused programs for everyone, including rural Halifax.	Fri Nov 13 12:10:50 2015
				Obviously an ordinary citizen filling out this survey has little idea of the complexity involved but what I desperately hope is that the	

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
185				city devote MORE funding to winter preparedness (snow removal, protection from power outages etc.) and emergency readiness. Also to infrastructure and public transit - these are enormously important. But the city does NOT need to spend money on "branding" with its graphic design (see your spelling of 'HALIFAX' with silly A's above). This seriously affects my confidence in city's spending of my tax money. Furthermore I greatly fear the out of control planning of condo developments all over the city and especially around Quinpool Road and the Commons. I urge the city to listen to citizen disapproval of these developments.	Fri Nov 13 12:23:25 2015
186				This is a good exercise. While completing it I realized that increases in one area would require decreases in others but receiving a summary indicating the change in the tax rate based on my choices was informative to say the least.	Fri Nov 13 12:32:06 2015
187				If I could have decreased the budget even further for the Mayor's Office, Legal, IT, etc.....I would have.	Fri Nov 13 12:51:39 2015
188				If the staff you have did there jobs properly you wouldn't need to spend more. If the police department spent more time handing out speeding tickets they would pay for themselves. Your transit is a farce. There should be more bus shelters, I am certainly not going to stand in the pouring rain to catch a bus. Have any councillors spent time at Access N.S.? It is poorly run with tired and apathetic employees. Your solution is to pay them more. My solution is to hire and train people properly. Get rid of the deadwood. My interaction with the H.R.M. Police is that they are ill trained and abusive to the people they are protecting. The public parks are looking good. The Provincial parks are an embarrassment to all Nova Scotians. The snow removal is usually good but last year it was terrible. No one in charge? Municipal planning starts at the top, you can't just throw money at people and hope it gets done, someone has to be in charge. As councillors it is your job to make sure your people are doing a diligent and respectful job to the best of their ability. Stop shirking your duties by dishing out money and forgetting about it. Then, in shock, wondering what happened. Example last years snow removal. You are blessed with a core group of good employees working hard for us. But people tend to work at the worst employees pace. Why work hard when that guy isn't and getting paid the same. Get your managers to stop shirking their responsibilities and do their part. As the ad said for the water department you have one supervisor for two employees. Stop loading management up with your buddies and neighbors and hire more honest workers.	Fri Nov 13 12:59:16 2015
189				I would support a 5% increase in taxes if it were being used to further social causes.	Fri Nov 13 2015
190				Less motor vehicle traffic, more infrastructure on alternate forms of transportation and improvements to transit.	Fri Nov 13 2015
191				Most, if not all, of your big ticket line items could be improved through gains in efficiency, rather than just throwing more money at it. I'm speaking in particular about police, transit, road work, and snow removal. When was the last time cops solved a case without a confession or a snitch? Why are bus drivers making guys doing leaning on shovels at every road repair site? How come the plows drive around before the snow falls but are nowhere to be seen when there's a foot of snow on the road? Get your act together HRM.	Fri Nov 13 2015
192				Thank you for the opportunity to voice my ideas and concerns:]	Fri Nov 13 13:35:04 2015
				It's amazing what can be accomplished if we hold the police to a reasonable level. Increasing their budget has done nothing to curb dangerous crime, and with the pending decriminalization of	Fri Nov 13 14:15:22

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
193				marijuana ~90% of their resources should be freed up anyways.	2015
194				There are cuts, but they are not overly severe.	Fri Nov 13 16:10:30 2015
195				A very interesting process.	Fri Nov 13 18:58:49 2015
196				The budget allocator makes no mention of the reserve funds that council often draws upon. Councillors have the luxury of balancing the budget, while knowing that in the case of something like an unforeseen bad to snow clearing. It makes this exercise less than realistic.	Fri Nov 13 19:35:50
197				I would like to have had the option to cut even further than 10 % As well, questions should be available to offer suggestions on what could be done to reduce the overall debt, on the Tax rate, and the Assessment rates.	Fri Nov 13 23:31:39 2015
198				Most of your cost reductions in this challenge was only to reduce in some areas. jobs. Why do we have so many restrictions on tenders that a lot of smaller vendors won't even bid and those who do bid tack 20% plus because its Hfx. There are ways to save money.	Sat Nov 14 01:55:35 2015
199				A useful exercise. But I think you should put the statement about consequences of being over budget at the beginning. A small increase in taxes for a large improvement in transit, for instance, would be worthwhile. Ditto road maintenance.	Sat Nov 14 04:12:57 2015
200				An Increase in taxes is worth it IF services improve and deferred maintenance is addressed. I appreciated all the info you have provided in this project . Excellent work!	Sat Nov 14 11:01:24 2015
201				After 20+ of rural living, we moved downtown three years ago, and I sold my vehicle. Thus, I have a new appreciation of Transit. Simply put: We must do better with the bus service (better routes and more agile & frequent vehicles). The last system-wide review was going to be excellent, but the result was so totally underwhelming, it barely qualified as tinkering. Why, after reviewing the system, we still have 16 different routes on Barrington St is beyond stupid. Love the ferry though :-) Crosswalks are NOT well lit: must use stronger lighting. MUST install more 'smart' traffic lights: longer changes when there are pedestrians, but much shorter when there is permanent repairs] and line-painting this year - must do better. I'm a firm believer in recycling, but you MUST rein in the cost of this service. We do NOT need weekly green bin collection in the summer - it is an unaffordable luxury. And please expose & fine the non-believers! We must have greater uptake. Lastly, you must address tax reform. Sure, asset-based taxes are easy to apply, but they are inherently unfair. It will always be painful, but other jurisdictions have done it very successfully - it MUST be tackled here.	Sat Nov 14 16:19:43 2015
202				Interesting exercise. All of the categories are important so the easy answer is to not cut any budget. The reality is probably not that simple. Good luck	Sat Nov 14 17:47:34 2015
				I really think the main area you need to concentrate on are fire services and transit. Both are dismal in Halifax. Let the 311 service go. Make a website, its useless. Spend less on provincial government because they are overpaid ineffectual bureaucrats. The planning in this city is a joke compared to elsewhere. Put some transit buses that actually run and some sidewalks in Bayer's lake. Stop building apartment buildings build an actual functioning hospital and try to attract some qualified doctors to come here and work. No one I know even has	

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
203				a family doctor. More medical and transit for the people. Less bloated overpaid politicians who do nothing but shuffle papers and commission studies for nothing.	Sat Nov 14 21:50:40 2015
204				What is even more important than increasing or decreasing budgets is the ways money can be saved via improved efficiencies of government staff and departments. I think by examining wasteful processes and expenditures even more money can be saved.	Sun Nov 15 00:32:13 2015
205				People need to take their government jobs more seriously and not just sit there being lazy, looking for ways to of the system. With a decrease in the budget we should pay down the debt.	Sun Nov 15 12:26:28 2015
206				In several areas I selected increases as the long-term impact reduces staff and improves accessibility via technology. I would only implement weekly summer green cart in heavily populated areas of downtowns where foot traffic is heavy. Suburban areas have longer driveways and it is not so impactful.	Sun Nov 15 18:11:52 2015
207				I would prefer to spend more money on parks and green spaces, transit (more frequent, dependable service in the city!) and roads and less on making things easier for developers. The city should continue to encourage or require greenbelts and parks be part of new developments. Halifax Central Library and the branches provide great services to the whole community. The parks and libraries make me proud to be a received through the 311 call center. The PVSC are terrible to deal with and I would like the city of Halifax to explain why we have a separate entity who can do whatever they want with property assessment rates with no accountability and no need to provide reasons for their decisions.	Sun Nov 15 20:00:32 2015
208				The budget should be aimed at making Halifax a more walkable and cyclable city year round for people from 8-80. More pocket parks and dog parks which are accessible without the need for a car is desirable. Also consider imposing a vacancy tax on commercial street level real estate as a way to make downtown rents more affordable to small business. Taxpayers should not subsidize the continued vacant properties in commercial districts because the landlords cannot get their desired rent. Finally, consider changing regulations and policy to encourage a seven day a week farmers' market that moves on a consistent basis and for set hours through the various neighbourhoods in the city. (Those farmers who participate must cooperate with other farmers so that each farmer need be at the market only once a week, when he or she sells both his goods and those of his cooperating partners (and the costs are split so that there is no preference in terms of day of the week or location). By rotating the farmers' markets through neighbourhoods on a regular basis and in a consistent pattern, Halifax could solve the "food desert" phenomena, especially for the growing population without access to cars and could provide for food resiliency. Finally, Halifax should consider some imposing some sort of congestion pricing scheme for cars entering the downtown areas to improve air quality and to raise the necessary funds to make Halifax more pedestrian and cycle friendly for the non-athletes, i.e. mothers with children, older folks and those with disabilities. There is a role for cars, but the role should be diminishing.	Sun Nov 15 22:15:33 2015
209				I support more funding for urban forest plan, evergreen trees, and proper concrete sidewalks for Dutch Village Road, Purcells Cove Road and the lower part of St. Margaret's Bay road.	Mon Nov 16 00:26:31 2015
210				A small budget increase may help in certain areas.	Mon Nov 16 02:15:27 2015

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
211				you need to spend money on the bridge on Bedford highway at the loading dock. less money handing out parking tickets.	Mon Nov 16 18:51:07 2015
212				Please looks at ways of spending less. It appears that the council is bent on finding new places to spend more money! Stop it!	Mon Nov 16 19:08:05 2015
213				I like to think that the streets and sidewalks budget line integrated with the Transit budget. For instance, similarly limiting vehicle access to the downtown core during business hours may increase ridership. I am hopeful that the Municipality also approaches this issue in an integrated fashion in the planning process. I am however completely against yet another consultant's report on rail service. It is by now evident to me that this is going to be a very costly project and alternatives, such as active transportation are much more cost effective. I regularly bike to work and find that only experienced cyclists can negotiate the hazardous traffic around me. It is a challenge on a daily basis. I think we can learn one or two things about designing pedestrian and cyclist friendly, designated roads and sidewalks by looking at cities and municipalities in Nordic countries, which face similar weather events. Regards.	Tue Nov 17 00:54:54 2015
214				Too many people in the mayoral office, too much waste in the water department, the Pleasant street water pipe was an eye opener, took from June to November to finish, they paved and tore up the newly paved road daily. I never saw so many people standing around taking breaks in my life. So much time and money was wasted. The project went more smoothly when the water dept. was on strike. We have a sewage treatment centre that smells even when there is no rain. It's disgusting, and I have to breathe it in when waiting for my bus. I should not have my house taxes increased if I can't even be in my yard or neighbourhood due to the foul smell. A five million dollar boondoggle.	Tue Nov 17 20:15:01 2015
215				Not a high earner, but I'm still more than okay with paying a little extra in taxes for maintained, improved, or new services.	Wed Nov 18 01:58:17 2015
216				Questions What will the cost of rebranding be ?? I am sure it is significant and there would be a substantial savings if this didn't happen We are not a large city and we do not have to pretend that we are the Leadership should stop wasting money	Wed Nov 18 02:45:49
217				My personal priorities, that I think align well with what would make Halifax a better city, are transit and active transportation. The economic benefits of having a more livable city are endless.	Fri Nov 20 15:05:12 2015
218				I would like to have seen some questions on tax reform. I thought that when this council was elected that tax reform was going to be one of the major items of discussion and after 3 years we have heard nothing about it.	Fri Nov 20 18:16:37
219				Council should to revisit the Fire Strategy and approve the recommendations. Technology needs to be improved for on-line payments etc.	Fri Nov 20 20:18:55 2015
220				Do not want to be contacted	Sat Nov 21 15:30:19 2015
221				I want to see a strong commitment to local businesses, smart city planning, greenbelt initiative, and community services.	Sun Nov 22 00:12:33 2015
222				A very interesting way to inform the public about the budget. Good work!	Mon Nov 23 21:42:30 2015

Category	Item	Option	User	Comment	On
223	I AM A CITIZEN OF NOVA SCOTIA!				Mon Nov 23 21:42:30 2015
224	Focus on active living and culture. Decrease admin.				Tue Nov 24 01:15:12 2015
225	If we can maintain a decrease budget for seven years we can spend for two years the moneys saved. Then start again.				Tue Nov 24 01:15:12 2015 2015
226	the vast majority of the salaries are out of whack with the Nova Scotia averages. Sick time, vacation time, productivity levels and strict labour agreements have reduced the appears It is the City employees first and citizens second.				Thu Dec 3 21:08:08 2015
227	A zero base budget exercise would be beneficial to id waste and bloat. We all know that those unfavourable by-products of large orgs. exist.				Mon Dec 7 04:17:51 2015
228	Thanks for the budget tool, it's a very educational device! While all of these services are important, there are definitely a couple areas that I believe need more attention. Two that could definitely be improved upon are snow removal or at least snow preparation (last winter = enough said) and outdoor sports field maintenance/development. I play in a couple of Ultimate Frisbee leagues, and during the summer we try to use pretty much every grass field available across HRM. However, many of these fields are in such disrepair that we end up being pushed to fields farther outside the city. With the growing demand for turf fields for soccer, I worry that the upkeep for the (hours). We already saw the effect of this this summer, when an international rugby game had to be moved from a central location to one in Spryfield, and the coverage for the event dropped away completely. We should be trying to encourage more events and sports leagues throughout HRM, and one way to do that is to make all grass fields viable again as sports centres, rather than just developing new, expensive turf or all weather fields. Thanks again for this chance to give my two cents!				Tue Dec 8 14:34:41 2015
229	Do whatever you have to to increase fire protection.				Thu Dec 10 00:24:21 2015
230	More money for the SAR team will go a long way.				Thu Dec 10 15:13:49 2015
231	Get out of my way. Leave me alone. Before it's too late.				Thu Dec 10 15:45:41 2015
232	Although tax cuts are nice and everyone would like to have more money in their pockets, I think it's time for a reality check. Public services and infrastructure need to be in line to be funded.				Thu Dec 10 17:45:38 2015
233	The answer is not to increase financing, but to seek efficiencies from within. If labour cannot locate those efficiencies, then scale back staff and services. The bottom line resides in the fact that a vast majority of above average income cost of living in HRM is quietly forcing me to look to less costly living elsewhere ... and I don't want to.				Thu Dec 10 21:29:57 2015

Municipal Budget 2016

Shape Your City Comments

(taken directly from shapeyourcityhalifax.ca)

Future Services

Would you be willing to pay more taxes for enhanced or improved services? If so, which services?

#1

No more unless the city is willing to raise taxes on the lower 80% of residents, I am already paying 9,000 in tax it is robbery!!

We need tax reform- after watching the video of Bruce March I just came to learn that 80% of homes pay 1000- 4000 in tax. I pay \$9000 and receive the same level of service as everyone else. It is robbery and discriminatory. Taxes should be capped as a maximum per household. May you may based on the size width of the lot or some different metric.

#2

Yes- to have a stadium built in Shannon Park. To protect our water and forests. To enhance green building and infrastructure that promotes green energy.

#3

More money to

- make it easier to walk and bike around Halifax and not just the downtown.
- enhance new school construction for community use by all residents

#4

Yes, infrastructure like Transit, youth programs, community services like libraries and homeless shelters. NOT car-related infrastructure and investments that don't generate returns.

#5

Car related infrastructure should be paid in part through municipal taxes on gas - registration some people who drive in HRM do not pay a visible tax or come from other municipalities.

#6

Agree. The only thing worse than bulldozing my neighborhood to make way for out of town cars, is using my tax dollars to do it!

I wholly support road tolls as a very fair and democratic way to extract money for the infrastructure from those who use it.

In general I would be willing to pay more for services, but not all services.

#7

Yes -Snow Clearing, police, Fire, Street maintenance extra playgrounds, parks

#8

Yes - infrastructure, youth programs

#9

Yes

#10

No as taxes are too high for what we get. We should be getting more fore what we pay.

Revenue Fees

Revenue fees (not including Transit) account for \$47m or 5.6% of revenues received by the municipality. This includes everything from recreation fees, permit fees for parking and facility rentals. Do you support increasing these fees and/or creating additional user fees to maintain a lower tax rate or provide additional services? Please provide your comment.

#1

From my review of the budget will appear to subsidize transit by 80% compared to user fees. This is ridiculous. Idle the buses when they are not carrying people and stop laying for the gas. Just look at the airport route- it is empty- and costs millions to put in place and run. Some folks in city hall need a reality check and need to take austerity measures. When I came here in 2000 my taxes were 4,000 now they are 9,000 and the water commission charges another 1,000- that quite the inflation rate- where will it end.

#2

we should have a core set of recreation programs that are free to all children e.g. swim, skate, and bike. Tax dollars should be used to subsidize these programs

#3

Revenue fees should be received by owners of Motor vehicles and bicycles. The provincial gas tax is received by the provincial government HRM streets and roads are paid by mostly property tax but used by people who drive cars, and drive bicycles. Bicycle licenses should come back

#4

Yes and no.

You should increase fees for things that don't bring social return, like parking and suburban development permits. These increase car-dependency and promote an unhealthy lifestyle for Haligonians. They also don't bring economic and social return. You want to discourage these, so you increase their fees.

However, things like recreation, library services, and things that work to increase the quality of life should be encouraged. For example, providing free recreation services makes it more likely for residents of the same neighbourhood to meet. Strong social networks in communities make them more resilient, healthy, and happy. Oh, they also spur creative enterprise and, thus, the economy.

#5

Fees should cover the cost of providing services only.

#6

Yes I feel it should be user pay I do not use the rinks or the OVAL down town and feel I should NOT pay for it. You want to use it than you should use say \$10.00 a day to use it. As well why would I drive 20 miles to go and try and find a spot to park where there is none to skate on it. No one asked me if I wanted the OVEL and last week I see you have built a building again no one asked me if I wanted it but I am expected to pay for this. Let those that use it pay for it and other things like recreation fees, permit fees for parking and facility rentals. STOP making us all pay for a few to use the things only a few will or can enjoy.

Capital Projects

Currently Halifax is spending \$135.8 million annually on the rehabilitation and replacement of existing assets, expansion and/or the addition of new assets. Where would you like to see your capital dollars spent?

1. Roads
2. Sidewalks
3. Recreation Facilities
4. Buildings/Infrastructure
5. Large Regional Venues (like a stadium or performing arts centre)

Please provide comment.

#1

I would like to see help from other levels of government to build a stadium in Shannon Park. I would love to become more proud of my city, and that would help a lot.

#2

I also wish the roads weren't as WIDE as they are. Each lane is like two-car-widths wide! So much unused pavement! The lanes in Europe are super narrow... probably saves them a lot of cash when it's time to patch the potholes. And I like the idea of a stadium in Shannon Park! I think it would be great for the neighbourhood in north Dartmouth! Lots of small business spinoff opportunity. But, I do agree with the person who mentioned that if private business isn't stepping up to sponsor it, then it doesn't exactly appear to be a sound financial investment/risk.

#3

More money on neighbourhood design for walking and biking.
No stadium unless you can make an economic case for it.

#4

I would like to reinforce what #9 said below.

Spend money on investments that pay. Research tells us that widening roads will only create more traffic on the long term in a phenomenon called "induced demand". Where drivers who didn't drive before will choose to drive on the newly widened road or people would opt to live further away and drive more. It doesn't work (google it).

However, investing in and maintaining a good sidewalk infrastructure, with a strong pedestrian-safety initiative that reduces car-speeds to a human-tolerated speed, can encourage a healthier lifestyle, decrease healthcare costs, and create a better quality of life. For example, Toronto's Health commissioner said that walking as a matter of course can no longer be avoided, it's necessary if you wish to decrease your healthcare costs and boost local economy.

Here's an interesting stat: "About 73 per cent of the retail price of gas and 86 per cent of the retail price of a new car immediately leaves the local economy, according to a report by CEOs for Cities."

Building culture, recreation, walkability, creates a high-status city that can make people happier, more connected, and more creative. Let's spend right!

#5

Couldn't agree more!

I would add to the "investments that pay" part that every time you add any new transportation infrastructure you must think where the sustainable tax-base that will support that infrastructure comes from. Building more infrastructure than we have the tax base to support is not fiscally sustainable.

Simple example is that in the urban core houses are spaced every 30-40 feet, and require no "connector" roads, these neighborhoods easily have the tax base to support their own roads. But suburban areas with houses ever 100-150 feet, with the highway infrastructure necessary to get residents to services, AND lower property values, will never be able to pay for the maintenance of their associated infrastructure.

#6

We do not need to widen existing major streets to accommodate traffic. all it does is create more traffic

#7

We do not need a stadium if the private sector is unwilling to help pay for it

#8

most streets and roads throughout HRM should have sidewalks especially along main roads in the heavier rural areas that are expanding. . There dead end streets that need of pedestrian right of ways to connect to other streets in older sections.

#9

My 2 cents:

1. I would like to see the city invest in Norm Collins' crosswalk flags to several district 7 crosswalks. 200\$ per crosswalk for 40 flags and 2 installed containers. Agricola Street - between Smith Bakery and Local Jo's just south of North Street
Gottingen Street - at Falkland Both of these crosswalks are dangerous.
2. I would like to see my city supporting a No Idling Bylaw.
This would include visible signage, public education and communication.
3. Enforcement of existing laws for drivers who run red lights and ignore pedestrian crossings.
4. Plan for and build bicycle lanes that are an integral part of the sidewalks.
Someone should take a trip to Berlin and observe how well this works!

#10

Seniors - more, better, affordable housing

#11

How can you possibly justify the millions in capital budget dollars I see allocated under some of these "Technology (Business Tools)" items? I mean, honestly, I see just under 15,000,000 dollars allocated under "Parking Technology Initiative (PTMS)" between 2015 and 2019. What are you buying that costs that much? And what is the revenue from Parking that could justify that kind of spending? Who is determining the cost of these projects? Even your description above for "Capitol Projects" makes no mention in the 5 options (Roads,Sidewalks,Recreation Facilities, Buildings/Infrastructure, Large Regional Venues) of these "Technology" initiatives.

#12

If you take the fees you spend on the OVAL rinks and make them so they have to make it on their own (make money to run and not so we all pay for it) than that money being spent there could go into rehabilitation and replacement of existing assets, expansion and/or the addition of new assets. This should be no lower than \$150 million annually and going up every year with the cost of living at the same rate.

Municipal Infrastructure

Given the current infrastructure in the municipality, do you feel it is more important to maintain our existing infrastructure or to build new infrastructure? Please provide your comment.

#1

the spending needs to be targeted at really improving people's daily lives and making the city more efficient- the quinpool road situation is a disaster for commuters as so is Chebucto Road

people are spending way too much time in traffic which is less time for productive work, running the kids around to activities and for city transit works and service workers that charge more to come to my house for a service call cause it takes too long.

Meanwhile the city continues to allow the university and hospitals to endlessly expand putting pressure on the roads.

Folks on Chebucto need to be informed that inside 5 years a lot of the houses are going and the street needs to be widened all the way to Cunard and a rotary put on Robie/Cunard. Let folks know the city will pay 50% more than appraised value and ask them to move on. Same goes for Quinpool- you need reversing lanes and no left hand turns anywhere any time of the day- and a stable of tow trucks moving care out of the way. Have no parking on the incoming side till noon then none on the outgoing till 7pm

#2

Both are necessary, I would imagine.

#3

Its not one or the other. Growing population of frail elderly deserves some attention. I'm not sure what it is but someone should be looking at it.

#4

Well, do both!

Spending money on new infrastructure is good if it's a healthy investment. For example, The Halifax Cycling coalition's plan will provide Halifax with 100km of segregated bike lanes at "just 4% of the road re-capitalization budget in Halifax and less than 1.4% of the city's transportation budget." - at \$2 a year till 2020, it is much cheaper than what you are proposing for the \$20-30 million road widening of 102/Bayers road.

Tell me Haligonians, would you like to see a connected 100km bike network or would you like to spend much more tax-payer's money to make a wider highway through existing communities. Would you like the healthier, happier option of going around and making Halifax an example to be taught in other cities, or would you like to do the same actions (road widening, etc.) that have incited decline in so many other cities around the world?

Let's join the 21st century and see what all the other cities are doing!

#5

Decision should be made by what can be done most cost effectively. Brand new is not always required.

#6

Stop spending good money after bad to try and fix old existing infrastructure, Band-Aid fixes do not work or do they last. If you build new infrastructure it lasts longer as well as new tech ideas have come along that in the long term will save the city more money in the long run. Short term fixes do not work, as one is better to do it right and spend the money up front and not every few years to keep re fixing things.

Marketing & Communications (Oct. – Dec., 2015)

Municipal Budget 2016

Various media placements were made in both traditional and digital channels. Below are examples of some of those placements:

Facebook ad with limited room for text

Oct. 21 – Nov. 15: Reach 18,863 and 174 to engagement website



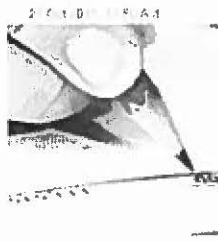
halifax.ca main page web slider



halifax.ca internal hub story



Try your hand at developing the municipal budget with the Budget Allocator.



Try your hand at developing the municipal budget by using the Budget Allocator. By using this tool, you can determine your spending priorities on municipal services like transit, parks, policing - and see the potential impact this has on both service delivery and overall budget.

To get a better understanding of the budgeting process and why Halifax Regional Municipality is asking for your input, please watch Municipal Budget 101 featuring Bruce Fisher, Manager of Financial Policy and Planning.

Municipal budgeting involves both capital and operating funds. Check out the "municipal infrastructure" section to learn more about the capital side of budget.

Your ideas and figures on spending priorities for municipal services will be shared with Regional Council in a report that will be compiled following this consultation process.

Categories: HRM Matters, Employee Matters

Add your comment

The Laker

The graphic features a hand holding a pen, writing on a document. The document has some text and a circular graphic on it. The background is dark grey with a white geometric shape on the left side.

Municipal Budget 2016

Let your voice be heard at the Community Council session

WHERE: October 26, 2015 North West Community Council 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Sackville Heights Community Centre, 45 Connolly Road, Lower Sackville (halifax.ca/commcoun)

Starting in mid-October, use our Budget Allocator, an online tool that lets you adjust taxation amounts to support the level of services you think the municipality needs.

HALIFAX shapeyourcityhalifax.ca

Metro News



Municipal Budget 2016

Let your voice be heard at
the Community Council session

WHEN: October 14, Halifax and West Community
Council 6 p.m.

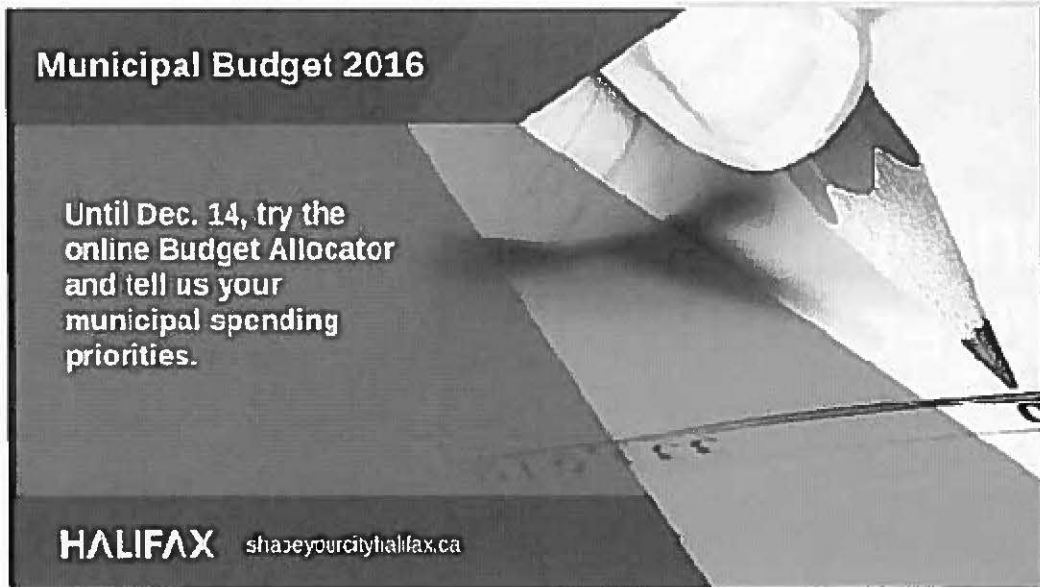
LOCATION: Council Chambers, 3rd floor City Hall,
1841 Argyle Street, Halifax
(halifax.ca/commcoun)

Starting in mid-October, use our Budget Allocator, an online
tool, that lets you adjust taxation amounts to support the
level of services you think the municipality needs.

HALIFAX

shapeyourcityhalifax.ca

Digital screens – 12 internal and 33 external sites



Homepage takeover in the Metro News – PC, iPad, mobile

Total impressions from November 9 - 13: 54,143 with 484 to web portal



AllNovaScotia.com

Total unique viewers from October 26 – November 6: 25,942

Grant Thornton Private Business
Advantage blog.



allNOVASCOTIA

OCTOBER 29, 2015

BUSINESS

POLITICS & OPINION

NL

Welcome [Sally Christie](#)

- Bullet: Ferry Decision
- Business Headlines
- McGregor GeoScience Proposal
- Shell Begins Drilling
- Deep Panuke Flows Gas
- Nature's Way In Dartmouth
- Alhavan Wins Sobey Award
- Bob Mussett Moves CBRE
- Ray Wagner's Class Action
- Lotto Corp Vs Chase The Ace
- Merida Adds Houlter Lubucki
- Bob Pace-Chaired CN On Track
- Bono Glue Researchers
- Rasta Bites
- Icelandic Researchers Here
- Wind Farm Approved
- Startup Scores US Partner



Community Council Meetings – Budget Consultation (Oct. 1 – Nov. 13)

Print/digital advertisements - insertion estimates before tax

AREA: Harbour East – Marine Drive (Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

DATE: Thursday, October 1, 2015

Publisher	Dates	To Public	Specs	Cost
Community Herald	Booked–Sept. 17 Artwork – Sept. 24	September 29	1/3 page (5.97wx11.21) b/w	\$342
TOTAL				\$342

AREA: Halifax & West Community Council (Districts 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)

DATE: Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Publisher	Dates	To Public	Specs	Cost
Community Herald	Booked – Sept. 17 Artwork – Oct. 1	Oct. 6	1/3 page (5.06w x 8.21h) b/w	\$342
The Coast	Booked– Artwork –	Oct. 8	1/3 page vertical (4.92 x 7.65 h) b/w	\$445
Metro	Booked – Sept. 18 Artwork, colour –	Oct. 9	¼ page, colour	\$489
Facebook	Booked -	Oct. 12 – 14	(geotargeting above districts)	\$200
TOTAL				\$1,476

AREA: North West Community Council (Districts 1, 13, 14, 15, 16)

DATE: Monday, October 19, 2015

Publisher	Dates	To Public	Specs	Cost
Community Herald	Booked – Sept. 17 Artwork – Oct 8	Oct. 13	1/3 page (5.97wx11.21) b/w	\$342
The Masthead News	Booked – Artwork – Oct. 7	Oct. 14	1/5 page (3 7/8 x 7) b/w	\$330
The Laker (monthly)	Booked– Sept. 18 Artwork – Sept. 23	Oct. 5 week	1/8 page (5w x 4h) b/w	\$124
Facebook	Booked -	Oct.	(geotargeting above districts)	\$400
TOTAL				\$1,196

DIGITAL FOR CAMPAIGN

DATES: October 22 – November 13, 2015

Publisher	Dates	To Public	Specs	Cost
The Chronicle Herald	Booked – Sept. 18	Oct. 22 - 25	Big box 18 cpm (geotarget Halifax area, run of site) 47,000 impressions	\$846
Allnovascotia.com	Booked – Booked Sept. 18 Artwork -	Oct. 26 - 30 Nov. 2 - 6	Big box 300 x 250 pixels Mobile big box 150 x 125	\$590
The Metro	Booked – Sept. 18 Artwork -	Nov. 9	Homepage takeover with iPad and mobile	\$250
The Metro	Booked - Sept. 18 Artwork -	Nov. 10	Web HPTO	\$250
The Metro	Booked – Sept. 18 Artwork -	Nov. 9 - 13	Mbanner, 5,000 impressions	\$250
Facebook	Booked -			\$400
TOTAL				\$2,586

Newspapers total:

\$ 2,414

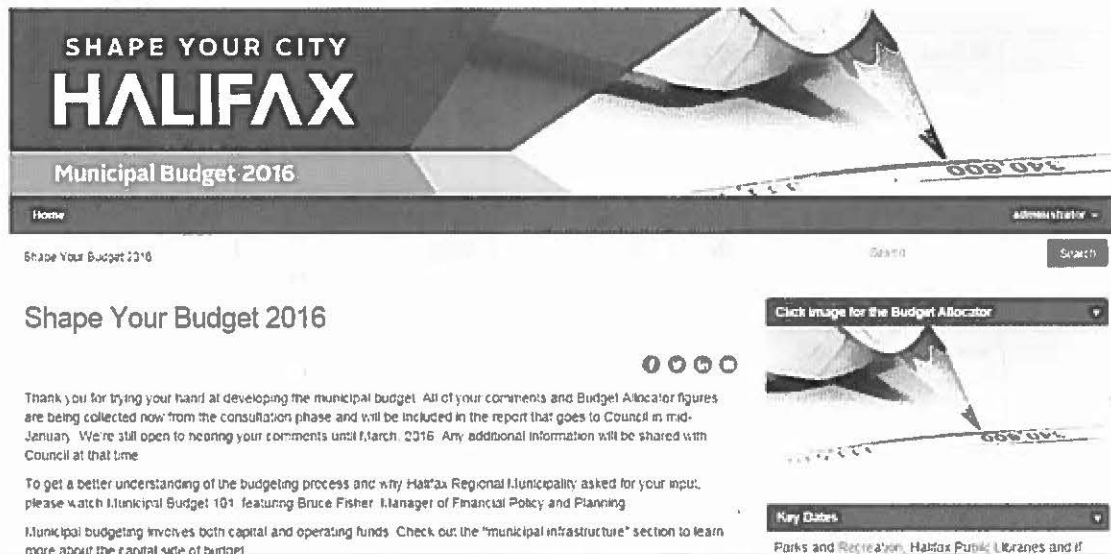
Digital total:

\$ 3,186

TOTAL AD BUY:**\$6,440 (HST included)**

Medium	Dates	Specs	Cost
Tweets	Oct. 19 – Nov. 13	2 – 3/ week throughout the month	None
Employee hub	Oct. 21	Slider and story	None
Digital within organization	Oct. 19 – Nov. 13	Digital screen/web slider	None

**Shape Your City engagement website
Live on Oct. 19**




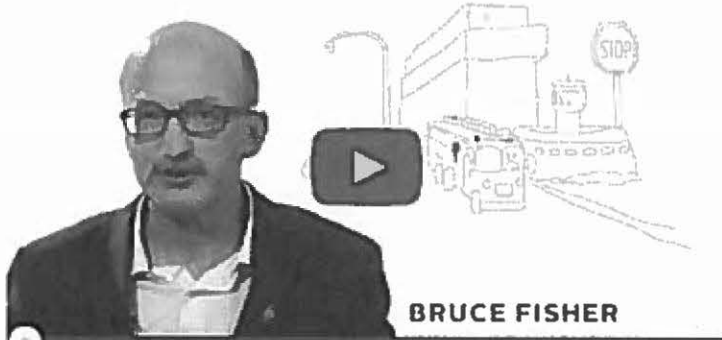
**Website statistics:
(shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/hfxtax2016)**

Site visits	882
Informed visitors	440
Aware visitors	766




In all marketing efforts, the Budget Allocator URL was used this year. As this was the third year of the budget consultation, we tried a new approach to increase participation in the Budget Allocator. The reduced numbers on the engagement page represent this shift.

Video: 632 views

Municipal Budget 101 



BRUCE FISHER

0.00 / 4:26   YouTube 

Frequently Asked Questions 