

MAYOR'S update



A Personal Message from Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie

The 2017 Budget is a solid financial plan that helps local businesses reach higher and paves the way for Mississauga's promising future.

We heard from local business leaders about their funding priorities, and together, we put forward a fiscally-responsible plan that invests in priorities including building infrastructure, expanding public transit and delivering quality services that established companies and emerging entrepreneurs rely on each day.

To achieve our Budget 2017 city-building investment goals, the total increase to the property tax will be 1.7 per cent. The increase includes 1.1 per cent for City services and 0.6 per cent for the Region of Peel.

We have realized \$4.1 million in cost savings, which is equivalent to reducing the City tax levy by 0.9 per cent. We are investing our limited resources wisely on improvements for transit, infrastructure and technology.

Mississauga continues to maintain its strong financial reputation with our Triple-A credit rating. This gives job-creators the confidence to grow, expand, and succeed here at home. It further allows us to leverage the work we are undertaking to attract new foreign-direct investments with the Mississauga International Partnership Program Committee (MIPP).

Council also reaffirmed its commitment to invest \$10 million toward developing the University of Toronto Mississauga's (UTM) Innovation Complex. UTM injects over \$1.3 billion annually into Mississauga and Peel Region. Investing in education helps ensure area businesses are better positioned to recruit and hire local, well-educated and highly qualified employees.

Finally, Budget 2017 ensures important city-building investments are funded including improving MiWay transit services, repairing infrastructure, safeguarding fire and emergency services and moving ahead with our state-of-the-art Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS) to improve the flow of traffic and reduce gridlock.

As we move forward with Budget 2017, I also want to thank the small business owners for taking part in our City-wide engagement efforts. Last November, the City of Mississauga hosted Telephone Town Halls. Thousands of residents, business owners and professionals from across our city called in and joined us. We heard tremendous feedback, ideas and solutions.

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For those who were unable to ask a question or be part of the discussion, our conversation did not end there. You are encouraged to email your questions or comments to a dedicated email account: budget@mississauga.ca. Our Budget Allocator is an online tool which allows the business community to more thoroughly identify their budget priorities.

Once again, Budget 2017 is a solid financial blueprint that will deliver real, important and lasting results for Mississauga businesses.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie Crombie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Moving Forward with the Hurontario LRT

In April 2015, the Provincial government announced that the Hurontario-Main Light Rail Transit would receive full funding now amounting to \$1.4 billion - the largest infrastructure investment in Mississauga's history.

Mississauga has already funded \$15.4 million toward planning studies, an environmental assessment and preliminary design work. Our 2015-2024 capital plan includes a total of \$25 million for land acquisition.

This will connect GO Train stations from Port Credit to Cooksville. It will run through City Centre and unleash the potential of our downtown core, allowing us to get on with our Downtown 21 plan.

The Hurontario LRT will result in a more seamless travel experience for students to get to class at Sheridan College, enjoy a community festival at Celebration Square, take in a memorable performance at the Living Arts Centre and shop for premium brands. The Hurontario LRT will be connected to Mississauga's MiWay Bus Rapid Transit System and the Square One GO Bus Terminal - the second busiest bus hub in the regional transit system.

As the City of Mississauga works with Metrolinx to ensure the successful construction of the LRT, Council and staff are committed to using proven best practices implemented by other major cities and regional governments. This includes recent site reviews of the transit systems in Waterloo Region and Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota.

Maintaining Triple-A Credit Rating, Attracting and Retaining Foreign-Direct Investment

The City of Mississauga's commitment to finding savings, showing discipline with taxpayers' money, and strategically investing to help our city grow, have also ensured Mississauga maintains its Triple-A credit rating.

What does that mean and why is it important for our local economy? A Triple-A credit rating means Mississauga enjoys a strong financial reputation. It gives businesses and entrepreneurs - from across Canada and around the world - the confidence to invest, expand service offerings, create jobs and achieve success right here in Mississauga.

Mississauga's Triple-A credit rating is an important part of the message shared during City of Mississauga Economic Development Office (EDO) Investment Missions. The Economic Development Office continues to lead the City's participation at the annual BIO

International Convention - the largest life sciences conference in the world. Mississauga is the second largest life sciences cluster in Canada by employment. Our "Pill Hill" community is a thriving hub of global life science businesses. We are currently home to more than 430 life science companies that employ more than 22,000 people.

As part of our investment efforts, I am proud to announce that a pharmaceutical company chose Mississauga as home for its new research and development centre. This will be a state-of-the-art facility that will create high-paying and high-value jobs, many in research and development. This investment will add to our local tax base, providing important funding that will go toward the quality public services we all rely on including reputable community services, a safe and clean environment and accessible transit.

Stormwater Infrastructure Crucial to City-Building

The City of Mississauga's stormwater charge was first introduced in 2016.

The stormwater charge is a dedicated source of funding that directly supports the City of Mississauga's stormwater management program. It helps reduce potential risks to you, your property and the environment. The funds from the stormwater charge are used to invest more money in our stormwater system to keep it in good working order and to avoid costly repairs in the future. The funds cannot be used for other services and programs as stated in the Stormwater Fees and Charges By-law.

Daily and annual estimates of the stormwater charge for properties are available at stormwatercharge.ca.

Visit the stormwater charge site, stormwatercharge.ca, to find your stormwater charge estimate and to learn more about the City's stormwater management program.

Contact

For more information, please contact:

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