

PROPOSED
2025-2027
BUDGET

Public Budget Meeting

Presented November 19, 2024

Community Vision:

Whitby – naturally beautiful green spaces, a vibrant waterfront, thriving downtowns, and a safe community – the heart of Durham Region, an **exceptional place to live, work, and explore.**

Corporate Mission:

Together, we deliver services that **make a difference** in our community.





95%+ of Key Action Items Underway or Complete



Hospital Campaign Results



4,000+

Personal Stories Shared

August 1, 2024:

Announcement of a planning grant for a new Whitby hospital



\$30M in grants to Support Housing



27-Acre Site, zero carbon, and accessible A Community Hub for All



A Strong Mayor's Budget

- **First for the Town of Whitby**
- **A legislative requirement of Strong Mayors**
- **Informed by:**
 - Community Strategic Plan and key action items
 - Budget engagement – online and in-person (ex. Talk Budget coffee chats)
 - Draft Budget and staff recommendations

Budget Process

May 24th to July 19th
Launch of two new Balancing Act Tools – Simulate and Prioritize - to engage community in budget process

November 4th
Publish Budget books and open Virtual Budget Forum

November 19th
Public Budget Meeting with overview and public input

December 16th
Council Meeting – Council override of Mayor’s veto of budget amendments.



July to October
Staff started working on updating budget; incorporate community feedback

November 18th
Mayor provides Strong Mayor’s Budget via a memo, and Council Budget Education Session

November 28th
Special Council Meeting – budget amendments

December 6th
Last day for Mayor to veto budget amendments

2025 Budget Engagement – Overview



May 24 to July 19 (2024): Tested and widely promoted two new budget engagement tools – Simulate and Prioritize

Goal: To encourage our community to share their budget priorities with us to help inform each budget milestone

2025 Budget Engagement – Participation



Once again, engagement was high this year:

- **3,362** participants (up from 1,109 in 2023; up from 1,140 in 2022)
- **777** participatory budget responses (down from 813 in 2023)
- **47%** indicated it was their **first time** engaging on the Town's Budget

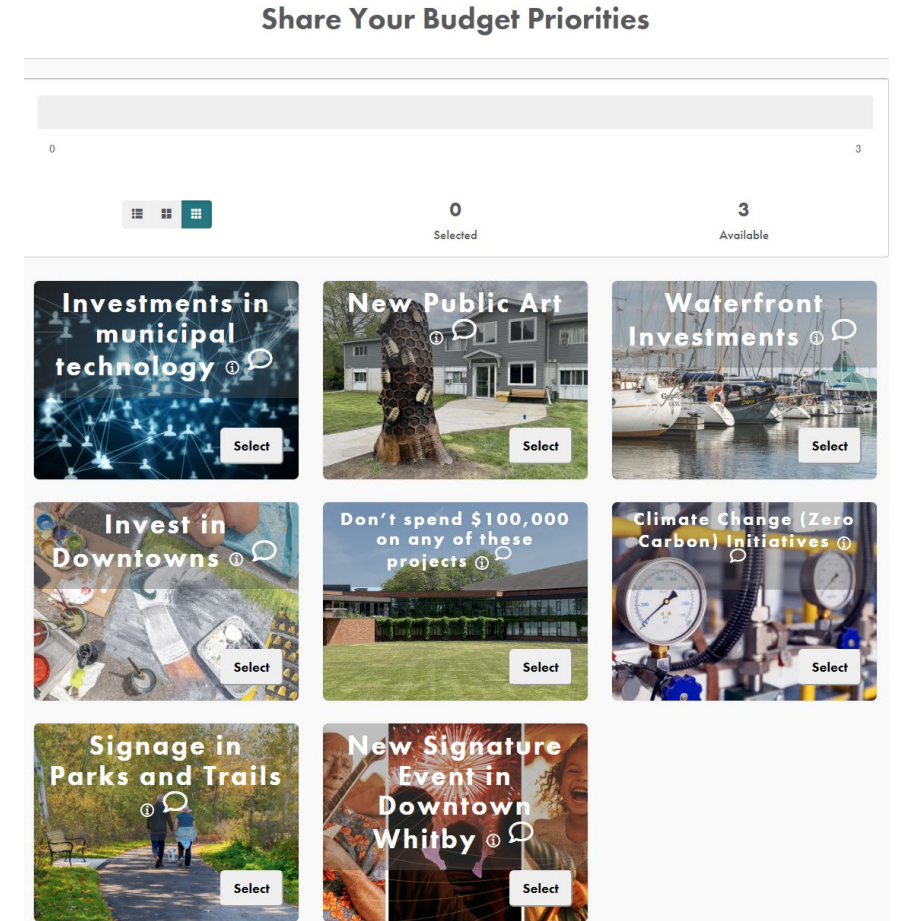
203%

increase in the number of participants to the Town's budget engagement tools over 2023.

Prioritize Tool – What We Heard

Through the Prioritize Tool, participants were asked to choose three of **seven possible priorities** that they would put **\$100,000** towards in the 2024 Budget. Here's how residents would prioritize their investment:

- **1st: Waterfront Investments**
- **2nd: Investments in Municipal Technology**
- **3rd: Climate Change (Zero Carbon) Initiatives**
- 4th: Don't spend \$100,000 on any of these projects
- 5th: New Signature Event in Downtown Whitby
- 6th: Signage in Parks and Trails
- 7th: Invest in Downtowns
- 8th: New Public Art



Citizen Budget Survey: Participant Demographics

92%

Live in Whitby
(59% for 10 or more years)
and **82% own their home**



44% Have children (under 18) in the house

66% Are university educated with a Bachelor's Degree and 27% have a College Diploma

42% Are between ages 18 to 44

21% Work in Whitby

Draft Budget vs. Strong Mayor's Budget

Draft Budget – November 4

Initial Budget pressures and projections from Staff

Strong Mayor's Budget – November 18

Builds upon Draft Budget by the Mayor

Budget Year	2025	2026	2027
Draft Budget Increases (prepared by Staff)	5.7%	5.6%	5.4%
Strong Mayor's Budget Changes (in thousands)	(\$1,508)	(\$1,000)	(\$850)
Strong Mayor's Budget	4.5%	4.9%	4.8%

Building the Budget



2025 BUDGET

Maintain Services: CPI & Other Base Budget Pressures

Impact to maintain services in 2025 =

\$6.2M

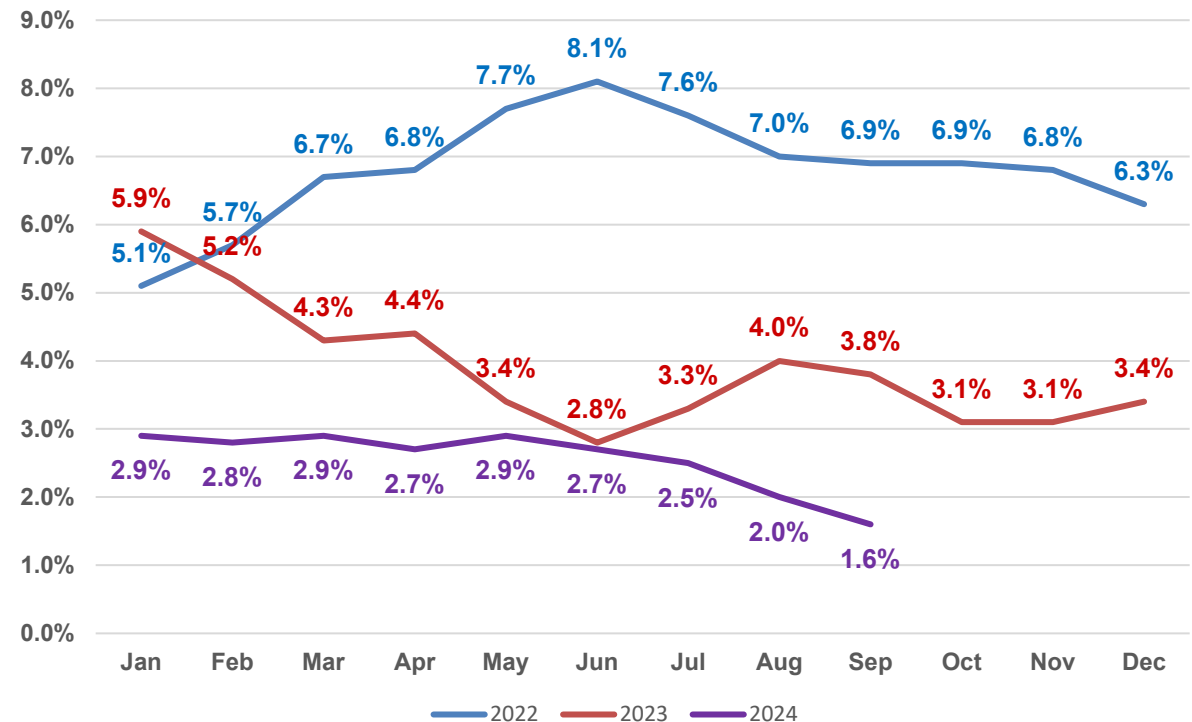
(net of \$0.3 million of budget efficiencies)

- Inflationary impacts (Town facilities/utilities, supplies, winter maintenance)
- Wage increases/Negotiated Wage Settlements
- Investment Income
- Budget efficiencies

Previous Council Decisions:

- Annualization of 2024 Staffing
- Market Adjustments – attract and retain staff
- Phase-out of Elexicon dividends

Consumer Price Index
(Canada All-Items)



Maintain Infrastructure

Asset Management Plan

$$\begin{array}{rcccl} \$41.8\text{M} & - & \$31.0\text{M} & = & \$10.8\text{M} \\ \text{Annual Funding to} & & \text{Annual Funding in} & & \text{Infrastructure} \\ \text{maintain assets in a} & & \text{Base Budget} & & \text{Funding Gap} \\ \text{state of good repair} & & & & \end{array}$$

Proposed Budget

Phase-in funding to reduce Infrastructure Funding Gap

$$\begin{array}{rcccc} & \text{2025} & \text{2026} & \text{2027} & \\ + & \$1.5\text{M} & + \$1.9\text{M} & + \$2.6\text{M} & \end{array}$$

Whitby Housing Pledge (March 2023)



Facilitate the development of

18,000

new homes by 2031

Planning for Growth

Annual Impact \$4M (Impact of Previous Council Decisions)

\$2.2M

20 Fire Fighters
for **new Fire Hall**

+

\$1.8M

Net Expense to Staff (52.8 FTE) and
operate **Whitby Sports Complex**

Proposed Budget

\$1.1M

Funding for 20 **Additional Fire Fighters** to be hired in 2025
Requires \$1.1 million annualization in 2026

\$0.5M

Phase-in **Whitby Sports Complex** over 4 years (2025 to 2028)
Hire ~ 6 months prior to facility opening

\$0.6M, \$1M

Provision for Work Force Planning and Growth-related pressures (2026 & 2027)

Assessment Growth And Other Revenues

Assessment Growth



Incremental property taxes mainly from a growing tax base (e.g. more homes and businesses)

2025 **\$3.1 M**

2026 \$2.0 M

2027 \$1.9 M

User Fee Increases



Proposed fee increases to better match recovery of cost to provide a specific service/program

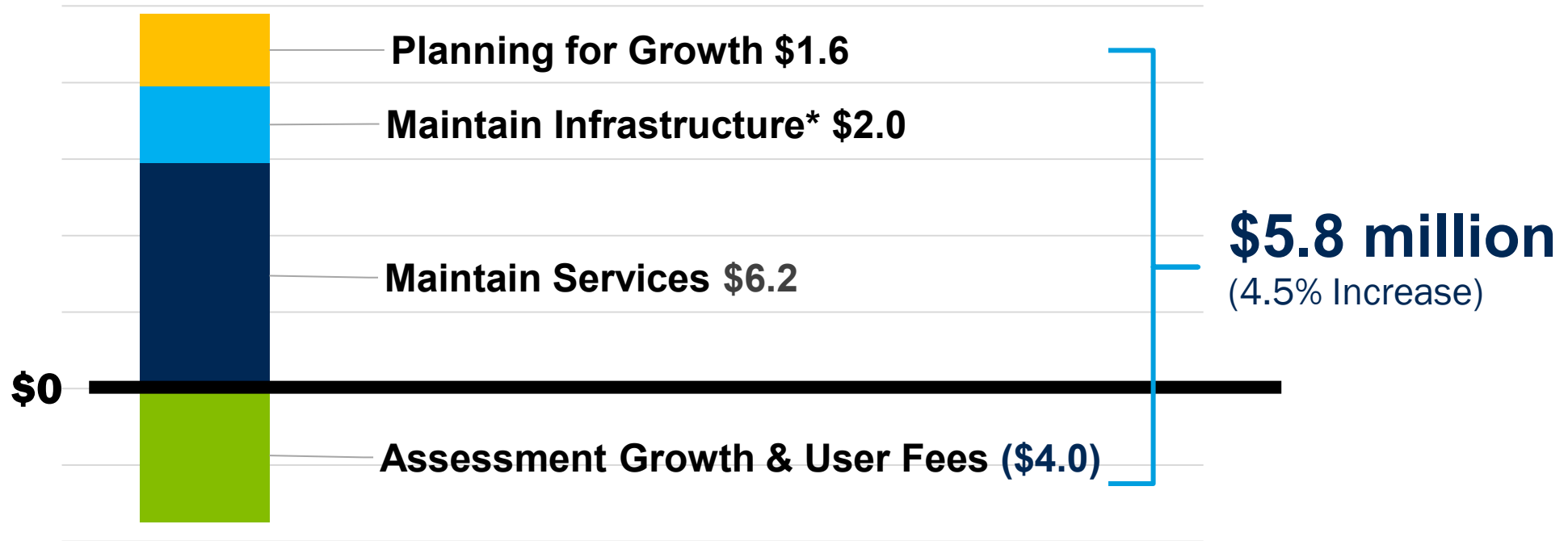
2025 **\$0.9M**

2026 \$0.8 M

2027 \$0.9 M

Building the Budget

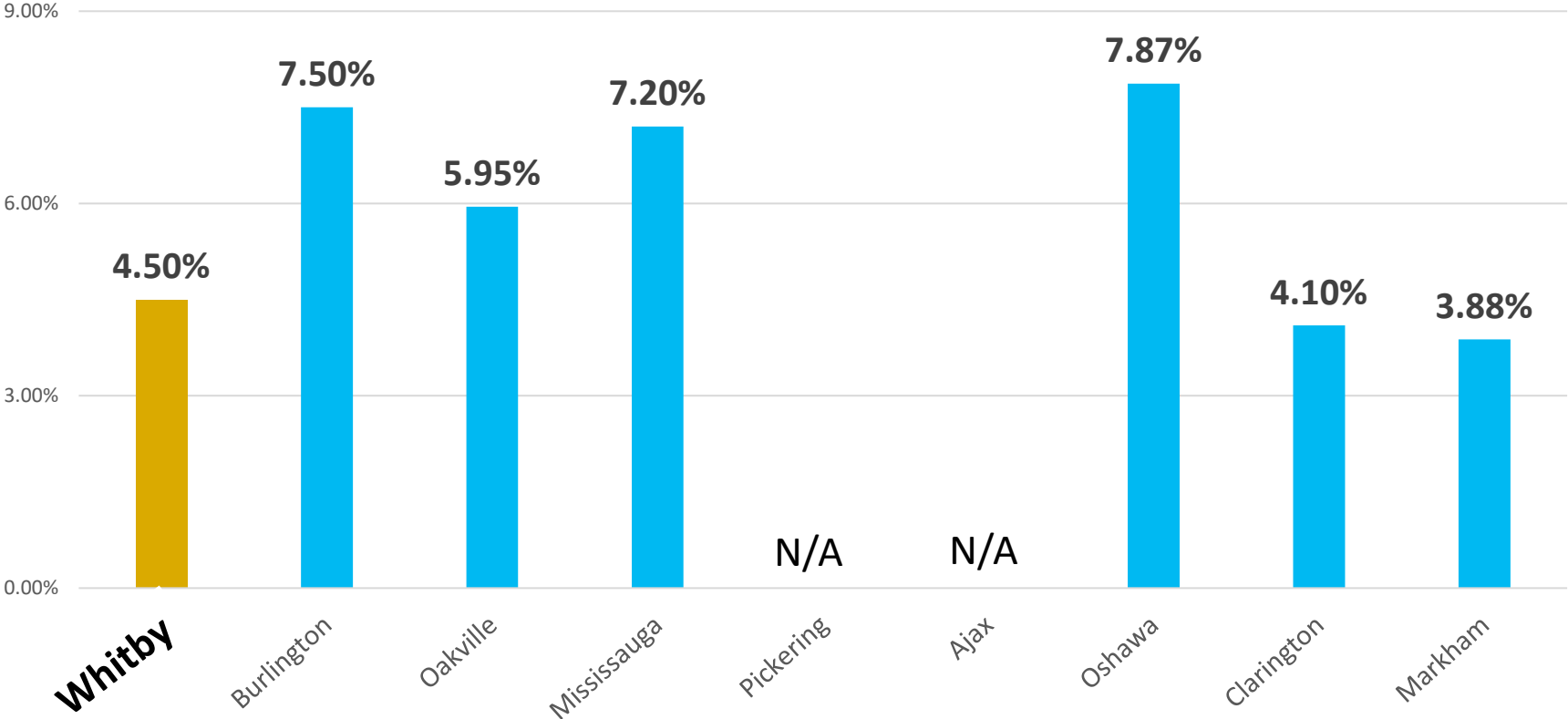
2025 Proposed Budget (\$ millions)



*Includes \$0.5 million adjustment for Canada Community Building Fund grant

2025 Preliminary/Proposed Budget Increases

(Local Increases Only)



N/A = Not available at this time



Proposed 2025 Budget Impact on Average Residential* Property Tax Bill



Education:
13% of Property Tax Bill



Town:
35% of Property Tax Bill



Region:
52% of Property Tax Bill

**Total
2024 Tax Bill**

\$770	+	\$2,189	+	\$3,393	=	\$6,352
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Impact of 4.5% Town Budget Increase	+ \$ 99	\$2,288				
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*Based on an average residential assessment value of \$503,000 as determined by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC)

Projected Impact to Average Homeowner

Budget Year	2025	2026	2027
Strong Mayor's Budget Increases	4.5%	4.9%	4.8%
Impact to Average Whitby Homeowner* (Increase on total tax bill for Town services)	\$ 99	\$112	\$115
	1.6%	1.7%	1.8%
Impact per \$100,000 of Assessment	\$19.60	\$22.18	\$23.82

*Based on an average residential assessment value of \$503,000 as determined by MPAC

Proposed 2025 Budget Impact on Average Residential* Property Tax Bill



Education:
13% of Property Tax Bill



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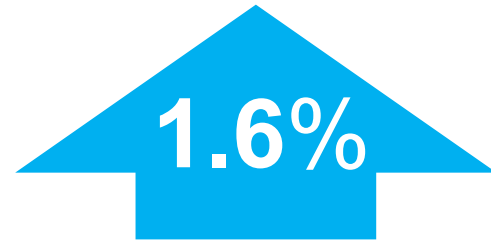
Region:
52% of Property Tax Bill

**Estimated
2025 Tax Bill**

\$770	+	\$2,189	+	\$3,393	=	\$6,352
Impact of 4.5% Town Budget Increase		<u>+\$ 99</u> \$2,288		<u>+\$ 166</u> \$3,559 (Region Target 4.9%)		\$6,617 (incl. Region Target)

*Based on an average residential assessment value of \$503,000 as determined by MPAC

Proposed Budget Impact For The Average Whitby Home*



\$99 per
year**

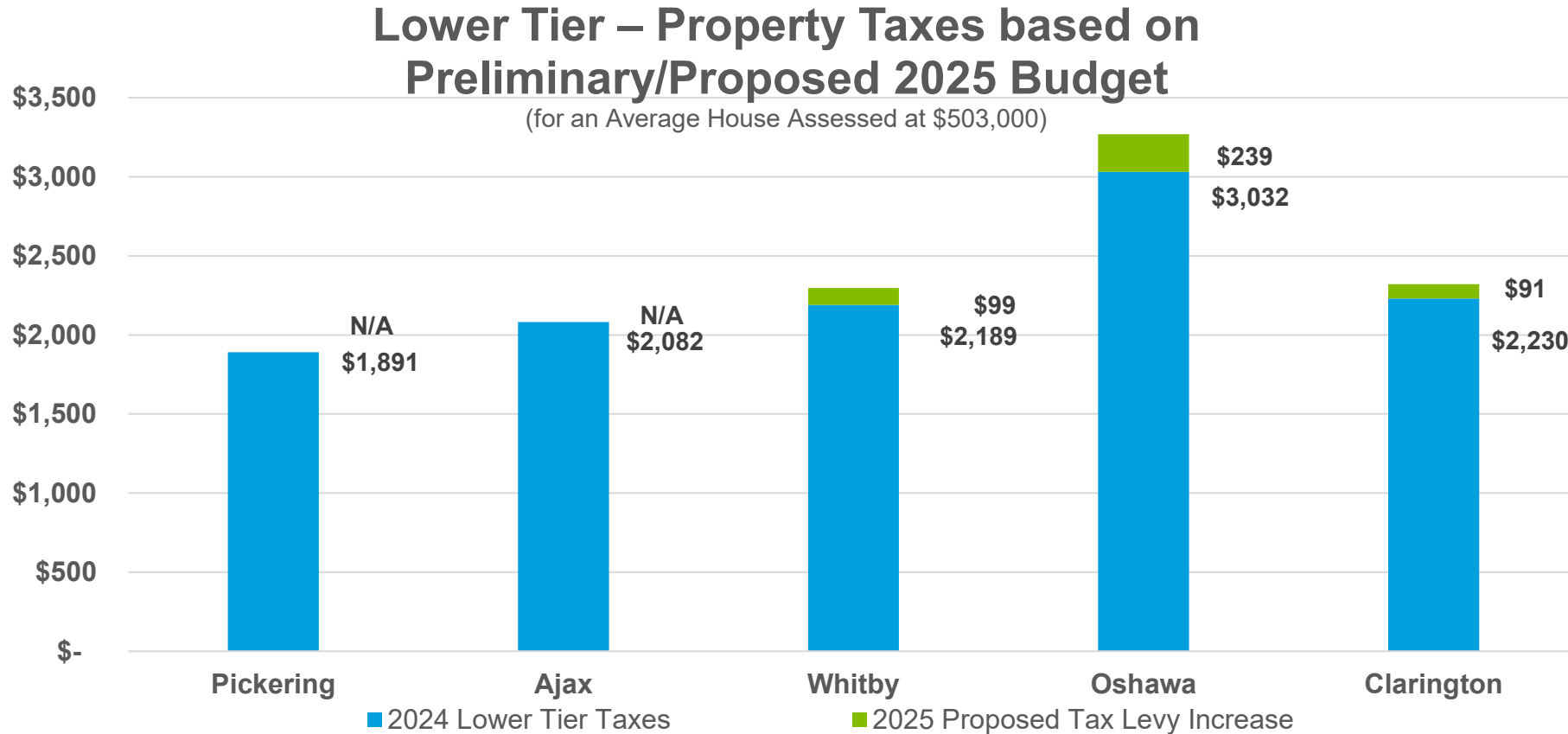
Impact On Tax Bill
For Town Services

= **\$8.25 per month or \$0.27 per day**

*Based on average residential assessment value of \$503,000 as determined by MPAC

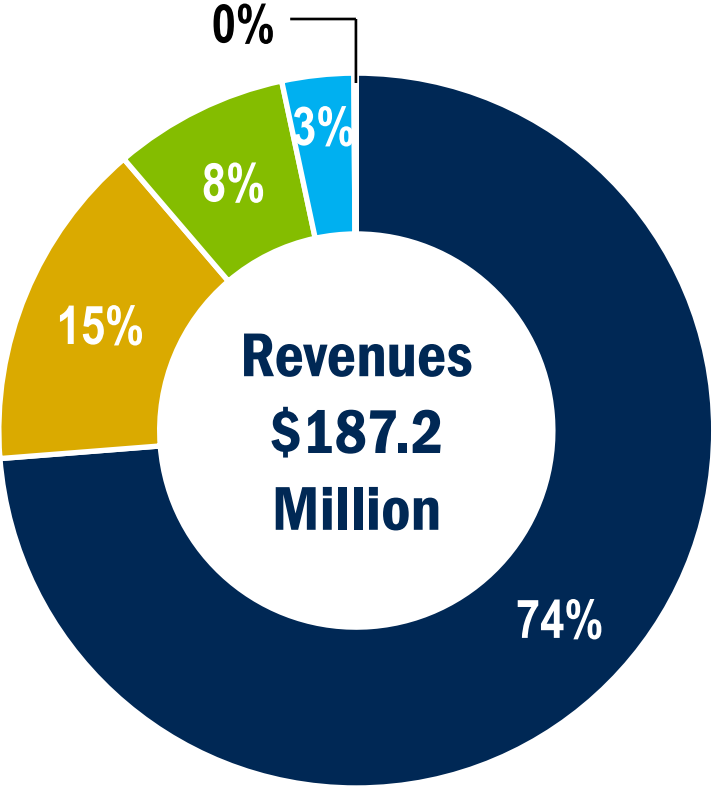
** \$19.60 per \$100,000 of assessment

Proposed Budget – Municipal Comparators



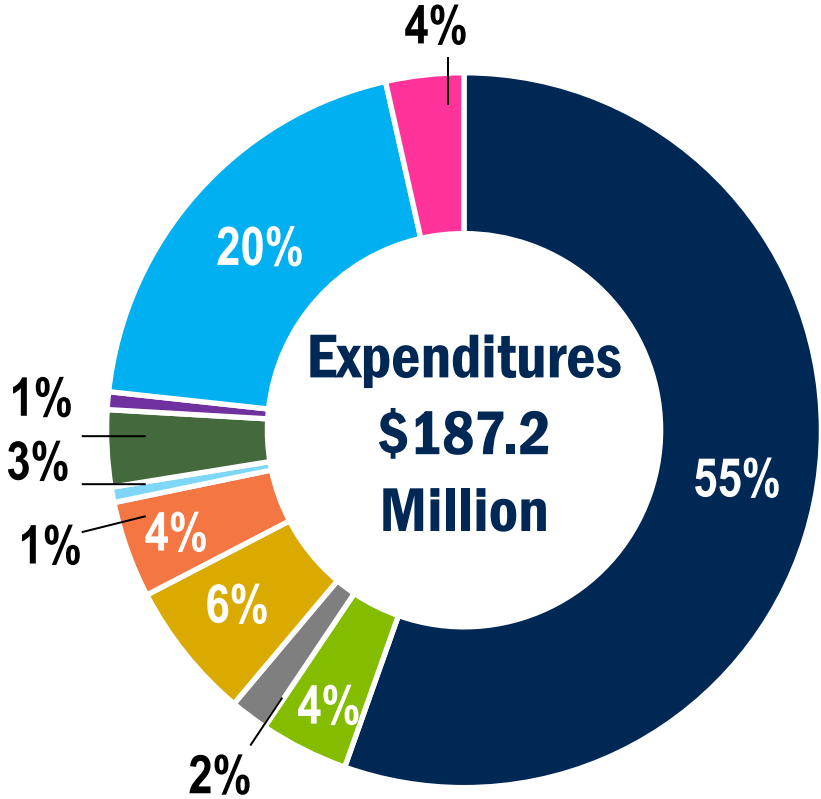
Note: Waste management is at the Regional Level for Pickering, Ajax and Clarington. Waste management represents \$78 per year for an Average Whitby Home.

Proposed 2025 Operating Budget



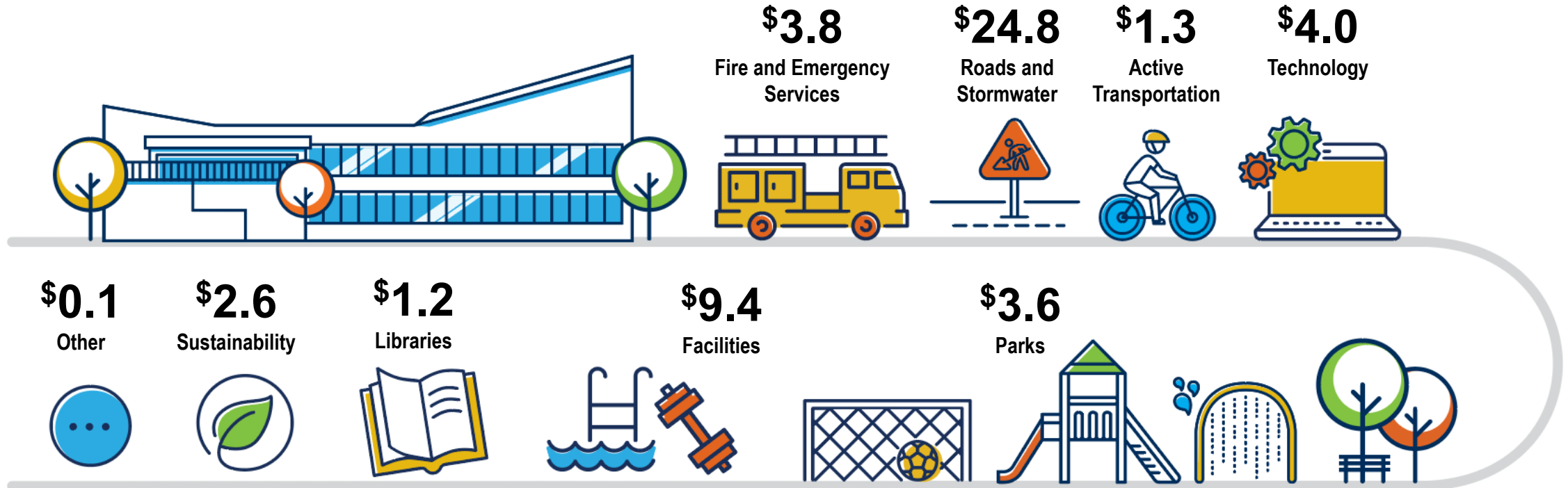
- Taxation \$137.8M (74%)
- User Fees \$28.2M (15%)
- Reserve Transfers \$14.9M (8%)
(including Canada Community Building Fund Revenue)
- Other Revenues \$6.1M (3%)
(Elexicon \$3.2M, Other \$3M)
- Provincial and Federal Support \$0.2 M (0%)

Proposed 2025 Operating Budget



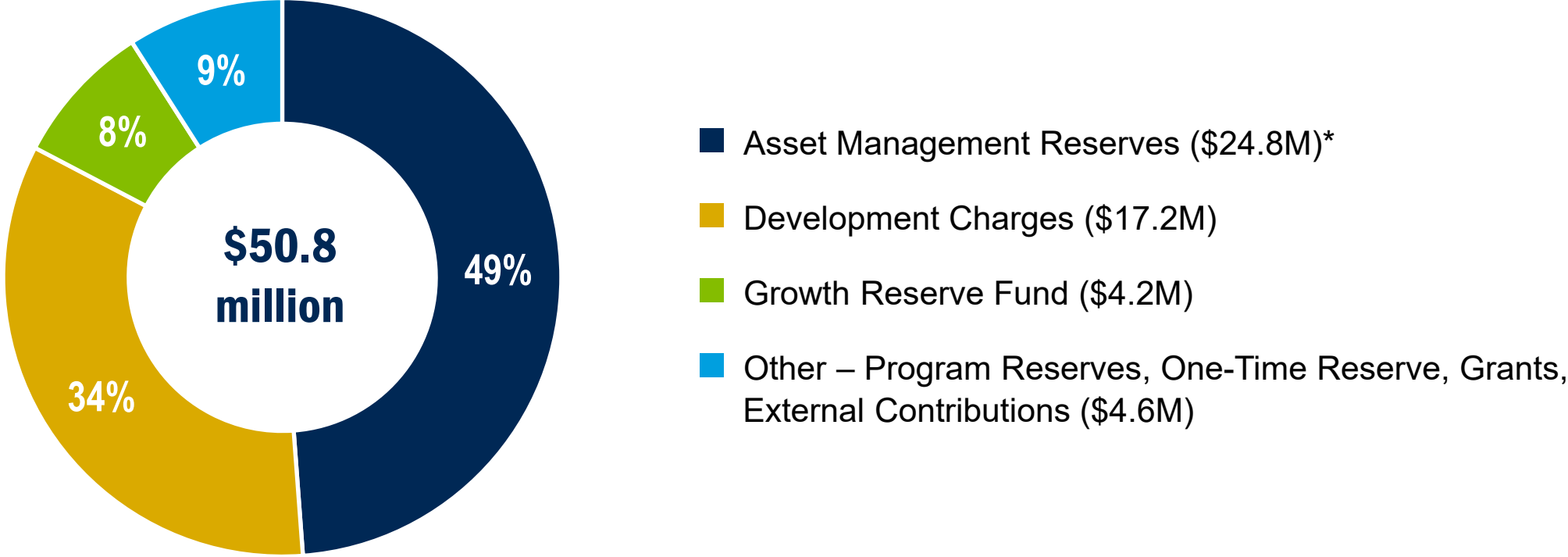
- Salaries, Wages & Benefits \$103.8M (55%)
- Building Related Costs & Utilities \$7.5M (4%)
- Vehicle & Equipment and Fuel \$3.2M (2%)
- Purchased Services & Supplies \$11.7M (6%)
- Administrative Costs \$8.2M (4%)
- Grants \$1.3M (1%)
(Station Gallery \$0.6M, Other &0.7M)
- Whitby Public Library \$6.5M (3%)
- Debt Charges \$1.5M (1%)
- Transfer to Maintenance & Growth Programs \$37.0M (20%)
- Other Transfers to Reserves & Internal Transfers \$6.6M (4%)

Proposed 2025 Capital Program: \$50.8 million



Where Does the Money Come From?

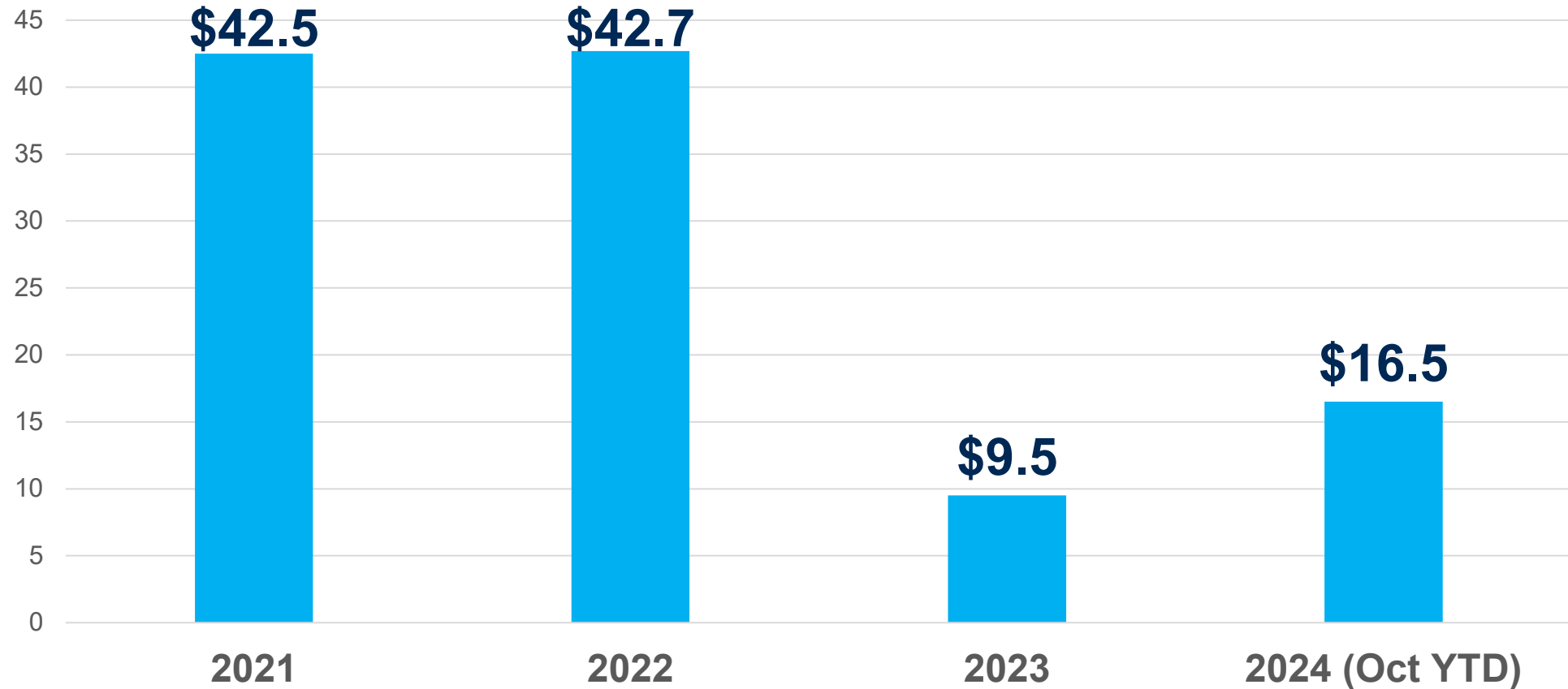
(Capital Budget: \$50.8 million)



* Includes \$4.5 million from Canada Community Building Fund (formerly Federal Gas Tax Grant)

Development Charges Revenues

(\$ millions)



Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT)

Projected annual MAT revenues (Town portion) \$175,00 to \$263,000
Non-Property Tax Revenue

Planned MAT-funded Projects:

Town MAT Budget Items	2025	2026	2027
1 new Public Art Project in a Ward Park	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Downtown Future Placemaking Spaces	\$55,000	\$15,000	
Tear-off Tourism Maps at waterfront, Downtown Whitby, and Downtown Brooklin	\$10,000		
Seasonal Tourism Ambassador position from May through October	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000
Holiday/Decorative Lights	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Tourism Strategy – Future Implementation Community Placemaking		\$15,000	\$15,000
Downtown Signature Event	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Tourism and Wayfinding Signage		\$50,000	\$50,000
Visitor Centre Upgrades / Enhancements		\$10,000	\$10,000
Total	\$209,000	\$234,000	\$219,000

Proposed Investments: Revitalization of Downtowns and Economic Development



- New Signature Event coming in 2025 – Home Sweet Home Festival
- Community Improvement Plan Grants
- Public Art - Call for Artists
- Economic Development initiatives include Community Job Fairs, Local Business Week event, and Intelligent Cities Strategy
- Continued support of the Downtown Whitby Business Improvement Area

Proposed Investments:

Whitby's Neighbourhoods – Safe, Healthy and Inclusive

- Finalizing land purchase for new Fire Hall
- Funding for design and construction of a new Fire Hall in West Whitby
- Funding for 20 Additional Fire Fighters to be hired in 2025
- Ramp-up costs for staffing the Whitby Sports Complex
- 35 EV Chargers (20 available to the public)



Proposed Investments: Whitby's Natural & Built Environment



Over \$3.6 million in Park investments and \$1.3 million in Active Transportation including:

- Redevelopment of Rotary Centennial Park;
- Playground redevelopments opening in 2025 at Sato, Vipond, College Downs, Glenayr, Powell, Myrtle Station and D'Hillier Parks;
- Construction of a pathway within the Hydro Corridor: Longwood Park to Thickson and Dundas to Crawford
- Multi-use paths including areas of Colborne S E, Garden St, Lake Ridge Rd and Victoria St and the Lynde Creek Trail will be opening in 2025.
- Waterfront investments – Heydenshore Pavillion redevelopment and adaptive re-use of Historic James Rowe House

Proposed Investments: Roads and Infrastructure



- \$2.0 million for Bridges and Culverts including culvert on Columbus Rd East
- White Bridge replacement on Columbus Road to be completed in early 2026
- Over \$8.4 million for the road maintenance, resurfacing and reconstructions
- \$2.2 million for Traffic Safety Initiatives – including:
 - \$1.4 million for intersection modifications, traffic signal replacements and signage;
 - \$0.4 million for pedestrian crossings
 - \$0.4 million for annual traffic calming program

Programs to Support Residents

Tax Rebate Programs

- Low-Income Seniors and Low-Income Persons with Disabilities (indexed to \$522 from \$500)
- Heritage Tax Rebate
- Charity Rebates

Tax Deferral Program for Seniors

- Co-ordinated through the Region of Durham

Seniors/Accessibility Snow & Windrow Program

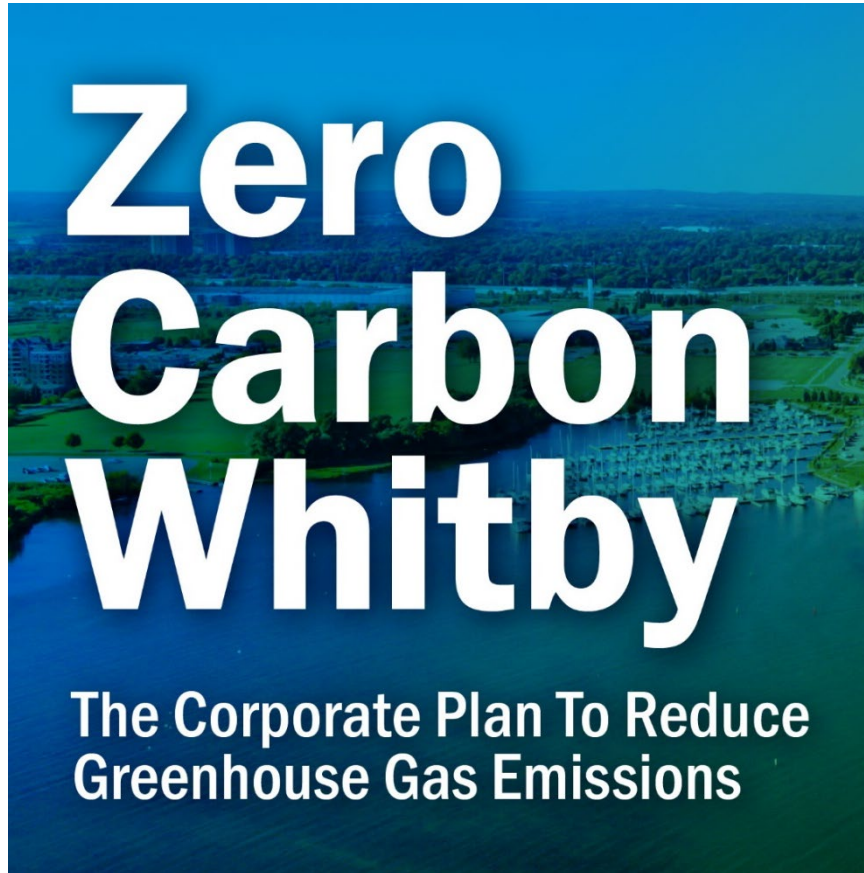
Access Program for Recreation

- Funding for recreation programs
- 55+ Recreation Services Membership

Housing

- Donation of Land Habitat for Humanity
 - Construction of 40 Affordable Housing units
- Housing Accelerator Fund projects (9)
 - Includes financial incentives to create accessory apartments and ePermit expansion

Zero Carbon Whitby



Goal:

100%

reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2045

(based on 2019 levels) = 5,525 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e)

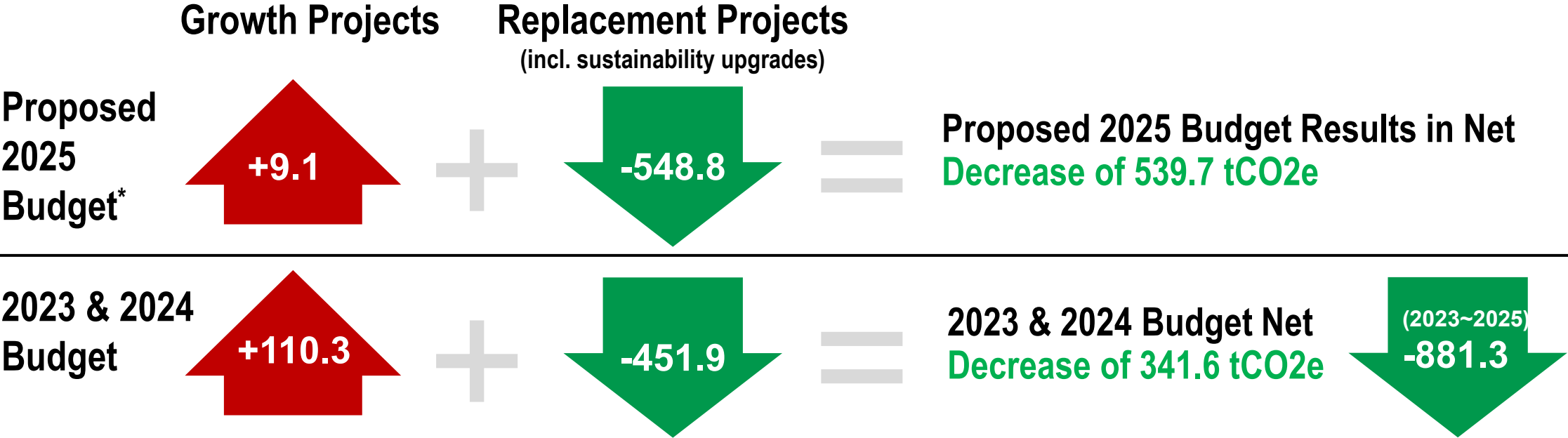
Interim GHG reduction goal:

Reduction of 1,105 tCO₂e by 2025

(or 20% below 2019)

Carbon Budgeting

(Corporate Green House Gas Emissions measured in tCO2e)



2025 Interim Reduction Goal 1,105 tCO2e, remaining target for 2025 of 223.7 tCO2e (20% of target)

*excludes impact of HAF grant funding for Low Carbon & Climate Resilient Whitby projects



Next Steps

Council Budget Education & Training Session

November 18th

whitby.ca/Livestream

Public Budget Meeting

November 19th

whitby.ca/Livestream

Special Council Meeting

(Council Amendments to Strong Mayor Budget)*

November 28th

whitby.ca/Livestream

Council Meeting

(Override of Mayor's Veto)**

December 16th

connectwhitby.ca/Budget

For more information on the meetings email clerks@whitby.ca
To provide comments on the budget, visit connectwhitby.ca/Budget