



ST. JOHN'S

March 2019

What we Heard
2019 Capital Budget

Background

During public engagement on Budget 2019-21, Council heard that residents wanted an opportunity to see and comment on the capital budget plan in advance of it being approved.

The capital plan, which is approved early in the year after the budget is released, includes smaller, usually one-time, capital investments such as fleet acquisition, annual roads rehabilitation, community grants and repairs to City buildings and playgrounds.

This funding pot differs from the City's larger multi-year capital program.

Public Engagement Process

Online public engagement of the proposed capital projects for 2019 took place from February 12 – 26, 2019 on engagestjohns.ca.



Residents were asked to review the plan and provide feedback and suggestions on how the City balances its investments in Roads & Traffic Improvements and Pedestrian & Active Transportation Initiatives as well as the approach to traffic pilots. They also had an opportunity to post comments and questions or e-mail engage@stjohns.ca

Promotion of Engagement Opportunity

- Email sent to all participants of the Budget 2019-21 public engagement – more than 150 emails
- Two e-mail newsletters delivered through engagestjohns.ca - 1,850 registered participants for each newsletter: February 12 and 23
- Email notification to all City Advisory Committees
- City website News article on February 12 announcing the start of public engagement
- City's social media sites, February 18 – 25.

How people participated



Quick Poll: “\$2.28 million of the proposed Capital Budget falls into either: Pedestrian & Active Transportation projects (\$1.56 M) or Roads & Traffic Improvement projects (\$727,000). What do you think? Is this a good balance of funding?”



Traffic Pilot Approach: “What are your thoughts on this approach to transportation improvements? One project - [Veteran's Square](#) - is noted for 2019. In future years, other projects such as [Rawlin's Cross](#) and [Plymouth Duckworth Street](#) are being considered which could have more significant costs, potentially as much as \$1 million each. Are these improvements priorities for you?”

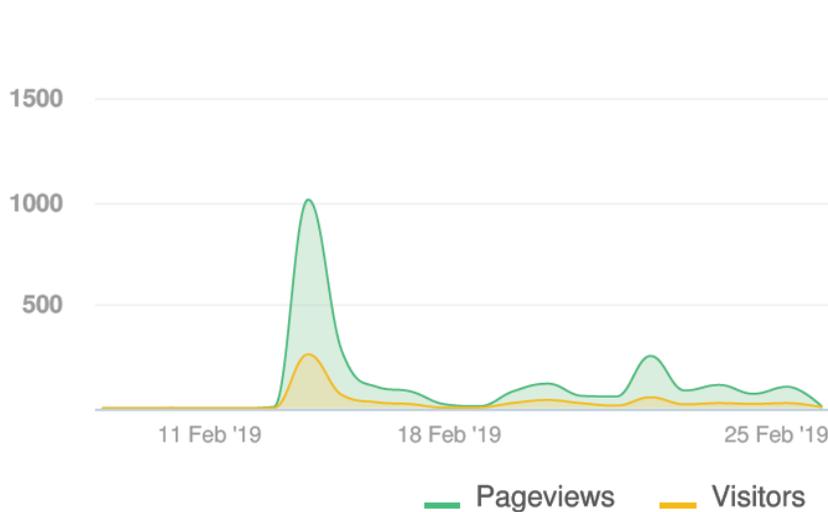


Comments and Questions: “Do you have questions or comments about the Proposed 2019 Capital budget not addressed here? Please post it here.”

Total Participation

- **Aware** - a visitor has made one single visit to the project page.
- **Informed** – visitor has moved from being aware and clicked on something, i.e., a document, a photo, etc
- **Engaged** - Every visitor that contributes to at least one tool.
 - Participated in Quick Polls
 - Posted in Traffic comments
 - Asked questions/posted comments

Visitors Summary

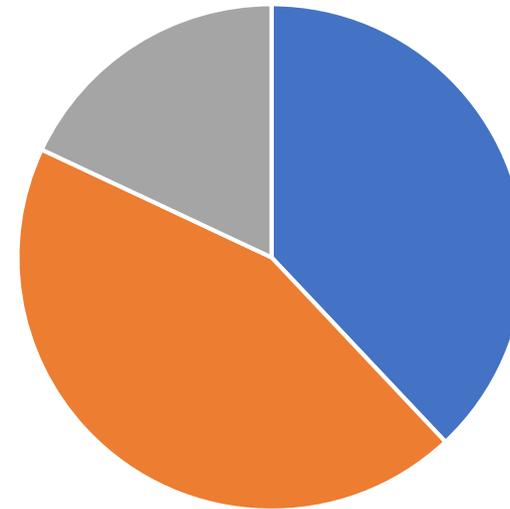


Highlights



What We Heard - Quick Poll – 45 people voted

\$2.28 million of the proposed Capital Budget falls into either: Pedestrian & Active Transportation projects (\$1.56 M) or Roads & Traffic Improvement projects (\$727,000). What do you think? Is this a good balance of funding?

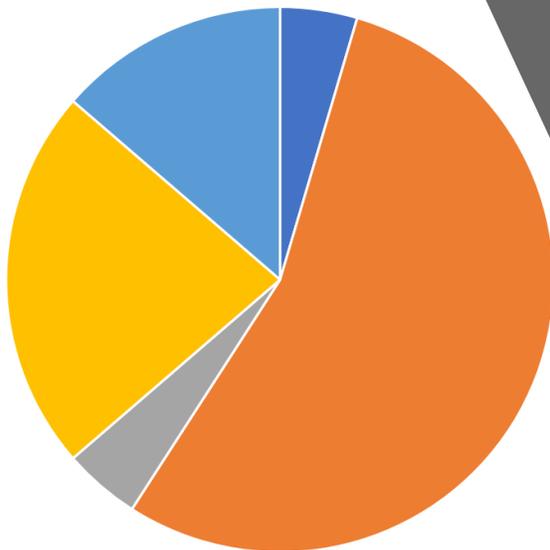


- Yes, this is a good balance between the two
- No, Pedestrian & Active transportation should receive more investment
- No, Roads & Traffic Improvements should receive more investment

What We Heard - Traffic Pilot Process

- 22 responses on engage and 1 e-mail
- 6 were supportive of the approach; 3 were not; others did not indicate either way but left comments about the various pilot projects:
 - Rawlin's Cross Pilot received 5 comments and while most felt the pilot was working well, all specified that pedestrian safety had not improved or worsened
 - Veteran's Square received 4 comments, all supportive of the overall changes however the parking change received mix results and some felt there should be additional opportunity to provide feedback on the design and use of green space vs parking
 - Plymouth/Duckworth received 2 comments; one not supportive of the investment required, another disappointed it wasn't in the budget for 2019
- We also heard:
 - Concerns about speeding in Southlands and Goulds
 - Universal design and active transportation perspectives were noted as things to be considered in future pilots

Ward breakdown



■ Ward 1 ■ Ward 2 ■ Ward 3 ■ Ward 4 ■ Ward 5

What we heard - Comments and Questions:

Pedestrian and Active Transportation:

- One on the need for infill sidewalks in Airport Heights and Major's Path.
- Metrobus shelters question, "how much funding would that money release and how many shelters in total could be built as a result of that projected spending?"
- Bike Master Plan suggestion that the city seek funding from Provincial Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour and other departments for additional funding for the plan. And, "Would prefer to see bike master plan scrapped, but since that one is going ahead regardless, why is it even here?"
- Bowring Park Accessible parking comment, "seems like a roads/traffic improvement, as it is a matter of car storage!"

What we heard - Comments and Questions:

Roads and Traffic Improvements

- Traffic safety, “should there be a submission area for Traffic Safety Initiatives since they have not been identified yet? I would like to see far more intersections default to displaying the cross signal for pedestrians.”
- Traffic Signal Communication Upgrade for Key Corridors, “I like the idea of Traffic Signal Communication Upgrade for Key Corridors but I am unsure of the importance. What would be the main reasons for this improvement?”
- **Other comments**
 - Two people noted the absence of any reference to electric vehicle charging stations/infrastructure in the Plan.
 - One person was not supportive of Studies & IT upgrades.
 - One person commented that the social media messages were not clear on how much of the plan the City was asking for comment on.

Next steps



What we Heard document posted on engagestjohns.ca and shared via social media



Council will consider input and discuss Capital Plan at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting



Vote on and approve Capital Plan during a regular meeting of Council