

# 2026-2030 Operating Budget Updates

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# Overview

**01** Context

**02** Target Property Tax Increase

**03** Keeping the Budget Affordable

**04** Work Is Ongoing

**05** One-Time Decision Packages

**06** Public Engagement & Next Steps



# Context

- Affordability is a priority
- Target property tax increase gives guidance to staff
- Finding savings before adding any new ongoing decision package commitments
- Minor service level adjustments
- More significant cuts to fund additional ongoing items will require more significant service level reductions
- Transitioning to a service-based perspective



# Target Property Tax Increase

**2026 Target property tax increase: 3.5%**

- To get from 6.3% to 3.5% = 2.8% reduction in 2026
- Requires reducing operating budget by:  
**\$3.2M**

# Target Property Tax Increase

**2026 Target property tax increase: 3.5%**

- 2.8% reduction in property tax **\$3.2M**
- Budget updates (to the good) - \$0.4M
- Parks & Rec Improvement - \$0.6M
- Ongoing Savings Identified - \$1.2M

Still need to find savings = **\$1M**



# Keeping The Budget Affordable

**Remaining Gap: \$1M**

- Minor service level adjustments required so far
- Closing that gap may require discussions and decision making around priorities and service levels

# Work Is Ongoing

Report back to Council in early 2026

- Completed Tax Roll from BC Assessments
- Better indication of 2025 year end results
- Ongoing decision packages for decision
- Requires additional prioritization and work
- Priority focus is achieving property tax increase target of (at or near) **3.5%**

# **One-Time Decision Packages for Approval**



# One-Time Decision Packages

## Advance One-Time Events, Projects & Initiatives

- Funded through surplus & some re-allocation of funds
- 2025 financial results are positive
- Present to Council for consideration
- Enhancements to Events - *FIFA, Canada Day, Rock The Block*

# One-Time Decision Packages

**\$1.5M** in one-time savings found through operating budget savings

No impact on property tax, but...

Additional surplus can enable one-time decision packages in 2026

**Total Ask: \$1.5M in one-time initiatives**

# One-Time Decision Packages [ page 1 of 3 ]

Row	Title	Brief Summary	Total in 2026
1	Canada Day Extension	Extending Canada Day celebrations will enhance the impact and inclusivity of Canada Day. It would extend the event hours from a daytime event to 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM. This extension will allow for the addition of evening programming, including top-tier local music throughout the evening and a fireworks display at the end of the event.	70,000
2	Rock the Block Enhancement	These neighborhood-based celebrations have consistently drawn increasing attendance and positive feedback, demonstrating their value in fostering local engagement. This funding allows for four events in 2026 including an event at Albion Community Centre.	20,000
3	Our Neck of the Woods 2026	Our Neck of the Woods has proven to be a transformative event for Maple Ridge, fostering community pride, economic growth, and cultural celebration. The festival's success, both in attendance and impact, supports its continuation and potential expansion.	350,000
4	FIFA Outdoor Family Viewing	There is a unique opportunity for Maple Ridge to create inclusive, family-friendly outdoor viewing experiences that foster community pride and engagement. It would involve public screenings for all Vancouver-hosted matches, the two semi-final games, and the final, totaling up to eight events. Capitalizing on this one-time event will foster community engagement and civic pride.	96,000
5	Enhanced Traffic Control for Events	Safety of the public at community events is of paramount concern. To date event budgets had limited funds for traffic control and other safety measures. In future these will be built into the operating budgets for events, this one time adjustment allows for 2026 events to expand safety controls in the interim to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for residents and manage traffic disruption.	60,000



# One-Time Decision Packages [ page 2 of 3 ]

Row	Title	Brief Summary	Total in 2026
6	Volunteer Recognition Event (Pilot)	Recognizing and celebrating the invaluable contributions of over 400 City of Maple Ridge volunteers and their families, will be achieved through a new dedicated Volunteer Appreciation Event to be piloted in 2026.	50,000
7	Mobile Stage Operations	The mobile stage is used for all major City events. Funds for ongoing operation of the stage were not included when the capital asset was purchased. It will be moved forward as an ongoing request for 2027. This short-term ask will ensure that the City can host the best events to foster community pride in 2026.	220,000
8	Deliver Community Evacuation Plans	This one-time request supports neighbourhoods at heightened risk from floods and wildfires - (Hammond, Albion, Silver Valley, Alouette Flood Plain & Whonnock) to improve emergency preparedness. Specific evacuation plans will potentially save lives and reduce injury and property damage.	150,000
9	Natural Asset Inventory & Valuation	Providing a valuation and inventory of the City's natural assets will inform the upcoming comprehensive Official Community Plan and fulfill a key element of the climate action plan bold moves. The valuation will offer insights into the economic benefits of nature, attracting investments in conservation and ecotourism. The project fosters community engagement and education, promoting a sense of stewardship.	200,000
10	Planning Studies	This funding is used to support specific initiatives for planning and policy development and funds peer reviews, geotechnical assessments and other environmental assessments. This ensures that planning decisions continue to be informed by the best available data (e.g., Thornhill expansion area planning).	100,000



# One-Time Decision Packages [ page 3 of 3 ]

Row	Title	Brief Summary	Total in 2026
11	Refresh Agriculture Plan	It is timely to revisit the Agricultural Plan to ensure the necessary policies, programs and services are in place to support the community's existing agricultural services as well as to identify possible areas for enhancement - particularly in the areas of agri-tourism and generating employment from agriculture.	60,000
12	Major Projects Public Engagement	A one-time increase to the communications and public engagement department will support increased public engagement in 2026, particularly around priority infrastructure projects such as the Abernethy Way extension, LTCAP, 256 Street Industrial Lands, TransLink's Bus Rapid Transit planning, and other initiatives.	50,000
13	Strategic Data Acquisition	High-quality, evidence-based decision making is a strategic priority for the city and this funding will strengthen core functions such as tourism development, business retention and expansion, cultural planning, recreation service delivery, investment attraction, and more. Access to reliable data is essential for informing decisions related to new services, infrastructure needs, and strategic investments. Beyond strategic decision making, accessing external data will give the City's investment attraction function the reliable data needed to strengthen value propositions and make the city more competitive when engaging investors. It will enable the City to build stronger, data-driven pitches that position the City clearly against other communities and support faster, higher-quality investment decisions.	75,000
14	Downtown Maple Ridge BIA Façade Improvement Program	The Façade Improvement Program (FIP), a collaboration between the Downtown Maple Ridge Business Improvement Association (DMRBIA) and the City of Maple Ridge. The program supports businesses to revitalize the downtown area making it a more inviting and interesting place to shop, dine, and explore to support more economic activity.	25,000
Subtotal - One time Decision Packages			1,526,000

# Public Engagement

## Budget 2026

**Building  
Infrastructure  
& Delivering On  
What Matters**





# What We're Trying to Achieve

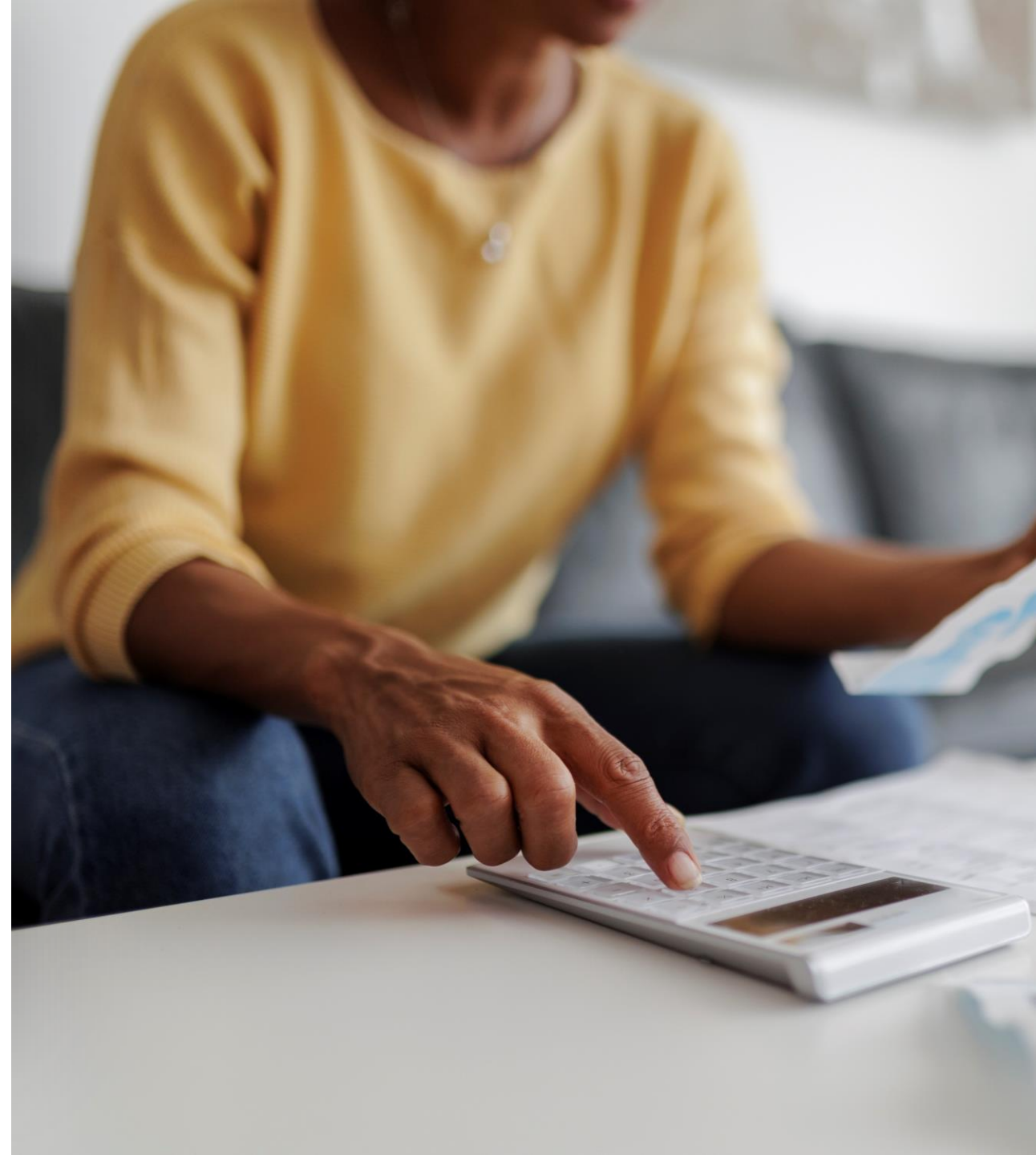
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- Build understanding, transparency, and trust
- Communicate early, clearly, and consistently
- Strengthen two-way engagement
- Show how input informs decisions (“What We Heard / What We Did”)



# Who Needs to Hear From Us

- Maple Ridge residents and taxpayers
- Community and non-profit organizations
- Business and property owners
- Mayor and Council
- City staff
- Media





# What Residents Want to Know

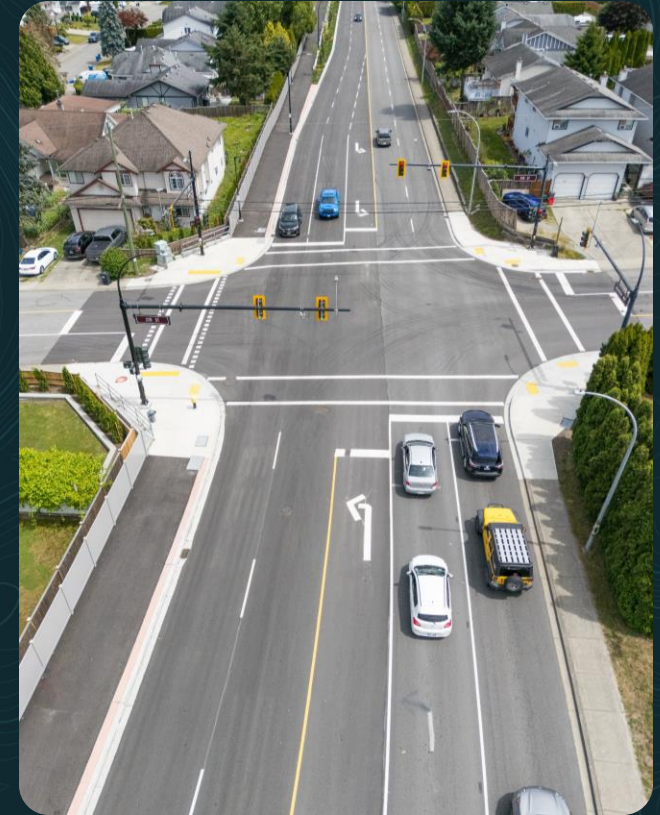
## DELIVERING WHAT MATTERS



## KEEPING IT AFFORDABLE



## GETTING INFRASTRUCTURE BUILT





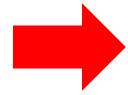
# How We'll Reach Residents

## A multi-channel, approach:

- Budget Talks video series
- City website & Engage Maple Ridge (new Capital Budget page)
- Social media with 2-way engagement
- E-Connect + Connect newsletters
- Budget Highlights mailout
- Pop-up events and open houses
- Community and partner networks



# When we'll be communicating



Phase 1 – Inform & Educate (Fall / Early Winter 2025)

Community survey, Budget Talks, Year in Review

Phase 2 – Inform & Align (December 2025)

Capital plan, Operating budget, investments

Phase 3 – Consult  
(Early 2026)

Draft operating budget: Pop-ups, mailouts, feedback tools

Phase 4 – What We Learned/Did (Spring 2026)

Inform: approved budget and tax impacts

# Questions We're Preparing For

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- Where does my property tax money go?
- Why are taxes and fees changing?
- City control vs. regional charges?
- What infrastructure is being built and when?
- How we're balancing growth with affordability?
- What savings and efficiencies we've found?
- Why is my bill higher?
- Did my feedback actually influence decisions?





# Public Engagement

**Have you ever wondered how  
the City**

**Topic 1  
Let's Talk  
Budget!**



# Next Steps

Approval of One-Time Decision Packages

Public engagement events, video series, and surveys to gather residents' feedback

Council review of the 2026-2030 Financial Plan (Q1 2026)

Adoption of the 2026-2030 Financial Plan (Q2 2026)

**Thank You**

