

CITY OF WESTMOUNT
2020-2022 CAPITAL WORKS BUDGET

PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 4, 2019

BY: Councillor Philip A. Cutler
Commissioner of Infrastructure and Innovation

Mayor Smith, fellow Councillors, ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to present the City's 2020-2022 Capital Works Budget.

At the outset I wish to point out that investing in our infrastructure, from our roads to our water mains and sewers, parks and municipal facilities is critical to the quality of life of all Westmounters. In developing the Capital Works Budget, Council is committed to being fiscally responsible. While addressing urgent needs, we always have to weigh the potential cost of deferred maintenance, assessing the risks of facing a much higher bill down the road. We are also committed to living within our means and to a pay-as-you-go approach. It is a tough balancing act.

Three years ago, the previous Council asked the City's Administration to prepare a 20-year asset management plan. It was then determined that an average annual investment of \$15.5M was required for regular capital works projects. In evaluating the situation, the current Council determined that a greater investment was required. We spent \$14.8 in 2018 and are spending \$18.6 million this year.

Before turning to next year's budget, I wish to congratulate our engineering, public works, Hydro Westmount and IT teams, who consistently deliver projects on time and

on budget. Thanks to them, for example, we have a 100% completion rate for the roads, water and sewer projects that were budgeted for the current year.

I should also point out that proper planning has allowed us to prepare requests for proposals and related documents in a professional and timely manner. This too has helped us meet our time lines and our budgets.

Now for the 2020-2022 Capital Works Budget.

In 2020, we are proposing a total investment for capital works of \$26.9M, which includes three special projects:

- Restoration of the heritage greenhouses (\$5.1M);
- Restoration of the exterior of City Hall (\$1.6M); and
- Beginning of a restoration program for the municipal garage (\$425,000).

These are essential investments that simply cannot be put off.

More than 80% of the total capital works budget will be invested in roads, water & sewer systems, as well as buildings. This represents an \$8.2M increase over last year's budget. I appreciate that water mains and sewers are not sexy, but our subterranean infrastructure in some cases is over 100 years old. We ignore it at our peril.

More specifically, the 2020 projects include, among other things, the completion of the reconstruction of the following roads: Springfield, Stayner, St-Sulpice, and Sunnyside (between Upper Bellevue and Belvedere), the replacement of public water inlets and the rehabilitation of water mains on Mt-Pleasant (between Sherbrooke and Holton) and Stayner, rehabilitation projects on Lexington and Claremont (between Côte St-Antoine and Sherbrooke), and a sidewalk restoration and pavement resurfacing on Dorchester westbound between Atwater and Greene.

In addition, we are almost doubling our investment to approximately \$1.4M in park projects including improvements and additions to King George, Prince Albert and Stayner parks.

A substantial increase in the budget is allocated to municipal buildings that are in great need of investment to ensure their sustainability. In addition to the special projects mentioned above, \$2.5M is being allocated for various renovation work or equipment replacement, mainly at the Library and Victoria Hall.

We are continuing to invest in our Hydro-Westmount network, in the replacement of certain vehicles that are about to exceed their useful life as well as other equipment and to improve our computer network, as established in our 20-year plan.

Furthermore, I wish to emphasize that we are maintaining our conservative approach to financing our capital projects. We will not be borrowing to move forward with these initiatives; \$16.5M will be financed through our pay-as-you-go (PAYG) funding and \$3.2M will be financed through grants. The greenhouses, City Hall and municipal garage projects will be financed by appropriated surplus.

Council is pleased to present this three-year Capital Works Budget, which is part of a 20-year investment perspective. I am confident that we are pursuing a responsible path forward that will be to the benefit of all Westmounters.

With the above comments, I hereby table the 2020-2022 Capital Works Budget for Council's approval.

Councillor Philip A. Cutler

Commissioner of Infrastructure and Innovation