



The Honourable
Amarjeet Sohi
Mayor of Edmonton

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Hon. Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta
Room 307 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
<mailto:premier@gov.ab.ca>

Hon. Nate Horner
Minister of Finance
Room 208, Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
<mailto:tbf.minister@gov.ab.ca>

Dear Premier Smith and Minister Horner,

I write to you today to formally submit the City of Edmonton's priorities for Alberta's Budget 2024.

Now is a critical time for the City of Edmonton. We are dealing with an ongoing opioid and housing crisis which is straining City resources. At the same time, we are also looking to build economic resiliency and invest in the bright future of Edmonton which I know all believe in. The City's 2024 budget submission is thus focused on three key priorities: public safety, housing support, and economic development. These are the priorities that Edmontonians have told us very clearly need to be addressed and that they would like us to work together on.

First and foremost, Edmontonians want a city that is safe and accessible – one where they can feel confident sending their children to school on public transit, enjoying a night out in the downtown core, or going for an evening stroll in their neighbourhoods. Currently, citizens are deeply concerned by the level of disorder they are seeing in their communities and have clearly asked elected representatives at all levels of government to take concrete action to improve public safety. To that end, the City has invested significant resources into policing and transit safety and has worked successfully with the Province on a number of supporting initiatives to improve safety across the city.

But we can and must do more. We believe that robust investments in pre- and post-treatment housing for the growing number of underhoused Edmontonians that are grappling with addiction will help us begin to address the level of disorder that we are seeing on city streets.

The Edmonton region is growing, and we need to ensure that our economy is resilient enough to sustain that growth, but we also must continue to invest in Edmonton's economic future. We need to create good, mortgage-paying jobs today while preparing for the low-carbon economy of the future. We also need to be ready to continue welcoming newcomers from across Canada and around the world and provide them with the world-class services and amenities that they expect from a major Canadian city - all while keeping life in Edmonton affordable. This is no small task. That is why we are requesting that the Alberta government invest in our city's aging roads, bridges, recreation centres, and attractions to ensure they're ready to support a robust economy and meet the needs of our growing population.



Edmontonians have been clear that they expect our governments to work together to solve the problems that exist today and to build an economy that will be successful tomorrow. Edmontonians want a city that is safe, prosperous, and welcoming. Above all, they want to know that their elected representatives are working together to deliver real results.

We all share a bold ambition and belief in Edmonton. At the City, we are committed to working closely with you and your government to address these priorities and build a stronger Edmonton with Budget 2024.

Sincerely,



Amarjeet Sohi
Mayor, City of Edmonton

Cc: Members of Treasury Board
Hon. Ric Mclver, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Edmonton City Council
Andre Corbould, City Manager



City of Edmonton 2024 Budget Priorities for the Government of Alberta

PRIORITY: HOUSING, SAFETY & COMMUNITY WELL-BEING	
RATIONALE	EDMONTON'S REQUEST
<p>Edmontonians want a city that is safe and accessible – one where they can feel confident sending their children to school on public transit, enjoying a night out in the downtown core or going for an evening stroll in their neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Currently, citizens are deeply concerned by the level of disorder they are seeing in their communities, which is why we are asking the Government of Alberta to partner with us on initiatives to improve safety on public transit and in our downtown core.</p> <p>In addition, housing support for Edmontonians who are struggling with addiction is key to improving safety in our city. We are requesting that the Province come to the table to help us provide more pre- and post-treatment housing opportunities for those interested in pursuing recovery. We also know that there are underhoused populations in our city that do not struggle with addiction and we need to work together to ensure these Edmontonians have a safe place to call home too.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Transit/Transit Safety<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ \$4.7 M for LRT underground cell service and \$3.8 M for LRT Tunnel Intruder technology to improve safety in transit spaces through supportive technology solutions. Underground cellular coverage will allow for transit riders and enforcement personnel to communicate more effectively on the LRT system, and tunnel intruder technology will deter trespassers from entering LRT tunnels and portals, which creates significant safety hazards.○ \$5 M to upgrade CCTV cameras at transit stations and expand them further across the network○ \$1 M to secure transit facilities to prevent break-ins and property damage○ \$5.8M annually to co-fund and make the Ride Transit Program permanent in Edmonton and support affordability pressures for low-income Edmontonians.● Community Safety<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ \$30 M (\$10 M per year for 3 years) to provide enhanced cleaning and maintenance services in our public spaces downtown including parks, roads, sidewalks, alleys, etc., to ensure that the downtown area and adjacent neighborhoods remain a safe and clean place. This supports Edmonton’s and Alberta’s reputation as a place to invest, live, grow and visit.○ \$10 M ongoing on an annual basis to permanently fund the Alberta Transit System Cleanup Grant previously provided to the City of Edmonton on a one-time basis○ \$10 M for an Integrated Call and Evaluation Dispatch Centre○ \$10 M for a new lighting installation to create a safer, welcoming and more accessible connection between the Arts District to the Alberta Legislature via Churchill Square and Warehouse Park.○ \$6 M (\$2 M per year for 3 years) to provide cleaning of vacant encampment backlog. These encampment cleanup efforts will contribute towards safety and security of Edmonton’s core and surrounding areas.○ \$2 M (ongoing operating) to support the continuation of Edmonton’s Overdose Response and Prevention Teams (teams of trained medical professionals and outreach workers who provide drug poisoning prevention and response throughout the transit system, downtown pedway system and the surrounding streets).○ \$3.18 M (\$1.06 M per year for 3 years) to provide 1 Hygiene Hub (including washrooms, laundry, showers and attendants) as the City’s support requested by AHS to the ongoing Shigella outbreak. Continue the existing location near the Mustard Seed.● Housing<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ \$50M in capital (1/3 of the current estimated total \$150M cost) and \$24.1M in operating funds to develop an additional 550 units offering housing for vulnerable populations.○ Funding for 500 spaces to expand to 300 pre- and 200 post-recovery-oriented care opportunities in Edmonton.○ \$16 M to support the site preparation for 12 shovel-ready surplus school sites throughout Edmonton, which will provide housing opportunities for Edmontonians.● Infrastructure renewal<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ \$20 million for renewal of existing affordable housing inventory.

PRIORITY: CLEAN TECHNOLOGY & EMISSIONS REDUCTION	
RATIONALE	EDMONTON'S REQUEST
<p>The City of Edmonton shares the Government of Alberta's vision for achieving meaningful emissions reductions and preparing our city for the transition to a low-carbon future. We have heard clearly from Edmontonians that they want to see us build a sustainable city that is well-positioned to not only meet the energy transition, but to thrive within it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$230 M to support the construction of a new transit garage and expand two existing garages to accommodate new hydrogen zero-emissions buses and supporting infrastructure. • Improve regulatory regimes and develop programs and incentives to increase investment and growth in Alberta's hydrogen economy including, but not limited to support for hydrogen vehicles with supporting infrastructure, hydrogen retrofitting for existing infrastructure (fleet, equipment and facilities), hydrogen fuelling, utilities including blending subsidies and CHP (combined heat and power) installations, training & safety codes, and public awareness and education.

PRIORITY: ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION & GROWTH	
RATIONALE	EDMONTON'S REQUEST
<p>The Edmonton region is growing at a rapid pace, and we need to make sure that our economy is resilient enough to sustain that growth while also continuing to invest in our city's economic future.</p> <p>We need to create good, mortgage-paying jobs today while preparing for the low-carbon economy of the future. We also need to be ready to welcome newcomers from here in Canada and around the world and provide them with the world-class services and amenities that they expect from a major Canadian city.</p> <p>With thousands of newcomers choosing to call Edmonton home each year, we are also requesting that the Government of Alberta invest in our city's aging roads, bridges, recreation centres and attractions to ensure they're ready to support a robust economy and meet the needs of our growing population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$145 M to enable the redevelopment of the Exhibition Lands, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ \$35 M to demolish Coliseum ◦ \$10 M to demolish existing Coliseum LRT station ◦ \$100 M for the construction of LRT facilities and related equipment <p>Infrastructure renewal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$24.5-36.4 M to cover inflationary cost escalations for stage three of the Terwillegar Drive expansion project. • \$500 M (2023-26) for renewal of a range of City-owned and operated facilities including: Fire Rescue Services Corporate Training School, Northeast Division Police Station, Fire Station No. 15, Southeast Police Station, Fort Edmonton Park, Valley Zoo, Bill Hunter Arena, Mill Woods Rec. Centre, Telus World of Science, Idylwyld Library, Ellerslie Fleet Services Building, Mitchell Transit Garage. • \$230 M for renewal of the City's arterial road network, including Stony Plain Road, Gateway Boulevard, Rossdale Road, Whitemud Drive, 50th Street, 95 Avenue, and Yellowhead Trail on ramps. • A further \$89 M in transportation growth projects, including 167 Avenue & 66 Street, Parsons Road, and 215 Street.