



Memorandum

TO: Krista Power, City Clerk **FILE:**

FROM: Kristyn Lovato-Day, Policy & Research Analyst
Corporate Services

DATE: 11/13/2024 (mm/dd/yyyy)

SUBJECT: Results of the 2025 Proposed Capital Budget Survey

**MEETING &
DATE:** Committee of the Whole - 11/25/2024 (mm/dd/yyyy)

The Proposed 2025 Capital Budget was presented as a First Report at the November 4, 2024 meeting of the Committee of the Whole, and was made public on the City’s website on October 30, 2024 as part of the meeting agenda. Pursuant to Corporate Report 227-2024-Corporate Services-Office of the City Treasurer – 2025 Proposed Budget Calendar, approved on June 24, 2024, Administration distributed a survey to gather public feedback on the changes to the layout, high-level opinions of the capital budget as proposed, and where significant changes should be made.

The survey received 93 responses; 89 on the Get Involved electronic platform and 4 on paper. The Get Involved platform expects an average response rate of one completed survey in every ten visits; the 2025 Proposed Capital Budget Survey had 316 visits, and 89 submissions, for a rate of 2.8 surveys completed for every ten visits to the platform.

This survey was not a random sample, and the response was not large enough to be representative of the entire population of the City of Thunder Bay, therefore it is not considered statistically significant. However, the survey responses still provide valuable feedback from the public that should be considered.

The attached report is being presented for information to assist in the Capital Budget discussions.

Of note, the survey identified that the reaction to the changes in the Capital Budget Document have been largely positive and a step towards better public understanding of the City’s budget process. Feedback provided to Administration in email communication

relating to the change in the layout of the budget document has also been positive, therefore will continue to be reflected in future budget documents.

A respondent mentioned that debentures should be reflected separately as a funding source throughout the document. This feedback was also mentioned at the Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 4, 2024, and has been reflected in the updated 2025 Proposed Capital Budget as re-presented at the November 25, 2024, Committee of the Whole.

In the comment question, the most frequent theme was the pause or cancellation of large projects due to the expense and the desire to decrease taxes.

Although the survey is not necessarily a representative sample, survey questions about the clarity of the process and public understanding of the budget process are an important metric that Administration can use going forward to gauge how changes to the budget presentation impacts public opinion.

Attachments

Attachment A – 2025 Proposed Capital Budget Survey Results