

2009 Operating Budget Introduction

Speaking Notes — Councillor Shelley Carroll

Tuesday, February 10, 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME

Thank you, Mayor Miller

I'd also like to thank City Manager Joe Pennachetti, Acting CFO Cam Weldon, and staff from Finance for their incredible work to prepare Toronto's second balanced budget. This has been a difficult year for Joe, as he's had to pass the calculator to Cam, taking the broader view as City Manager. You've all done a wonderful job.

Members of Budget Committee deserve our thanks as well for drilling into each budget for line-by-line reviews that helped Finance staff prepare a budget that was not only balanced, but also viable. Thank you for all of your work.

INVESTMENTS

The proposed 2009 operating budget responds to the Mayor and Council's priorities. As the economy changed, we received further direction to freeze TTC fares, and ensure that our budget planned for the coming recession. Through the 2009 capital budget, which was approved last fall, and through today's operating budget, we have provided sufficient funding to protect city services, with no major service reductions, and to support all of these priorities.

The proposed \$8.7 billion budget includes \$23.5 million in new investment, which will be leveraged to create \$95 million in services and programs for Toronto residents and businesses. These programs build on our partnerships with the provincial government, and invest in our non-profit service providers.

I will briefly highlight some of these investments. The full list is available to the public for detailed review in the budget analyst notes.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In an uncertain economy, initiatives that promote investment, create opportunities for businesses, expand key sectors, and

support tourism are even more important. As part of the Agenda for Prosperity, we will:

- Create opportunities to increase Toronto's presence in emerging international markets such as China and India to motivate interest, investment, and promote tourism (\$0.375M gross and net)
- Support development and expansion of emerging sectors, such as the green sector, which also advances the city's environmental strategy (\$0.212M gross and net)
- Support world-class events that promote tourism and celebrate Toronto arts, culture, and history, like Nuit Blanche, the Toronto International Film Festival, the 175th anniversary of the City of Toronto, and the Commemoration of the War of 1812.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

In 2008, the TTC continued to implement the ridership growth strategy, with the largest investment in service since the 1970s. As a result, the TTC reached an important milestone, with over 464 million rides in 2008, the highest ridership levels since 1994. And despite the economic challenges facing our city, ridership continues to grow. To continue their success, the 2009 budget will:

- Provide funding to meet record demand of 473 million riders in 2009.
- Make improvements to the reliability of the 501 Queen streetcar (\$2.970M gross and net)
- Improve the flow of TTC vehicles and reduce short turns so service is more predictable and steady on surface routes (1.735M gross and net)
- Introduce next vehicle notification, automated customer notification, e-commerce and internet trip planning (\$0.448M gross and net)

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

In challenging times, Toronto's social safety net may bend, but we cannot allow it to break. We have a responsibility to those who need additional help in difficult times — we can't let our children, our seniors, and those less fortunate fall behind, as they did in the last recession. In addition to the 12 new and enhanced programs announced yesterday as part of Toronto Helps, the budget will:

- Fund the expansion of Toronto's globally-recognized Streets to Homes program. The successful program is the most effective

(and cost-effective) way to end homelessness, and has the support of Toronto's business community. To date, the city has housed over 2,200 homeless individuals, and 91 percent of them have remained housed.

- Invest in the Community Partnership and Investment Program. These organizations are on the front lines, with thousands of volunteers and underpaid staff, and they do the most difficult work. We owe them our most sincere thanks.
 - o This year, we will provide a long overdue cost-of-living increase to all programs funded by CPIP grants. We are proud of the work they do, and need them to continue to do it, even as private donors become scarce. (\$0.850M)
 - o We will support 568 programs this year, including 35 new programs, with an emphasis on community development and at-risk groups including youth, seniors, women, and aboriginal youth in priority neighbourhoods (\$0.600M gross and net);
 - o We have also provided an additional \$400,000 for the expansion to the Student Nutrition Program, which brings our total investment in student nutrition to \$3.2 million. Toronto's contribution will fund existing programs, and increase the number of students served from 91,000 to over 100,000 in 2009, including 44 new sites.

THE ENVIRONMENT

For over 25 years, Toronto has been a world-leader in the fight against climate change. We will continue to implement our world-leading climate change strategy, including:

- Continued development of Mayor's Tower Renewal, which will retrofit concrete slab apartment buildings in suburban neighbourhoods, including the development of four pilot sites.
- The "Live Green Toronto" campaign, with programs and projects to help neighbourhoods and communities take action on climate change (\$4.600 million gross, \$0.800 million net)
- Doubling the tree canopy from 17 percent to 34 percent by 2050, by increasing tree maintenance, making tree service response more efficient and proactive, and planting thousands of new trees.

SERVICE, EFFICIENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The city is constantly identifying ways to improve service, and reduce spending through innovation. As part of the 2009 budget, we will:

- Open the 311 24-hour call centre in June 2009. Residents will be able to call a single number for all city services, all the time. The city will benefit from reduced duplication of services and real-time evaluation of services across the city. (\$1.638M gross and net)
- Open Toronto's first Civic Engagement Office, co-ordinating the city's outreach to communities all across Toronto, and ensuring that public consultations provide all Torontonians with an opportunity to be part of the decision-making process.
- Reduce the backlog in court services and process an additional 180,000 cases, which will reduce the rate of charges going to trial by 50 percent.
- Roll out new web services like Planning's Development Application Status site, e-services for municipal licensing and standards, and online access for the welcome policy

CONCLUSION

This represents only some of the highlights from this year's budget. Combined with the economic initiatives outlined by the Mayor, it is a responsible budget, adapted for a difficult economy. It protects the most vulnerable, and makes targeted investments in Toronto's priorities.

I'd now like to turn it over to City Manager Joe Pennachetti and Acting CFO Cam Weldon for the financial overview. Following the presentation, we will adjourn the meeting, and then take questions from the media.

Thank you.