

Delta

# 2026 BUDGET




## Community Engagement Report

November 6, 2025

The City of Delta acknowledges that we are on the shared, traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the scəwáθən (Tsawwassen), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and other Coast Salish Peoples. We extend our appreciation to these First Nations for the opportunity to enjoy this land together.

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# ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

## How We Informed



**2**

Newspaper Ads

**15**  
Social Media  
Posts



**6,397**

E-blast Registrants

**109**  
Financial Plan  
Downloads



**894**

Let's Talk  
Delta Visits

**4**  
Newspaper  
Articles



## How We Engaged



**2,082**

Community  
Satisfaction Survey

**160**

Event Attendees



**85**

Feedback Forms

**2**

Business Events



**2**

Public Events

## WHAT WE HEARD

Delta is continuously looking at options to improve engagement, including in support of the budget process. This year, for the first time in over a decade, the City conducted the 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey to gather feedback on City services and invite input on priorities for consideration in the preparation of the budget. This early step ensured input was gathered when it could be meaningfully considered. The recent budget engagement process provided residents with a further opportunity to confirm the direction of the budget based on this input. The following is a summary of the findings of this engagement process.

- Participation in budget engagement is often driven by concern about proposed tax changes. Staff clearly communicated the proposed increase so residents could decide whether to take part. This year's lower participation may indicate general comfort with the proposed direction.
- Participation that was received reflects the demographics of the community with nearly half of the 85 responses to the feedback form representing North Delta, and the remaining split between Ladner and Tsawwassen.
- Participants shared a range of views on the budget direction, with many offering suggestions for adjustments or additions. As is common in budget engagement, feedback tended to focus on areas where residents would like to see more investment or attention. This input provides valuable perspectives on where improvements can be considered for this budget or future priorities. The key themes from the feedback are summarized below. A full list of comments and ideas is provided in the feedback form results.
  - Support for continued investment in recreation facilities, core infrastructure, and community amenities, consistent with the findings of the Community Satisfaction Survey.
  - Desire for infrastructure upgrades to keep pace with population growth, including coordinated construction to reduce disruption and improve cost efficiency.
  - Traffic congestion and mobility remain major priorities, with requests for improvements to key corridors, neighbourhood traffic calming, better transit connections, and safer pedestrian and cycling routes.
  - Strong interest in balanced recreation investment across Delta, including added pool and rink capacity in North Delta, more youth spaces, and increased fitness and program opportunities.
  - Appreciation for everyday improvements like accessible washrooms, benches, trail upgrades, playground renewals, and sidewalk and active-transportation enhancements.
  - Expectation for responsible financial management, balancing cost-of-living concerns with the need for long-term investment.
  - Interest in ensuring youth programming, seniors' needs, cultural spaces, and preserving community character as density increases.
  - Ongoing interest in transparent communication about budget decisions, operational costs, project distribution, and how public input informs choices.
- Participation by the business community also identified opportunities for further investigation. The Delta Chamber of Commerce expressed interest in clearer communication on how budget decisions affect local businesses, including transparency on revenue by class, long-term tax strategy, and how investments support industrial growth and competitiveness. Participants emphasized the need for more road and utility upgrades in industrial areas, as well as beautification and amenities, improved transit and EV infrastructure, and timely maintenance to support business attraction and retention.

## OUR APPROACH

The City continues to explore new ways of informing and involving the community in the creation of the budget. The following is a description of the two parts of this year's engagement program.

### Phase 1: Community Satisfaction Survey (February-March 2025)

The first part of the engagement program for the 2026 Budget was the 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey conducted in February and March. This survey will be conducted biennially and draws the greatest participation of all engagement activities due to the established use of this tool in local government. This year, the City received 2,082 responses. The results are statistically valid, presenting a representative view of the opinions of the community. Results were provided to Council and staff to consider in the preparation of the budget.

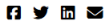
### Phase 2: Confirm Direction (October 2025)

The second part of the engagement program was conducted in October in which the draft for the 2026 budget was shared with the community for feedback along with the five-year financial plan. Opportunities were provided to learn more about the budget and share their feedback online at [letstalk.delta.ca](http://letstalk.delta.ca) as well as through public events and meetings with staff. Key features of this part of the engagement program are provided below.

## Let's Talk Delta Webpage

The Let's Talk Delta website continues to be the central hub and resource for all information about the engagement program, including opportunities to attend events and provide feedback.

### 2026 Budget



The City of Delta has released the draft 2026 Budget for residents to review and provide feedback. The draft was shaped by input from the 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey and reflects Delta's goals and priorities for the year ahead.

We encourage you to learn more about the proposed budget and share your views. Here is a summary of how you can get involved:

- Oct 7 – Read the details of the draft 2026 Budget on [letstalk.delta.ca/2026-Budget](https://letstalk.delta.ca/2026-Budget)
- Oct 7 – Complete a form on the website to share your feedback before October 30.
- Oct 29 – Drop by Open House #1 at the North Delta Recreation Centre Gymnasium between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm
- Oct 29 – Attend the Council Budget Workshop #1 at the North Delta Centre for the Arts beginning at 7:00 pm or watch online at [delta.ca](https://delta.ca).
- Oct 30 – Drop by Open House #2 at City Hall in the foyer between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm
- Oct 30 – Attend the Council Budget Workshop #2 at City Hall in the Council Chambers beginning at 7:00 pm or watch online at [delta.ca](https://delta.ca).



Feedback will be collected through to end of day **October 30, 2025**. Feedback received will be shared with Council, staff, and the community, and will help guide decisions for this and future budgets.

[DRAFT 2026 BUDGET FEEDBACK FORM](#)

## Newspaper Advertisements

To help residents understand how the budget impacts them and to generate interest in the engagement process, a newspaper ad was published at the beginning of the engagement program highlighting key budget themes and outlining ways for residents to get involved. Transparency is a priority for the budget engagement process and increases to taxes and utility fees are included in public communications.

2026 BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE

The City has released a draft of the 2026 Budget for residents to review and share their feedback. This year's proposed budget includes your input from the 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey. Here is an overview of what the 2026 Budget will deliver, what it means to you, and how you can get involved.

**2026 PROPOSED INCREASE**

This year's budget focuses on lower taxes and infrastructure investments. A 2.9% increase is proposed to meet contractual obligations, invest in asset management, address inflation and support operational improvements.

2026 Proposed Property Tax Increase

2.9%

Contractual Obligations, Asset Management, Operational Improvements, Inflation

**A LOOK AHEAD AT 2026**

Here is a selection of the initiatives planned for 2026.

- Agricultural Infrastructure
- Chisholm St. Wharf Upgrades
- Cromie Park Ball Diamond
- Dennison Pickleball Expansion Design
- Industrial Transit and Pedestrian Improvements
- Ladner Harbour Park Playground Renewal
- Ladner Bike Park Renewal
- Mackie Park Fieldhouse Replacement
- Road Paving
- Sunshine Hills Playground Renewal
- Tilbury Ice Mechanical Upgrades
- Winskill Aquatic & Fitness Centre Rebuild
- 2026 Election Preparation

**2026 BUDGET AND YOU**

The following chart highlights the proposed increases for a typical home valued at \$1.3M.

ESTIMATED MONTHLY INCREASES

Mortgage

\$0

Water

Fee Rate

(\$100/yr)

\$2

Electric

Fee Rate

(\$100/yr)

\$2

Local

Water

Fee Rate

(\$100/yr)

\$0

**HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?**

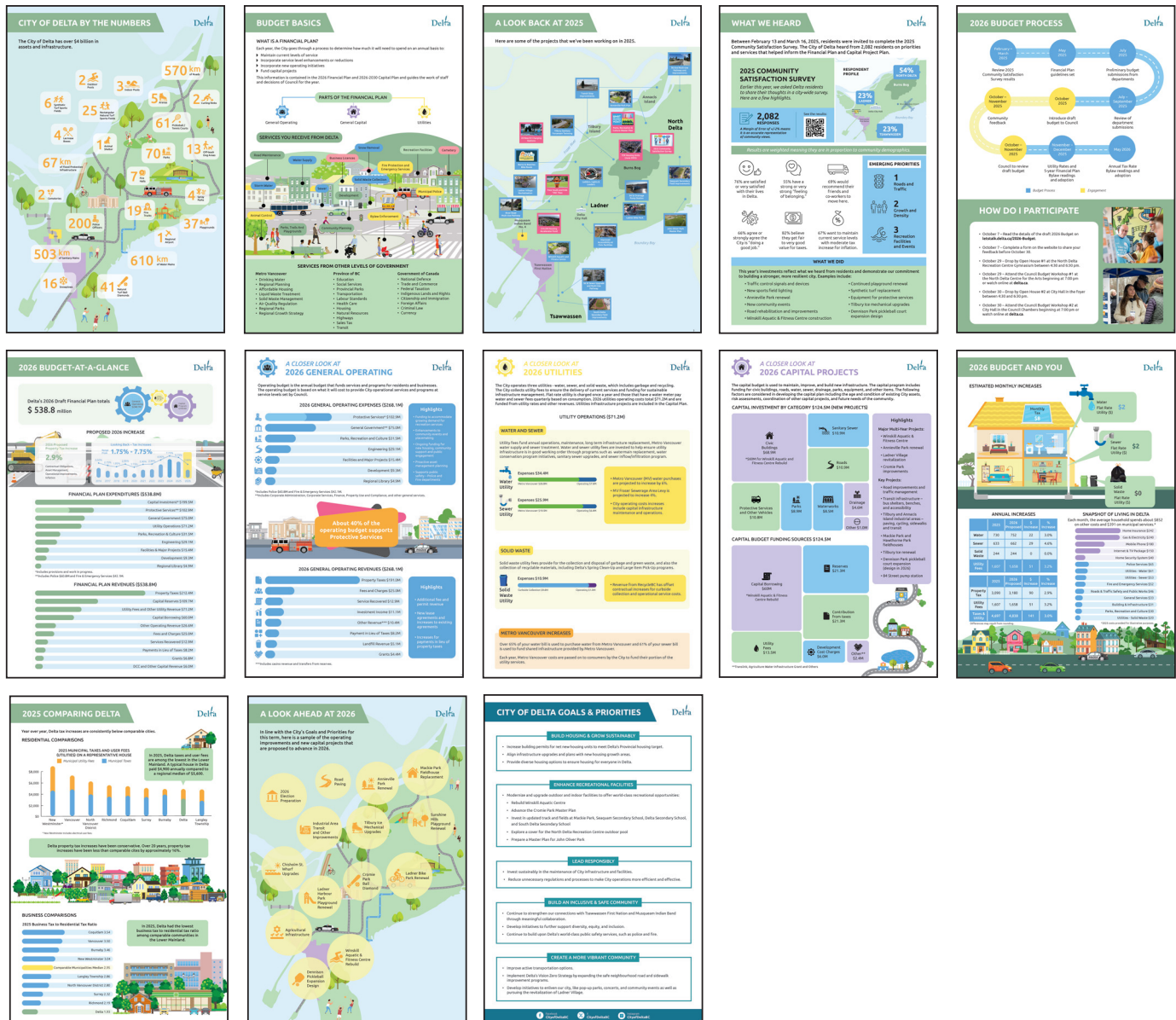
1. Complete a Feedback Form on the website before Oct 30.
2. Attend an Open House:
  - Oct 29 – Open House #1 (4:30 – 6:30 pm at North Delta Recreation Centre)
  - Oct 30 – Open House #2 (4:30 – 6:30 pm at City Hall)
3. Watch Council Workshops at [delta.ca](https://delta.ca) Oct 29 and 30 (beginning at 7 pm)

MORE INFORMATION

[letstalk.delta.ca/2026-Budget](https://letstalk.delta.ca/2026-Budget)

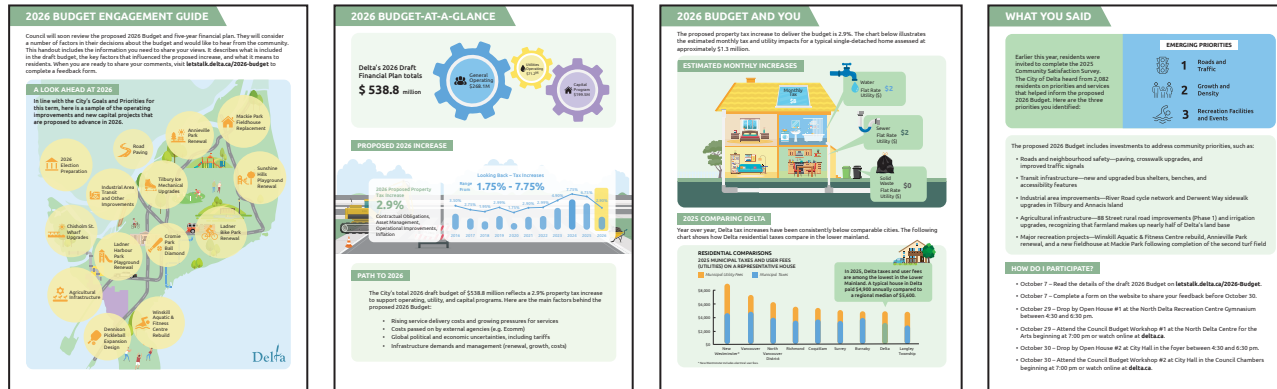
# Display Materials

Last year's budget engagement materials were highly effective in communicating complex financial information to the public and were updated this year to reflect new data and priorities. To help distinguish from previous years' materials, a new color was used. These refreshed materials continue to make the budget more accessible through clear, easy-to-understand visuals used across display boards, social media, print ads, and presentations. Thumbnail images of the materials are provided below and will continue to be adapted to support future budget cycles.



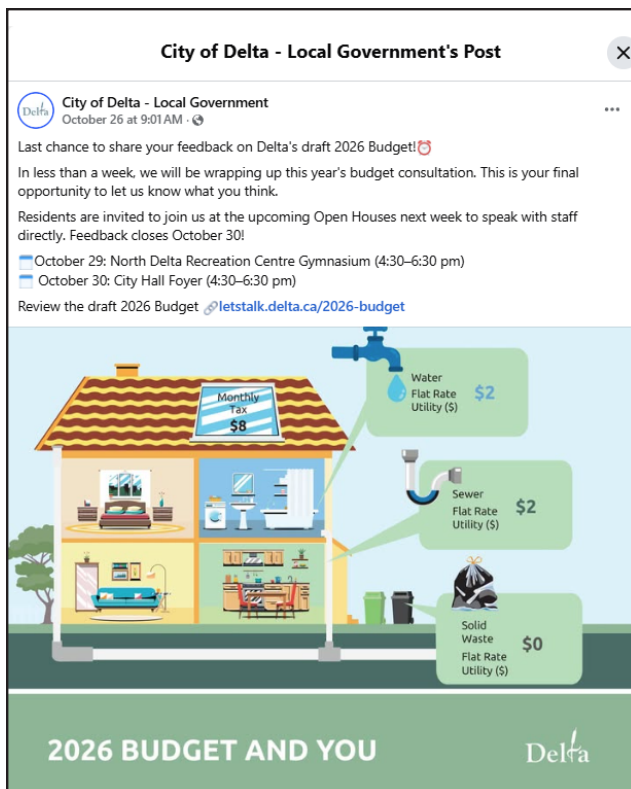
## Engagement Guide

An Engagement Guide was developed to explain to residents what is proposed in the budget, what it means to them and how to participate. The guide is available online and at the in-person events.



## Social Media / Digital Readerboards

The City created five posts published across three platforms (Facebook, Instagram, X) and published content on City digital readerboards to ensure residents were aware of the proposed tax increase and the opportunity to participate in the budget process.



## E-blast

Two e-blasts were distributed to inform residents about the budget engagement process and opportunities to provide feedback. The first e-blast launched the program, sharing key dates and information on how to participate. The second served as a reminder to attend the open houses and to submit feedback before the deadline. With a registration of 6,400, e-blasts through the [letstalk.delta.ca](https://letstalk.delta.ca) website are an important tool for reaching a significant number of residents.

## Business Community Events

The City continues to look for meaningful and effective ways to involve the business community. This year, staff presented to the Board of the Delta Chamber of Commerce and attended the Annual General Meeting of the Ladner Business Association.



## Engagement Events

The City hosted two opportunities for the public to learn more and discuss their questions and feedback with staff – one in North Delta and a second in South Delta. The North Delta event was held in the gymnasium at the recreation centre and was attended by 102 participants, including many children enjoying the cookies provided. The South Delta event was held in the foyer of City Hall and was attended by 22 residents.



## Feedback Form

Between October 7 to 30, residents and businesses were invited to complete a feedback form online to share their views on the direction of the 2026 Budget. The City received formal feedback from 85 residents.

# WHAT WE HEARD


The following is a summary of the discussions and comments received through the various engagement activities.

## Community Satisfaction Survey

The results were provided to staff, made available to the community and shared with Council at a public meeting. Full results from the survey are available at [delta.ca/Community-Survey](https://delta.ca/Community-Survey). Three emerging priorities identified in the survey included:

- Roads and traffic
- Growth and density
- Recreation facilities and events


WHAT WE HEARD

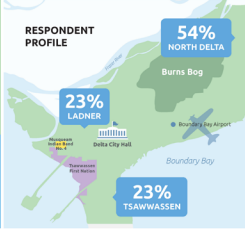


Between February 13 and March 16, 2025, residents were invited to complete the 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey. The City of Delta heard from 2,082 residents on priorities and services that helped inform the Financial Plan and Capital Project Plan.


**2025 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY**  
*Earlier this year, we asked Delta residents to share their thoughts in a city-wide survey. Here are a few highlights.*

**2,082 RESPONSES**  
A Margin of Error of +/-2% means it is an accurate representation of community views.


See the results: 




Results are weighted meaning they are in proportion to community demographics.




76% are satisfied or very satisfied with their lives in Delta.




55% have a strong or very strong "feeling of belonging."




69% would recommend their friends and co-workers to move here.



66% agree or strongly agree the City is "doing a good job."



82% believe they get fair to very good value for taxes.



67% want to maintain current service levels with moderate tax increase for inflation.

EMERGING PRIORITIES

- 1** Roads and Traffic
- 2** Growth and Density
- 3** Recreation Facilities and Events

WHAT WE DID

This year's investments reflect what we heard from residents and demonstrate our commitment to building a stronger, more resilient city. Examples include:

- Traffic control signals and devices
- New sports field lighting
- Annieville Park renewal
- New community events
- Road rehabilitation and improvements
- Winskill Aquatic & Fitness Centre construction

- Continued playground renewal
- Synthetic turf replacement
- Equipment for protective services
- Tilbury Ice mechanical upgrades
- Dennison Park pickleball court expansion design

## Business Community

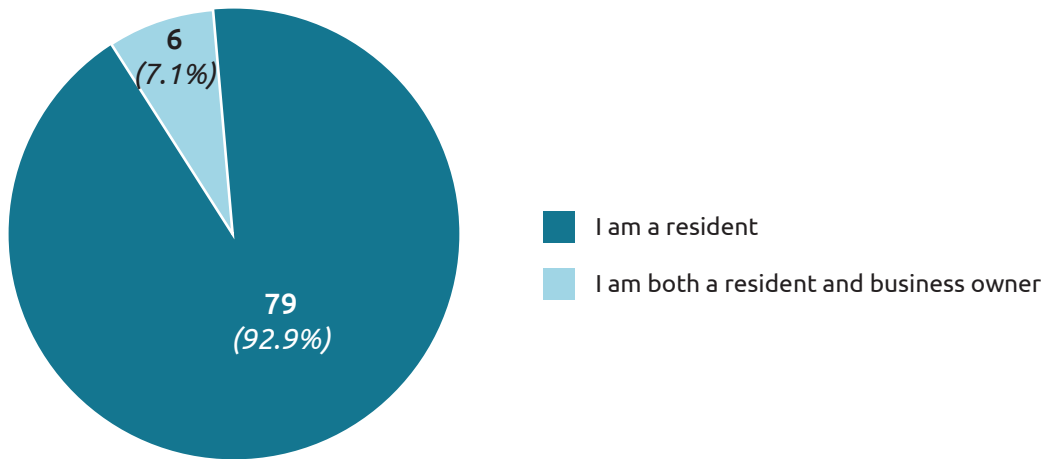
The City continues to look for meaningful and effective ways to involve the business community. This year, staff presented to the Delta Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and attended the Annual General Meeting of the Ladner Business Association. Notes from the discussions with members of the business community include:

- Want more budget information tailored to the business community.
- Interested in revenue breakdown by class and linking spending more closely to revenue sources.
- Concerned only one industrial road project is planned; feel capital investment isn't keeping pace with industrial growth and needs.
- Desire for more road work in industrial areas including Vantage Way, Progress Way, and four-laning River Road.
- Appreciate low taxes but believe residential properties benefit from industrial tax contributions.
- Open to targeted levies or tax increases if funds are dedicated to industrial-area improvements.
- Want clarity on Delta's long-term tax strategy and how rates are set.
- Discussed possible new revenue tools, including additional light-industrial tax options.
- Believe Delta should respond faster to infrastructure needs and maintenance issues in industrial districts.
- Feel deteriorating roads and infrastructure discourage new business investment.
- Want beautification and amenities in industrial areas including dining, fitness, and greenspace.
- Recognize private industrial land limits City ability to add sidewalks, bike paths, and trees.
- Interested in improved transit, transit shelters, sidewalks, and cycling routes; noted standard shelters don't suit all locations (e.g., Aritzia).
- Asked if future transit and pedestrian needs were considered in Parkwood Development.
- Staff referenced TransLink responsibilities and the 2025 plan for transit investment.
- Want more EV charging stations in industrial areas and EV-infrastructure requirements for industrial development permits.
- Staff noted BC Hydro capacity upgrades in Tilbury.
- Reiterated concerns industrial areas appear rundown due to overgrown greenspace, littered ditches, and road conditions.
- Would like the Chamber involved early in planning for industrial areas.
- Expressed frustration with lack of progress on the tunnel project.
- Curious about how Delta is finding operational efficiencies given pressures on businesses and entrepreneurs.

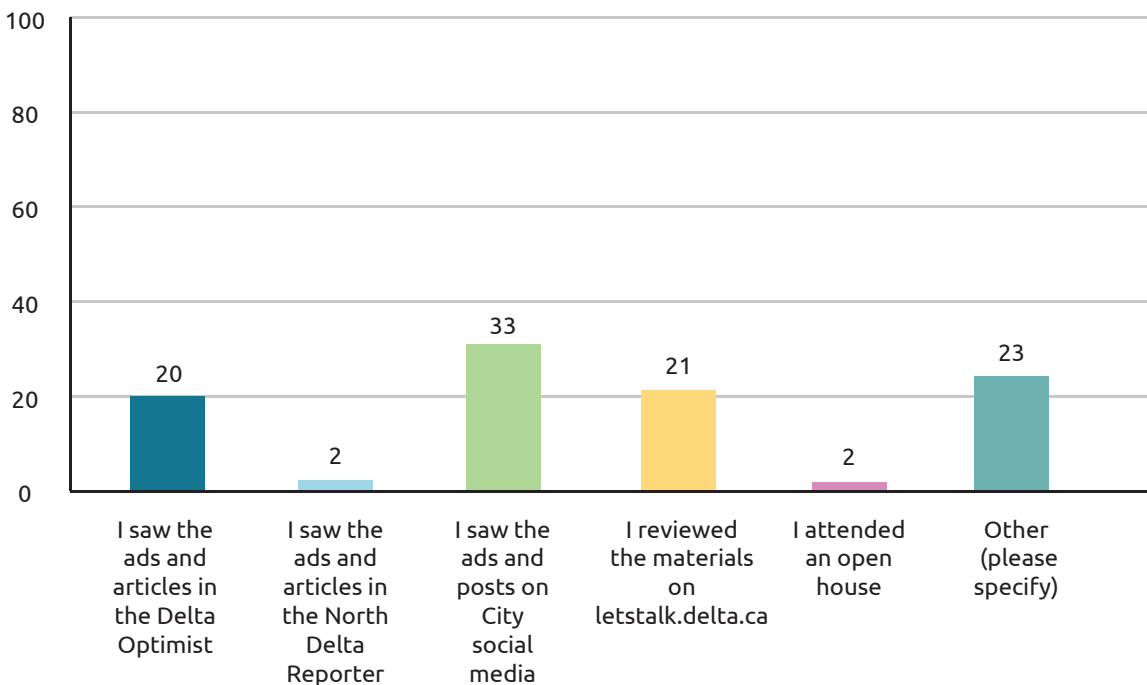
## Feedback Form

Residents were invited to complete a feedback form to share their views on the direction of the budget. The form was available between Oct. 7 to 30. The methodology conducted is a convenience sample and is not to be considered representative of all residents. The City received 85 responses. The findings are provided below.

### 1. Which best describes your interest in the 2026 Budget?



### 2. How did you learn about the budget?



### 3. Are any projects missing from those proposed?

#### Community Amenities & Recreation

- Increase public seating across the community and install Portland Loo washrooms in parks.
- Expand and upgrade the Ladner Leisure Centre to address overcrowding.
- Build a multi-rink ice facility with tournament capacity and on-site amenities.
- Add more indoor recreation space in North Delta, including additional pool and ice time.
- Provide more drop-in fitness classes and ensure competitive instructor pay to support retention.
- Create more recreational spaces and late-night programming for teens and young adults aged 13–18.
- Improve accessibility and inclusion supports across facilities and programs.
- Expand recreation opportunities for older adults.
- Add water fountains at sports fields.

#### Parks, Trails & Nature

- Improve cycling and walking trails, including protected bike lanes and safer pedestrian routes.
- Upgrade River Road West cycling and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Replace bridges and improve access in the Delta Nature Reserve/bog area.
- Prioritize playground replacement at Sunshine Hills Elementary due to aging and safety concerns.
- Add sidewalks or reduce speed limits on streets lacking pedestrian infrastructure.
- Build and/or expand off-leash areas and explore additional fenced small-dog spaces (e.g. Ladner).

#### Transportation & Roads

- Improve traffic flow and road capacity in Ladner and Tsawwassen, particularly key access routes into town.
- Construct a third access route to Tsawwassen (extension of English Bluff Road).
- Develop solutions for increasing traffic on 112 Street and 116 Street in North Delta.
- Improve 64 Avenue traffic flow during peak hours.
- Widen key corridors (e.g. Highway 10, Ladner Trunk Road).
- Increase road maintenance including crack-sealing and patching programs.
- Review and improve the 72 Avenue project and related traffic impacts.
- Expand road rehabilitation and paving programs across Delta.

#### Cycling Infrastructure

- Prioritize protected bike lanes in North Delta including 112 Street, 116 Street, 80 Avenue, and 84 Avenue.
- Build a continuous bike route connecting North Delta and South Delta.
- Advance timing and scope of planned cycling improvements previously deferred in the capital plan.
- Convert 84 Avenue into a complete cycling corridor from Nordel Way to Scott Road.
- Expand separated bike lanes city-wide.

### 3. Are any projects missing from those proposed?

#### Transit & Mobility

- Increase investment in public transit service and infrastructure.
- Improve pedestrian and cycling safety near schools and community nodes.

#### Libraries, Arts & Culture

- Replace or significantly expand the George Mackie Library in North Delta.
- Explore a satellite library in the Sunshine Hills area.
- Increase funding for arts, culture, heritage, and performance spaces.
- Support upgrades to the Delta Museum and Discovery Centre.
- Integrate arts, culture, and heritage elements into park renewal projects.

#### Community Services & Safety

- Increase policing and enforcement focused on traffic safety and nuisance activity.
- Expand youth-focused community events and programming.
- Enhance funding for community events that support broad community interests.

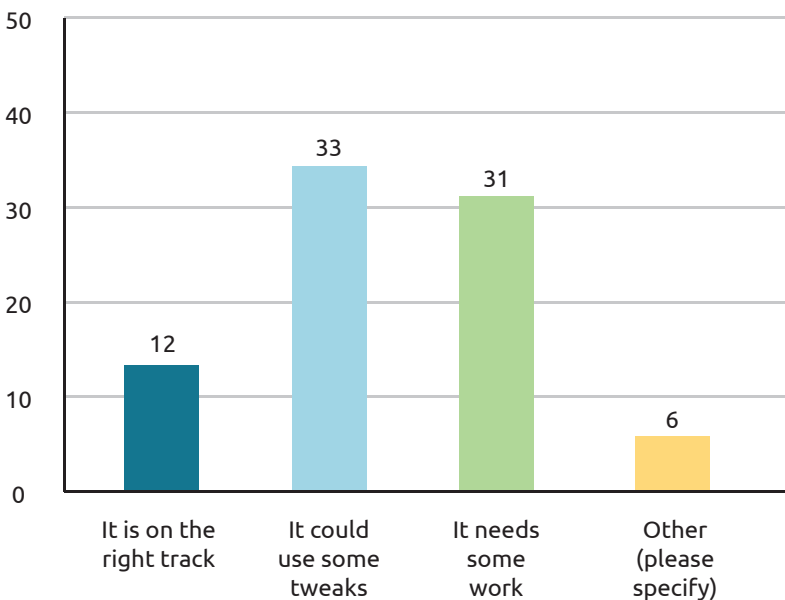
#### Infrastructure

- Accelerate upgrades to aging underground water and sanitary infrastructure.
- Address long-term growth and infrastructure capacity needs alongside densification.

#### Other City Priorities

- Develop strategies to support long-term staff retention and internal leadership development.
- Review capital project costs, particularly park washroom construction estimates.
- Support fiscal responsibility and operational efficiency.
- Review population growth targets and impacts.

### 4. Which best reflects your view overall of the Draft 2026 Budget?



## 5. Please feel free to explain your response.

### Headed in the Right Direction

- Strong support for the Winskill facility renewal and hope for continued local road upgrades.
- Appreciation for overall direction and capital priorities; desire for faster progress on provincial-led tunnel replacement.

### It Could Use Some Tweaks

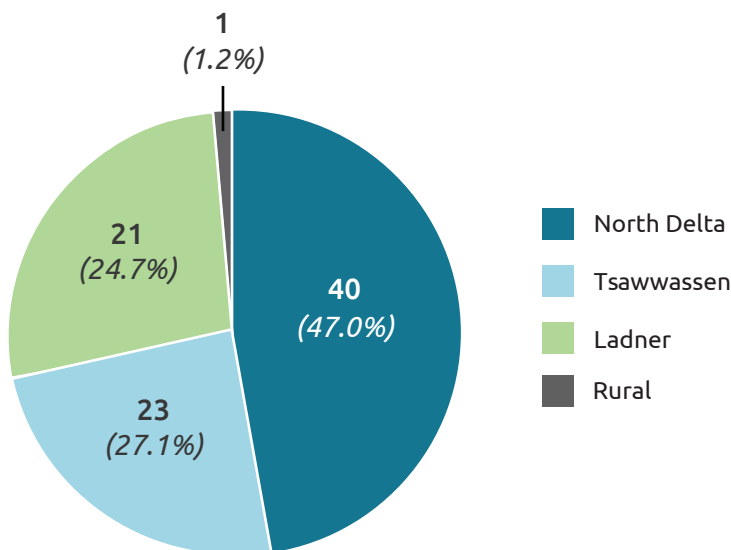
- Align infrastructure upgrades with increased density, particularly local roads in residential areas.
- Improve coordination of utility repair work to avoid repeated excavation and reduce costs.
- Review park and tree impacts when planning new amenities; ensure adequate parking for major recreation facilities.
- Consider allocating funding to replace the ageing Sunshine Hills Elementary playground due to safety concerns.
- Monitor tax increases to ensure they remain sustainable for long-term residents.
- Re-evaluate pickleball expansion in light of significant planned facilities at TFN.
- Prioritize upgrades at the Ladner Leisure Centre and Tilbury to support increased density in Ladner.
- Consider a third Tsawwassen access route to support growth and alleviate congestion.
- Review equity of tax contributions and capital investments between North Delta and South Delta.
- Increase transit investment to support growth and reduce traffic pressure.
- Support increased funding for Burns Bog maintenance and ecological care.
- Ensure that development does not unduly burden existing taxpayers.
- Provide clarity on capital spending distribution across neighbourhoods, particularly Winskill relative to North Delta.
- Review operating costs to find efficiencies and reduce redundancy.
- Ensure housing growth aligns with infrastructure capacity.
- Add small-dog recreation areas, especially for seniors and those with mobility challenges.
- Increase support for arts and cultural amenities.
- Prioritize safety upgrades and improvements at Sunshine Hills Elementary playground.

## 5. Please feel free to explain your response. (continued)

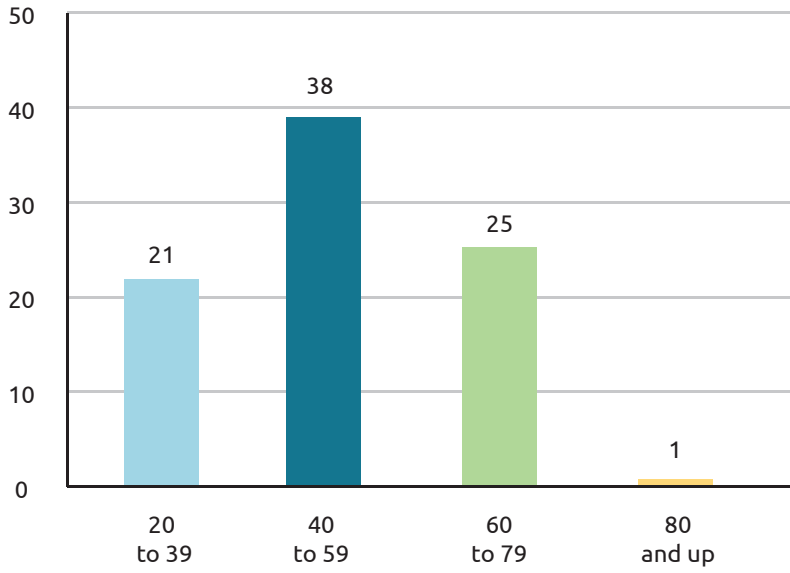
### Needs Some Work

- Focus budget priorities on core services and essential infrastructure.
- Address perceived inequities in capital investment between North Delta and South Delta.
- Expand the tax base by supporting appropriate residential and business growth.
- Increase transparency around employee compensation and staffing costs.
- Clarify long-term funding strategy for major recreation centres in each community.
- Consider community healthcare access, clinics, and school capacity when planning growth.
- Implement traffic-calming on key residential streets such as 48B Street and 42B Avenue.
- Limit tax increases and manage spending to avoid affordability impacts.
- Provide stronger planning for young families and future generations to maintain community livability.
- Consider moderating density to protect neighbourhood character and infrastructure capacity.
- Explore corporate sponsorships or partnerships to fund amenities such as bike parks, arenas, and dog parks.
- Consider divesting certain municipal services, such as cemeteries, where private operation may be effective.
- Increase investment in infrastructure and utilities ahead of growth.
- Consider flat-rate utility fees in place of meter increases.
- Prioritize replacement of ageing infrastructure over new amenities.
- Review management layers and staffing costs.
- Explore regional funding alternatives and limit cross-municipal subsidy for infrastructure.
- Plan more off-leash space for small-breed dogs as densification increases.
- Ensure recreation investment aligns with community growth in North Delta.
- Support playground upgrades at local schools through shared funding models.
- Prioritize arts and cultural infrastructure in South Delta.
- Avoid service cuts by improving cost efficiency if tax increases are limited.
- Continue prioritizing Sunshine Hills school playground renewal.

## 6. What is your location?



## 7. What is your age group?



## Attachment A: Communications and Engagement Timeline

| Date             | Action  |
|------------------|---|
| February – March | Community Satisfaction Survey   |
| May 5            | Council Presentation of Survey Results  |
| June – August    | Internal department presentations and review of Community Satisfaction Survey Results |
| October 2        | Media Briefing  |
| October 6        | Council Report and Presentation   |
| October 7        | Engagement Launch   |
| October 7        | News Release  |
| October 7        | Let's Talk Delta webpage  |
| October 7 – 30   | Social Media Campaign   |
| October 7        | Engagement Guide  |
| October 7        | Engagement Display  |
| October 9 - 30   | Readerboards  |
| October 16       | Newspaper Ad #1   |
| October 16       | E-Blast #2  |
| October 22       | Delta Chamber of Commerce Presentation  |
| October 23       | Newspaper Ad #2   |
| October 25       | E-Blast #3  |
| October 29       | Open House / Council Budget Workshop #1 – North Delta                                 |
| October 30       | Ladner Business Association Annual General Meeting                                    |
| October 30       | Open House / Council Budget Workshop #2 – South Delta                                 |
| October 30       | Engagement Ends   |
| November 6       | Engagement Summary Report   |

