

From: [van Dyk, Donny](#)
To: [Direct to Mayor and Council - DL](#)
Cc: [City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL](#); [LaClaire, Lon](#)
Subject: Memo - 2026 Operating Budget - \$8.3M Capital Top-Up
Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 3:34:39 PM
Attachments: [Memo - 2026 Operating Budget - \\$8.3M Capital Top-Up.pdf](#)
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Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- Council allocated \$8.3M from the 2023–26 Capital Plan for public realm upgrades such as street repairs, lighting improvements, and cleanliness efforts.
- Engineering Services proposed investments that deliver visible safety and public-realm improvements, support existing programs, and remain feasible given weather and major event constraints.
- A long-list of potential projects includes street marking refreshes, local street repaving, tree stump grinding, sidewalk and curb ramp repairs, Welcome to Vancouver sign maintenance, and enhanced public-realm cleaning teams.
- Additional targeted investments are planned for Chinatown and accelerated LED lighting upgrades, informed by community and BIA input.
- Next steps include refining the list, preparing budget adjustments for operating costs, and providing Council with a briefing in early 2026.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca.

Thanks,
Donny

Donny van Dyk (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətat (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

February 4, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Maria Pontikis, Chief of External Relations
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: 2026 Operating Budget - \$8.3M Capital Top-Up

RTS #: N/A

This memo provides a proposed breakdown for the capital and operating spend stemming from Council's allocation of \$8.3M to public realm upgrades in 2026.

Background

On Nov 25, 2025, Council voted to allocate \$8.3M from the 2023-26 Capital Plan to "capital project priorities aligned with core services such as filling potholes, repairing and replacing sidewalks, and improving LED street lamps and repainting poles, and other necessary public realm upgrades".

Proposed Approach

Engineering Services has undertaken an assessment to identify projects to achieve Council's direction. Together, those investments are intended to:

- Provide tangible and immediate benefits including safety and public realm experience;
- Amplify ongoing capital and operating programs; and
- Be operationally feasible, factoring-in weather conditions and major event restrictions.

Investment Long-List

The following long-list of investments was developed following an initial assessment. The magnitude of investment and specific locations will be selected and refined to align with the available budget, schedule, and resources.

Investment Type	Scope
Refresh Street Markings in Stadium Precinct	Refresh street markings in and around the Stadium precinct in advance of this summer's major events
Local Street Repaving	Resurface some high priority local streets to address deteriorating road condition. Streets to be chosen from the following long list of local street bike routes in poor condition (subject to review of utility and/or development conflicts): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prince Edward St: 20th Ave - 45th Ave • Dumfries St: 39th Ave - 54th Ave • 59th Ave: Ontario St - Sherbrooke St • Balaclava St: Southlands PI - Celtic Ave • Nanton Ave: Arbutus St - Cartier St
Accelerated Tree Stump Grinding	Allocate funds to supplement the Vancouver Park Board's stump grinding work. Assess all BIA's as well as other commercial streets and undertake as many as possible with the funding available
Sidewalk Repairs and Curb Ramps	Assess BIA areas to identify opportunities to address tree heaves and repair within the funding available. Supplement ongoing investment in new curb ramps to deliver an additional 100 requested or otherwise missing curb ramps.
Transition Slow Streets measures to permanent solutions	Remove some of the temporary Slow Street measures installed during the COVID-19 response (such as Slow Street gateways - known as <i>banana barriers</i>) and implement improved measures to manage the interface between arterials and bikeways such as improved signage and markings.
Welcome to Vancouver Signs maintenance	Conduct maintenance including cleaning, sand blasting, removing 2010 Olympic messaging and applying vinyl wrap on all "Welcome to Vancouver" signs in advance of this summer's major events.
Public Realm Cleaning	Add two City teams for detailed cleaning—pressure washing, vegetation removal, and sidewalk sweeping—with priority given to Downtown pedestrian and traffic corridors including roadways and back-alleys.
Supplementary investments in Chinatown	Targeted investments to improve safety and public realm experience in Chinatown based on input from the Chinatown BIA and the Chinatown Foundation, and subject to feasibility and funding availability (scope definition is underway – site visit with Chinatown partners took place on Jan 16, 2026)
LED Lighting	Adjust the implementation schedule for LED street lighting upgrades and receptacle installations to respond to BIA requests where feasible (e.g. Fraser Street)

Finance

Staff will include a recommendation in the upcoming capital quarterly budget adjustment to allocate funds toward the Engineering operating budget for public realm cleaning and refresh of street markings noted above.

Next steps

Staff will continue to refine and update this initial list. Concurrently, a Council briefing will be scheduled in early 2026 to allow for in-person questions and answers. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me directly.



Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering Services

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