In the November election, Shoreline voters passed Shoreline Proposition 1 to fund basic services including police, parks and community services. With a 72% voter turnout, Shoreline voters approved Proposition 1 by over 56%.

Proposition 1 asked voters to restore the City’s regular property tax levy rate to $1.48 per $1,000 of assessed value, which remains under the $1.60 legal limit.

“On behalf of the City Council, we are grateful for the support and trust of the Shoreline community,” Shoreline Mayor Keith McGlashan stated. “The community’s trust obligates us to continue to be good stewards of their tax dollars.”

“Speaking for City staff, we appreciate the community’s approval of Proposition 1. The community’s support reinforces our commitment to increasing efficiencies and providing exceptional customer service,” City Manager Robert Olander said.

The passage of Proposition 1 addresses the financial structural gap for 2011-2016, which was brought on by the 1% limit to increase property tax revenues. Property tax revenue is the City’s largest revenue source.

Council adopts 2011 Budget

On November 22 the City Council adopted the 2011 Budget. The budget consists of two major categories - $36.2 million operations budget and $33.7 million capital budget. The 2011 operations budget, net one-time accounting transfers, has decreased by 1% compared to the 2010 budget, while the City continues to experience increases in police and jail costs, health insurance premiums and state mandated retirement costs.

The cost to fund day-to-day City services, in inflation adjusted dollars, is approximately $461 per resident, nearly 10% lower than in 2000. The City has had to do more with less given that inflation has grown 28% since 2000.

Although Proposition 1 addresses the City’s structural revenue issues over the next six years, the City anticipates recessionary revenue declines for 2012 and 2013. While these projections are related to future budgets, the City Council believed it was prudent to capture savings in the 2011 budget to minimize the forecasted short-term gaps. As a result, the Council made additional line-item reductions and eliminated a vacant staff position for a total savings of approximately $145,000.

For more information about Proposition 1 or the 2011 Budget, visit the Finance Department page on the City’s website or contact Finance Director Debbie Tarry at (206) 801-2301 or dtarry@shorelinewa.gov.
Shoreline needs the community’s help to create a vision for a new park being planned for the Town Center area.

The park will be located in the green space surrounding the Interurban Trail between NE 175th and NE 185th Streets. It will become a key visual focal point for the future Town Center area. Imagine a public gathering space celebrating the City of Shoreline with unique lighting, abundant landscaping, casual seating, art and other amenities.

Now is the opportunity for the community to participate in creating the vision for that space, helping define Shoreline for years to come.

The first of three planning workshops is Tuesday, Jan. 25, at 6:30 p.m. Shoreline City Hall Council Chambers

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Managing Shoreline’s extensive storm drainage system and numerous stormwater facilities and monitoring water quality in the streams, wetlands and lakes in Shoreline are all part of the mission of the City’s Surface Water Utility.

The Utility needs the community’s input as it updates the Surface Water Master Plan, which helps guide its activities over the next six years.

To share information about Surface Water services and hear from the community about its priorities and concerns, the Utility is hosting an open house on Wednesday, Jan. 19. For more information, visit the Surface Water link at shorelinewa.gov/publicworks.
The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) has awarded Shoreline the remaining $1.9 million of the City's $7.4 million request it made in 2009 for funds from the federal government's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program for use on the Aurora Corridor Project.

PSRC awarded $5.5 million to the City last year and the remaining $1.9 million was placed on a contingency list of projects to receive funds as they became available. The money is for the final segment of the Aurora Corridor Project running from N 192nd Street to N 205th Street.

Every two years, PSRC is responsible for distributing federal highway and transit funds under the CMAQ program. These funds are distributed through a competitive process. CMAQ funds are available for specific categories of transportation projects and programs that improve air quality.

The cost to complete the N 192nd to N 205th Streets segment of Aurora is estimated to be between $24 and $31 million. To date, Shoreline has received approximately a quarter of the money needed from local, state and federal grants.

For more information, contact Transportation Services Manager Kirk McKinley at (206) 801-2481 or kmckinley@shorelinewa.gov.
Prepare for winter weather in Shoreline

Forecasters are predicting a colder and wetter than average winter for the Pacific Northwest. This means more rain, wind, ice and snow. Throughout the year, the City prepares for winter weather. The City asks residents to do the same.

Snow Removal

When it snows, City plows will concentrate their efforts on main roads (primary routes) first to accommodate fire, medical and police response, as well as Metro transit, school buses and commuter traffic. Primary routes include roads such as Aurora, 15th Avenue NE, N 155th, N 175th, N 185th and N 205th Streets. As long as it continues to snow, the City will only plow primary routes.

Once the snow has stopped and all primary routes are clear, plows will move to secondary roads. Once the secondary roads are cleared, plows will move into neighborhoods.

If at any time it starts snowing again while plows are clearing secondary or neighborhood streets, the plows will return to the primary routes and the process of clearing streets will start over.

While the City will eventually get to all streets, it is possible that it might take several days after the final snow before residents may see a plow on their street. Snow plowing route maps are available to view at shorelinewa.gov.

Property Owner Responsibilities

Shoreline property owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice off driveways and sidewalks near their property, including the ridge of snow left along the edge of driveways by snow plows. The City will not plow driveways.

Property owners that plow snow or have it removed from their property should not place the snow in the public right-of-way. This is illegal and can lead to hazardous conditions for the traveling public. Property owners must accommodate removed snow on their own property or make arrangements to have the snow removed to another location.

Property owners should also help clear catch basins to make way for runoff from melting snow and avoid pooling water.

The City encourages residents to stay home during a heavy snow storm unless there is an emergency. If residents must travel, the City asks that they use public transportation whenever possible.

Garbage & Recycling Pick-up

Icy streets may prevent CleanScapes from collecting garbage and recycling on designated days. To learn more about its adverse weather and holiday policies, visit the website at cleanscapes.com or call (206) 763-4444.

Flood Preparedness

Another winter weather concern is flooding. Many parts of King County flood every year, including areas that have no history of floods. Preparing in advance will save you time and reduce risks to your family and property.

One of the most important things that you can do to help prevent flooding is to ensure storm drains remain clear in your neighborhood. Clearing leaves and debris from storm drains will reduce the risk of drainage problems.

Flood Insurance

Another way to protect your home is to purchase flood insurance. A standard homeowner insurance policy will not cover flood damage. However, all Shoreline residents are eligible for flood insurance. Contact your insurance agent or learn more about flood insurance at floodsmart.gov.

For more information on how to prepare for winter weather, visit the City’s website.

Did you know?

Many salt-based products used to de-ice your driveway and sidewalks can kill vegetation and aquatic life, make your pet sick if ingested in large quantities and possibly irritate your pet’s paws. Look for products that say pet-friendly or water safe. Typically, these contain more glycols, sugar and corn by-products. For more information, contact Environmental Programs Assistant Tina Han at (206) 801-2433 or than@shorelinewa.gov.

Protect your pipes

Every winter, frozen pipes cause damage in homes, apartments and businesses. To avoid this from happening to you, keep your heat on at least 40 degrees, especially when on vacation. When frozen pipes thaw they cause cracks, floods, and numerous 9-1-1 calls.
What makes Shoreline and its residents healthy? Obesity and its related diseases, such as diabetes, have significant impacts on the health of many communities in Washington and across the nation. However, through years of research the elements of a healthy community are well understood. They include:

1. Having access to and eating healthy foods.
2. Getting enough exercise.
3. Physically building a community that supports residents’ exercise and walking.

The City is already doing a great deal in creating a physical environment that makes walking and exercise easier. Shoreline has extensive recreation offerings, ready access to parks and trails and land use plans that call for new developments to be pedestrian friendly. Other community organizations also offer opportunities for physical activity from the Shoreline School District to sports leagues to the YMCA. Schools are also offering healthier food as compared to years past.

Even with all these opportunities there is still room for improvement to create a healthier place to raise children.

In October, City Council asked staff to assemble a team of community members and partner organizations to develop a Healthy City Strategy. The Strategy will outline a program of specific activities the City can undertake to support Shoreline residents in becoming healthier. The process will take place over the first half of 2011.

Visit the City’s website to learn more about different healthy community strategies, such as First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move Initiative. For more information, contact Community Services Manager Rob Beem at (206) 801-2251 or rbeem@shorelinewa.gov.

Help keep bus stops and shelters in good condition: Report problems

The King County Metro Transit system is one of the largest transit systems in the nation and includes 9,200 bus stops and 1,568 bus shelters. Ensuring these bus stops and shelters are well maintained requires significant effort. Residents can help by reporting problems directly to Metro. To report problems such as graffiti, broken shelter glass and benches, excessive garbage, or damaged and missing transit signs call the Metro hotline at (206) 263-6369 or visit metro.kingcounty.gov/cs/FeedbackBusShelter.htm.
Have you ever captured an amazing Shoreline image and wished you could show it to more people in the community? Whether your great Shoreline photos are of people, wildlife, landscapes or unique places, here’s your opportunity to share them with the rest of Shoreline.

The City is looking for images that exemplify “Our Shoreline.” Your “Our Shoreline” photos may fall into one or more categories including: People; Animals and Wildlife; Nature and Landscapes; and Places (examples include parks, trails or storefronts). Submitted photos may be featured in an issue of Currents, the Parks and Recreation Guide, the City’s government access TV channel or the City’s website.

To share an image, go to shorelinewa.gov/photos and use the upload tool.

Contact Communications Assistant Tavia Tan at ttan@shorelinewa.gov or (206) 801-2226 if you have questions or comments.

Our Shoreline Photos: Top is X by Dorrena Orteg; left is Echo Lake Fog by Tom Downer; and immediately above is Stoic Statue by Nick Wishaar.

Changes to Public Comment Procedures

At its December 13 meeting, the Shoreline City Council adopted modifications to the Council Rules of Procedure relating to public comment during Council meetings.

All public comment will now be taken at the beginning of both study sessions and business meetings. Individuals may speak to agenda items or any other issue they wish.

The new rules have public comment at study sessions and business meetings mirror each other.

Use of public comment to promote or oppose any candidate for public office is still prohibited.

If you are unable to attend a council meeting, you may comment electronically on agenda items by submitting a comment form found on the Council agenda page of the City’s website.

To learn more about public comment procedures at Council meetings and how to correspond with the Council in general, visit the City’s website.

Keep dogs on leash or visit an off-leash area

Richmond Beach Saltwater Park Seasonal Dog Off-Leash Area, located at the south end of the beach, is open for seasonal use through March 15. The Shoreview Dog Off-Leash Area, located at 320 NW Innis Arden Way, is open year round.

To ensure dogs are leashed in the City’s other parks, animal control officers patrol and issue citations. Please keep your dog on leash to avoid being cited.

New on the web:

- Legal assistance page – visit shorelinewa.gov/city attorney
- Most visited City webpages – under the Community tab
- News about Shoreline - under the Business/Economic Development tab
The largest and most valuable infrastructure asset the City of Shoreline owns is its streets. Maintaining a safe and reasonably good surface requires the City to constantly invest in its upkeep.

As with anything exposed to the elements, pavement quality will slowly deteriorate over time, reaching a point when it eventually has to be replaced. However, with proper maintenance, total replacement can be put off for years. The recent price of oil has forced shortages in asphalt products with prices nearly doubling in just five years. In the past, the City had largely relied upon the use of thin asphalt overlays to maintain streets. This approach provided a relatively quick application along with added structural strength and a smooth riding surface. However, with limited funding and increasing costs, this approach is not financially sustainable.

In 2011, Shoreline will begin an extensive Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST) program where the City will be divided into approximately ten sections, with one section being treated each year. A more economical alternative to asphalt overlays, BST consists of aggregate (small rock) spread over rapidly setting asphalt solution and then rolled to lock it in place. Finally, a finely-sprayed asphalt product is applied to bind the surface. Vehicles may drive on this initial application later that same day. The final sweeping and surface treatment happens a few days later. By using BSTs, the City is able to stretch its resources while still maintaining pavement quality.

For more information, contact Operations Manager Jesus Sanchez at (206) 801-2421 or jsanchez@shorelinewa.gov.