

# Colwood Connection

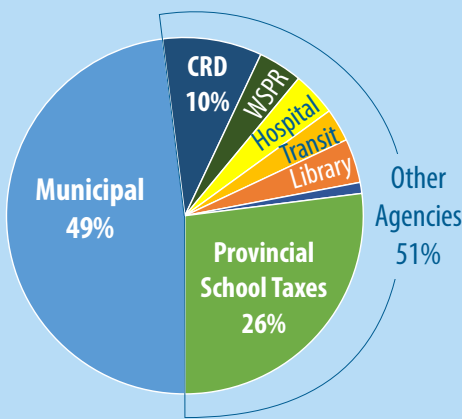
Involving you in decisions about our vibrant seaside community.

May 2020

City Hall is open BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please pay taxes online or by mail. Stay home. Stay healthy.

## Less than half of your tax bill is municipal tax.

51% of the charges on your property tax bill are collected for **OTHER AGENCIES** over which the City has no direct control. It all goes on one tax notice so you don't have to deal with multiple bills.



Your property value as determined by BC Assessment is factored into your tax calculation. If your property's value increased more than the average for Colwood, the municipal portion of your tax bill may increase.

## Zero tax increase for 2020: COVID-19 Relief

Colwood Council will not increase municipal taxes in 2020, recognizing the financial stress the current pandemic has created for many residents facing layoffs, reduced hours and business closures.

The City will also bring forward a plan to align commercial tax rates with the regional average over the next five years, to support Colwood businesses in a strong economic recovery.

## Adjustments to due dates and penalties

Property taxes are due July 2, 2020, but there will be no late payment penalty for **residential properties** until August 1 (5%) and then October 1 (5%).

For **commercial properties**, penalties won't apply until October 1st (10%) to allow businesses to reopen, rehire laid off employees and get back to business.

## Ongoing City services & steady tax rates

### How did the City hold taxes at 0%?

To bring the rate down from the proposed 3.5% to 0%, several service level increases will be deferred until 2021, the 1% that is usually set aside for future sustainable infrastructure replacement will be held back this year, and several transfers to reserves will be delayed until 2021.

### Will this mean reduced services

**in 2020?** Current levels of service are expected to be maintained, while following the direction of the Provincial Health Officer with respect to pandemic response and recovery.

### Will taxes jump in future years?

Colwood's Financial Plan is a 5-year plan which budgets to 2024. For 2021 the plan proposes moving closer to what was originally proposed in 2020, at around 4%. [www.colwood.ca/Budget](http://www.colwood.ca/Budget)

### Does this mean no improvements

**in 2020?** Most of the planned capital projects are funded by grants. Therefore, several projects are expected to proceed:

- Roundabout at Latoria + VMP
- Upgrades at Allandale + VMP
- Design work for upgrades along Metchosin Road and Sooke Road
- Sidewalk, cycling + crosswalk plans

Flip for more projects

# What City projects are planned in 2020-2024?

Here are *a few examples* based on Colwood's key Strategic Priorities:



## Mobility

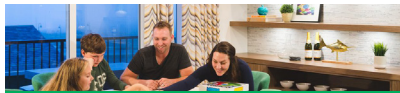
- Transportation Master Plan Update
- Roads Paving Program
- Sidewalk and Bike Lane Plan
- Crosswalk + Transit Improvements
- Roundabout at Latoria + VMP
- Road works at Allandale + VMP
- Design works for upgrades along Sooke, Metchosin & Painter Roads
- Technology to measure + relieve traffic



## Governance

- Dam Safety Upgrades at Lookout Lake
- Sewer Master Plan
- Stormwater Master Plan
- Service Inventory + Service Levels
- Low Carbon Resiliency Plan
- Sustainable Infrastructure Plan and full asset life cycling accounting

See more at [Colwood.ca/StrategicPriorities](https://www.colwood.ca/StrategicPriorities)



## Prosperity

- No tax increase in 2020
- Realign commercial tax rate
- Household Prosperity Study
- Regular meetings with businesses
- Benchmark the costs of development
- Public Realm Improvement Plans for Colwood Corners + the Waterfront
- Update Land Use Bylaw
- Update Economic Dev Strategy



## Vibrance

- Parks & Recreation Master Plan [Get involved at Colwood.ca/Parks](https://www.colwood.ca/Parks)
- Roadway Beautification Plan
- Enhanced Signage and Wayfinding
- Social + Cultural Needs Assessment
- Events Plan + Volunteer Plan
- Explore possibility of an arts centre
- Heritage Strategy
- Affordable Housing Policy



Colwood, BC

[colwood.ca](https://www.colwood.ca)

[@cityofcolwood](https://twitter.com/cityofcolwood)

## Focus on recovery

We've been talking to Colwood businesses about how we can work together toward a strong economic recovery. Next we'll reach out to residents to understand what they need to ensure household prosperity. Some first steps:

- ZERO tax increase for 2020
- Easing tax due dates + penalties
- Align business tax to regional average
- Work with federal, provincial and regional partners to link relief to the specific needs of Colwood
- Continue City services required to keep development moving
- Business roundtable discussions
- Household prosperity study
- Encourage people to support Colwood businesses!

See more at [Colwood.ca/BusinessRecovery](https://www.colwood.ca/BusinessRecovery)

## Property tax due July 2, 2020

### 1. Claim your homeowner grant:

Online only at [Colwood.ca/PropertyTax](https://www.colwood.ca/PropertyTax)

### 2. Pay one of several ways:

- Through online or phone banking
- 24 hour drop box at City Hall
- Mail to 3300 Wishart Rd. V9C 1R1
- Through your mortgage lender
- At your banking institution
- Tax deferral program
- BY APPOINTMENT at City Hall: Call 250-478-5999 \*No Cash\*

PLEASE PAY ONLINE or BY MAIL  
Stay home. Stay safe.

## Connect with Colwood

We want to make it easy for you to have a say in decisions about our vibrant waterfront community.

Get in touch, share ideas, and get involved.

Phone: 250-478-5999

Online: [www.colwood.ca](https://www.colwood.ca)

Email: [info@colwood.ca](mailto:info@colwood.ca)

Requests: [colwood.ca/ActionRequest](https://www.colwood.ca/ActionRequest)

Engage: [LetsTalkColwood.ca](https://www.LetsTalkColwood.ca)

Subscribe: [colwood.ca/subscribe](https://www.colwood.ca/subscribe)

Social: [@CityofColwood](https://twitter.com/CityofColwood)

## Easing COVID-19 restrictions

Thank you for your patience as we took steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

We're proud to be part of a community that acted quickly, stayed calm and showed kindness as leaders worked to keep people safe and healthy during this pandemic.

As access to parking areas at parks and beaches opens up, please continue to stay home if you feel sick, maintain physical distance, and wash hands frequently.

Share your thoughts about the future of Ocean Boulevard

Go to [www.LetsTalkColwood/OceanBlvd](https://www.LetsTalkColwood/OceanBlvd)