



— Township of —  
**GEORGIAN  
BLUFFS**

*"Come for the views, Stay for a lifetime"*



**From Input to Action:**

# **2024 Budget**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND  
SURVEY RESULTS**

November 15, 2023 | Samantha Buchanan, Treasurer

# SUMMARY

- On July 19, 2023, staff presented the 2024 Proposed Budget Guideline and Schedule which included a 2024 Budget Survey which was open until September 30, 2023.
- On August 24, 2023, Georgian Bluffs hosted the Engage GB: Connect and Collaborate event with various topics, one being the 2024 Budget.
- Feedback has been gathered via written correspondence, an in-person engagement event and an online survey.



# METHODOLOGY

## DISTRIBUTION



Online survey was available on EngageGB from August 25 to September 30, 2023.

Hard copy surveys were available at each Township recreation centre and the Administration Office during the same period.

In-person engagement was held at the Engage GB: Connect and Collaborate event on August 24, 2023.

A News Release, local newspaper ads and social media promotion were utilized to promote the survey and encourage participation.

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84 residents provided responses to the survey.

100 community members participated in the Engage GB event, unknown how many participated in the Budget session.

Some community members may have participated in all forms of above engagement.



## RESPONSE

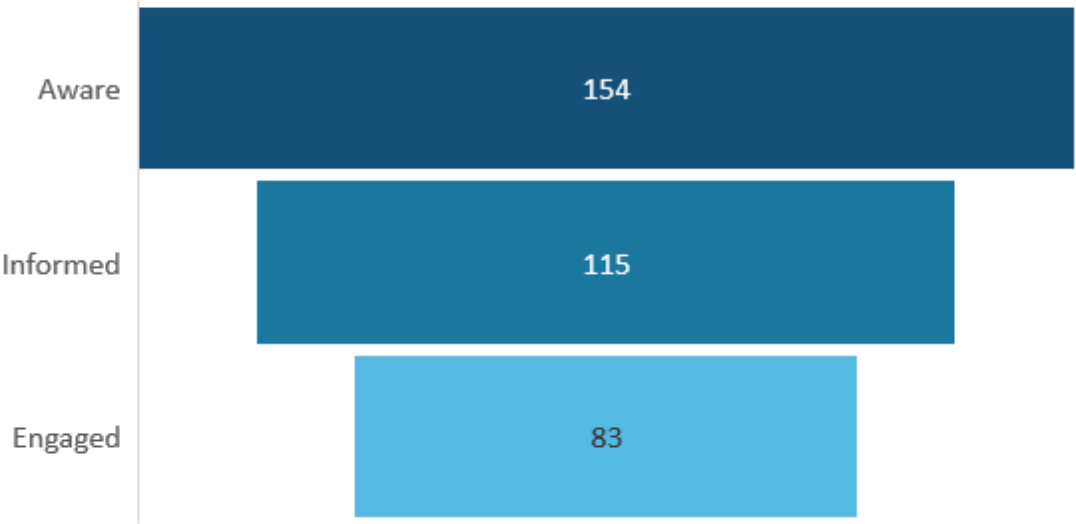
# ENGAGE GB PROJECT SUMMARY

## REACH: UNDETERMINED

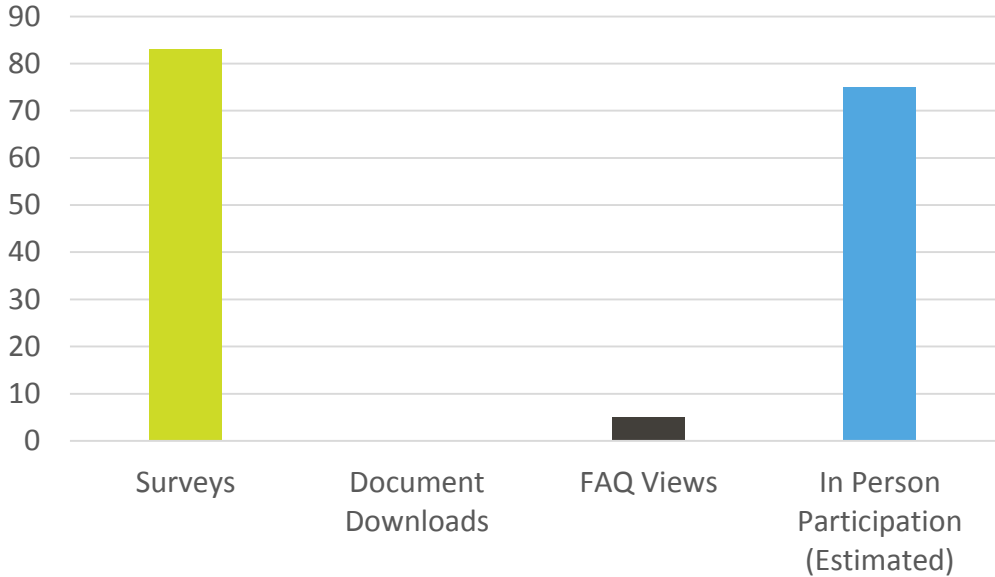
\*Website views and social media post reach rounded to nearest 50.



Engage GB Engagement Level



Tool Participation Rates



## TOOL SUMMARY

# ABOUT ENGAGEMENT RATES

These results are not meant to be a statistically representative sample of the community.

**Response/Self Selection Bias:** The survey sample is not selected randomly nor weighted to represent the demographics of the community. Those with a high level of personal interest in the topic are more likely to take part, while those with low interest or who are satisfied with the current direction will not.

Individuals with extreme or strongly held views on a controversial topic may be more likely to self-select into taking the survey. Those with more ambivalent or less certain opinions may choose not to participate.

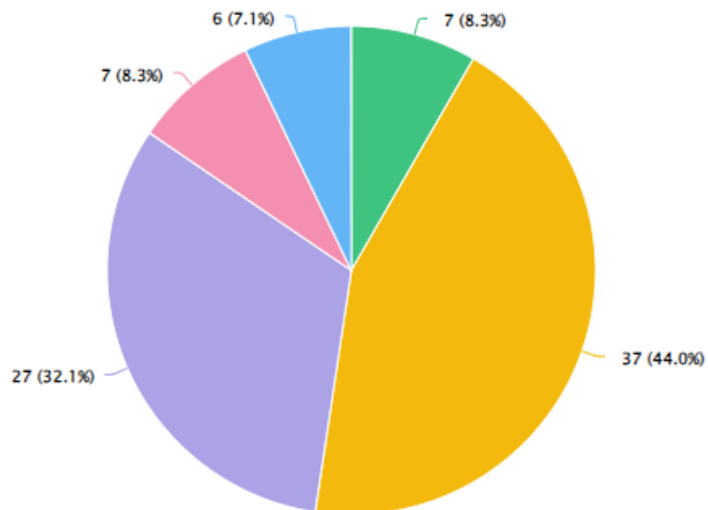


# Questions and Results

How would you describe the overall value of services you receive for the tax dollar you pay?

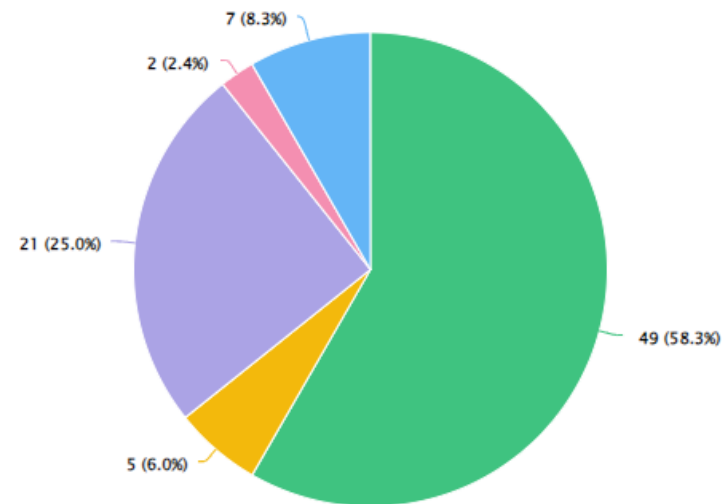
Question options  
(Click items to hide)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very poor



Question options  
(Click items to hide)

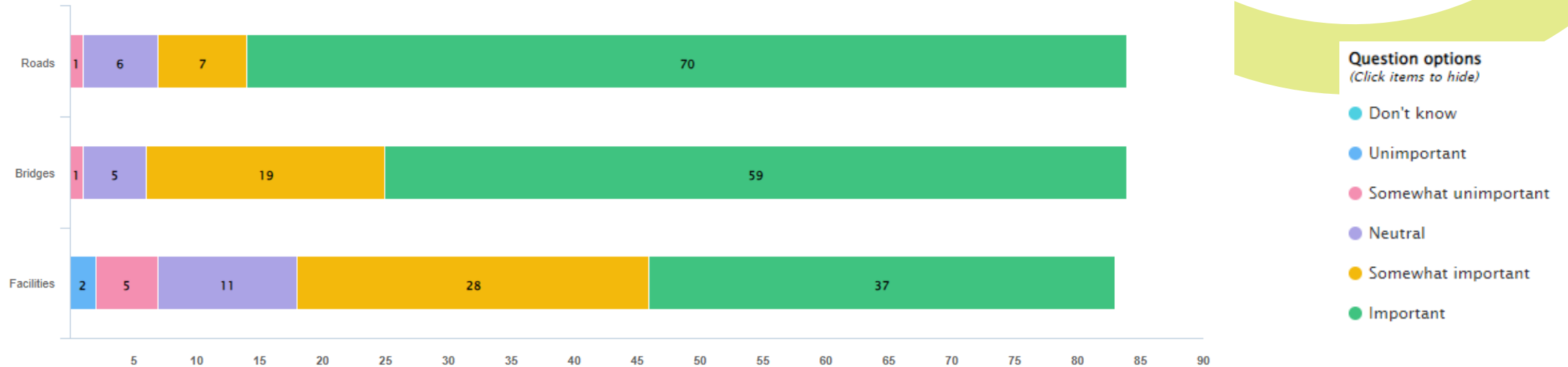
- Other (please specify)
- Don't know
- A one-time initiative to help keep the Township's infrastructure in a good state of repair
- A one-time initiative to support strategic or climate actions
- Sustainability and affordability of the Township's finances (e.g. reducing debt, next year tax levy, or put in reserves for future projects/endeavors)



There is a preference that any surplus funds be used for the sustainability and affordability of the Township's finances

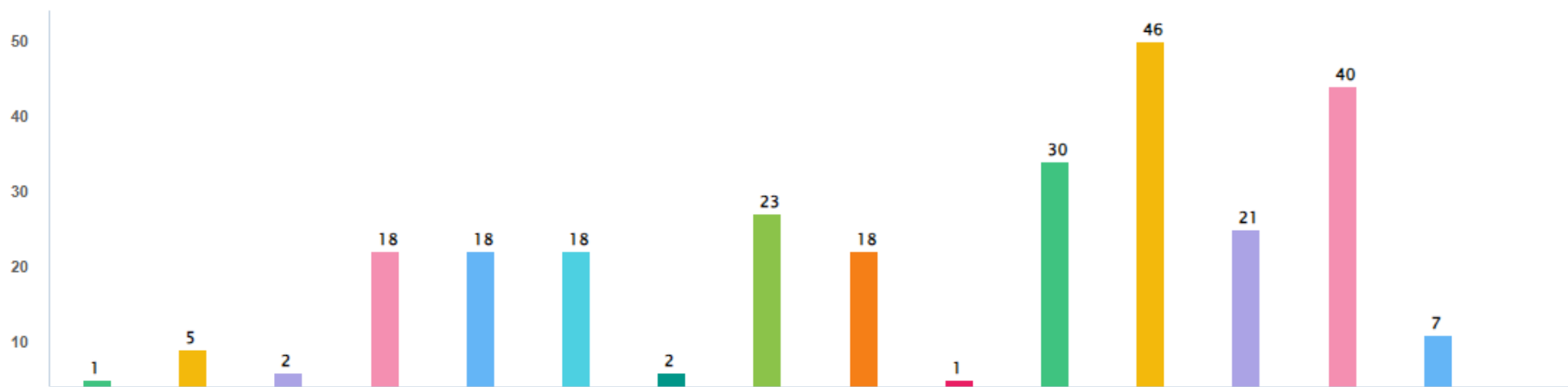
# Questions and Results

As the Township's infrastructure is used/ages, how important is it to you that funding is set aside to replace infrastructure to ensure existing levels of services can be provided in future years?



# Questions and Results

Top 3 service areas for the Township to focus tax dollars on:



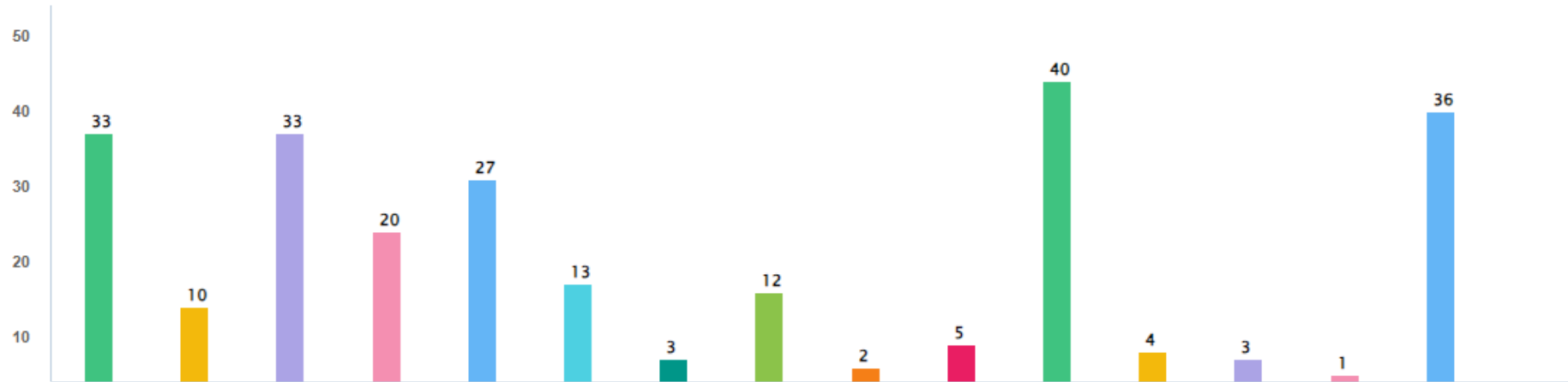
Question options  
(Click items to hide)

- Cemeteries
- Subdivision expansion and planning
- Street maintenance
- Solid waste and recycling collection
- Roadway snow removal and ice control
- Recreation and community centres
- Public transit
- Police services
- Parks
- Libraries
- Fire services
- Economic development
- Climate change
- Biodigester
- Assessment and taxation
- Animal control



# Questions and Results

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Question options  
(Click items to hide)

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# WHAT WE HEARD

Key Themes Emerging from the Online Engagement



## INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAINTENANCE

This theme encompasses concerns about road conditions, snow removal, infrastructure maintenance, and safety.

It is a top priority for many.



## RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Respondents emphasized the significance of recreational facilities, parks, and community centers for residents of all age groups.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic growth and attracting businesses are identified as crucial for the community's prosperity. This includes the need for incentives to encourage a variety of shops and businesses.



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Respondents express the importance of addressing climate change, environmental sustainability, stormwater management, and water and sewer services.

# WHAT WE HEARD

Key Themes Emerging from the Online Engagement



## SAFETY AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Public safety services, such as fire and police, are essential for a safe and peaceful community.



## WASTE MANAGEMENT

Improved waste management, including recycling, compost collection, and proper garbage disposal facilities, is a concern for many.



## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Respondents value more public engagement, consultation, and transparent communication regarding township decisions and actions.



## COLLABORATION WITH OWEN SOUND

Better collaboration between the Township and the City of Owen Sound is suggested to ensure affordable and quality services, job creation, and population growth.

# TAKE AWAYS

Overall, there were many comments provided both through the budget survey and in person at the Engage GB: Connect and Collaborate event putting a high importance on ensuring we have sufficient funding set aside for our roads, bridges and facility centers.

With a tax dollar focus on roadway snow removal and ice control, street maintenance, and recreational and community centers; and on the other side participants expressed an opposition to tax dollars being spent of public transit, subdivision expansion and planning, animal control and the biodigester.





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**THANK YOU**

[LINK TO FULL REPORT DATA IN APPENDICES](#)