

City of South Bend

Budget Feedback

2022

BUILD THE BUDGET

In 2020, the City passed a \$350+ million budget. How would you make your community stronger with \$350 million?

- Violence Intervention Initiatives
- Sustainable, Green Infrastructure
- Attract and Retain Business to
- Partner with Local Providers to Reduce Infant Mortality and Health Disparities
- Repair and Resurface Roadways
- Small Business
- Expand Access to Affordable Housing
- Local Skill Building Programs for
- Attract Grocers to Local Food Deserts
- Maintain Water and Wastewater Utility
- Opportunity Fund for Underrepresented
- Develop and Improve City Parks and Trails
- Accessible Housing for Homelessness
- Support Immigration of New Residents and Engage with Immigrant Communities
- Public WiFi
- Promote Diversity and Inclusion in City Contracts
- Improve Major Neighborhood
- Economic Empowerment
- Other

Published September 27, 2021

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**BUILD
THE
BUDGET**



Letter from the Mayor



Dear Neighbor,

This year, the City team instituted our new “Build the Budget” engagement program to encourage public feedback on the 2022 budget.

This process included hosting public meetings, collecting and processing hundreds of voicemails, analyzing online response, and hosting budget-themed games at community events.

I’m pleased to say that this budget has received more feedback and engagement from residents than any prior budget cycle, with more than 800 resident engagements.

This report will share with you some of the major takeaways from the different facets of the Build the Budget program, and I hope will help you in the decision-making process on the 2022 budget.

Thanks to federal resources from the American Rescue Plan, this budget includes transformative investments in historically underserved neighborhoods, affordable housing, neighborhood infrastructure, violence intervention, and community centers.

These investments will build stronger neighborhoods, expand access to opportunity, advance equity, and make South Bend a safer city for everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Mueller". The signature is written in a cursive style.

James Mueller
Mayor, City of South Bend

“I would like to see some of that money being used for a senior center for seniors. South Bend has nothing to offer the seniors and they need a place to go, too. Just because they are older people it doesn’t mean they don’t want to go out for a little enjoyment. Thank you so much. I went to the meeting at Pinhook and thought it went real well. Thank you again and have a nice day.”

- Voicemail 55

“I definitely think development in the Black Community is very needed...in terms of housing renewal, development, using youth or black targeted people for jobs to help with renovations, black contractors or resources to develop jobs for the black community to reinvest in their own community...I’m not an African American, but I would love to see those disparities narrowed in housing, economics, education. I would like to see a wide investment in that area.”

- Voicemail 16

the City spend
American Rescue

Executive Summary

The City of South Bend spends hundreds of millions of dollars each year on everything from streets to public safety to new computers. In the 2020 budget, the City allocated \$468,612 of salt for the roads in winter. \$1.5 million was spent on electricity for streetlights. \$2.3 million was spent on emergency COVID-19 support. Influencing the budget means influencing the future of our city – how much we pave, what we repair, and how our neighborhoods are supported.

Unfortunately, resident involvement has been low in past budget cycles. Sometimes only 1-2 residents would come to a budget hearing. This isn't because residents don't care about their city or the budget. Traditional ways of engagement often required people to go out of their way to meet the City where we were instead of the other way around.

For the 2022 budget season the City of South Bend launched the "Build the Budget" initiative to increase resident engagement on the budget planning process. Our goal was to try new things, dramatically increase the volume of feedback ahead of American Rescue Act spending and demystify the annual budget process itself. Using games, an online form, voicemails, and community meetings, we deployed several ways for residents to voice their ideas and build the budget.

In total we had **807** resident engagements:

140 online survey responses

228 in-person budget game participants

115 attendees of the Mayor's Community
Action Group Discussions

324 voicemails collected by 311

Executive Summary

Across the 807 engagements, several themes surfaced over and over:

Respondents want **well-maintained infrastructure**. Residents want to invest in and improve city infrastructure. 69 voicemails mentioned street repair. This was the most popular voicemail topic. Online survey respondents prioritized roadway repaving and repair for the 2022 budget cycle.

South Bend residents want **safe, beautiful neighborhoods**. In voicemails, games, and online responses, residents articulated a desire to invest in shared assets in our neighborhoods. Specifically, sidewalks, streetlights, lighting, and alleys.

Survey respondents want **housing support and resources – especially for the homeless**. Residents expressed concern about potential evictions and expressed support for permanent supportive housing.

Across investments and programs, residents want **systemic inequities addressed**. Residents, especially those engaging in person at Community Action Group Meetings, expressed concern over inequitable investments as well as diversity in city contracts and purchasing.

This report goes into further detail about the themes and information collected.

If you have ideas to improve budget engagement ahead of next budget season so we can get engagement numbers up even more, please email sbit@southbendin.gov.





How Residents Built the Budget

The Online Survey

140 residents submitted a completed online survey, getting to the survey via QR code or shared link. Our hope was to deploy an online feedback opportunity that would be easy and fast for residents that were too busy to attend an in-person hearing or community action group.

The goal of the survey was to prompt residents' preferences when managing a limited amount of funds. Residents were asked to allocate a fictional \$100 across several budget priorities and another fictional \$100 across American Rescue Act priority areas. Residents were also presented with a list of investment areas, asking which ones the city should increase, maintain, or reduce.

[See the appendix to see a PDF of the online survey.](#)

How Residents Built the Budget

Community Action Groups

115 residents attended three Community Action Groups (CAG) in August of 2021:

- August 5, 2021 at the MLK Center
- August 12, 2021 at Pinhook Park
- August 17, 2021 at Howard Park



Residents and City staff volunteered to facilitate these meetings and lead focus groups for budget feedback.

See the appendix for the facilitation guide that the CAG volunteers used. Also see the appendix for a comprehensive list of specific ideas mentioned at the CAG meetings.

How Residents Built the Budget

311 Voicemails

Residents also had the option to leave a voicemail via 311 with an idea for the 2022 budget or American Rescue Funds. By the end of the day on September 17th (when feedback was closed), the City had received **324 budget feedback voicemails**. Each voicemail was listened to by a city staffer, coded by category/priority topic, and transcribed for analysis.



City Business Analysts listening to and coding each voicemail

How Residents Built the Budget

Build the Budget Envelope Walls

To mirror the information collection of the online survey, the City created two interactive envelope walls to display at public events. Participating residents each received \$200 in fake bills to allocate across priority categories listed in the online survey. \$100 of their dollars could be spent on the American Rescue Plan categories and \$100 for the strategic spending categories in the 2022 annual budget.



The envelope walls went to **6 public events** in August: Westside Wednesday, First Friday (Downtown), Community Action Group in Howard Park, Community Action Group in Pinhook Park, Community Action Group in Martin Luther King Jr. Center, and the Venues Parks and Arts Community Check-in at Pinhook Park.

Each budget wall was **completed 288 times**, allocating \$57,600 in fake money.

How Residents Built the Budget

Budget Trivia Game

While it didn't collect feedback, the budget trivia game was an eye-catching, fun way for residents to learn a fun fact about the city budget. Residents spun the budget trivia wheel, landed on a category, and had an opportunity to answer a question and win a "Build the Budget" t-shirt.

Sample Trivia Question: How many tons of trash does the City pick up in a week? Over or under 100 tons? Answer: Over! 568 tons of trash are collected per week by the solid waste team in Public Works.

This game didn't help us learn about resident priorities, but it turned out to be an effective way to draw people into a conversation about the city budget and quickly demonstrate its scale and importance. Often, after playing, residents completed the online survey or participated in the envelope walls.



“I would like to see the money benefit children. They are our future. The more we can do for them now the more they can do for us later. Thank you! “

- Voicemail 45

“I think the money should be used on police and community relations. There’s a lot of unrest in the community as far as policemen are concerned. I love our policemen and I think there should be more understanding as far as that’s concerned. It also can be used on roads. A lot of our roads are terrible. The rescue relief money could be used on medical bills for people who are low income, especially for people who don’t work...”

- Voicemail 24

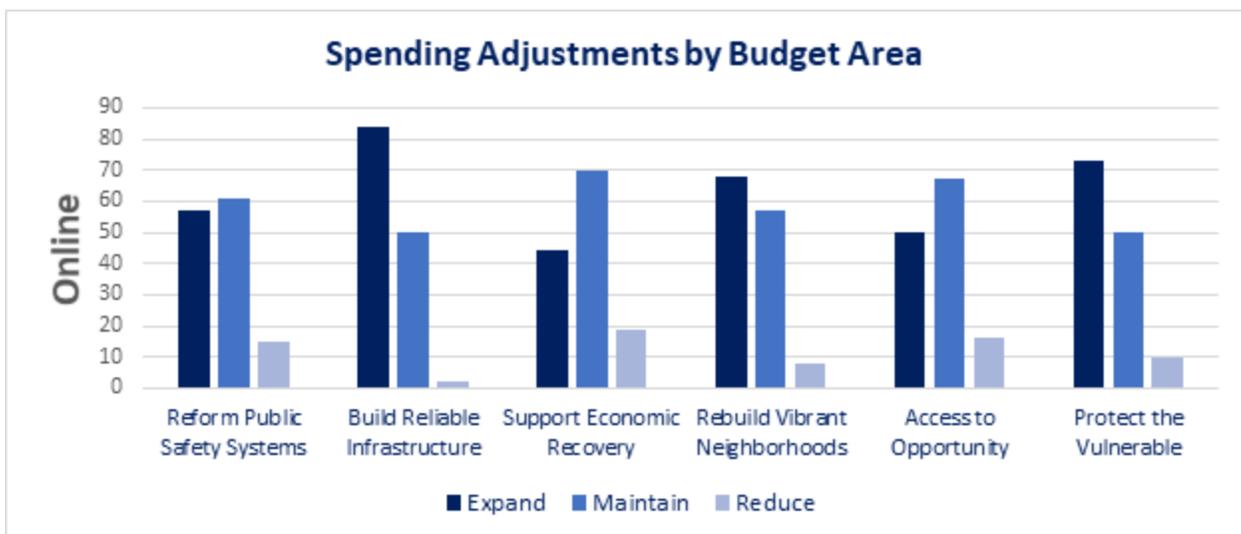
Resident Feedback

Online Survey Results

For context, below is a breakdown of the online responses by council district for the online survey. Districts 1 and 4 had the most engagement.

District	Responses
District 1	40
District 2	18
District 3	19
District 4	33
District 5	19
District 6	11
Grand Total	140

When asked whether to expand, maintain, or reduce broad budget areas, survey responses were:



Resident Feedback

Build reliable infrastructure was the response with the most answers to expand, and least to reduce.

When asked how American Rescue Plan federal dollars should be spent, survey respondents prioritized permanent housing and support for the homeless population, public safety, and the demolition of vacant commercial buildings. See the top ten categories in the charts below.



When you break the American Rescue Funding priorities down by district, however, you see how various neighborhoods across the city have differing opinions. While there is a good deal of overlap in each top ten list, each district had a different top priority. See pages 17-19 for reference.

Resident Feedback

American Rescue Plan Top 10 Categories by District

District 1

Rank	Strategic Priorities	Average \$	Total \$
1	Improve major neighborhood roadways	\$10	\$494
2	Accessible housing for homelessness	\$8	\$454
3	Maintain safe, reliable water and wastewater utility	\$8	\$379
4	Expand violence intervention initiatives	\$8	\$279
5	Invest in sustainable, green infrastructure improvements	\$7	\$268
6	Repair and resurface roadways	\$7	\$251
7	Expand access to affordable housing	\$7	\$236
8	Partner with SBSC to progress our public schools	\$7	\$226
9	Develop and Improve City Parks and Trails	\$6	\$222
10	Support small businesses' recovery	\$6	\$208

District 2

Rank	Strategic Priorities	Average \$	Total \$
1	Violence intervention	\$13	\$232
2	Demo of vacant commercial buildings	\$12	\$207
3	Street lighting	\$8	\$138
4	Home repair	\$8	\$136
5	Curbs & sidewalks	\$7	\$134
6	Public safety	\$6	\$112
7	Home ownership assistance	\$6	\$111
8	Permanent housing and support for homelessness	\$6	\$106
9	Lead remediation	\$5	\$93
10	Workforce Development	\$5	\$88

Resident Feedback

American Rescue Plan Top 10 Categories by District

District 3

Rank	Strategic Priorities	Average \$	Total \$
1	Permanent housing and support for homelessness	\$22	\$435
2	Community assets, such as neighborhood centers	\$8	\$169
3	Lead remediation	\$7	\$135
4	Traffic calming	\$6	\$129
5	Demo of vacant commercial buildings	\$6	\$123
6	Curbs & sidewalks	\$6	\$121
7	Public safety	\$6	\$113
8	New construction	\$5	\$102
9	Home repair	\$5	\$94
10	Opportunity funds for small businesses	\$5	\$91

District 4

Rank	Strategic Priorities	Average \$	Total \$
1	Public safety	\$16	\$523
2	Permanent housing and support for homelessness	\$9	\$290
3	Violence intervention	\$9	\$285
4	Demo of vacant commercial buildings	\$8	\$278
5	Community assets, such as neighborhood centers	\$8	\$258
6	Traffic calming	\$8	\$254
7	Curbs & sidewalks	\$7	\$226
8	Opportunity funds for small businesses	\$6	\$210
9	Lead remediation	\$4	\$145
10	Street lighting	\$4	\$139

Resident Feedback

American Rescue Plan Top 10 Categories by District

District 5

Rank	Strategic Priorities	Average \$	Total \$
1	Curbs & sidewalks	\$14	\$261
2	Opportunity funds for small businesses	\$13	\$255
3	Permanent housing and support for homelessness	\$11	\$215
4	Traffic calming	\$9	\$177
5	Demo of vacant commercial buildings	\$9	\$164
6	Public safety	\$7	\$129
7	Home repair	\$6	\$105
8	Home ownership assistance	\$5	\$102
9	Community assets, such as neighborhood centers	\$4	\$80
10	Street lighting	\$4	\$80

District 6

Rank	Strategic Priorities	Average \$	Total \$
1	Demo of vacant commercial buildings	\$16	\$180
2	Public safety	\$11	\$120
3	Traffic calming	\$8	\$90
4	Home repair	\$7	\$80
5	Curbs & sidewalks	\$7	\$75
6	Opportunity funds for small businesses	\$6	\$70
7	Home ownership assistance	\$5	\$60
8	Workforce Development	\$5	\$50
9	Permanent housing and support for homelessness	\$4	\$40
10	Violence intervention	\$4	\$40

Resident Feedback

When asked how 2022 strategic budget dollars should be allocated, survey respondents prioritized infrastructure: roadways, sidewalks, and the water utility. See the top ten categories below.



When broken down by council district, a street repair related priority topped almost every district's list except for district 2. District 2's top priority was expanding violence intervention. Repairing and resurfacing roadways was its third ranked priority. See the next three pages for reference.

Resident Feedback

Strategic Initiatives for the 2022 Annual Budget Top 10 Categories by District

District 1

Rank	Strategic Priorities	Average \$	Total \$
1	Improve major neighborhood roadways	\$10	\$390
2	Accessible housing for homelessness	\$8	\$319
3	Maintain safe, reliable water and wastewater utility	\$8	\$314
4	Expand violence intervention initiatives	\$8	\$304
5	Invest in sustainable, green infrastructure improvements	\$7	\$298
6	Repair and resurface roadways	\$7	\$272
7	Expand access to affordable housing	\$7	\$265
8	Partner with SBSC to progress our public schools	\$7	\$260
9	Develop and Improve City Parks and Trails	\$6	\$225
10	Support small businesses' recovery	\$6	\$220

District 2

Rank	Strategic Priorities	Average \$	Total \$
1	Expand violence intervention initiatives	\$16	\$242
2	Maintain safe, reliable water and wastewater utility	\$13	\$189
3	Repair and resurface roadways	\$10	\$152
4	Develop and Improve City Parks and Trails	\$7	\$109
5	Attract grocers to local "food deserts"	\$6	\$93
6	Improve major neighborhood roadways	\$6	\$87
7	Invest in sustainable, green infrastructure improvements	\$6	\$87
8	Partner with SBSC to progress our public schools	\$6	\$84
9	Support small businesses' recovery	\$5	\$78
10	Accessible housing for homelessness	\$4	\$57

Resident Feedback

Strategic Initiatives for the 2022 Annual Budget Top 10 Categories by District

District 3

Rank	Strategic Priorities	Average \$	Total \$
1	Improve major neighborhood roadways	\$17	\$327
2	Invest in sustainable, green infrastructure improvements	\$13	\$239
3	Maintain safe, reliable water and wastewater utility	\$11	\$201
4	Repair and resurface roadways	\$8	\$149
5	Accessible housing for homelessness	\$8	\$144
6	Expand access to affordable housing	\$7	\$130
7	Partner with SBSC to progress our public schools	\$5	\$101
8	Develop and Improve City Parks and Trails	\$5	\$97
9	Promote diversity & inclusion in City contracts	\$4	\$68
10	Attract grocers to local "food deserts"	\$4	\$67

District 4

Rank	Strategic Priorities	Average \$	Total \$
1	Repair and resurface roadways	\$13	\$440
2	Maintain safe, reliable water and wastewater utility	\$12	\$410
3	Develop and Improve City Parks and Trails	\$10	\$340
4	Improve major neighborhood roadways	\$10	\$330
5	Expand access to affordable housing	\$8	\$267
6	Invest in sustainable, green infrastructure improvements	\$6	\$200
7	Partner with SBSC to progress our public schools	\$6	\$200
8	Expand violence intervention initiatives	\$5	\$160
9	Attract and retain businesses to community to create jobs	\$5	\$157
10	Accessible housing for homelessness	\$4	\$135

Resident Feedback

Strategic Initiatives for the 2022 Annual Budget Top 10 Categories by District

District 5

Rank	Strategic Priorities	Average \$	Total \$
1	Improve major neighborhood roadways	\$19	\$341
2	Repair and resurface roadways	\$18	\$330
3	Maintain safe, reliable water and wastewater utility	\$14	\$258
4	Invest in sustainable, green infrastructure improvements	\$7	\$120
5	Develop opportunity fund for underrepresented local businesses	\$6	\$102
6	Partner with SBSC to progress our public schools	\$5	\$90
7	Develop and Improve City Parks and Trails	\$5	\$81
8	Expand access to affordable housing	\$4	\$71
9	Support small businesses' recovery	\$4	\$67
10	Expand violence intervention initiatives	\$3	\$55

District 6

Rank	Strategic Priorities	Average \$	Total \$
1	Repair and resurface roadways	\$21	\$205
2	Improve major neighborhood roadways	\$12	\$115
3	Maintain safe, reliable water and wastewater utility	\$10	\$100
4	Expand violence intervention initiatives	\$8	\$80
5	Attract and retain businesses to community to create jobs	\$8	\$80
6	Invest in sustainable, green infrastructure improvements	\$7	\$65
7	Support small businesses' recovery	\$7	\$65
8	Expand economic empowerment programs (Love Your Block, eviction defense fund, etc.)	\$5	\$45
9	Expand access to affordable housing	\$4	\$40
10	Provide public access to WiFi to connect community	\$4	\$40

“My major thought would be that I’ve lived here for years and everyone downtown...they talk about taking care of the homeless and finding a building for them, but they never do. Not a lot I can do because I’m retired. These people deserve some taxpayer money to help them get rehabilitated and start over....No one wants to see them suffer on the street. Keep that in mind when you’re making your budget.”

- Voicemail 191

“Yes, I don’t know if I’m qualified really to do this, but I would think some of the budget should be used for safety because we hear gunshots out here. Thank you very much.”

- Voicemail 165

Resident Feedback

CAG Meetings

Throughout the 3 CAG sessions, residents chose most often to prioritize the following of the mayor's priorities:

- Housing. Specifically permanent housing and support for homelessness, subsidized home repair, new housing and expanded access to affordable housing
- Public Safety
- Protect the vulnerable
- Build vibrant neighborhoods
- Infrastructure - in particular building up green, sustainable infrastructure
- Diversity and Inclusion

When conversations deviated from the pre-selected categories, residents proactively mentioned the below priorities:

- Mental health support
- Increase affordable housing stock
- Crisis response team
- West Side revitalization
- Green spaces, athletic courts, recreation, and public/community centers

Generally, the resident participants in CAG expressed concern about inequity. They felt that the City has invested inequitably across neighborhoods in the City. They desire better processes for engagement (ex: dialogues between community organization, neighborhoods, and the city) and more data and transparency.

See the appendix for the facilitation guide that the CAG volunteers used. Also see the appendix for a comprehensive list of specific ideas mentioned at the CAG meetings.



Resident Feedback

Across those 324 messages, there were 467 unique mentions of various priority topics. Street improvements were by far the most mentioned priority in the voicemails, being more than double the next ranked priority. Many of the voicemails asking for money to go to streets were specific requests to repave callers' streets.

Category	Number of Mentions
Street improvements	69
Beautify neighborhoods	30
Public safety	27
Traffic calming	25
Homelessness	24
Sidewalks	24
Solid Waste/Trash	17
SBSC partnership	15
Senior center, care, and activities	15
Code enforcement	15
Parks	15
Affordable housing	14
Neighborhood centric spaces and activities	14
Permanent supportive housing	14
Home repair	13
Other	136

Resident Feedback

44 unique topics were mentioned in the voicemails, which is why there is such a long tail of different topics summed up in “Other.” Please see the Appendix for the full table of voicemail topics.

One benefit of collecting priorities via voicemail was capturing the unique tone, ideas, and expression of South Bend’s residents. We’ve spread quotes from voicemails throughout this report. We think they add a personal lens to many of the important priority areas being weighed this budget season.



“I hope that you put some money into the other parks that need it such as Kennedy Park. Two thirds of it isn’t used and it's just kind of a barren wasteland. It would be really nice for the children living in Lincoln Manor... I think we should increase whatever is there for the police officers, whether its hiring social workers to take care of cases with mental illness. I know they have been working hard to control speeders in our area. Those are my two major concerns right now.”

- Voicemail 167

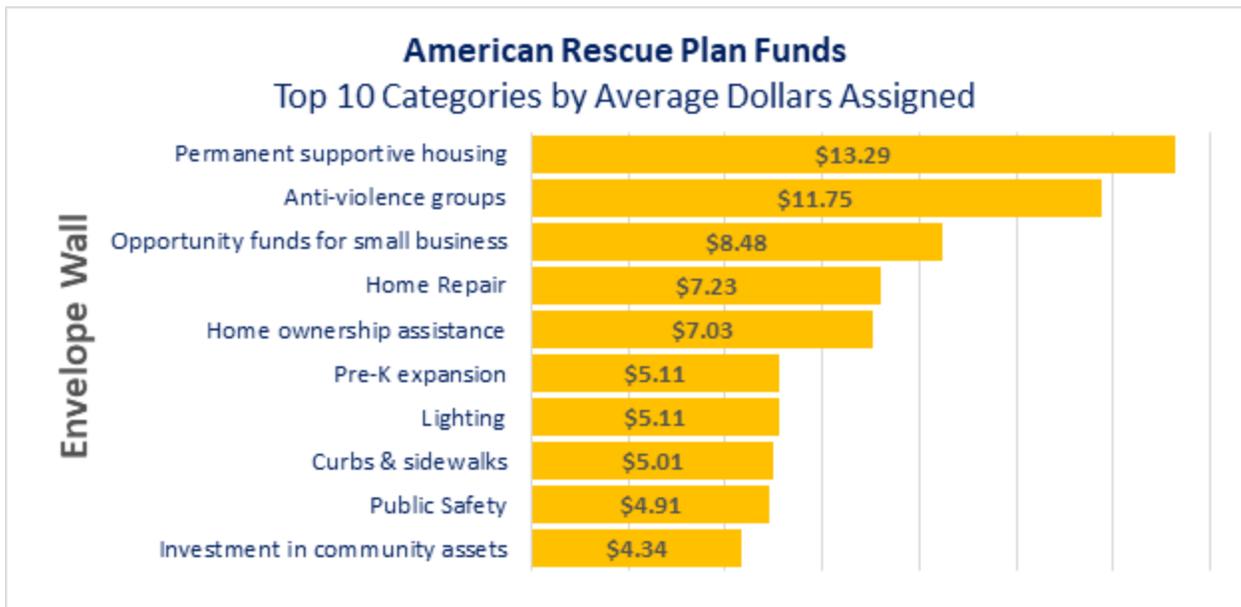
“I own a business in Downtown South Bend and I honestly will be moving out of downtown into Granger or Mishawaka. I like downtown South Bend and I’d like to continue staying there, but the amount of trash and homeless people are not good for business. It seems to be getting worse. It’s something I don’t want to deal with and is bad for business. My suggestion would be to allocate funds to try harder to deal with this big problem.”

- Voicemail 271

Resident Feedback

Build the Budget Envelope Walls

For the envelope wall activity, residents were asked to allocate \$100 dollars in fake bills across different American Rescue Plan investment topics. Below were the results of the 288 residents who participated.



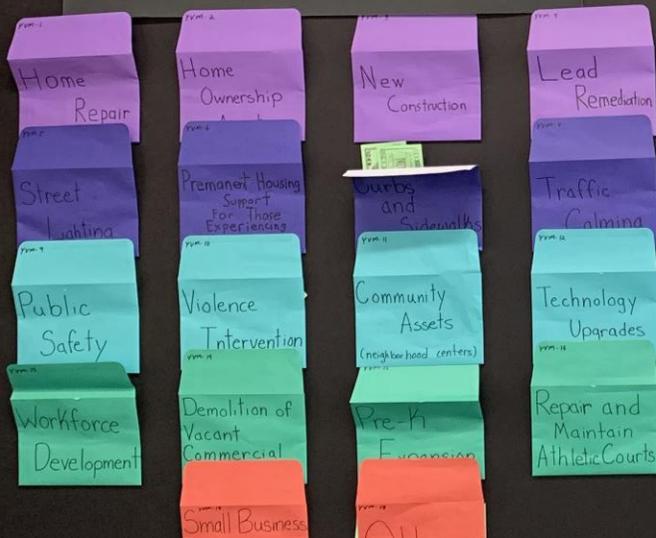
Resident Feedback

When asked to allocate American Rescue Dollars, the top three categories of investment were permanent, supportive housing, anti-violence groups/programs, and small business resources.

The 288 residents completed the same activity, but focused on the strategic initiatives being considered for the annual 2022 budget process. They were given \$100 in fake funds to allocate whichever categories they supported most. The following charts display the results.

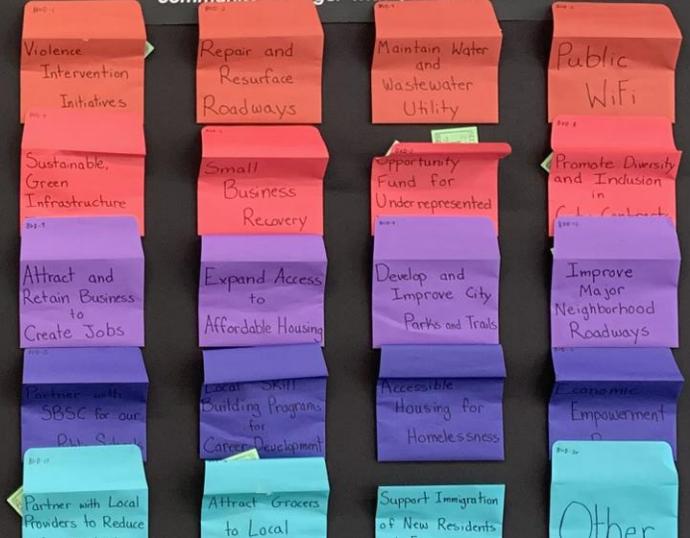
YOUR VOICE MATTERS

How should the City spend \$58.9 million in American Rescue funds?



BUILD THE BUDGET

In 2020, the City passed a \$350+ million budget. How would you make your community stronger with \$350 million?



Resident Feedback

Build the Budget Envelope Walls



Supporting new resident immigration, homelessness, and public wifi investment were the top three areas residents chose for investment.

\$58.9
inds?

Conclusion

We'd like to thank every resident who provided ideas, thoughts, and feedback during Build the Budget.

Citywide, the four big themes that surfaced from this feedback were:

Well-maintained infrastructure
– particularly streets

Safe, beautiful neighborhoods

Housing support, especially for the homeless population

Equity across contracts, purchasing, and neighborhood investments

If you have ideas to improve budget engagement ahead of next budget season so we can get engagement numbers up even more, please email sbit@southbendin.gov.

Appendix

1. Voicemail priority table – all mentions
2. CAG Facilitator Guide
3. CAG Ideas
4. Online Survey

Category	Number of Mentions
Street improvements	69
Beautify neighborhoods	30
Public safety	27
Traffic calming	25
Homelessness	24
Sidewalks	24
Solid Waste/Trash	17
SBSC partnership	15
Senior center, care, and activities	15
Code enforcement	15
Parks	15
Affordable housing	14
Neighborhood centric spaces and activities	14
Permanent supportive housing	14
Home repair	13
Traffic enforcement	11
Vacant demolition and removal	10
Benefits/Assistance	10
Youth programs	9
Sewers	9
Reduce water and sewer rates	8
Violence intervention	8
New construction	7
Street flooding	7
Street lighting	7
Trees/Canapoy	7
POC economic empowerment	5
Equity and inclusion	4
Maintain safe, reliable water	4
Addiction recovery programs	3
Mental health crisis response	3
Arts and culture	2
Attract and retain businesses	2
Bike lanes	2
Career and skill development	2
Green, sustainable infrastructure	2

Grocers to food deserts	2
Public transportation	2
SBARC	2
Start-up business support	2
State Theater	2
Transparency and accessibility	2
Lead remediation	1
BLM	1

Facilitator Guide

American Rescue Plan/City Budget 2022 CAG Meeting

August 2021

Agenda

- 5:45-6:00 Play budget games, get checked in
- 6:00-6:10 Play budget games or take interactive survey
- 6:10-6:15 Mayor James Mueller introduces meeting
- 6:15-6:20 Troy Warner introduces Indiana law and budgeting
- 6:20-6:25 City Controller Dan Parker talks about the budget
- 6:30-7:15 Break out into small groups for discussion
- 7:15-7:30 Facilitators share out main takeaways to whole group
- 7:30 City Controller closes the meeting
- Feel free to continue playing games on the way out!

Ground Rules

Please reiterate as you start your circle and [use talking piece for discussions.](#)

The ground rules of a group discussion are the guidelines that help to keep the discussion on track and prevent it from deteriorating into name-calling or an argument. Some rules you might suggest:

- *Everyone should treat everyone else with respect:* no name-calling, no emotional outbursts, no accusations.
- *No arguments directed at people – only at ideas and opinions.* Disagreement should be respectful – no ridicule.
- *Don't interrupt.* Listen to the whole of others' thoughts – listen, rather than just running over your own response in your head.
- *Respect the group's time.* Try to keep your comments reasonably short and to the point, so that others have a chance to respond.
- *Consider all comments seriously and try to evaluate them fairly.* Others' ideas and comments may change your mind, or vice versa: it's important to be open to that.
- *Don't be defensive if someone disagrees with you.* Evaluate both positions, and only continue to argue for yours if you continue to believe it's right.
- *Everyone is responsible for following and upholding the ground rules.*

Group Discussion Steps:

1. Facilitators introduce themselves, allow for all group members to introduce themselves.
2. Reiterate the ground rules, clarify goals and expectations for discussions.
3. Refer to Discussion Guide below to go through each document and take detailed notes in the space provided.

5. Facilitators will share out a few key takeaways from group discussion.
6. **Write any outstanding questions on note cards along with your contact information. Staff from the City will contact you in response to your question.**

Questions for discussion

General Feedback

1. What are your general thoughts on budget priorities?
 - a. The City's 2022 Budget priorities
 - b. The City's American Rescue Plan priorities

2. What is missing or should be taken away?

Digging deeper

3. *Thinking back to your top priorities in questions 1 & 2, discuss the following:*
 - a. What specific ways do you envision funds being spent on your priorities?

Notes: Specific Requests Collected from Residents in the CAG Meetings

- Maintain and upgrade public parks, green spaces, and recreational areas.
 - Update athletic courts and parks
 - Maintain and clean riverbanks on all sides of the river
 - Develop additional multi-use athletic courts, such as tennis courts that can also be used for pickleball
 - Give attention to the small parks as well as the large across neighborhoods
 - Preserve and increase tree cover
- Attract/incentivize development
- Low-income housing
- Prioritize food deserts; bring grocers and pharmacies to areas where there are few to none (West Side)
- Work towards zero homelessness
 - Invest in more permanent supportive housing initiatives, shelters, and warming centers.
 - Combine resources with county and surrounding cities
- Housing
 - Increase assistance for home ownership and renters
 - Repair and maintenance programs like owner-occupied rehab program
 - Promote lead abatement program and ensure it is accessible
 - Increase and work towards affordable, accessible, safe, clean, and reliable housing
 - Co-operative housing
- Create community resource “navigators,” or City employees whose purpose is to help residents access available assistance
- Violence intervention/Public Safety
 - Quality youth programming, education, community building, employment, housing, and other resources
 - People specifically asked for programs other than GVI and SAVE
 - Peacemaker’s Fellowship
- Mental Health/Public Safety
 - Create a Crisis Response Team to work with Fire Dept. or Police Department and EMTs
 - Improve access to mental health and substance abuse care
- More public Wi-Fi options, technology for all residents
 - Mobile technology cart
- Convert, repurpose, or demolish vacant and abandoned buildings
 - Convert City properties into low-cost housing
 - Create a renovation project non-profit
- Construct and maintain public restrooms
- Build senior center(s) to include housing options, social and educational programming and transportation
- Create more green infrastructure and jobs relating to it

- Revitalize the West Side
 - Attract more commercial investment
 - Add more green areas, including gardens, greenhouses, parks, and walking paths
 - Community buildings and community centers
- Basic infrastructure
 - More street lighting
 - Long-term, sustainable, green infrastructure
 - Re-do and maintain curbs, sidewalks, and streets; add speedhumps
- Attract good, high-paying jobs to this area
- Improve and expand public transportation
- More public activities that are accessible to low-income residents
- Support diversity and inclusion in city contracts, city workers, and everywhere
 - Economic support of minority-owned businesses
- Support career development and workforce development programs
- Work with SBCSC to improve education system

English ▾

General Info

South Bend Budget Feedback Survey

Thank you for taking our budget feedback survey! Your feedback is invaluable to the Mayor, Common Council, and City staff as they develop the 2022 Budget and plan spending with the American Rescue Plan funds. Special thanks to Common Council members:

Karen White, Lori Hamann, Rachel Tomas, Canneth Lee, Henry Davis Jr, Sharon McBride, Troy Warner, Eli Wax, and Sheila Niezgodski.

Name:

Email:

Please select your District below:

Don't know? Find out here - [Council District Map](#)

- Canneth Lee (District 1)
- Henry Davis, Jr. (District 2)
- Sharon McBride (District 3)
- Troy Warner (District 4)
- Eli Wax (District 5)
- Sheila Niezgodski (District 6)

ARP

How would you spend the City's American Rescue Plan funds?

The City is planning to use American Rescue Plan funds to strengthen our city in several strategic areas: housing, neighborhood infrastructure, public safety, deferred maintenance, and economic opportunity. The dollars provided through the federal government's American Rescue Plan Act are separate from annual City funds.

You have \$100 to divide among available projects from the American Rescue Plan:

Home repair	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Lead remediation	<input type="text" value="0"/>
New construction	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Home ownership assistance	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Permanent housing and support for those experiencing homelessness	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Street lighting	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Curbs & sidewalks	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Traffic calming	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Community assets, such as neighborhood centers	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Technology upgrades	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Violence intervention, such as anti-violence groups	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Public safety	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Demolition of vacant commercial buildings	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Repair and maintain athletic courts	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Pre-K expansion	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Workforce Development	<input type="text" value="0"/>

Opportunity funds for small businesses

Total

Prioritizing

How would you spend the City's budget for Strategic Initiatives?

The City of South Bend has identified a number of strategic priorities for 2022. You have \$100 to divide among the City's strategic priorities. Enter a number for different strategic priorities to identify how much you would spend out of \$100 on each.

You have \$100 to divide among the following strategic priorities:

Expand violence intervention initiatives

Repair and resurface roadways

Maintain safe, reliable water and wastewater utility

Provide public access to WiFi to connect community

Invest in sustainable, green infrastructure improvements

Support small businesses' recovery from downturn

Develop opportunity fund for underrepresented local businesses

Promote diversity & inclusion in City contracts

Attract and retain businesses to community to create jobs

Expand access to affordable housing

Develop and Improve City Parks and Trails

Improve major neighborhood roadways (curbs, sidewalks, parking, lights, etc.)

Expand economic empowerment programs (Love Your Block, eviction defense fund, etc.)

Fund local skill building programs for career development

Partner with SBSC to progress our public schools	0
Focus on accessible housing as top priority in addressing homelessness in the City	0
Partner with local providers to reduce infant mortality & health disparities	0
Attract grocers to local "food deserts"	0
Support immigration of new residents and engage with immigrant communities	0
Total	0

Spending

Budget Spending Adjustment:

Based on your perception of current City operations, how would you adjust the priorities listed below?

	Reduce	Maintain	Expand
Reform Public Safety Systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build Reliable Infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support Economic Recovery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rebuild Vibrant Neighborhoods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to Opportunity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protect the Vulnerable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did we miss a priority from the lists above? Let us know below.

Specific Budget Priorities

Specific Budget Priorities:

What specific projects would you like to see the City invest in?

Questions

Have additional questions about the budget?

Ask them here or visit the Budget FAQ at <https://southbendin.gov/budget/>

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