



FLAMES FANS
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sells out **NP9**

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POSTMEDIA

City to ask province for more than \$1.2B

Budget request would support transit and critical infrastructure upgrades

SCOTT STRASSER

The City of Calgary will request more than \$1.2 billion from the Alberta government's 2027 budget, including hundreds of millions of dollars to support major transit capital projects and critical infrastructure upgrades.

But while the funding requests are substantial, one city councillor said it's worth swinging for the fences, consid-

ering the Alberta government is now projecting a \$2-billion surplus for its 2026-27 fiscal year, thanks to higher benchmark oil prices this year due to the U.S. war with Iran.

It is a dramatic swing from the UCP's economic forecast earlier this year that projected a multibillion-dollar deficit.

The city's provincial budget submissions will be presented to council's

intergovernmental affairs committee on Wednesday. If the committee endorses the requests, which include six priorities, the document will advance to council's regular meeting in September for final ratification.

The wish list includes \$448 million for transit capital projects and fleet expansion, \$418 million to support critical infrastructure and \$320 million for GamePLAN, the city's strategy to bolster Calgary's recreational facilities and infrastructure. Within that request is \$150 million to support the city's long-standing plan to build a multi-sport fieldhouse at Foothills

Athletic Park.

The city requested \$994 million last year for 10 different priorities.

The funding wish list comes as Calgary grapples with a growing infrastructure deficit — a progress update on the city's 2026 corporate asset management plan earlier this year stated roughly \$18 billion worth of civic assets are in poor to very poor condition, while a similar report outlined \$49 billion in recommended capital expenses over the next decade to address Calgary's growing needs and deteriorating state of infrastructure.

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Ranchlands Elementary School students, guided by their parents, head back to school on Monday helped by Alberta Motor Association school safety patrolters. Calgary police say speeding and distracted driving remain top concerns at this time of year, while urging parents to not double park or stop in intersections. **GAVIN YOUNG**

Back to school brings renewed focus on 'good choices' around traffic safety

PAYTON DELISLE-MILLER

As thousands of Calgary students return to school this week, the Calgary Board of Education is urging drivers to slow down and stay alert.

With a projected 143,000 students for the school year — roughly 1,000 more than at the end of last year — CBE is partnering with the Alberta Motor Association and the Calgary Police Service to ensure parents and students

are properly educated on traffic safety.

At a back-to-school safety event at Ranchlands Elementary School on Monday, CBE chief superintendent Joanne Pitman said traffic safety is a collective effort.

"We know families are busy, we know people are trying to work on a school day. We need people to take a breath, take a moment, and say, 'what do I want for my child or somebody else's?'" she said. "Let's make sure

we're making good choices."

The public awareness push comes after the City of Calgary made traffic safety improvements near 50 schools in the city, as the city's fatal collisions are on track to surpass 2025's record year.

Mark Novello, CPS school resource officer and youth services sergeant, said speeding and distracted driving remain top concerns, while urging parents to not double park or stop in intersections where pedestrians and

drivers may have limited visibility.

"I know over the next couple weeks, we'll have a lot of police officers in school zones or playground zones. My team specifically will be out at a lot of the elementary schools working on traffic education," Novello said.

"(If) kids are running across the street, I want the police officers to stop them and talk to them about how unsafe that is," he said.

AMA is also expanding its school zone safety programs, adding adult crossing guides and drive-lane patrols to support students getting off buses. The organization has more than 13,000 student patrolters at more than 400 schools across Alberta.

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