



# Somerville FY20 Budget Overview

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone  
June 5, 2019



# Leveraging growth to invest in our core values and services



Somerville Promise



Somerville Baby



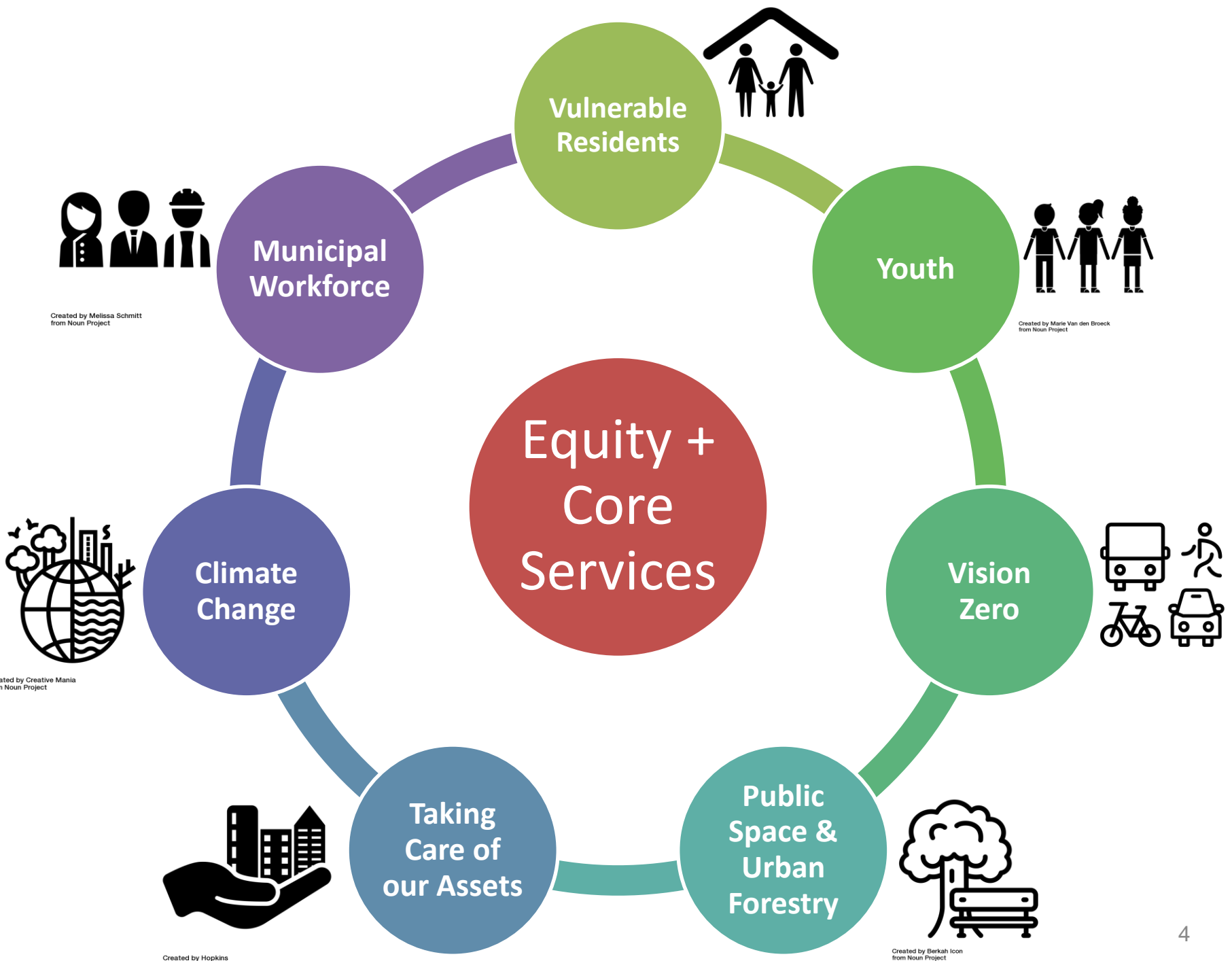
**SOMER VIVA**

CITY OF SOMERVILLE | OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

Without equity, there  
can be neither progress  
nor prosperity.

-Angela Glover Blackwell  
CEO of Policy Link





# Vulnerable Residents



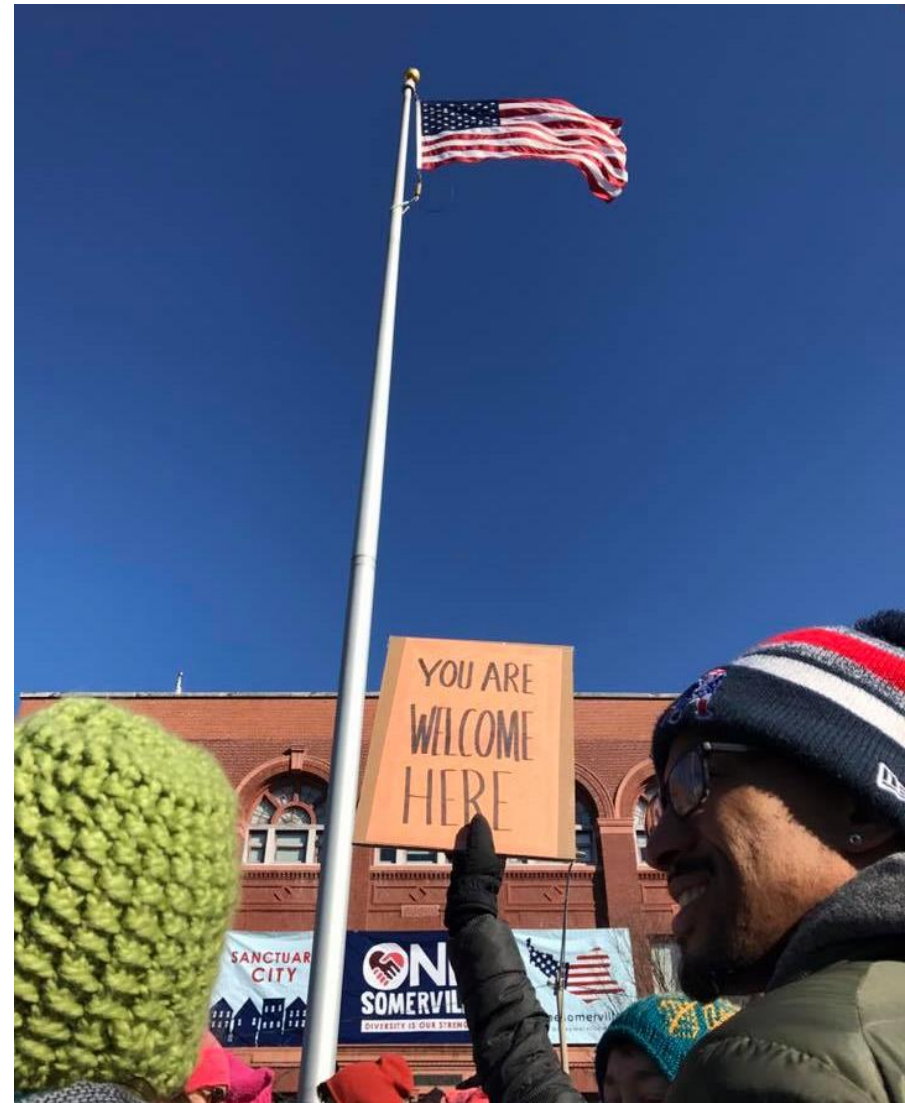
What counts in life is not the mere fact that we lived. It is the difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.

– Nelson Mandela

# \$370,000 New Investment Proposed in FY20 Budget for Vulnerable Residents



- Office of Housing Stability
  - Housing Stabilization Program
  - Legal, tenant organizing & housing search services (full year)
- SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs
  - Immigrant Services Coordinator (0.5 FTE)
  - Legal Defense Funds
  - Citizenship Program
  - Nepali Liaison



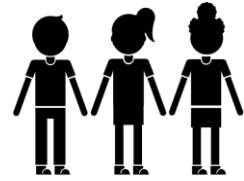
# Youth



The future belongs to young people with an education and the imagination to create.

- Barack Obama

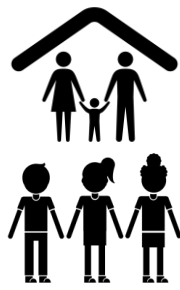
# \$3.6+M New Investment Proposed in FY20 Budget for Youth



- Somerville Public Schools
  - 5% increase
- SomerPromise
  - Expand out-of-school time programs
  - Expand wraparound services & outreach

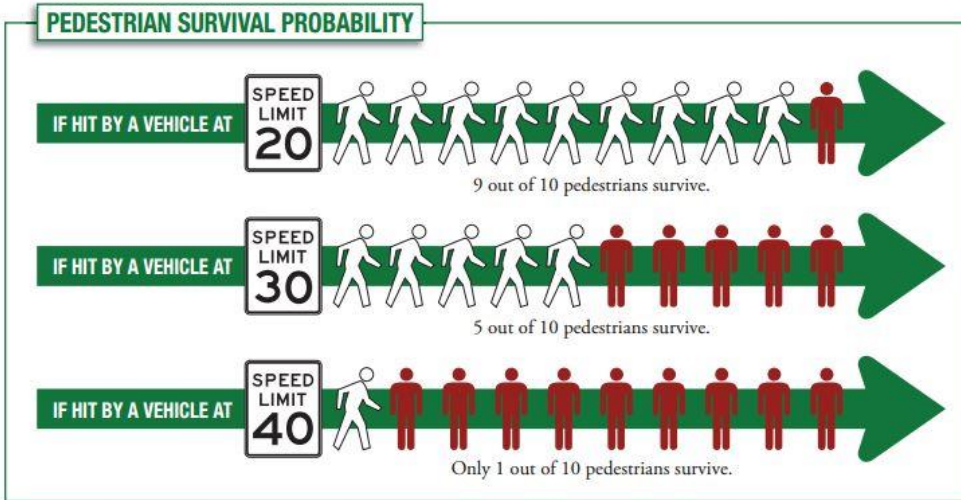
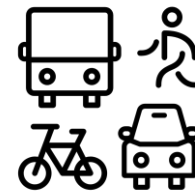


# \$700,000+ New Investment in Vulnerable Residents & Youth from Other Funding Sources in FY20



- MA DPH Comprehensive School Grant
  - Create new School Nurse Navigator position
- Commonwealth Children's Fund
  - Expand SomerBaby to serve all of our newest residents
- Medical marijuana revenue
  - Substance Use Prevention Coordinator
  - Expand substance use prevention and education<sup>9</sup>

# Vision Zero

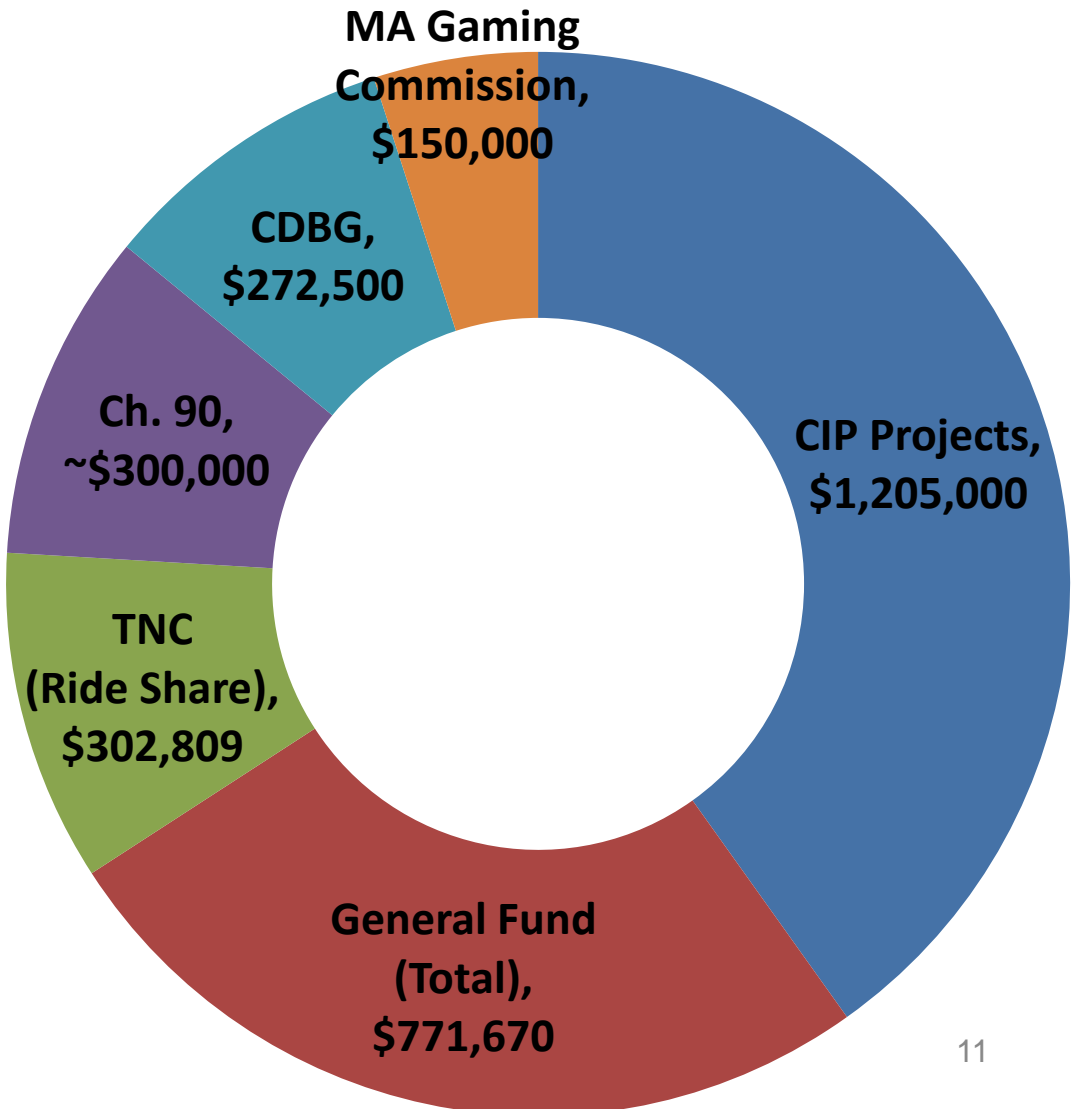
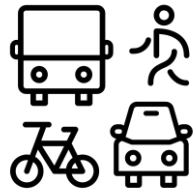


Vision Zero is not a slogan, not a tagline, not even just a program. It is a fundamentally different way to approach traffic safety.

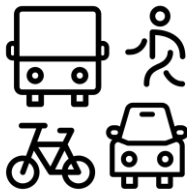
-Vision Zero Network



# \$3M+ Total Investment in Vision Zero in FY20 Leveraging Other Resources



# \$420,000 New Investment Proposed in FY20 Budget for Vision Zero



- Mobility
  - Expand Professional & Technical services for Vision Zero implementation and long-range bicycle network plan
- Parking
  - Undertake comprehensive parking study, incl. curbside inventory
  - Increase Project Analyst position from PT to FT
  - Increase pavement markings
- DPW
  - Replace ADA ramps



# Public Space & Urban Forestry



Cultures and climates differ all over the world, but people are the same. They'll gather in public if you give them a good place to do it.

-Jan Gehl



# \$660,000 New Investment Proposed in FY20 Budget for Public Space & Urban Forestry

Everyone deserves a park within a 10-minute walk of home.

Is Somerville meeting that goal?

- New Public Space & Urban Forestry Division
  - New Division Head, new street trees (previously funded through Cap. Stab.), preventive tree & plant maintenance
- DPW
  - 2 new Grounds laborers for parks, irrigation services & additional tree funding
- Parks & Rec
  - 1 new foreman and 2 new laborers for Fields Maintenance

**100%** of residents live within a 10 minute walk of a park.



National average 54%



# Taking Care of Our Assets



Created by Hopkins  
from Noun Project



Reversing the trajectory after decades of underinvestment in our infrastructure requires transformative action.

-2017 Infrastructure  
Report Card

# \$1.13M+ New Investment Proposed in FY20 Budget for Asset Management



Created by Hopkins  
from Noun Project

- New Infrastructure & Asset Management (IAM) Department
  - Director
  - Director of Finance & Administration
- Capital Projects
  - Asset management software & additional Capital Outlay
- Engineering
  - Trench Inspector
- Fleet
  - GPS implementation





# Kennedy Pool



Created by Hopkins  
from Noun Project

\$225,000 in one-time capital expenses

+ \$570,675 in annual operating expenses

\$795,675 total expenses in FY20

- \$100,000 in projected revenue

= \$695,675 General Fund subsidy in FY20



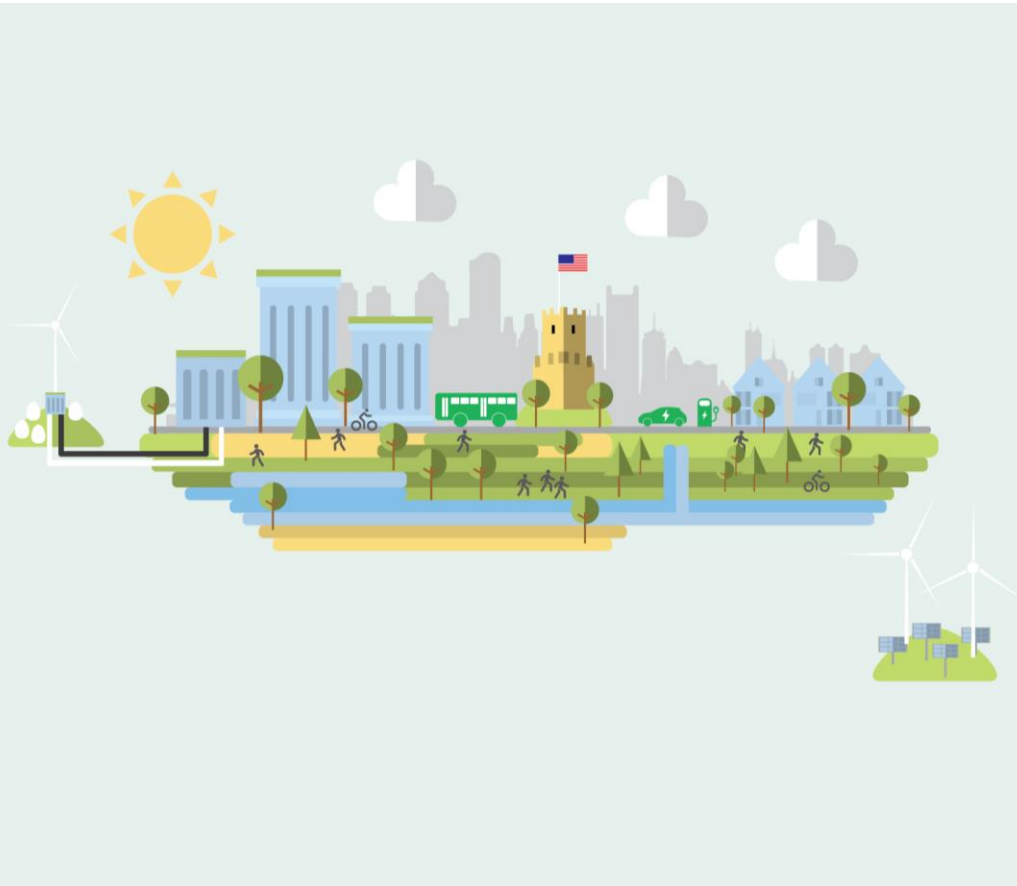
# Climate Change



Created by Creative Mania  
from Noun Project

Climate change is one of the most serious challenges of our time... [It] presents an urgent agenda for cities.

- Somerville Climate Forward



# \$82,000 New Investment Proposed in FY20 Budget for Climate Change



Created by Creative Mania  
from Noun Project

- OSE
  - Energy Manager
- Other changes in the budget:
  - \$300,000 reduction in Electricity line due to LED conversions



# Municipal Workforce



Created by Melissa Schmitt  
from Noun Project



I wanted to send a BIG thank you to the team that was at my house this morning... to remove a tree stump. It may not seem like much, but they were so effective that I can not resist writing to let you know. The entire team clearly had worked together for a while, and watched out for each other's safety, had fun and did an amazing job.

-Resident via QAlert



Created by Melissa Schmitt  
from Nouri Project

# \$3.5M New Investments Proposed in FY20 Budget for Municipal Workforce

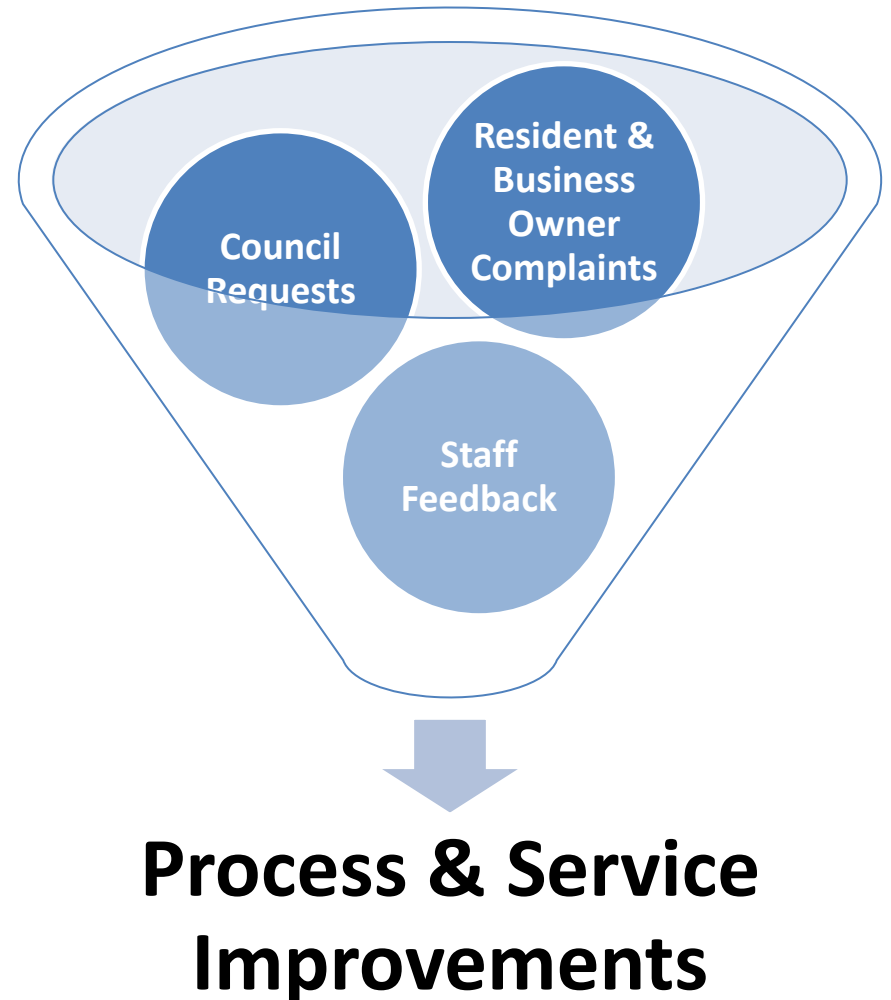
- Collective bargaining agreements
- Non-union merit increases
- \$15 minimum wage for part-time staff
- Police Department Cadet Program

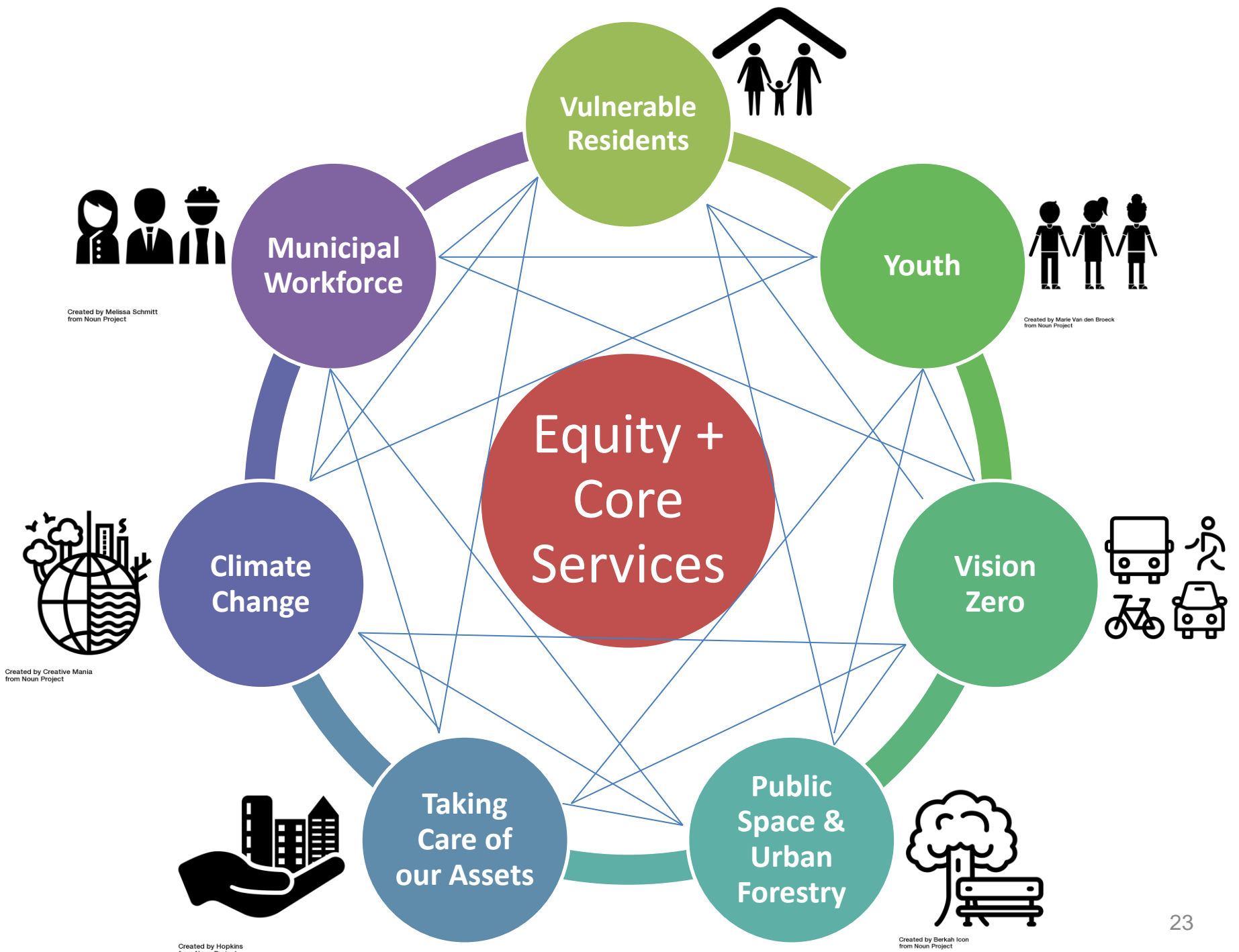


# Customer Experience Manager








## *for Better Workflows and Customer Service*

- Using feedback to help identify and address service areas that need improvement.
- Helping to develop better procedures, protocols, reporting, follow-up, and customer service.





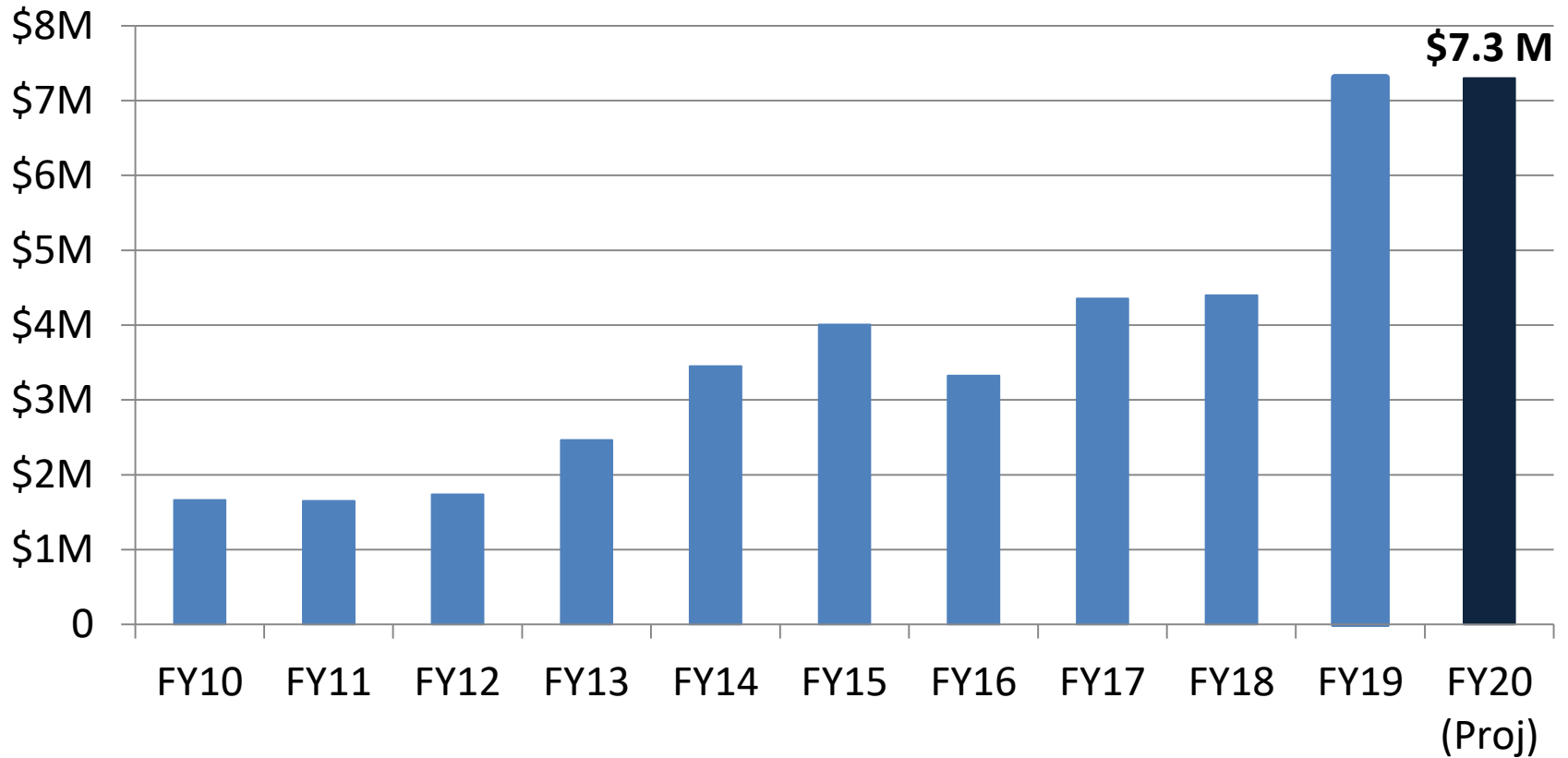
# \$9.8 million+ Proposed Equity Investment in FY20 Budget

		FY20 General Fund Investment
Vulnerable Residents		\$370,000
Youth		\$3,600,000
Vision Zero		\$420,000
Public Space & Urban Forestry		\$660,000
Taking Care of our Assets		\$1,135,000
Climate Change		\$82,000
Municipal Workforce		\$4,400,000

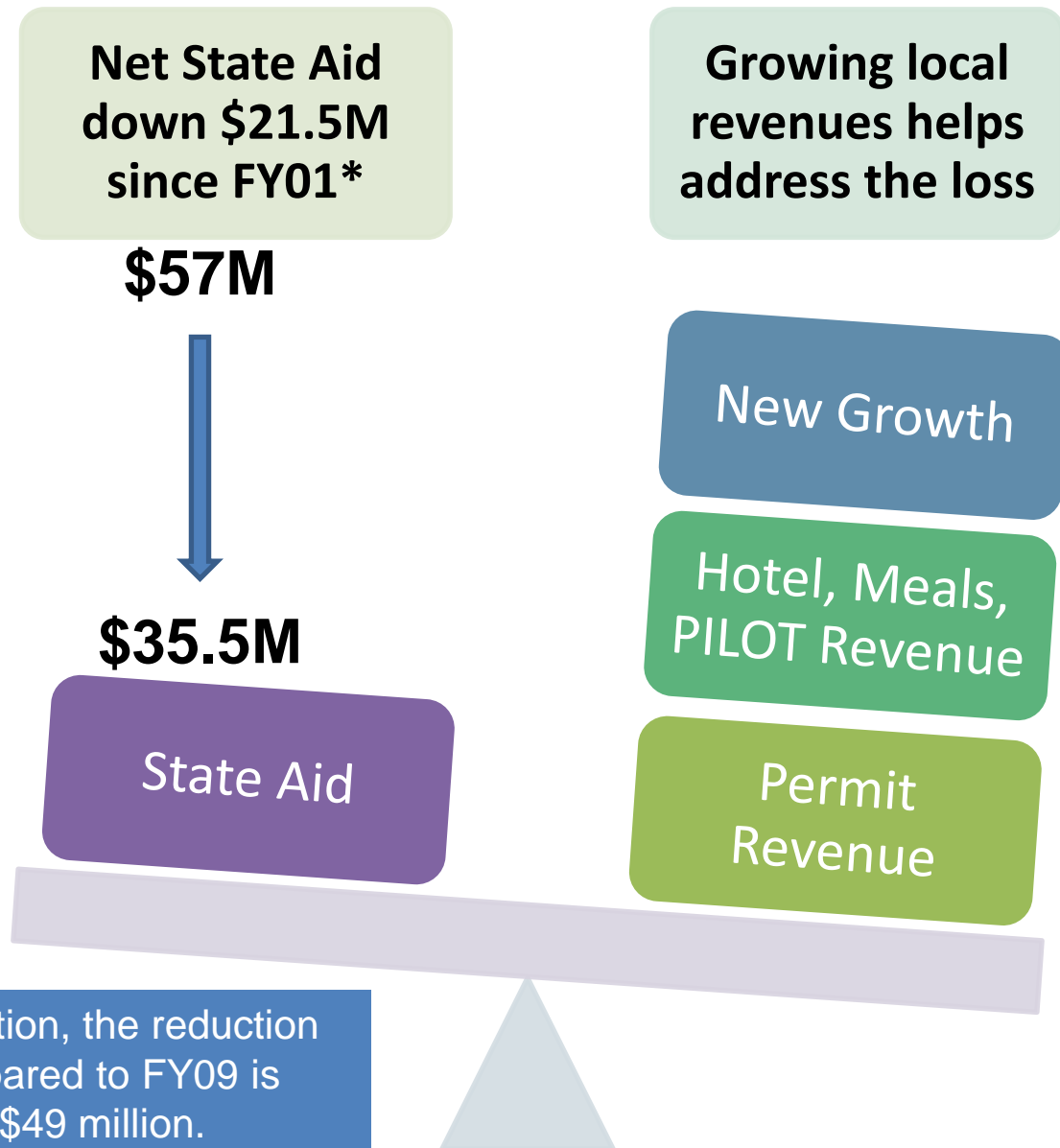


# Historic New Growth Supports these Critical Investments

## New Growth Revenue by Fiscal Year



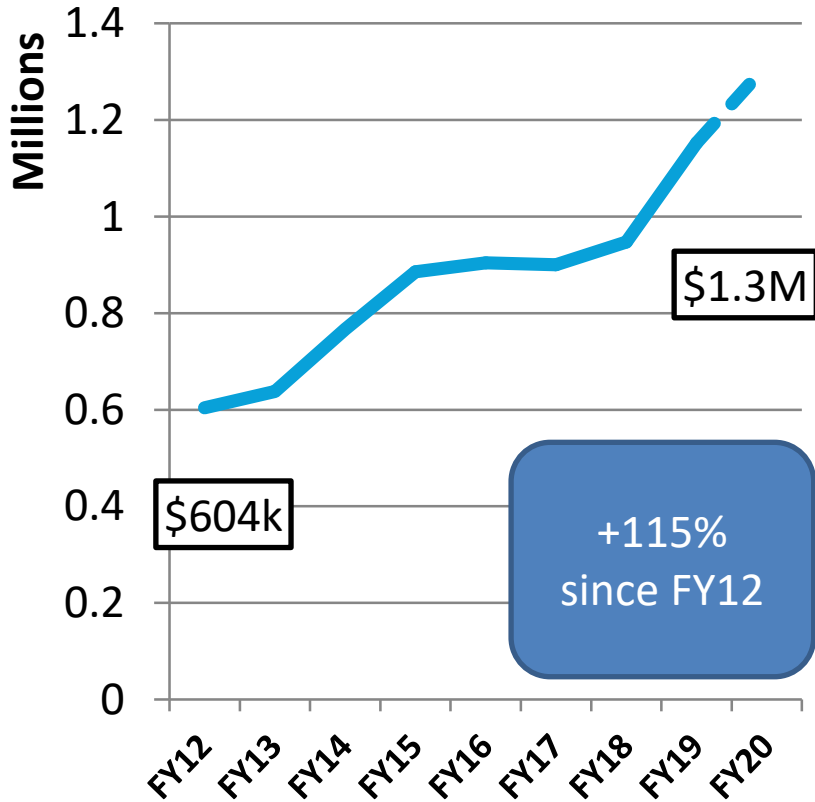
# Planning for Greater Self-Reliance



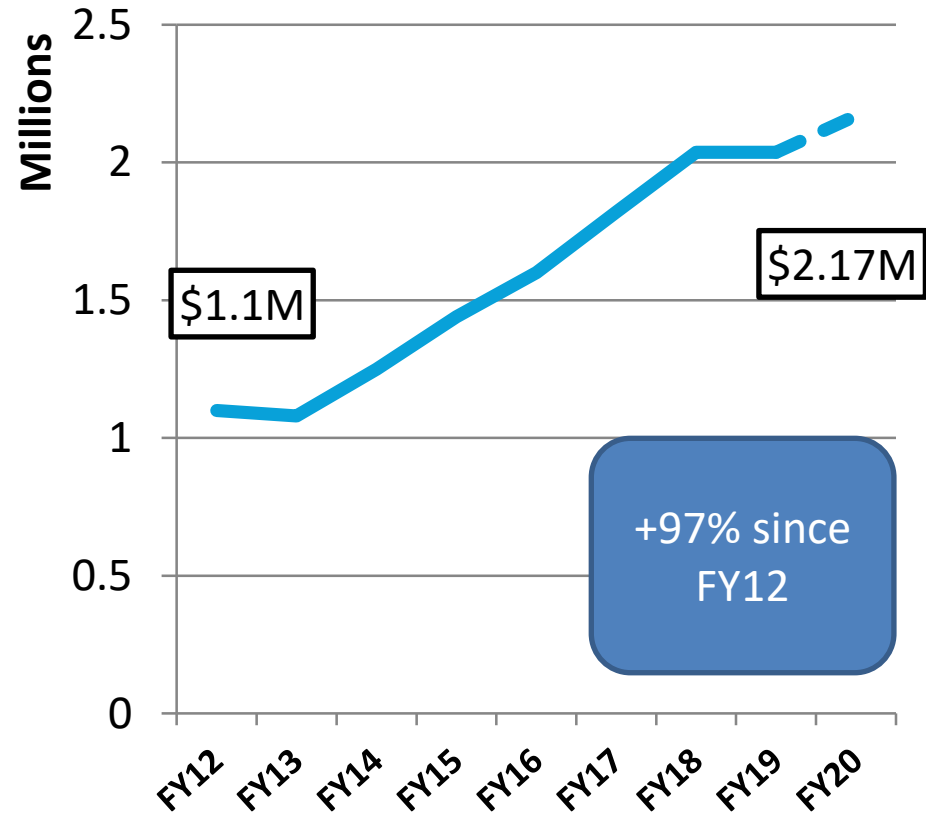
\*If we adjust for inflation, the reduction in net state aid compared to FY09 is even more severe – \$49 million.

# Growing Our Local Revenue

## Hotel/Motel Excise Revenue



## Meals Tax Revenue

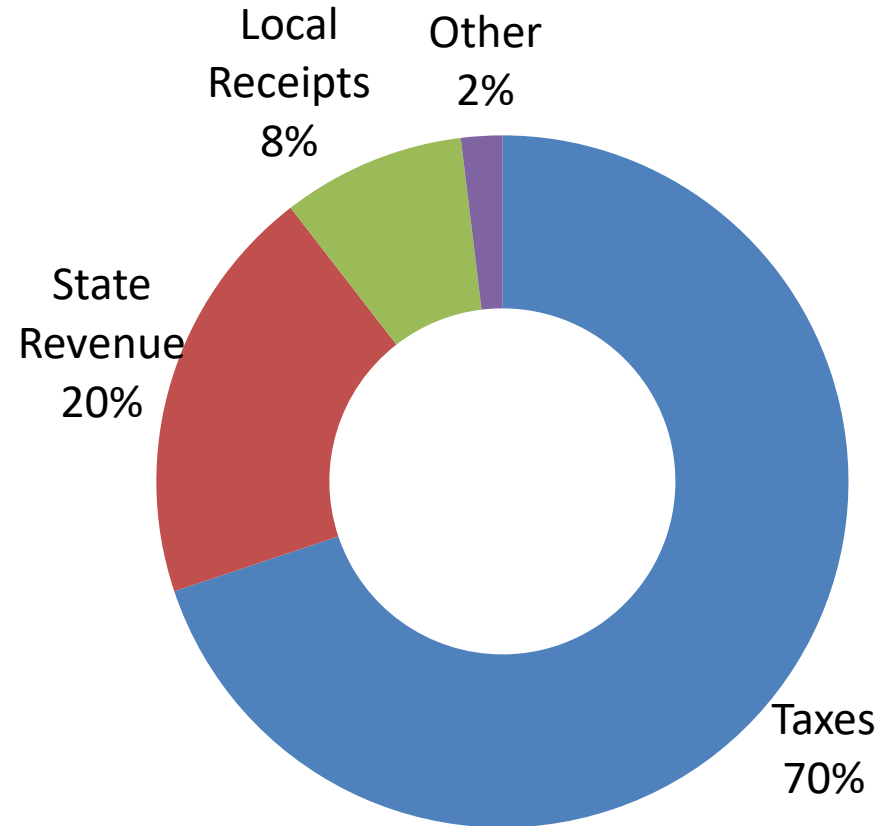


# Proposed Revenue Changes

- Parking
  - Citywide meter adjustment to \$1.25 per hour
  - Increased parking violation minimum to \$50 (except for meter violations)
- ISD, Engineering, & DPW
  - Adjustments to some fees based on staff costs
- PEG Access
  - Reduced General Fund projected revenue to \$0 due to Federal uncertainty

# FY20 Revenue by Source

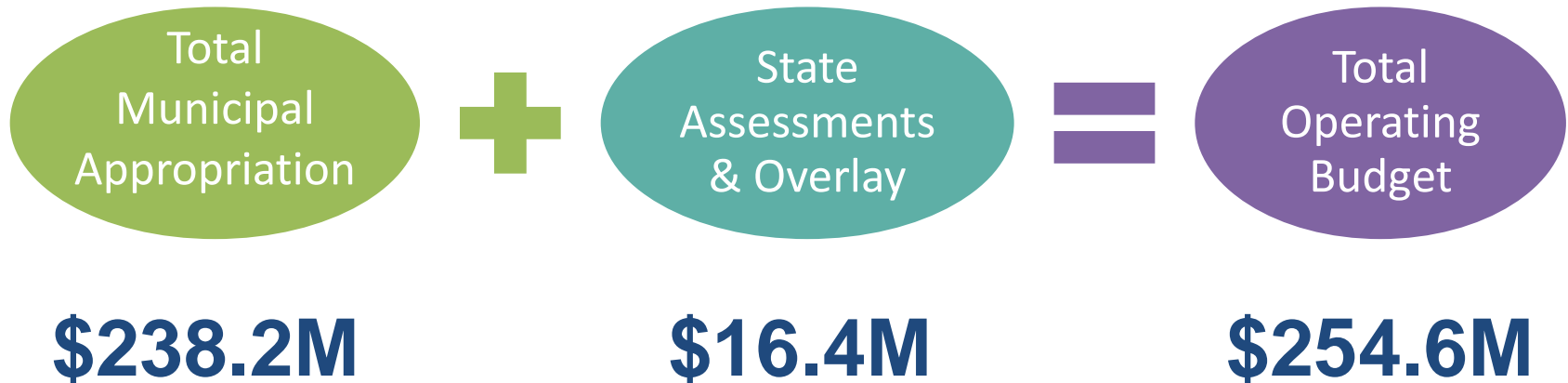
- Proposed budget utilizes the full property tax levy in order to fund these investments.
- Includes SHS short-term interest debt exclusion (\$421,000)



Local Receipts includes: fines & forfeits, licenses & permits, fees, miscellaneous recurring.

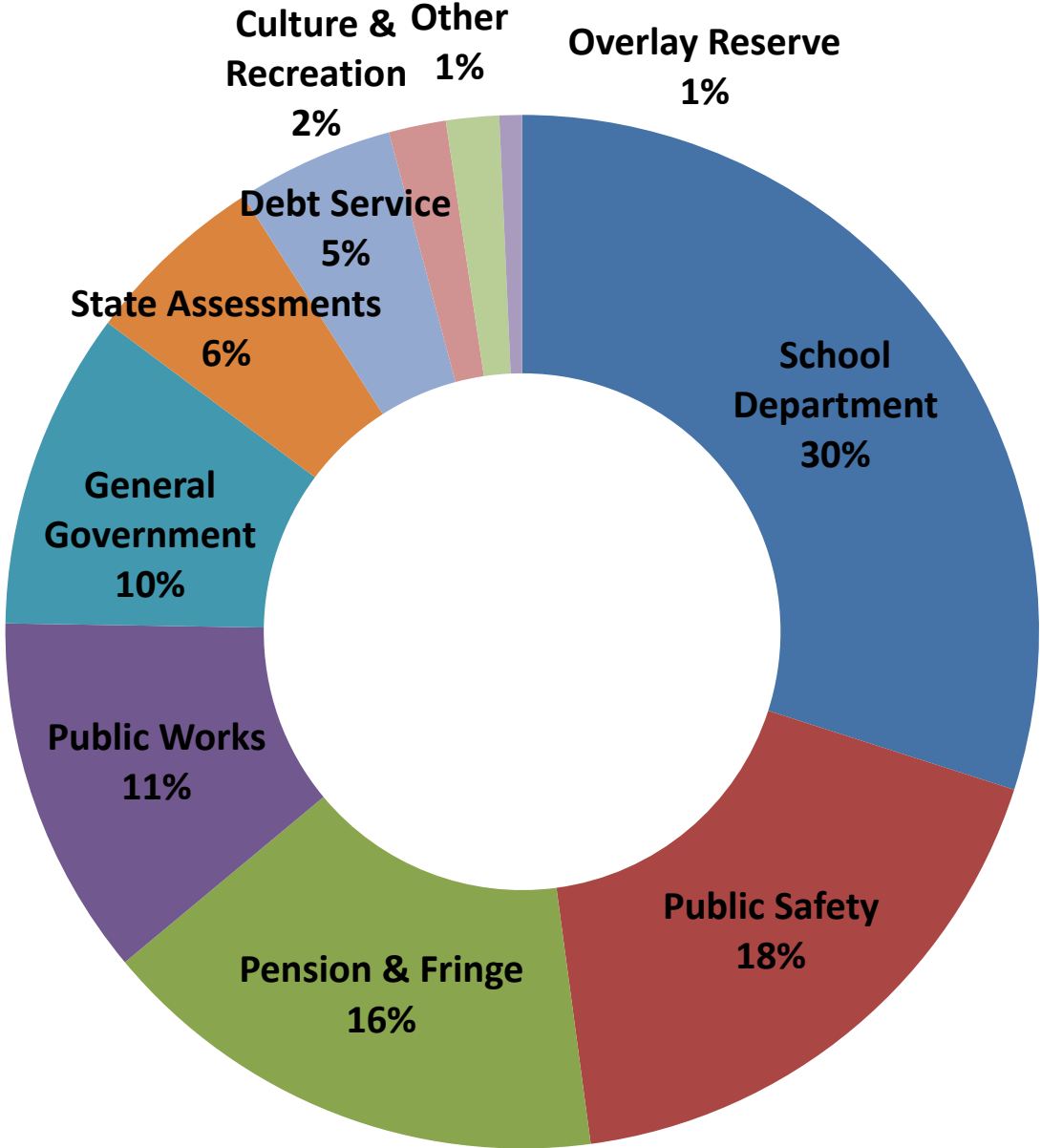
Other includes free cash, parking meter receipts, enterprise indirect costs.

# FY20 Operating Budget



5.5% increase over FY19

# FY20 Operating Budget Expenses



# Upholding Our Commitment to Fiscal Responsibility



In our view, the city's economic growth and conservative budgeting practices, with strong financial management policies and planning, have led to continued positive financial operations and maintenance of its very strong budgetary flexibility and liquidity profile.

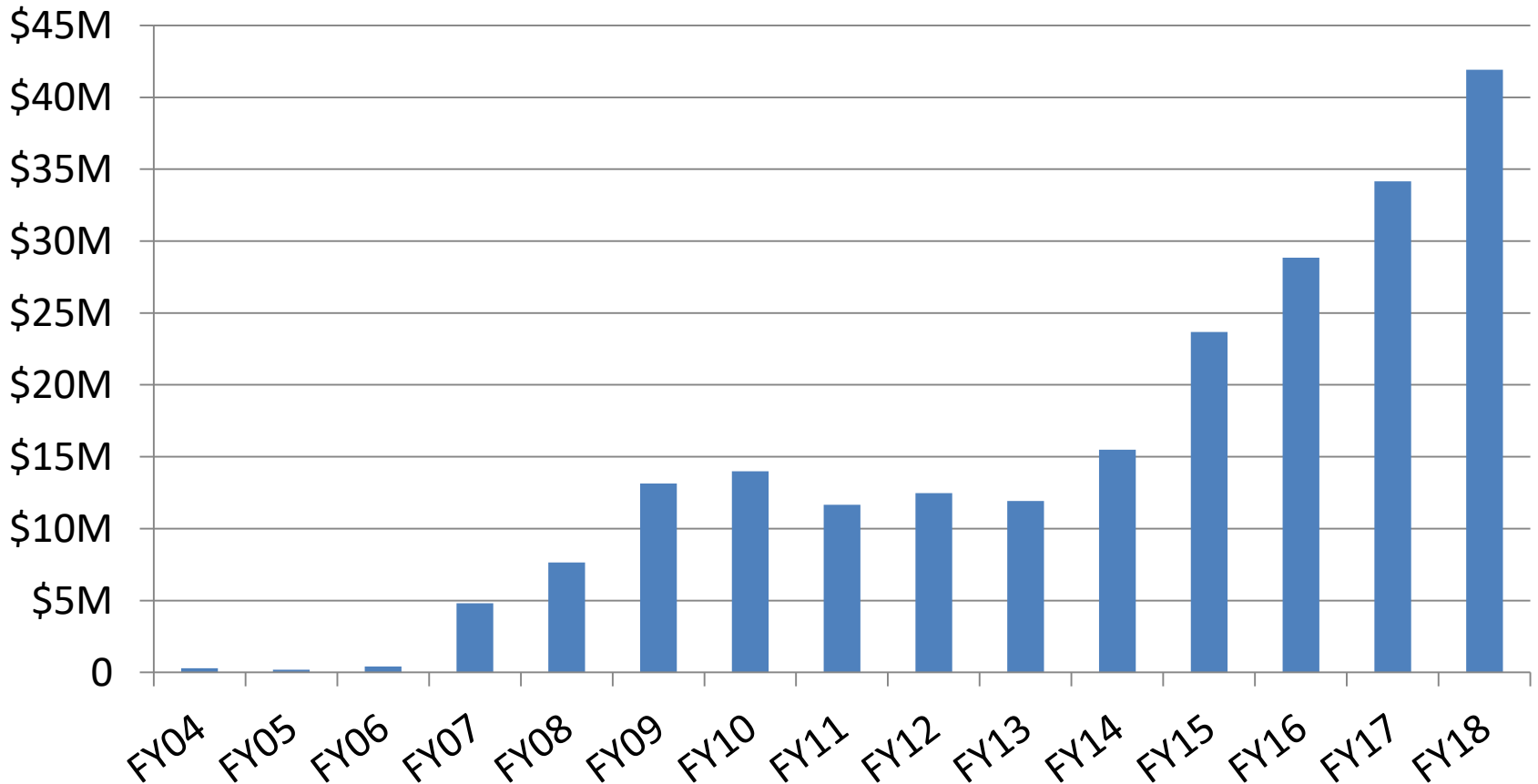
- Standard & Poors

May 2019



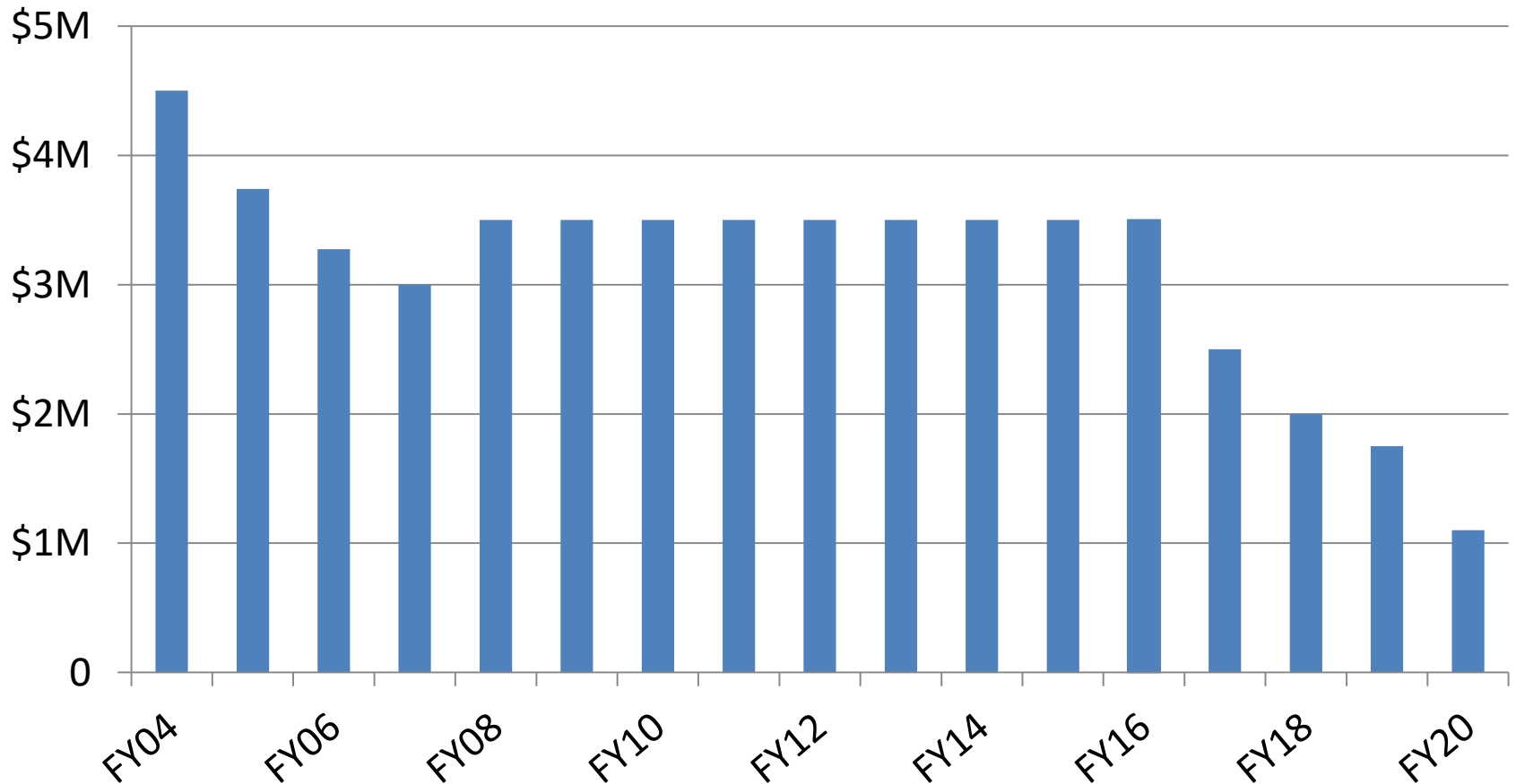
# Building our Stabilization Funds

## Stabilization Fund Balance



# Reducing our Reliance on Free Cash

## Annual Free Cash Appropriation to the General Fund



# Our Focus on Fiscal Responsibility and Investing for the Long Term has Real Benefits for our Residents

**Why does Winchester need a \$10 million override? Officials make their case**

## **'Yes' Movement Carries Melrose Override Special Election**

Melrose finally passed its override, more than three years after one asking for less than half the money was voted down by a 2-to-1 margin.

**Arlington set for override vote this June**

# And We Still Spend Less per Capita than our Neighbors



Somerville: \$3,140



Boston: \$4,896



Cambridge: \$6,108

# We've proposed a budget that:

- Leverages new growth
- Is committed to equity
- Is based on shared community goals and values
- Is guided by our commitment to fiscal responsibility
- And that is strategically designed to meet both our current needs and long-range obligations

Thank you

