

Strategic Goals, Priorities, & Issues



relationship (noun)

re·la·tion·ship | \ ri-'lā-shən-,ship \

Definition of relationship

1: the state of being related or interrelated

2: the relation connecting or binding participants in a relationship: such as

a: KINSHIP

b: a specific instance or type of kinship

3a: a state of affairs existing between those having relations or dealings

b: a passionate attachment

FY 2022-23 ADOPTED BUDGET MESSAGE

July 1, 2022

Dear Honorable Mayor, City Council, and Residents of the City of Novi:

There are several terms you expect to see in a budget message: relationships are not necessarily one of them. Numbers, measurements, and trends are most always referenced. And, while I will touch on each of those in this letter, I'll also focus on relationships. Relationships ... because with good and growing relationships the numbers, measurements, and trends seem to go in a positive direction.

Let's start with the numbers. The following budget continues to show our team has followed City Council's leadership in being excellent stewards of taxpayer funds. This budget upholds top standards in financial practices, all while maintaining our AAA Bond Rating. This community's position financially continues to be an example of performing our responsibilities ("staying in our lane"), not overextending ourselves for items/projects/wishes that don't provide something which has a positive impact on the residents, businesses, and community. We do this with City Council's strategic vision in focus.

The numbers work and set us on a firm foundation. How we know this is by measurements. Using data to evaluate what is working and what is not is a very basic way to verify where we are at. Internally, this is a valuable management practice across many different types of organizations.

The importance of using data is we can confirm our beliefs about which management strategies and practices are working and which are not. When operating this way, over time we can track trends. We are now able to plan and project with the 2020 Census Data which gives us a ten-year snapshot of where we were and where we are now (or specifically in 2020). This is important as this Census Data has been entered into all of the State formulas that help fund programs such as ACT 51 road funds and State Shared Revenue (SSR). Once the State of Michigan resets all the numbers, the City of Novi should see an increase in state Funding (total across all Funds) of around \$1 million annually.

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Our steady growth over the past decade is more than twice that of other communities in Oakland County. Our population has grown 20 percent, with the second fastest growing community coming in at just under nine percent.

Growth isn't all free. City Council understands the expanded infrastructure required to maintain current systems that we operate and the need to update aging infrastructure up to Novi standards. We have also added park land, conservation areas, and non-motorized routes. This has not been easy, but staff has responded by utilizing experience, education, and technology to adjust and improvise without adding staff comparative to the increase in infrastructure, added services, and programs (see attached graphic).

We cannot do this alone. This is why we continue to focus on and form Relationships. By developing and maintaining relationships we can continue to reap rewards other communities can only dream of. Some, but most certainly not all, of those relationships in this budget are:

- Public Safety host and facilitate professional training to other agencies.
- Our state-of-the-art Firearms Training center is utilized by the United States Secret Service and other agencies due to long-term relationships.
- Federal agencies and State Law Enforcement taskforces are housed on the City's Civic Center campus.
- The future proposed Emergency Mobile Command Unit (EMCU) could be utilized by our mutual aid communities.
- Future ITC Community Sports park renovations are going to work in conjunction with local organizations, teams, and other organizations to maximize everyone's resources.
- Dispatch services is provided to the City of South Lyon by Novi's Public Safety Department
- Numerous high-profile events (shopping centers during holiday seasons, Suburban Collection Showplace during State Fair, Comic-Con, etc) occur in the community organized by the City's private partners Twelve Oaks Mall, Suburban Collection Show Place etc. who contract the City's Police Department for dedicated support as not to draw down coverage from the rest of the city.
- Assisting the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) on prefunding projects on their roads, moving projects years ahead of schedule.
- Property Exchange with Novi Community Schools that will better suit both organizations and the community.
- Splash pad with community donations and the Novi Parks Foundation.
- Working with our Federal peers on road funding for Taft Road, Beck Road improvements, and other areas where we can leverage to bring more of our taxpayer dollars back to Novi. We are also working with the Cities of Wixom, Northville, Northville Township, Wayne County and RCOC, and the SEMCOG and State of Michigan on Beck Road Improvements.
- Assisting Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) with a route for needed infrastructure that will coincide with needed road improvements.
- Parks Recreation and Older Adult Services (PRCS) have many arrangements with the Novi Community Schools, private businesses, and vendors to maximize efficiencies.
- Oakland County and the Detroit Regional Partnership both with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation assist the City in retention and attraction efforts in our business community.

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The list could go on and on and it will continue to grow as relationships are formed to maximize not only what we have but leveraging other investments, facilities, and personnel to be a force multiplier.

With these relationships, staff's focus determined efforts, and City Council's leadership, I am pleased to present this balanced budget that continues our trend in the right direction. This plan, again, lays the framework to position Novi as continuing to lead as one of Michigan's finest cities.

Finally, I would like to thank our Assistant City Manager Victor Cardenas; our Finance team led by Director Carl Johnson, Deputy Director Sabrina Lilla, and Senior Budget Analyst Jessica Dorey; our Community Relations team led by Director Sheryl Walsh-Molloy; and every department director for their continued efforts to be excellent stewards of our financial responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Auger', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pete Auger
City Manager