

Webinar

ULI British Columbia: A Conversation with City Manager, Paul Mochrie, City of Vancouver

Date: June 15, 2021

00:00:07 --> 00:00:07: OK

00:00:07 --> 00:00:08: well thanks everyone not for joining.

00:00:08 --> 00:00:10: We're just going to give it a minute as she

00:00:11 --> 00:00:13: could file in from the waiting room and it's just

00:00:13 --> 00:00:13: right.

00:00:13 --> 00:00:15: I want to 12:00 o'clock so we're going to give

00:00:15 --> 00:00:17: people a minute to to join,

00:00:17 --> 00:00:19: but I want to thank those of you already on

00:00:19 --> 00:00:21: for joining us for this event today and I will

00:00:21 --> 00:00:23: get started in about a minute or two here.

00:00:38 --> 00:00:40: I see as you've got a couple more dozen people

00:00:41 --> 00:00:41: just filed in,

00:00:41 --> 00:00:44: so maybe we'll give it another minute and get started

00:00:44 --> 00:00:47: with some of the housekeeping while people still fall in.

00:00:47 --> 00:00:50: But thanks of those who joined us on this now

00:00:50 --> 00:00:52: sunny sunny Tuesday lunch hour.

00:00:52 --> 00:00:56: Although I thought it was supposed to rain.

00:00:56 --> 00:00:59: But uhm. Looking forward to hosting what should be a

00:00:59 --> 00:01:04: really interesting conversation between Patty Glass and Paul Mochrie from

00:01:04 --> 00:01:05: City Vancouver.

00:01:05 --> 00:01:08: UM, so I'll give it maybe 30 more seconds.

00:01:08 --> 00:01:11: Actually, why don't I get started just again with some

00:01:11 --> 00:01:13: of the housekeeping?

00:01:13 --> 00:01:14: So first of all, again,

00:01:14 --> 00:01:17: I want to thank everyone who had joined us thus

00:01:18 --> 00:01:21: far and for the people who are going to join

00:01:21 --> 00:01:24: us in a minute or two here once again appreciate

00:01:24 --> 00:01:28: you joining our comma. Another conversation with the city

officials

00:01:28 --> 00:01:30: here have ever been land institute.

00:01:30 --> 00:01:31: Which climate before I get started.

00:01:31 --> 00:01:34: Just some housekeeping items? One first of all,

00:01:34 --> 00:01:37: for those who may be new to you lie,

00:01:37 --> 00:01:40: we are an education and research based nonprofit that has

00:01:40 --> 00:01:43: a is a global network literally right across the globe

00:01:43 --> 00:01:46: and all the continents and our mission is to connect,

00:01:46 --> 00:01:49: inspire and lead in shaping the future of the built

00:01:49 --> 00:01:52: environment for our transformative impact in communities worldwide.

00:01:52 --> 00:01:53: Oftentimes, I like to say,

00:01:53 --> 00:01:55: you know, we're really focused,

00:01:55 --> 00:01:58: especially locally, here on best practices in city building and

00:01:59 --> 00:02:00: seeing what role we can play.

00:02:00 --> 00:02:03: In shaping our built environment to improve the lives of

00:02:03 --> 00:02:04: everyone in the cities.

00:02:04 --> 00:02:06: In addition to that, I did want to take a

00:02:06 --> 00:02:10: moment to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territories

00:02:10 --> 00:02:12: of the indigenous First Nations.

00:02:12 --> 00:02:13: People that came before us.

00:02:13 --> 00:02:16: In particular, I'm located in the traditional territories of the

00:02:16 --> 00:02:17: Coast Salish people,

00:02:17 --> 00:02:20: which would be the most grandmas Squamish enslaved to people,

00:02:20 --> 00:02:22: and many of you may be coming from the same

00:02:23 --> 00:02:24: area and from elsewhere.

00:02:24 --> 00:02:27: So I just want to take a moment to recognize

00:02:27 --> 00:02:27: that,

00:02:27 --> 00:02:30: you know we've had a number of conversations.

00:02:30 --> 00:02:31: We're capping off it. Well,

00:02:31 --> 00:02:34: I hear our fiscal year ends at at June and

00:02:34 --> 00:02:35: we've had a great year.

00:02:35 --> 00:02:38: Despite the struggles of the pandemic and what I mean

00:02:38 --> 00:02:39: by great is.

00:02:39 --> 00:02:42: We've been very fortunate to be for people who have

00:02:42 --> 00:02:44: given us a lot of their time to join us.

00:02:44 --> 00:02:46: One to participate in these conversations,

00:02:46 --> 00:02:47: like Patty and like Paul,

00:02:47 --> 00:02:50: but as well as all of you have joined it.

00:02:50 --> 00:02:52: So we actually, I think I just wanted to note

00:02:52 --> 00:02:55: that because we we've come across the District Council

00:02:55 --> 00:02:58: network
 00:02:58 --> 00:03:00: have been recognized for the amount of programming we put
 00:03:00 --> 00:03:01: on, and the number of attendees have joined because we
 00:03:01 --> 00:03:03: really wanted to.
 00:03:03 --> 00:03:06: To the forefront of many of the conversations,
 00:03:06 --> 00:03:07: whether that's you know what's going on here in the
 00:03:07 --> 00:03:09: city Vancouver,
 00:03:09 --> 00:03:10: what's going on in the region with you?
 00:03:10 --> 00:03:13: Economic recovery with infrastructure investments,
 we've got more conversations coming up next week with
 Minister
 Rob Fleming.
 Administer, stable and ma. So we're really,
 you know, excited to continue doing our part to have
 our Members be part of the conversation and and also
 hear from decision makers and leaders in the community on
 all sorts of topics so,
 you know, I think the zoom environment was a bit
 worrying at the beginning.
 We weren't sure how it will go.
 But All in all, it's going very well,
 so I'm I very appreciate everyone giving them time for
 this event and for all the events ahead of that.
 And as always, I do want to thank before we
 get started.
 Thank all our annual sponsors.
 You know they're they're up here on the on the
 screen as well as a particular our platinum sponsors and
 there's a bunch of them behind me.
 It's not on my background here,
 but it's with their ongoing commitment to ULI both before
 the pandemic through the pandemic.
 And hopefully long after that allow us to put on
 this event and many more,
 and we've got a lot of exciting.
 I'm programming in the works for a little bit more
 in the summer,
 and then for really exciting fall.
 So as always, I really appreciate their their ongoing support
 for all of our work and our initiatives.
 So today you're joining us for what should be a
 really interesting sort of fireside chat conversation with the

city
00:04:20 --> 00:04:23: of Vancouver's New City manager Paul Mokri.
00:04:23 --> 00:04:25: Paul assumed the role of city manager in April of
00:04:26 --> 00:04:29: 2021 after serving as acting city manager since January of
00:04:29 --> 00:04:29: 2021.
00:04:29 --> 00:04:32: Previously, Paul Paul's been a long time employee.
00:04:32 --> 00:04:35: At the city Vancouver in various leadership roles and he
00:04:35 --> 00:04:39: helped us most recently before prior to acting city manager
00:04:39 --> 00:04:42: and city manager was the deputy city manager where he
00:04:42 --> 00:04:45: provided oversight for portfolio of direct services and
corporate support
00:04:45 --> 00:04:46: departments.
00:04:46 --> 00:04:49: Vancouver Fire Rescue development buildings and licensing
arts and culture
00:04:49 --> 00:04:50: and community services,
00:04:50 --> 00:04:53: technology services and human resource is he's been
around the
00:04:54 --> 00:04:54: city for I,
00:04:54 --> 00:04:57: I believe it would be Jeff passed a decade now.
00:04:57 --> 00:05:01: Paul. So you you've seen a lot over the years
00:05:01 --> 00:05:03: and so we're excited.
00:05:03 --> 00:05:05: To hear what you have to say,
00:05:05 --> 00:05:07: both in terms of what the city's been up to,
00:05:07 --> 00:05:09: but now that you're in this,
00:05:09 --> 00:05:12: you know the key leadership role at the city staff
00:05:12 --> 00:05:12: level.
00:05:12 --> 00:05:15: What you see is the future opportunities and challenges,
00:05:15 --> 00:05:18: but also opportunities for the city Vancouver and also ways
00:05:18 --> 00:05:19: that we can as well.
00:05:19 --> 00:05:22: I participate in those and work with you following Paul's
00:05:22 --> 00:05:23: sort of addressed to us.
00:05:23 --> 00:05:25: We will shift to a moderated Q&A with our moderator
00:05:25 --> 00:05:27: Patty Glass from Grosvenor America.
00:05:27 --> 00:05:30: I'll introduce her again when we get up to that
00:05:30 --> 00:05:30: moment,
00:05:30 --> 00:05:33: and then that of course will be followed by a
00:05:33 --> 00:05:35: Q&A which I'll come back and help with.
00:05:35 --> 00:05:38: In the meantime, for those of you who have attended
00:05:38 --> 00:05:39: our events in this format,
00:05:39 --> 00:05:41: you know if you look at the bottom there,
00:05:41 --> 00:05:44: there's the Q&A function. Feel free to drop a question
00:05:44 --> 00:05:46: or two in there and then I will help work
00:05:46 --> 00:05:47: that out with Patty.

00:05:47 --> 00:05:49: And there's also the chat function,
00:05:49 --> 00:05:51: but I do encourage you to put questions into the
00:05:51 --> 00:05:54: Q&A function because it will help us better manage that.
00:05:54 --> 00:05:55: But with that, enough for me,
00:05:55 --> 00:05:57: Paul, I'm gonna pass it over to you for our
00:05:57 --> 00:06:00: for the you to kick off our conversation this afternoon.
00:06:02 --> 00:06:04: Thanks so much doctor for that welcome and thank you
00:06:04 --> 00:06:07: very much for the opportunity to speak here today.
00:06:07 --> 00:06:09: I want to acknowledge that I'm also working today from
00:06:09 --> 00:06:11: the ancestral men seed lands of the muskiness,
00:06:11 --> 00:06:13: consciously with two people and want to,
00:06:13 --> 00:06:16: you know, express my appreciation for their welcome to their
00:06:16 --> 00:06:18: lands and stewardship of this amazing place that we all
00:06:18 --> 00:06:19: call home.
00:06:19 --> 00:06:21: So yeah, it's Duncan indicated it's been a couple of
00:06:22 --> 00:06:24: months now since council asked me to take on the
00:06:24 --> 00:06:26: role of city manager for the City of Vancouver.
00:06:26 --> 00:06:29: It's you know someone who spent their career as a
00:06:29 --> 00:06:30: public servant.
00:06:30 --> 00:06:32: It's an immense privilege for me.
00:06:32 --> 00:06:34: To serve our city and our council and our staff
00:06:35 --> 00:06:36: in this capacity.
00:06:36 --> 00:06:38: And it's certainly an extraordinary point in time for the
00:06:39 --> 00:06:41: community and for the city as a local government and
00:06:41 --> 00:06:45: really based on that fascinating and can uniquely challenging
00:06:45 --> 00:06:47: period
00:06:47 --> 00:06:51: of time to be stepping into this role.
00:06:47 --> 00:06:51: So I really appreciate the opportunity to share some thoughts
00:06:51 --> 00:06:53: on that and to have a conversation with with you
00:06:53 --> 00:06:54: all today.
00:06:54 --> 00:06:57: So now I'm I do have a few kind of
00:06:57 --> 00:06:57: opening.
00:06:57 --> 00:07:01: Comments are going to share as context and the.
00:07:01 --> 00:07:05: COVID test here is whether I can share my slides.
00:07:14 --> 00:07:17: You can just give me a thumbs up that that's
00:07:17 --> 00:07:18: working properly.
00:07:18 --> 00:07:21: Perfect thanks so much. I'm sorry,
00:07:21 --> 00:07:24: I'm I'm gonna keep my opening comments really brief or
00:07:24 --> 00:07:25: as brief as I can and just to set some
00:07:26 --> 00:07:27: context for this conversation,
00:07:27 --> 00:07:29: give a bit of a kind of background on the
00:07:29 --> 00:07:30: city of Vancouver.

00:07:30 --> 00:07:32: You know, as a local government,
00:07:32 --> 00:07:34: it doesn't really make sense to have any state of
00:07:34 --> 00:07:37: the nation type conversation these days without talking about COVID.

00:07:37 --> 00:07:39: So I'm going to speak a little bit about that.
00:07:39 --> 00:07:41: The impact on the city,
00:07:41 --> 00:07:42: both the organization and the community,
00:07:42 --> 00:07:44: provide a bit of an overview of kind of what
00:07:45 --> 00:07:46: I see is near term priorities.
00:07:46 --> 00:07:48: For me, stepping into the role as well as some
00:07:48 --> 00:07:51: thoughts on systemic or longer term operating.
00:07:51 --> 00:07:54: Opportunities and challenges for the city.
00:07:54 --> 00:07:56: And maybe just a couple of additional comments.
00:07:56 --> 00:07:58: Kind of brief personal intro and as Duncan indicated,
00:07:58 --> 00:08:01: I had been with the city for 10 years in
00:08:01 --> 00:08:02: this role.
00:08:02 --> 00:08:05: Now for two months, having stepped in and acting after
00:08:05 --> 00:08:05: cited,
00:08:05 --> 00:08:07: Johnston left at the beginning of the year.
00:08:07 --> 00:08:10: I initially joined the city in 2011 as the general
00:08:10 --> 00:08:11: Manager of Human Resources,
00:08:11 --> 00:08:14: and then was asked to take on our kind of
00:08:14 --> 00:08:15: technology,
00:08:15 --> 00:08:17: services and digital strategy work as well.
00:08:17 --> 00:08:18: For the last five years though,
00:08:18 --> 00:08:21: I have been supporting savvy as a deputy city manager,
00:08:21 --> 00:08:24: so I have had the opportunity to work with both.
00:08:24 --> 00:08:27: Any Belgium and Saudi Johnston as city managers both
00:08:27 --> 00:08:27: massively
00:08:27 --> 00:08:27: talented,
00:08:27 --> 00:08:30: impactful leaders. You know a great opportunity for me to
00:08:30 --> 00:08:32: learn from 2 fantastic folks prior to the city.
00:08:32 --> 00:08:35: But my career was largely in the health sector so
00:08:35 --> 00:08:38: I I came to the city from the province of
00:08:38 --> 00:08:39: British Columbia.
00:08:39 --> 00:08:42: I worked in the Ministry of Health and the Pharmacare
00:08:42 --> 00:08:42: program.
00:08:42 --> 00:08:45: My job there was really managing the kind of commercial
00:08:45 --> 00:08:47: relationships between the Pharmacare program,
00:08:47 --> 00:08:49: the pharma industry and pharmacies.
00:08:49 --> 00:08:52: Really interesting job. I also worked with both Fraser Health
00:08:52 --> 00:08:52: Authority,
00:08:52 --> 00:08:55: Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and Health Employers

Association,
00:08:55 --> 00:08:57: so did kind of the Tour of duty in the
00:08:57 --> 00:09:01: healthcare sector before coming to local government and
have really
00:09:01 --> 00:09:04: really enjoyed my 10 years here in local government.
00:09:04 --> 00:09:07: So fascinating environment to work in and particularly the
City
00:09:07 --> 00:09:09: of Vancouver over this decade.
00:09:09 --> 00:09:11: It's it's just been a really,
00:09:11 --> 00:09:12: really great and kind opportunity,
00:09:12 --> 00:09:16: career wise. And personally, I was born and raised in
00:09:16 --> 00:09:19: Victoria but came to undergrad here at UBC and have
00:09:19 --> 00:09:21: stayed so 30 years in the city that I mean,
00:09:21 --> 00:09:24: this is definitely home. I live with my family in
00:09:24 --> 00:09:25: East Vancouver,
00:09:25 --> 00:09:26: kind of the Riley Park neighborhood.
00:09:26 --> 00:09:29: So that's where my wife and my son and I
00:09:29 --> 00:09:30: find ourselves.
00:09:30 --> 00:09:33: So kind of getting into our content here.
00:09:33 --> 00:09:37: Just a quick kind of tombstone overview of the city.
00:09:37 --> 00:09:41: Many of you I'm sure are really familiar with this.
00:09:41 --> 00:09:44: You know, relatively small and geographically constrained
landmass.
00:09:44 --> 00:09:48: We are home to about 1/4 of the region's population.
00:09:48 --> 00:09:52: Obviously the core city for the region and just over
00:09:52 --> 00:09:55: a third of the region's jobs as a local government.
00:09:55 --> 00:09:59: Our team comprises about 8000 people that work for the
00:09:59 --> 00:10:00: city.
00:10:00 --> 00:10:02: And then there's an additional 3000.
00:10:02 --> 00:10:05: Folks that work for the Vancouver Police Department and
other
00:10:05 --> 00:10:07: bank for Public Library,
00:10:07 --> 00:10:10: both of which are independent legal entities but are funded
00:10:10 --> 00:10:12: almost exclusively by the city Vancouver.
00:10:12 --> 00:10:15: So they're very much in in the family.
00:10:15 --> 00:10:18: The city also has a number of other affiliates,
00:10:18 --> 00:10:20: most significantly, the Peony and Easy Park.
00:10:20 --> 00:10:24: You know, two really significant commercial enterprises that
are owned
00:10:24 --> 00:10:24: by the city.
00:10:24 --> 00:10:28: Really large kind of asset base that the taxpayers in
00:10:28 --> 00:10:29: in Vancouver own,
00:10:29 --> 00:10:31: including 25 billion roughly in land assets.

00:10:31 --> 00:10:34: A lot of that. Obviously is street and Parkland,
 00:10:34 --> 00:10:37: but there's a really large portfolio of land that's used
 00:10:37 --> 00:10:40: for affordable housing that's owned by the city as well
 00:10:40 --> 00:10:42: as the city's property endowment fund,
 00:10:42 --> 00:10:45: which is used to purchase and hold strategic acquisitions as
 00:10:45 --> 00:10:48: well as income generating properties that return a dividend to
 00:10:48 --> 00:10:49: the city.
 00:10:49 --> 00:10:52: To offset tax increases. Financially,
 00:10:52 --> 00:10:54: the city's been very, very stable.
 00:10:54 --> 00:10:57: You know, AAA credit rating highest Benny City in Canada,
 00:10:57 --> 00:11:00: largely a function of those land assets that's there.
 00:11:00 --> 00:11:04: There those are really important assets for the city.
 00:11:04 --> 00:11:08: Really valuable tool. In terms of what we do as
 00:11:08 --> 00:11:09: an organization,
 00:11:09 --> 00:11:13: just kind of break this down really quickly that services
 00:11:13 --> 00:11:16: by kind of expenditure category and my apologies if the
 00:11:16 --> 00:11:19: legend there is a little hard to read.
 00:11:19 --> 00:11:22: So for 2021, the city's operating budget is \$1.6 billion.
 00:11:22 --> 00:11:25: The blue section of the graph there represents expenditures
 on
 00:11:25 --> 00:11:26: public safety,
 00:11:26 --> 00:11:29: so police and fire. This is the fastest growing component
 00:11:29 --> 00:11:31: of our expenditures.
 00:11:31 --> 00:11:34: It's all supported by property tax and is a real
 00:11:34 --> 00:11:37: kind of notable driver of property tax increases.
 00:11:37 --> 00:11:40: And and the city is kind of role in the
 00:11:40 --> 00:11:44: region as a core city does have a significant influence
 00:11:44 --> 00:11:47: on public safety costs just as kind of a reference
 00:11:47 --> 00:11:50: point. You know historically, per capita policing costs in
 Vancouver
 00:11:50 --> 00:11:53: are roughly double what they have been in Surry,
 00:11:53 --> 00:11:56: so that that role that we play has big implications
 00:11:56 --> 00:11:57: on our tax base.
 00:11:57 --> 00:12:00: The yellow portion of the graph there is our engineering
 00:12:00 --> 00:12:01: and utilities.
 00:12:01 --> 00:12:03: So utilities would include water,
 00:12:03 --> 00:12:06: sewer, sanitation, you know, including the bank over landfill
 and
 00:12:06 --> 00:12:08: delta and our neighborhood energy utility.
 00:12:08 --> 00:12:12: And then the other engineering components are largely kind
 of
 00:12:12 --> 00:12:12: streets.
 00:12:12 --> 00:12:16: Transportation bridges. The green component there are are

essentially our
00:12:16 --> 00:12:17: community services,
00:12:17 --> 00:12:20: so parks, arts culture or community services or regulatory
functions,
00:12:20 --> 00:12:23: development and planning, as well as the library.
00:12:23 --> 00:12:25: And as you can see,
00:12:25 --> 00:12:27: these are. These are smaller expenditures,
00:12:27 --> 00:12:30: but they have a huge impact on the livability in
00:12:31 --> 00:12:31: the city,
00:12:31 --> 00:12:34: and they're very, very highly valued by our residents and
00:12:34 --> 00:12:35: businesses.
00:12:35 --> 00:12:38: You know, the challenges that those services are under.
00:12:38 --> 00:12:41: A lot of pressure from kind of the infrastructure,
00:12:41 --> 00:12:45: demands and public safety. So long term challenge and not
00:12:45 --> 00:12:47: crowding out all those other expenditures.
00:12:47 --> 00:12:50: That kind of really make Vancouver what it is as
00:12:50 --> 00:12:51: a place to live.
00:12:51 --> 00:12:53: And then finally the purple component.
00:12:53 --> 00:12:58: There are corporate support services and are non utility debt
00:12:58 --> 00:12:59: and capital.
00:12:59 --> 00:13:02: So in terms of where all that money comes from,
00:13:02 --> 00:13:06: a revenue profile, property taxes and utility fees make up
00:13:06 --> 00:13:06: roughly 4/5,
00:13:06 --> 00:13:10: just over 80%. It's a very stable and predictable revenue
00:13:10 --> 00:13:13: source for the city you through Cove in we virtually
00:13:13 --> 00:13:16: saw no increase in delinquencies on taxes,
00:13:16 --> 00:13:17: which was a real worry,
00:13:17 --> 00:13:20: but but really pleased to see that.
00:13:20 --> 00:13:23: So that's a very kind of stable component of revenues,
00:13:23 --> 00:13:26: but the rest of that kind of 19%
00:13:26 --> 00:13:28: of the revenue picture there.
00:13:28 --> 00:13:31: Does have considerable exposure to general economic
conditions,
00:13:31 --> 00:13:33: so are you know development fees,
00:13:33 --> 00:13:36: parking program fees, for example in Parks and Recreation
rentals
00:13:36 --> 00:13:38: and revenue sharing with province.
00:13:38 --> 00:13:42: These are significant revenue sources in Vancouver and
much more
00:13:42 --> 00:13:45: so than many other municipalities that rely more heavily on
00:13:45 --> 00:13:45: tax.
00:13:45 --> 00:13:47: So it's a real benefit.
00:13:47 --> 00:13:51: It helps offset some of those core city costs that

00:13:51 --> 00:13:52: we bear,
00:13:52 --> 00:13:54: but right now all of those kind of at risk
00:13:54 --> 00:13:59: revenue sources were significantly impacted by COVID So maybe I'll
00:13:59 --> 00:14:02: segue now to kind of the COVID picture,
00:14:02 --> 00:14:04: so I think probably like everybody as of March last
00:14:05 --> 00:14:05: year,
00:14:05 --> 00:14:08: we kind of fell off the edge of the world
00:14:08 --> 00:14:09: as we knew it.
00:14:09 --> 00:14:12: You know, are we transitioned approximately 2500 staff to working
00:14:12 --> 00:14:15: remotely within the space of a couple of weeks,
00:14:15 --> 00:14:17: but at the same time is that we have a
00:14:17 --> 00:14:20: lot of our work where staff have been at work
00:14:20 --> 00:14:24: on the job at their job sites throughout the pandemic?
00:14:24 --> 00:14:25: You know, providing essential services,
00:14:25 --> 00:14:28: so there's been a really heavy focus on keeping those.
00:14:28 --> 00:14:32: Folks safe both themselves and the public that they interact
00:14:32 --> 00:14:32: with,
00:14:32 --> 00:14:36: so the business continuity kind of challenges that we faced
00:14:36 --> 00:14:39: over the last year have been significant just since November.
00:14:39 --> 00:14:43: We've had over 400 cases of staff who've been off
00:14:43 --> 00:14:43: work,
00:14:43 --> 00:14:47: either due to confirmed cases of COVID or because they're
00:14:47 --> 00:14:50: in isolation awaiting tests or on the direction of public
00:14:50 --> 00:14:50: health.
00:14:50 --> 00:14:54: So some some again, considerable business continuity issues there and
00:14:54 --> 00:14:55: and major revenue impacts.
00:14:55 --> 00:14:59: So over the kind of two year span of the.
00:14:59 --> 00:15:02: Pandemic 2020 and 2021. We're estimating revenue losses,
00:15:02 --> 00:15:04: approaching a total of \$170 million.
00:15:04 --> 00:15:07: So these again are things like parking in particular,
00:15:07 --> 00:15:10: program fees and parks, and unlike senior governments,
00:15:10 --> 00:15:14: local governments are required by law to balance our operating
00:15:14 --> 00:15:14: budgets.
00:15:14 --> 00:15:16: We, we cannot run deficits,
00:15:16 --> 00:15:20: so you know, in April of last year looking at
00:15:20 --> 00:15:24: those types of revenue losses and and the complete uncertainty
00:15:24 --> 00:15:27: as to how long this thing was going to last,
00:15:27 --> 00:15:29: we had to implement some.

00:15:29 --> 00:15:31: Very aggressive cost reduction measures.

00:15:31 --> 00:15:35: We implemented temporary layoffs for about 1800 of our staff

00:15:35 --> 00:15:38: across the city in Vancouver Public Library.

00:15:38 --> 00:15:41: Unpaid furloughs for all of our non unionized staff.

00:15:41 --> 00:15:44: You know, an unpaid day off every two weeks and

00:15:44 --> 00:15:48: deferred a whole bunch of capital expenditures as well.

00:15:48 --> 00:15:51: We did receive some funding through the profit.

00:15:51 --> 00:15:54: The provincial federal restart agreement for Vancouver.

00:15:54 --> 00:15:57: It totaled \$16 million and so again,

00:15:57 --> 00:16:00: that's against the loss of \$170 million in revenue.

00:16:00 --> 00:16:04: That was the lowest per capita funding from the province

00:16:04 --> 00:16:05: of any city in BC,

00:16:05 --> 00:16:08: BC. Uniquely in Canada. Distributed that that funding on a

00:16:08 --> 00:16:10: model that waited smaller communities higher.

00:16:10 --> 00:16:12: So Vancouver. Although our revenue impacts were higher,

00:16:12 --> 00:16:15: Salles support from the province in terms of that direct

00:16:15 --> 00:16:16: operational planning.

00:16:16 --> 00:16:19: I would say though the province has stepped up in

00:16:19 --> 00:16:20: other areas,

00:16:20 --> 00:16:22: which I'll talk about in a second.

00:16:22 --> 00:16:25: So essentially how we've been managing apart from those

00:16:25 --> 00:16:27: kind

00:16:27 --> 00:16:30: of major cost savings initiatives,

00:16:30 --> 00:16:31: how we've been managing over the last year and this

00:16:31 --> 00:16:34: year has been.

00:16:34 --> 00:16:38: Tapping into revenue reserves so we do maintain a reserve

00:16:38 --> 00:16:39: to cover unexpected our revenue shocks or costs by the

00:16:39 --> 00:16:42: end of this year.

00:16:42 --> 00:16:45: That reserve is essentially depleted and we're expecting to

00:16:45 --> 00:16:48: draw

00:16:48 --> 00:16:51: almost \$60 million from that reserved for 2021.

00:16:51 --> 00:16:53: And as order magnitude that equates to about a 7%

00:16:53 --> 00:16:56: property tax increase, so it had we had to fund

00:16:56 --> 00:16:58: that through property taxes.

00:16:58 --> 00:17:01: Vancouver would have been looking at about a 12%

00:17:01 --> 00:17:04: property tax increase last year,

00:17:04 --> 00:17:05: so a really tricky balance to maintain our operations.

00:17:05 --> 00:17:09: And kind of come in with balanced budget,

00:17:09 --> 00:17:09: so that's the internal peace.

00:17:09 --> 00:17:12: I think you know, looking outward at Vancouver as a

00:17:12 --> 00:17:13: community.

00:17:13 --> 00:17:15: What I would say is pretty much all of our

00:17:15 --> 00:17:17: hard problems.

00:17:13 --> 00:17:16: I got harder in the last year,
 00:17:16 --> 00:17:19: so just you know, a few kind of Sentinel indicators.
 00:17:19 --> 00:17:23: One overdose fatalities you know saw huge increase in 2020,
 00:17:23 --> 00:17:26: 2019. We've actually seen some positive a positive trend on
 00:17:26 --> 00:17:27: the overdose crisis,
 00:17:27 --> 00:17:30: but you know, last year was the worst year yet.
 00:17:30 --> 00:17:34: And really. That drug supply is as toxic as it
 00:17:34 --> 00:17:35: has ever been,
 00:17:35 --> 00:17:39: and unfortunately there's indicators now of increased
 00:17:39 --> 00:17:41: numbers of residents
 00:17:41 --> 00:17:43: in Vancouver who are in fact using opioids.
 00:17:43 --> 00:17:46: So really, really challenging. And again,
 00:17:46 --> 00:17:49: that that is the kind of second public health crisis
 00:17:49 --> 00:17:51: that we've been navigating along with COVID.
 00:17:51 --> 00:17:54: Homelessness really significant increases as well.
 00:17:54 --> 00:17:57: A function of capacity restrictions in shelters.
 00:17:57 --> 00:18:01: No guest policies in SRO's and just general fear of
 00:18:01 --> 00:18:04: people being in those congregate living situations due to
 00:18:04 --> 00:18:05: code.
 00:18:05 --> 00:18:06: We've had two large encampments over the period of the
 00:18:06 --> 00:18:10: pandemic,
 00:18:10 --> 00:18:13: when and often heimer Parkland,
 00:18:13 --> 00:18:16: Strathcona Park, and what we've seen is that really
 00:18:16 --> 00:18:19: disproportionate
 00:18:19 --> 00:18:21: impact of the pandemic on our vulnerable populations.
 00:18:21 --> 00:18:24: It's something that we've always known in Vancouver that in
 00:18:24 --> 00:18:27: an event of a disaster we have really serious.
 00:18:27 --> 00:18:29: Risks to our vulnerable populations,
 00:18:29 --> 00:18:32: and that's all manifested with COVID.
 00:18:32 --> 00:18:33: Thankfully, we've seen some some amazing kind of
 00:18:33 --> 00:18:36: partnership with
 00:18:36 --> 00:18:38: the province and the federal government.
 00:18:38 --> 00:18:41: In response, they have some massive investments in
 00:18:41 --> 00:18:44: housing in
 00:18:44 --> 00:18:46: response to homelessness.
 00:18:46 --> 00:18:48: So some good news there.
 00:18:48 --> 00:18:50: But yeah, big big challenges St disorder or graffiti.
 00:18:50 --> 00:18:52: You know this number is kind of reflects our service
 00:18:52 --> 00:18:54: requests for graffiti on city and private property.
 00:18:54 --> 00:18:56: This is a dramatic kind of under report.
 00:18:56 --> 00:18:58: You know, I know some parts of town,
 00:18:58 --> 00:19:00: you know, even just Hastings Park,
 00:19:00 --> 00:19:02: the Peony have seen over a 300%

00:18:52 --> 00:18:55: increase in graffiti on their property.

00:18:55 --> 00:18:58: And and these are issues that are are definitely spreading

00:18:58 --> 00:19:01: out well beyond kind of the historical epicenter in the

00:19:02 --> 00:19:03: Downtown Eastside,

00:19:03 --> 00:19:04: and that those core neighborhoods,

00:19:04 --> 00:19:07: and then finally a statistic that you may have heard

00:19:07 --> 00:19:09: from the Vancouver Police Department,

00:19:09 --> 00:19:13: just an astronomical increase in kind of the incidents of

00:19:13 --> 00:19:15: anti Asian racism in the city.

00:19:15 --> 00:19:16: And complaints to the VPD,

00:19:16 --> 00:19:20: extremely troubling huge impacts on our residents and businesses in

00:19:20 --> 00:19:23: Chinatown but but on in residents of Asian heritage across

00:19:23 --> 00:19:24: the city.

00:19:24 --> 00:19:26: So these are. These are.

00:19:26 --> 00:19:29: Significant problems for us to dig out of as a

00:19:29 --> 00:19:29: community,

00:19:29 --> 00:19:32: and we've been doing that while trying to maintain all

00:19:32 --> 00:19:34: of our regular services.

00:19:34 --> 00:19:36: You know, it's required a reallocations of resource is new

00:19:36 --> 00:19:37: tactics,

00:19:37 --> 00:19:39: new partnerships with senior government sandbags,

00:19:39 --> 00:19:42: and not for profits. So we've been really scrambling to

00:19:42 --> 00:19:44: kind of manage these things.

00:19:44 --> 00:19:47: Flip side, there have also been some incredibly positive learnings

00:19:47 --> 00:19:49: and outcomes from COVID as well.

00:19:49 --> 00:19:52: You know our our teams that support vulnerable folks in

00:19:52 --> 00:19:54: the Downtown Eastside have been doing amazing work,

00:19:54 --> 00:19:56: particularly the first phase of the pandemic.

00:19:56 --> 00:19:59: Maintaining access to food, hygiene services and so on.

00:19:59 --> 00:20:02: But I would say it's you know the the use

00:20:02 --> 00:20:04: of public space is I I I would say it's

00:20:04 --> 00:20:06: been revolutionary.

00:20:06 --> 00:20:08: You know, both in terms of the amount of usage

00:20:09 --> 00:20:11: that our parks are getting and and you have seen

00:20:12 --> 00:20:14: that and and then re allocation of Rd space,

00:20:14 --> 00:20:17: 2 plazas and patios. You know we've approved over 600

00:20:17 --> 00:20:19: temporary patio permits this year,

00:20:19 --> 00:20:22: and along with the public space comma,

00:20:22 --> 00:20:25: public realm benefits. There's also in behind that are really

00:20:25 --> 00:20:29: significant process transformation for us as the city with patios

00:20:29 --> 00:20:30: in particular,

00:20:30 --> 00:20:33: so that that was a kind of new entirely new

00:20:33 --> 00:20:37: permitting process that we built in a couple of weeks.

00:20:37 --> 00:20:40: Our team. We're processing applications within two to three business

00:20:40 --> 00:20:40: days.

00:20:40 --> 00:20:44: It's an entirely different kind of calibration of our approach

00:20:44 --> 00:20:45: to risk management.

00:20:45 --> 00:20:48: It's been tremendously. Successful the impact on the city and

00:20:48 --> 00:20:49: businesses has been huge,

00:20:49 --> 00:20:51: so there are really important lessons there.

00:20:51 --> 00:20:54: For us, an organization that I want to make sure

00:20:54 --> 00:20:58: we integrate as permanent changes to the way we do

00:20:58 --> 00:20:58: business.

00:20:58 --> 00:21:01: So then that's kind of past 15 months.

00:21:01 --> 00:21:04: Uhm, no context for where the city is at the

00:21:04 --> 00:21:05: situation for me.

00:21:05 --> 00:21:08: And stepping into this new role and there really isn't

00:21:08 --> 00:21:09: a playbook for this scenario.

00:21:09 --> 00:21:13: You know we're approaching now municipal election in the fall

00:21:13 --> 00:21:13: of 2020,

00:21:13 --> 00:21:15: so our Council, like others,

00:21:15 --> 00:21:17: is focused on utilizing their end of their term to

00:21:17 --> 00:21:20: deliver on kind of their priorities and commitments.

00:21:20 --> 00:21:23: And we're now emerging from the kind of direct response

00:21:23 --> 00:21:25: phase of the pandemic.

00:21:25 --> 00:21:26: There's a number of ongoing impacts,

00:21:26 --> 00:21:28: but we're also looking at.

00:21:28 --> 00:21:31: It's returned to something like more normal life.

00:21:31 --> 00:21:34: So I want to give you just a quick kind

00:21:34 --> 00:21:37: of snapshot overview of some of the key priorities for

00:21:37 --> 00:21:39: me or themes you know at the time.

00:21:39 --> 00:21:42: Seeing for for for me personally in the job over

00:21:42 --> 00:21:44: the next 6 to 12 months.

00:21:44 --> 00:21:46: Speak just quickly about each of these.

00:21:46 --> 00:21:48: First of all, council. You know,

00:21:48 --> 00:21:51: in 2018, Vancouver voters elected a very different council in

00:21:51 --> 00:21:53: Vancouver in with an independent mayor and no majority on

00:21:54 --> 00:21:54: council.

00:21:54 --> 00:21:57: That has resulted in issues being subject to quite a

00:21:57 --> 00:21:59: bit more debate and less predictable outcomes.

00:21:59 --> 00:22:02: Kind of through the legislative process and a staff that's

00:22:02 --> 00:22:03: required us to work differently.

00:22:03 --> 00:22:06: You know adjust how we support Council and that work

00:22:06 --> 00:22:07: is ongoing.

00:22:07 --> 00:22:09: So key role for me is city manager is primary

00:22:09 --> 00:22:12: interface between Council and the public service,

00:22:12 --> 00:22:14: so that's work that I need to keep.

00:22:14 --> 00:22:16: Focusing on, you know the organization.

00:22:16 --> 00:22:19: We've had key leadership roles to fill our director of

00:22:19 --> 00:22:21: planning with Teresa at Ganahl,

00:22:21 --> 00:22:23: our general Manager of Development,

00:22:23 --> 00:22:26: building licensing Andrea Law is going to be stepping into

00:22:26 --> 00:22:28: that role by replacing Jesse Adcock.

00:22:28 --> 00:22:31: There's now are the deputy city manager role that I

00:22:31 --> 00:22:34: feel previously that that needs to be filled,

00:22:34 --> 00:22:37: so some key leadership gaps there and and also our

00:22:37 --> 00:22:38: staff is tired and stretched.

00:22:38 --> 00:22:41: So prioritization and focus is really critical.

00:22:41 --> 00:22:44: It's it's not an easy thing to do at all.

00:22:44 --> 00:22:47: But that's a key focus for us and then and

00:22:47 --> 00:22:50: then transitioning back to kind of normal life,

00:22:50 --> 00:22:53: you know, how do we use our office environments and

00:22:53 --> 00:22:55: our our kind of real estate footprint?

00:22:55 --> 00:22:57: Provide flexibility for staff? How do we maintain the speed

00:22:57 --> 00:23:00: and adaptability that we've demonstrated through the pandemic?

00:23:00 --> 00:23:02: So those are key pieces for me.

00:23:02 --> 00:23:05: Kind of looking at the organization internally.

00:23:05 --> 00:23:07: The budget piece is always there,

00:23:07 --> 00:23:09: but 2022 is going to pose some very,

00:23:09 --> 00:23:11: very difficult challenges and tradeoffs for Council.

00:23:11 --> 00:23:14: You know, it's the final year of counsels.

00:23:14 --> 00:23:16: Mandate and there's a lot of issues that Council is

00:23:16 --> 00:23:17: looking to resolve.

00:23:17 --> 00:23:19: Our financial standing. We reserve.

00:23:19 --> 00:23:20: Really, our cushion is gone,

00:23:20 --> 00:23:23: so 2022 is going to be a tough year,

00:23:23 --> 00:23:26: budget wise, and we're now starting the process of building

00:23:26 --> 00:23:29: out our next four year capital investment plan so those

00:23:29 --> 00:23:31: those investment plans kind of mirror the political cycle.

00:23:31 --> 00:23:34: So that's work we need to do for the next

00:23:34 --> 00:23:35: year is.

00:23:35 --> 00:23:38: Building out that the next iteration of that four year

00:23:38 --> 00:23:38: plan.

00:23:38 --> 00:23:41: Come on, the service delivery side key key priority is

00:23:41 --> 00:23:44: planning and development and happy to talk more about this

00:23:44 --> 00:23:46: in the conversation today,

00:23:46 --> 00:23:49: but we've got really, really serious challenges in our building

00:23:49 --> 00:23:52: and development approvals processes that we need to fix.

00:23:52 --> 00:23:55: That's one of the core functions that we perform as

00:23:55 --> 00:23:58: a city is enabling development and we've got real issues

00:23:58 --> 00:24:00: there that we need to get on.

00:24:00 --> 00:24:03: And councils been clear about that with with us as

00:24:03 --> 00:24:03: well.

00:24:03 --> 00:24:06: And then a lot of really important work going on

00:24:06 --> 00:24:09: around land use planning some critical planning.

00:24:09 --> 00:24:12: Programs banks for plan Broadway plan will love housing

00:24:12 --> 00:24:13: work

00:24:12 --> 00:24:13: that's underway.

00:24:13 --> 00:24:14: Teresa O'Donnell is leading that,

00:24:14 --> 00:24:18: but there's a you know import rule that I need

00:24:18 --> 00:24:21: to play in supporting her and her team at work.

00:24:21 --> 00:24:24: And then finally just around the social and economic recovery

00:24:24 --> 00:24:25: again.

00:24:25 --> 00:24:28: A lot of kind of key landmark initiatives there.

00:24:28 --> 00:24:30: We. We just recently the city submitted an application to

00:24:30 --> 00:24:34: Health Canada to decriminalize possession of controlled

00:24:34 --> 00:24:36: substances in Vancouver,

00:24:34 --> 00:24:36: so working on that submission,

00:24:36 --> 00:24:39: we're now awaiting feedback from Health Canada on that.

00:24:39 --> 00:24:42: And Vancouver Council is also asked us to put in

00:24:42 --> 00:24:45: place a process to review policing in Vancouver and the

00:24:45 --> 00:24:49: opportunity to potentially transition certain types of services

00:24:49 --> 00:24:51: away from

00:24:49 --> 00:24:51: policing to other services. Other service providers.

00:24:51 --> 00:24:53: That's a very, very complex discussion,

00:24:53 --> 00:24:56: so we're now embarking on that as well and then

00:24:56 --> 00:24:59: continuing to support businesses in Vancouver.

00:24:59 --> 00:25:02: So public space in Street uses a big part of

00:25:02 --> 00:25:02: that.

00:25:02 --> 00:25:06: Also gearing up to support the event sector as it

00:25:06 --> 00:25:08: restarts moving forward.

00:25:08 --> 00:25:11: So then just very quickly just checking our time here.

00:25:11 --> 00:25:14: Yeah, I wanted to speak about a couple of longer

00:25:14 --> 00:25:17: term kind of opportunities and challenges and I think you

00:25:17 --> 00:25:19: know the folks on this meeting today will be pretty

00:25:19 --> 00:25:22: well acquainted with some of the big kind of existential
 00:25:22 --> 00:25:24: questions we face in our region around affordability,
 00:25:24 --> 00:25:27: mobility, climate change. So I'm not going to touch on
 00:25:27 --> 00:25:27: those,
 00:25:27 --> 00:25:30: but maybe at a bit of more granular level.
 00:25:30 --> 00:25:33: Some things that I think we're going to need to
 00:25:33 --> 00:25:34: wrestle with and land,
 00:25:34 --> 00:25:36: you know, over the coming years.
 00:25:36 --> 00:25:38: So first is and I kind of.
 00:25:38 --> 00:25:41: Touched on it in relation to permitting is just modernizing
 00:25:41 --> 00:25:42: our regulatory framework.
 00:25:42 --> 00:25:45: We have relied in Vancouver quite heavily on land use
 00:25:45 --> 00:25:48: and building bylaws to drive public policy objectives and
 00:25:49 --> 00:25:51: that on successively over a number of decades,
 00:25:51 --> 00:25:54: and the result is a regulatory framework that's quite difficult
 00:25:54 --> 00:25:56: to work in difficult for applicants.
 00:25:56 --> 00:25:59: Project proponents, as well As for staff.
 00:25:59 --> 00:26:02: It's overly prescriptive in some respects and overly
 00:26:02 --> 00:26:03: discretionary in
 00:26:03 --> 00:26:05: other respects,
 00:26:05 --> 00:26:07: so that's work. Absolutely, we need to do,
 00:26:07 --> 00:26:11: and there are real opportunities there,
 00:26:11 --> 00:26:14: I believe. Managing and financing growth.
 00:26:14 --> 00:26:18: Vancouver, you know in the coming decades we we have
 00:26:19 --> 00:26:22: a really significant challenge around infrastructure costs both
 00:26:22 --> 00:26:26: in renewal
 00:26:26 --> 00:26:28: of our existing infrastructure but also the infrastructure
 00:26:28 --> 00:26:31: investment.
 00:26:31 --> 00:26:33: It's going to take to support the type of growth
 00:26:33 --> 00:26:35: that we're contemplating in Vancouver,
 00:26:35 --> 00:26:39: and that will be a very difficult discussion,
 00:26:39 --> 00:26:42: particularly when there are other agencies,
 00:26:42 --> 00:26:45: regional agencies in the province.
 00:26:45 --> 00:26:48: Also looking at development costs and and and potentially
 00:26:48 --> 00:26:49: grabbing
 00:26:49 --> 00:26:51: some of those development costs to pay for.
 00:26:51 --> 00:26:54: Other infrastructure like transportation, the city CAC program
 00:26:54 --> 00:26:58: Committee,
 00:26:58 --> 00:27:01: any contribution program as a source of kind of ongoing
 00:27:01 --> 00:27:04: discussion with industry,
 00:27:04 --> 00:27:07: a source of consternation in some respects.
 00:27:07 --> 00:27:10: But we are going to need to find a way

00:26:54 --> 00:26:56: to pay for growth in Vancouver.
 00:26:56 --> 00:26:59: It's not going to be feasible for the tax base
 00:26:59 --> 00:27:01: to absorb all of those financial impacts,
 00:27:01 --> 00:27:03: and that's a long term issue.
 00:27:03 --> 00:27:05: We're going to wrestle with,
 00:27:05 --> 00:27:07: I think, like a lot of organizations,
 00:27:07 --> 00:27:10: talent and culture are going to be a real challenge.
 00:27:10 --> 00:27:12: You know, we've got some great opportunities.
 00:27:12 --> 00:27:15: I think coming out of the pandemic to provide staff
 00:27:15 --> 00:27:17: with some flexibility in how we work and to build
 00:27:18 --> 00:27:19: on the list of the pandemic,
 00:27:19 --> 00:27:22: but our staff are burnt out and and we're going
 00:27:22 --> 00:27:24: to see like I think all of us are going
 00:27:24 --> 00:27:27: to see ongoing kind of mental health impacts from the
 00:27:27 --> 00:27:29: pandemic that will be long term.
 00:27:29 --> 00:27:31: So I do think we're at risk of kind of
 00:27:31 --> 00:27:34: losing folks both the early retirement and and other jobs
 00:27:34 --> 00:27:37: and so on so that the talent culture piece will
 00:27:37 --> 00:27:38: be a real focus for us.
 00:27:38 --> 00:27:41: And then finally just wanted to touch on our partnership
 00:27:41 --> 00:27:44: with the host nation so mushroom smallish label tooth.
 00:27:44 --> 00:27:47: Uhm, you know. Clearly from my perspective anyways.
 00:27:47 --> 00:27:51: You know reconciliation there? There's a fundamental
 imperative for us
 00:27:51 --> 00:27:52: as a city.
 00:27:52 --> 00:27:54: As a country, both morally and economically.
 00:27:54 --> 00:27:57: But beyond that, MST are in a position to have
 00:27:58 --> 00:28:01: a huge influence on how the city develops in the
 00:28:01 --> 00:28:02: coming decade.
 00:28:02 --> 00:28:04: I'm looking at Sinach Jericho.
 00:28:04 --> 00:28:07: Heather lands potentially what happens at UBC?
 00:28:07 --> 00:28:10: We as a city have an obligation to enable that,
 00:28:10 --> 00:28:14: and to work with the nations to enable them to
 00:28:14 --> 00:28:15: realize their.
 00:28:15 --> 00:28:18: Economic opportunities but also thinking of you know the
 potential
 00:28:18 --> 00:28:20: for housing and new amenities for Vancouver.
 00:28:20 --> 00:28:24: The opportunities for the city as a whole are massive
 00:28:24 --> 00:28:24: as well.
 00:28:24 --> 00:28:26: So there's lots of debate.
 00:28:26 --> 00:28:28: I think our room for debate on all these issues
 00:28:28 --> 00:28:31: and nothing really straightforward about any of them.

00:28:31 --> 00:28:33: You know, one of the challenges,

00:28:33 --> 00:28:36: I think from my perspective in in the public discourse,

00:28:36 --> 00:28:38: and this isn't at all unique to Vancouver.

00:28:38 --> 00:28:41: We've seen it in Canada and around the world is

00:28:41 --> 00:28:44: a tendency towards kind of partial analysis and uni
dimensional

00:28:44 --> 00:28:45: solutions.

00:28:45 --> 00:28:48: And what I would say is all of these issues

00:28:48 --> 00:28:51: are complex and I'm not much of a quote guy,

00:28:51 --> 00:28:55: but there's one that kind of really resonates for me.

00:28:55 --> 00:28:58: That that there are no simple solutions here.

00:28:58 --> 00:29:00: These issues will all weren't really serious consideration.

00:29:00 --> 00:29:02: Debate around options and tradeoffs,

00:29:02 --> 00:29:05: and I think you know from my perspective,

00:29:05 --> 00:29:08: given the work that you do and the expertise that

00:29:08 --> 00:29:09: you have you,

00:29:09 --> 00:29:12: a Members have a really important role to play and

00:29:12 --> 00:29:15: a lot of value to contribute to the discussion.

00:29:15 --> 00:29:19: So again, just really appreciate the opportunity to kind of

00:29:19 --> 00:29:22: start that today in terms of for me personally and

00:29:22 --> 00:29:25: to continue the long standing kind of engagement between
the.

00:29:25 --> 00:29:28: City and UI. So with that,

00:29:28 --> 00:29:33: I'll stop sharing my piece and then happy to chat.

00:29:33 --> 00:29:33: Great,

00:29:33 --> 00:29:35: great, well well thanks very much much Paulina.

00:29:35 --> 00:29:37: You know a lot of what you touched on our

00:29:37 --> 00:29:40: conversations we've been having over the last year both in

00:29:40 --> 00:29:42: small groups and and and in settings like this.

00:29:42 --> 00:29:44: And as I shared before,

00:29:44 --> 00:29:46: some of those are conversations we're going to continue,

00:29:46 --> 00:29:47: especially around that piece around.

00:29:47 --> 00:29:50: How do we can factor in city building and as

00:29:50 --> 00:29:51: it relates to working with our,

00:29:51 --> 00:29:54: you know indigenous partners, so I appreciate that comment.

00:29:54 --> 00:29:56: So we've had a lot of people joined so I

00:29:56 --> 00:29:58: just want to welcome everybody since we since we got

00:29:58 --> 00:30:01: started we just wrapped up our our keynote here with

00:30:01 --> 00:30:03: the new city manager Paul Mockery.

00:30:03 --> 00:30:04: And so we're going to shift.

00:30:04 --> 00:30:06: Now to a bit of a fireside chat with our

00:30:06 --> 00:30:09: moderator Patty Glass from growth in America.

00:30:09 --> 00:30:11: In the meantime, we will get to questions.

00:30:11 --> 00:30:13: I see some people have already put them in,
 00:30:13 --> 00:30:15: but there is a Q&A function at the bottom,
 00:30:15 --> 00:30:17: so feel free to add your questions in there or
 00:30:18 --> 00:30:20: upvote some questions that are maybe similar and I'll come
 00:30:20 --> 00:30:23: back later and sort of work with Patty to work
 00:30:23 --> 00:30:25: through some of those questions and maybe compile some
 of
 00:30:25 --> 00:30:26: them together.
 00:30:26 --> 00:30:28: But for now I do want to pass it over
 00:30:28 --> 00:30:29: to Patty.
 00:30:29 --> 00:30:30: Patty is a long time,
 00:30:30 --> 00:30:33: you a liar and was actually our former UI communications
 00:30:33 --> 00:30:34: chair where I first met her.
 00:30:34 --> 00:30:36: On the UI Board Management Committee,
 00:30:36 --> 00:30:39: I should say, and it was also as I.
 00:30:39 --> 00:30:42: I will routinely say forever whenever I see her and
 00:30:42 --> 00:30:45: introduce her that she was the inaugural Wli Award winner
 00:30:45 --> 00:30:46: for for our first annual award.
 00:30:46 --> 00:30:49: So I was very pleased to see that too,
 00:30:49 --> 00:30:52: and she had a wonderful nomination from from her team
 00:30:52 --> 00:30:52: there.
 00:30:52 --> 00:30:54: So Patty is always, I'm really excited.
 00:30:54 --> 00:30:57: You could join us and I will come back.
 00:30:57 --> 00:31:00: Probably the next 1520 minutes or I'll wait for your
 00:31:00 --> 00:31:00: signal.
 00:31:00 --> 00:31:03: But I'm really excited to hear your conversation between you
 00:31:03 --> 00:31:04: and Paul.
 00:31:04 --> 00:31:06: Thank you so much Duncan.
 00:31:06 --> 00:31:09: And yes, you will need to signal me because I
 00:31:09 --> 00:31:12: have so much to ask Paul and and before I
 00:31:12 --> 00:31:14: do that I want to come also.
 00:31:14 --> 00:31:17: Respectfully acknowledge that I am on here with you today
 00:31:17 --> 00:31:20: on Yancey territories of the Mushrooms Commission sale.
 00:31:20 --> 00:31:22: A tooth nations. So thank you so much,
 00:31:22 --> 00:31:25: evil eye and Paul for your time and for and
 00:31:25 --> 00:31:28: for all of you joining us today and spending your
 00:31:28 --> 00:31:31: lunch hour to get to know Paul and hear of
 00:31:31 --> 00:31:35: these ambitious plans and. And I mean so much jumped
 00:31:35 --> 00:31:35: out to me.
 00:31:35 --> 00:31:39: Most of all, the fact that you have 8000 staff.
 00:31:39 --> 00:31:43: So rather than go there because we could spend the
 00:31:43 --> 00:31:44: entire hour on that,

00:31:44 --> 00:31:47: what did jump out to me on on your on
 00:31:47 --> 00:31:50: your slide deck there was was on the expenditures budget
 00:31:51 --> 00:31:55: and that the development and building and licensing
 accounted for
 00:31:55 --> 00:31:57: about 2% of the budget presented.
 00:31:57 --> 00:32:01: Meanwhile, setting aside the fact that I contribute a big
 00:32:01 --> 00:32:02: portion of that 1%
 00:32:02 --> 00:32:06: bylaw revenue fee due to the amount of parking tickets.
 00:32:06 --> 00:32:09: Each year in my electric car mind you,
 00:32:09 --> 00:32:11: the property taxes accounted for nearly 60%
 00:32:11 --> 00:32:15: of the operating revenue, so I just quickly put those
 00:32:15 --> 00:32:16: two together in my mind.
 00:32:16 --> 00:32:19: And I thought maybe you could add some color around
 00:32:19 --> 00:32:23: some sort of permitting process improvements that will
 ultimately generate
 00:32:23 --> 00:32:26: more homes and thus more revenue for this city.
 00:32:26 --> 00:32:28: If we could maybe start there.
 00:32:28 --> 00:32:30: If that works for you.
 00:32:30 --> 00:32:34: Yeah, sure, thanks buddy. Absolutely so yeah our permitting
 work
 00:32:34 --> 00:32:36: that part of our our services are all paid by
 00:32:36 --> 00:32:37: fees.
 00:32:37 --> 00:32:40: But you're right, it has a significant impact on the
 00:32:40 --> 00:32:40: tax base.
 00:32:40 --> 00:32:42: So in you know what,
 00:32:42 --> 00:32:45: we're what we're facing right now is a combination of
 00:32:45 --> 00:32:46: a number of factors.
 00:32:46 --> 00:32:49: So, as I mentioned, a really really complicated regulatory
 regime
 00:32:49 --> 00:32:52: in Vancouver that's built up over time and is kind
 00:32:52 --> 00:32:55: of become a way of doing business here for the
 00:32:55 --> 00:32:57: city. But then over the last year,
 00:32:57 --> 00:33:00: and it's an issue that we've been working on for
 00:33:00 --> 00:33:01: a number of years.
 00:33:01 --> 00:33:04: And had been making, I would say incremental progress on
 00:33:04 --> 00:33:04: that.
 00:33:04 --> 00:33:07: What's happened in the last year though is 2 things.
 00:33:07 --> 00:33:10: One is COVID and the shift that we had to
 00:33:10 --> 00:33:13: make very quickly to doing that work remotely.
 00:33:13 --> 00:33:15: We did not. We were able to continue it,
 00:33:15 --> 00:33:18: but not in that. I would say in an efficient
 00:33:18 --> 00:33:21: manner so we didn't have good systems in place to
 00:33:21 --> 00:33:24: essentially transition all of what we used to happen in

00:33:24 --> 00:33:26: person at the inquiry center into email.

00:33:26 --> 00:33:30: So we've been just buried in email and phone traffic

00:33:30 --> 00:33:31: and and like they are now.

00:33:31 --> 00:33:34: Kind of. Only now being able to put places pieces

00:33:34 --> 00:33:36: in place to manage that more effectively.

00:33:36 --> 00:33:40: The other is because of the financial constraints we were

00:33:40 --> 00:33:40: facing last year.

00:33:40 --> 00:33:43: We actually held a lot of the staff,

00:33:43 --> 00:33:45: a lot of vacancies across the organization,

00:33:45 --> 00:33:47: but including in development, building licensing,

00:33:47 --> 00:33:48: so we were significantly understaffed.

00:33:48 --> 00:33:51: We have since now gone and fill those positions,

00:33:51 --> 00:33:54: but then we have a kind of phenomenon where we

00:33:54 --> 00:33:57: have staff all moving around within the organization and it

00:33:57 --> 00:34:00: creates a lot of internal churn and efficiency associated with

00:34:00 --> 00:34:04: filling those vacancies so. That has created this problem,

00:34:04 --> 00:34:06: you know, really, really critical problem.

00:34:06 --> 00:34:09: Now where our turn around times and backlogs and service

00:34:09 --> 00:34:13: levels are far worse than they were at the start

00:34:13 --> 00:34:14: of the pandemic.

00:34:14 --> 00:34:17: So we certainly get that we recognize the impact on

00:34:17 --> 00:34:18: you know,

00:34:18 --> 00:34:20: housing production, but also the economy.

00:34:20 --> 00:34:23: We've got a lot of businesses in queue waiting for

00:34:23 --> 00:34:24: business licenses,

00:34:24 --> 00:34:26: zoning approval, you know, T permits,

00:34:26 --> 00:34:30: so there's there's multiple kind of knock on dimensions of

00:34:30 --> 00:34:33: that and and councils heard it very clearly.

00:34:33 --> 00:34:34: From us so you know,

00:34:34 --> 00:34:37: they they directed me to establish kind of an internal

00:34:37 --> 00:34:39: task force chaired by me.

00:34:39 --> 00:34:42: So it's really clear who's on who's next on the

00:34:42 --> 00:34:44: line for this one to kind of come up with

00:34:44 --> 00:34:47: an expedited process to resolve those.

00:34:47 --> 00:34:50: And really, what it's enabled us to do is not

00:34:50 --> 00:34:52: only look at kind of process and technology,

00:34:52 --> 00:34:55: which were things we were working on,

00:34:55 --> 00:34:57: some of which are longer term but also the regulatory

00:34:58 --> 00:34:58: regime.

00:34:58 --> 00:35:00: So simplifying the rules 'cause there isn't,

00:35:00 --> 00:35:03: we're not going to make kind of really substantial progress.

00:35:03 --> 00:35:06: On this issue, without looking at that framework of rules

00:35:06 --> 00:35:08: that we're trying to operate in,
00:35:08 --> 00:35:12: so you may have seen a report that we brought
00:35:12 --> 00:35:14: to Council last week.
00:35:14 --> 00:35:17: That set out a record number of recommendations around
changes
00:35:17 --> 00:35:20: in how we manage both around design reviews for single
00:35:21 --> 00:35:21: family homes,
00:35:21 --> 00:35:24: application of the tree bylaw as well as the climate
00:35:24 --> 00:35:25: emergency.
00:35:25 --> 00:35:27: Deferring some new building requirements.
00:35:27 --> 00:35:29: Now Council didn't accept that one,
00:35:29 --> 00:35:32: but the other six that were in that report were
00:35:32 --> 00:35:33: accepted.
00:35:33 --> 00:35:36: I think on the climate.
00:35:36 --> 00:35:39: You know, with respect to the zero emissions building
requirements,
00:35:39 --> 00:35:42: that Council decided not to proceed with in 2022 as
00:35:42 --> 00:35:42: scheduled.
00:35:42 --> 00:35:45: That was also a very helpful decision by Council,
00:35:45 --> 00:35:48: 'cause it gave us clear direction on prioritization of objectives.
00:35:48 --> 00:35:51: And that's one of the things that we've been wrestling
00:35:51 --> 00:35:52: with as well.
00:35:52 --> 00:35:54: But that was the first week.
00:35:54 --> 00:35:57: We have dozens and dozens of other opportunities like that
00:35:58 --> 00:36:00: that staff are now in the in the midst of
00:36:00 --> 00:36:03: processing to determine what other changes can we make,
00:36:03 --> 00:36:06: including, you know, looking at more reliance on.
00:36:06 --> 00:36:08: External professionals Letters of assurance.
00:36:08 --> 00:36:11: Looking at, you know, the phasing of development and
building
00:36:11 --> 00:36:11: permits,
00:36:11 --> 00:36:14: and there's a way that we can run those processes
00:36:14 --> 00:36:17: more concurrently as opposed to sequentially.
00:36:17 --> 00:36:19: So it's it's a very long list.
00:36:19 --> 00:36:22: All of that work takes a lot of analysis.
00:36:22 --> 00:36:25: You know, one of the things that.
00:36:25 --> 00:36:27: I think it's important to recognize that all of these
00:36:27 --> 00:36:29: regulatory requirements exist for a reason.
00:36:29 --> 00:36:32: None of them were intended to slow down the process.
00:36:32 --> 00:36:33: So when we remove them,
00:36:33 --> 00:36:35: they all have impacts and we need to make sure
00:36:36 --> 00:36:38: and Council needs to know what those impacts are.
00:36:38 --> 00:36:40: So that's the work that we're doing,

00:36:40 --> 00:36:42: but this is really step one of the process is
00:36:42 --> 00:36:44: going to continue for some time,
00:36:44 --> 00:36:47: and it's it's really the first time since I've been
00:36:47 --> 00:36:49: here in 10 years that we have actually asked this
00:36:49 --> 00:36:52: question about what can we change in the regulation and
00:36:52 --> 00:36:55: actually start at least exploring the notion of peeling some
00:36:55 --> 00:36:55: things.
00:36:55 --> 00:36:58: Back so it's a. It's an important kind of I
00:36:58 --> 00:36:58: think,
00:36:58 --> 00:37:00: point and like I say,
00:37:00 --> 00:37:02: I'm optimistic that we will actually be able to make
00:37:02 --> 00:37:05: real headway now. Well, and thanks for adding so much
00:37:05 --> 00:37:08: color that you know the report that we're talking about
00:37:08 --> 00:37:10: for everyone on the call.
00:37:10 --> 00:37:12: I do encourage encourage you all to take a look
00:37:12 --> 00:37:13: through.
00:37:13 --> 00:37:15: Maybe we'll share it in the notes,
00:37:15 --> 00:37:17: but it did offer just a series of sweeping measures
00:37:18 --> 00:37:19: that were really meant to.
00:37:19 --> 00:37:21: As you said, reform that backlog.
00:37:21 --> 00:37:24: Those that that backlogged residential permitting process
00:37:24 --> 00:37:25: that that has
00:37:24 --> 00:37:25: been brought on by Percy exploding.
00:37:25 --> 00:37:29: Housing market the surge in applications and coupled with
00:37:29 --> 00:37:32: the
00:37:29 --> 00:37:32: staff who are at capacity as you mentioned and just
00:37:32 --> 00:37:35: due to the work from home challenges that you know
00:37:35 --> 00:37:38: we've all we all face and and they're not excluded
00:37:38 --> 00:37:39: from that,
00:37:39 --> 00:37:42: of course. So the I was going to ask you
00:37:42 --> 00:37:43: about,
00:37:43 --> 00:37:44: you know the the, the,
00:37:44 --> 00:37:47: the climate peace not getting through just given that in
00:37:48 --> 00:37:48: 2019.
00:37:48 --> 00:37:51: I believe 50% of the carbon emissions in the city
00:37:51 --> 00:37:54: did come from natural gas use in buildings.
00:37:54 --> 00:37:56: I was surprised to learn that.
00:37:56 --> 00:37:59: And you know, again, just just thinking about that headline
00:37:59 --> 00:38:01: risk that could have been attached to you know,
00:38:01 --> 00:38:03: Vancouver decides to pause the you know,
00:38:03 --> 00:38:06: addressing net zero requirements and it's really not that at
00:38:06 --> 00:38:06: all.

00:38:06 --> 00:38:08: You were simply just saying,
00:38:08 --> 00:38:10: you know, to temporarily hold it back for a year
00:38:11 --> 00:38:13: while you get the house in order.
00:38:13 --> 00:38:15: I think that that distinction is important to to just,
00:38:15 --> 00:38:19: you know. Again, do a bit of positive PR PR
00:38:19 --> 00:38:22: for the city to say you weren't trying to throw
00:38:22 --> 00:38:23: it all away.
00:38:23 --> 00:38:26: And and in that one of one of the items
00:38:26 --> 00:38:29: that did did that did get approved was the temporary
00:38:29 --> 00:38:33: relaxation around that by law regarding a static review and
00:38:33 --> 00:38:35: building design for certain neighborhoods in the city.
00:38:35 --> 00:38:38: And I live near not in shawnessy but near Shaughnessy.
00:38:38 --> 00:38:41: And you know, when I when I walk around the
00:38:41 --> 00:38:43: neighborhood with my young son,
00:38:43 --> 00:38:46: I I often can pick out homes that I think
00:38:46 --> 00:38:48: were probably built in the 90s.
00:38:48 --> 00:38:51: And I think what what happened at that time at
00:38:51 --> 00:38:54: City Council when it seemed to be.
00:38:54 --> 00:38:57: That would be that charming arts and craft character arts
00:38:57 --> 00:39:01: and crafts character maybe took a backseat and and things
00:39:01 --> 00:39:05: were being allowed to go through and I just wonder
00:39:05 --> 00:39:08: we're not going to look back in time and in
00:39:08 --> 00:39:11: reference to home from 2021 because of this temporary,
00:39:11 --> 00:39:14: you know, pause on certain design requirements.
00:39:14 --> 00:39:18: So are there built-in measures to again maintain the
character
00:39:18 --> 00:39:21: that our neighborhoods have come become known for?
00:39:21 --> 00:39:21: Yeah,
00:39:21 --> 00:39:24: yeah, no, it's a great thanks for.
00:39:24 --> 00:39:27: Asking the question, and because those design reviews
again were
00:39:27 --> 00:39:28: instituted for a reason.
00:39:28 --> 00:39:31: I think one of the challenges that we were struggling
00:39:31 --> 00:39:34: with this staff is the fact that they are only
00:39:34 --> 00:39:37: applied in certain neighborhoods and it's very hard to justify
00:39:37 --> 00:39:41: why that is the case.
00:39:41 --> 00:39:43: So that's I think that's one issue.
00:39:43 --> 00:39:44: There's an equity question there,
00:39:44 --> 00:39:47: and secondly, I think there there's a disproportionate amount
of
00:39:47 --> 00:39:50: resources that is then invested in those design reviews
relative
00:39:50 --> 00:39:52: to the footprint of the project.

00:39:52 --> 00:39:54: So yeah, I think that that that is the risk
 00:39:54 --> 00:39:55: though,
 00:39:55 --> 00:39:57: and and it is a it is a trial,
 00:39:57 --> 00:40:00: so I think we're going to see and ultimately will
 00:40:00 --> 00:40:03: have to assess what the impacts of that are.
 00:40:03 --> 00:40:05: You know, over the next year,
 00:40:05 --> 00:40:08: or potentially longer, depending on where where Council
 wants to
 00:40:08 --> 00:40:08: go with it.
 00:40:08 --> 00:40:11: But yeah, I think that's when I talked about.
 00:40:11 --> 00:40:13: Like all of these decisions require tradeoffs,
 00:40:13 --> 00:40:15: and to move things faster,
 00:40:15 --> 00:40:16: it means city have to.
 00:40:16 --> 00:40:18: City staff have to do less work.
 00:40:18 --> 00:40:21: There's definitely efficiencies that we can build into the
 process
 00:40:21 --> 00:40:22: as well,
 00:40:22 --> 00:40:25: but having that level of design review will just take
 00:40:25 --> 00:40:26: effort and time and staff.
 00:40:26 --> 00:40:29: So I think you know we're going to continue to
 00:40:29 --> 00:40:31: present do our best to analyze,
 00:40:31 --> 00:40:34: kind of where the the best kind of risk,
 00:40:34 --> 00:40:37: reward tradeoffs are on all of these traits on all
 00:40:37 --> 00:40:40: of these changes this this first round was really focused
 00:40:40 --> 00:40:41: on where we could.
 00:40:41 --> 00:40:46: Achieve. Some significant benefit pretty quickly because of
 the kind
 00:40:46 --> 00:40:48: of critical nature of the problem.
 00:40:48 --> 00:40:51: Some of these, I think issues that we're going to
 00:40:51 --> 00:40:54: be looking at more long term will will maybe take
 00:40:54 --> 00:40:55: longer to materialize.
 00:40:55 --> 00:40:57: They may require more discussion,
 00:40:57 --> 00:40:58: kind of with stakeholders and constituents,
 00:40:58 --> 00:41:01: but yeah, this round was intended was to get out
 00:41:01 --> 00:41:03: the gate pretty quickly.
 00:41:04 --> 00:41:07: Thanks for touching on that and and just again one
 00:41:07 --> 00:41:09: of the other initiatives that I.
 00:41:09 --> 00:41:11: If because we've got some time I wanted to ask
 00:41:11 --> 00:41:15: you about the climate emergency action plan and just put
 00:41:15 --> 00:41:17: it there for a moment if I can around the
 00:41:17 --> 00:41:20: feasibility study that is done looking at charging vehicles to
 00:41:20 --> 00:41:23: enter the metro core and just curious about when quality
 00:41:24 --> 00:41:26: price thing as it seems to me to be 2

00:41:26 --> 00:41:28: pronged. One is how do you generate vibrancy in the
00:41:28 --> 00:41:31: downtown core while also addressing the climate crisis you
00:41:31 --> 00:41:33: know?
00:41:33 --> 00:41:35: Are you where are you with that?
00:41:35 --> 00:41:37: As far as mobility pricing?
00:41:37 --> 00:41:40: Yeah, great question. Mobility, pricing,
00:41:40 --> 00:41:42: extremely complex. You know the city of Vancouver is
00:41:42 --> 00:41:45: starting
00:41:45 --> 00:41:48: the work around mobility pricing,
00:41:48 --> 00:41:50: but it really is a regional discussion and I think
00:41:50 --> 00:41:52: we're really cognizant that we we have to be working
00:41:52 --> 00:41:55: very closely with Translink in particular,
00:41:55 --> 00:41:58: but the province as well,
00:41:58 --> 00:42:01: it's not. It's not an issue that you can really
00:42:01 --> 00:42:05: look at holistically or or appropriately at this.
00:42:05 --> 00:42:08: The scale of 1 city within you know one municipality
00:42:08 --> 00:42:09: within you know a couple of dozen in the region,
00:42:09 --> 00:42:12: so. It's it's a. It's also I would say quite
00:42:12 --> 00:42:13: a long term prospects,
00:42:13 --> 00:42:15: so this Council won't be making any decisions on mobility
00:42:15 --> 00:42:18: pricing.
00:42:18 --> 00:42:20: We're doing initial work on that building on work.
00:42:20 --> 00:42:21: That translate has done in the past,
00:42:21 --> 00:42:24: but decisions on that are are several years into the
00:42:24 --> 00:42:27: future,
00:42:27 --> 00:42:29: and they'll be. I think the phase we're entering now
00:42:29 --> 00:42:32: is really looking to engage with all of the different
00:42:32 --> 00:42:35: constituent groups that are impacted by this.
00:42:35 --> 00:42:38: So certainly we've heard from businesses downtown the
00:42:38 --> 00:42:41: concerns.
00:42:41 --> 00:42:43: So I think we need to now dig into that.
00:42:43 --> 00:42:45: Understand really what those issues and implications are,
00:42:45 --> 00:42:48: so that can be factored into future decision making.
00:42:48 --> 00:42:49: But there's no. This Council won't be making any decisions
00:42:49 --> 00:42:52: around implementation and mobility pricing,
00:42:52 --> 00:42:56: it is. It is a much longer term kind of
00:42:56 --> 00:42:59: prospect.
00:42:59 --> 00:43:01: OK
00:43:01 --> 00:43:04: great yeah I you know I again multifaceted and and
00:43:04 --> 00:43:07: again this this collaboration piece that you touched on and
00:43:07 --> 00:43:10: and you know we've all hopefully had a chance to
00:43:10 --> 00:43:13: hear a little bit from Teresa who mentioned she sat
00:43:13 --> 00:43:16: with Larry Beasley last week before with urban area.

00:43:04 --> 00:43:08: And really, you know, kind of opened the kimono if
 00:43:08 --> 00:43:09: you will to her approach.
 00:43:09 --> 00:43:11: And it was so refreshing.
 00:43:11 --> 00:43:13: And and I I think you've got,
 00:43:13 --> 00:43:16: you know, a great ally there at City Hall,
 00:43:16 --> 00:43:19: in her and. Have you two?
 00:43:19 --> 00:43:21: It had a chance to connect on sort of a
 00:43:21 --> 00:43:25: united front on on the vocal community members who are
 00:43:25 --> 00:43:27: just simply opposed development,
 00:43:27 --> 00:43:30: you know, unless it didn't achieve some sort of ideal
 00:43:30 --> 00:43:31: perfection,
 00:43:31 --> 00:43:34: have you had a chance to talk about that?
 00:43:34 --> 00:43:37: Yeah yeah, we we have and I again I I
 00:43:37 --> 00:43:40: would I come so happy to have Teresa on board
 00:43:40 --> 00:43:44: and and confirmed in the role I I think she's
 00:43:44 --> 00:43:47: yeah there's she's going to be able to deliver huge
 00:43:47 --> 00:43:49: value for Vancouver and for our team.
 00:43:49 --> 00:43:52: So yeah I'm I couldn't be happier to be working
 00:43:52 --> 00:43:54: with them to be working with Teresa.
 00:43:54 --> 00:43:57: I think he you know Vancouver is and again it's
 00:43:57 --> 00:43:59: not unique but it's it's.
 00:43:59 --> 00:44:03: There are definitely polarized opinions around development
 and we when
 00:44:03 --> 00:44:05: we do see kind of often it's it's a.
 00:44:05 --> 00:44:08: Kind of this stark kind of disparity in pro versus
 00:44:08 --> 00:44:09: con on many issues.
 00:44:09 --> 00:44:11: Little room in the middle.
 00:44:11 --> 00:44:15: And it's it's a real challenge for council at the
 00:44:15 --> 00:44:16: end of the day,
 00:44:16 --> 00:44:19: it's Council that has to make those hard decisions.
 00:44:19 --> 00:44:22: I think we can incorporate that into the information that
 00:44:22 --> 00:44:23: we present to counsel.
 00:44:23 --> 00:44:25: It's becoming hard though. I,
 00:44:25 --> 00:44:27: I think the the we we need to find a
 00:44:27 --> 00:44:32: way to actually have constructive discussion about these
 issues and
 00:44:32 --> 00:44:35: figure out where the compromises are because I think no
 00:44:35 --> 00:44:38: development. Versus kind of just unrestricted development.
 00:44:38 --> 00:44:43: Neither those are tenable. And but there isn't right now.
 00:44:43 --> 00:44:46: There doesn't seem to be a lot of room for
 00:44:46 --> 00:44:46: discussion,
 00:44:46 --> 00:44:49: so council is generally when they're hearing from the public,

00:44:49 --> 00:44:52: they're hearing two very stark and opposed views.

00:44:52 --> 00:44:54: And then they're having to weigh that off.

00:44:54 --> 00:44:57: And that's a tough position for them to be in.

00:44:57 --> 00:44:59: We're doing our best, I think,

00:44:59 --> 00:45:02: to navigate that and mitigate issues where we can.

00:45:02 --> 00:45:04: But, you know, there's some fundamental kind of

00:45:04 --> 00:45:05: perspectives

00:45:05 --> 00:45:07: and beliefs there that that are tough to overcome,

00:45:07 --> 00:45:10: and maybe this is a good good plug for The

00:45:10 --> 00:45:11: Reg redesign,

00:45:11 --> 00:45:14: which just today launched. And it will run through to

00:45:14 --> 00:45:15: July 6 I believe.

00:45:15 --> 00:45:19: And you know, there's an incredibly engaged citizen face here.

00:45:19 --> 00:45:21: As we know and at City Hall,

00:45:21 --> 00:45:23: and on this call, and so ways to improve the

00:45:23 --> 00:45:27: planning and development regulations and to help with that more

00:45:27 --> 00:45:30: streamlined process that you've been talking so much about.

00:45:30 --> 00:45:33: So I again that's maybe also part of the digitizing

00:45:33 --> 00:45:37: or the digital transformation that that you're you're leading City

00:45:37 --> 00:45:37: Hall through,

00:45:37 --> 00:45:39: and that Reg redesign at vancouver.ca.

00:45:39 --> 00:45:43: Is that right that people can go on there and

00:45:43 --> 00:45:43: just?

00:45:43 --> 00:45:47: OK, awesome, I just wondered.

00:45:47 --> 00:45:49: And it's just you know everything.

00:45:49 --> 00:45:51: And again, we shared that in the notes,

00:45:51 --> 00:45:54: but I just I read that this morning I thought

00:45:54 --> 00:45:56: this is really again given the audience.

00:45:56 --> 00:45:59: It's important to let people know that they too can

00:45:59 --> 00:46:00: share their views.

00:46:00 --> 00:46:03: And then I I wanted to go back to just

00:46:03 --> 00:46:04: for a minute.

00:46:04 --> 00:46:07: So we're gonna open up to questions any moment.

00:46:07 --> 00:46:10: But just on on the DP application Permit Modernization task

00:46:10 --> 00:46:10: force mouthful.

00:46:10 --> 00:46:14: Why the focus on single family home versus addressing the

00:46:14 --> 00:46:17: higher density multi family could be not packed more punch.

00:46:17 --> 00:46:19: In that I'd love for you to just spend

00:46:19 --> 00:46:22: a second on it if you can.

00:46:22 --> 00:46:25: Yeah, great question. So the the original motion that Council

00:46:25 --> 00:46:27: passed actually did focus on small scale projects.
 00:46:27 --> 00:46:30: So that was part of kind of what drove us
 00:46:30 --> 00:46:33: is that's what Council had expressed interest in,
 00:46:33 --> 00:46:36: but certainly the work that we're doing isn't limited to
 00:46:36 --> 00:46:37: that at all.
 00:46:37 --> 00:46:39: And and what I would say is all all the
 00:46:39 --> 00:46:43: capacity that we can free up from dealing with small
 00:46:43 --> 00:46:46: scale projects we can reallocate to then speed up and
 00:46:46 --> 00:46:50: invest more resources. In managing other applications so it
 actually
 00:46:50 --> 00:46:51: it helps the entire system.
 00:46:51 --> 00:46:54: It it helps every application when we can kind of
 00:46:54 --> 00:46:58: find efficiencies with anyone particular permitting stream so
 you know
 00:46:58 --> 00:47:01: the we talked about design reviews like the staff that
 00:47:01 --> 00:47:03: would have been doing design reviews.
 00:47:03 --> 00:47:06: Now we can allocate to multifamily housing for example,
 00:47:06 --> 00:47:07: so it's it all helps everybody.
 00:47:07 --> 00:47:10: But yeah, long term we are looking in a number
 00:47:10 --> 00:47:14: of changes that are more focused on larger projects.
 00:47:14 --> 00:47:17: And again big focus for Council of course is affordable
 00:47:17 --> 00:47:18: housing.
 00:47:18 --> 00:47:20: And job space so you know,
 00:47:20 --> 00:47:22: looking at those types of projects in particular,
 00:47:22 --> 00:47:24: yeah, so I want to.
 00:47:24 --> 00:47:27: I can definitely assure you that we're not just focused
 00:47:27 --> 00:47:28: on the small,
 00:47:28 --> 00:47:28: smaller
 00:47:28 --> 00:47:31: scale type files and right before Duncan cuts my camera
 00:47:31 --> 00:47:32: view,
 00:47:32 --> 00:47:35: I want to. I want as a brand new person.
 00:47:35 --> 00:47:37: I want to set the record straight.
 00:47:37 --> 00:47:41: Your first headline as the newly appointed city manager
 called
 00:47:41 --> 00:47:42: you Boring.
 00:47:42 --> 00:47:45: I am determined to give you the floor to adjust
 00:47:45 --> 00:47:47: that to something a little spicier.
 00:47:47 --> 00:47:49: So So what? What do you do for fun?
 00:47:49 --> 00:47:51: What do we find you reading,
 00:47:51 --> 00:47:53: listening and and or what will be your activity of
 00:47:53 --> 00:47:55: choice once the world reopens,
 00:47:55 --> 00:47:55: yeah, so
 00:47:55 --> 00:47:57: I, my kind of other than family.

00:47:57 --> 00:48:00: Our son is 12, so I'm trying to spend as
00:48:00 --> 00:48:03: much time as I can with him before he decides
00:48:03 --> 00:48:04: he doesn't like me.
00:48:04 --> 00:48:07: And cycling is what I try and do as much
00:48:07 --> 00:48:09: as I can go outside of work.
00:48:09 --> 00:48:11: That's my kind of non work activity so.
00:48:11 --> 00:48:14: Carving out time for that is what I'm trying
00:48:14 --> 00:48:16: to do and more and more as I
00:48:16 --> 00:48:18: can very cool. Well look for you on your beauty
00:48:18 --> 00:48:19: arbutus Greenway.
00:48:19 --> 00:48:21: 'cause that's where I bite my son today.
00:48:21 --> 00:48:24: Yeah, right on down. Can I see your your back?
00:48:24 --> 00:48:27: So do you want to kick off their questions please?
00:48:27 --> 00:48:27: Yeah, thanks
00:48:27 --> 00:48:28: very much Patty and
00:48:28 --> 00:48:30: Paul. I mean a lot of a lot of interesting
00:48:31 --> 00:48:31: things.
00:48:31 --> 00:48:34: There couple questions. I think that are there natural
progressions.
00:48:34 --> 00:48:36: I did think it was worth calling out that I
00:48:36 --> 00:48:38: imagine I almost heard him from a distance.
00:48:38 --> 00:48:41: RULI chair Raymond Louise here and he's an app that
00:48:41 --> 00:48:42: cyclist so I'm sure.
00:48:42 --> 00:48:44: He was like a gave a big thumbs up to
00:48:44 --> 00:48:46: that as an activity.
00:48:46 --> 00:48:48: He's always trying to get me to go,
00:48:48 --> 00:48:50: but I'm not. I'm not getting up that early for
00:48:50 --> 00:48:52: that but but I do want to dive right back
00:48:52 --> 00:48:55: into the into the permit point because,
00:48:55 --> 00:48:57: you know, you talk about this and and Patty had
00:48:57 --> 00:48:58: asked that question.
00:48:58 --> 00:49:00: Was saying a lot of people are.
00:49:00 --> 00:49:01: Why was the focus on smaller,
00:49:01 --> 00:49:04: smaller projects? And there's a question in the in the
00:49:04 --> 00:49:06: Q&A here about laneway housing in particular and you know
00:49:06 --> 00:49:09: that's something that's very prescriptive in terms of design
parameters.
00:49:09 --> 00:49:12: So is there thought or have you thought about or
00:49:12 --> 00:49:12: why?
00:49:12 --> 00:49:15: If not why not? Allowing away the laneway housing permits
00:49:15 --> 00:49:18: uh which had great you know soft density and soft
00:49:18 --> 00:49:20: affordable housing stock to the city.

00:49:20 --> 00:49:22: Why not allow them to submit it online and then
00:49:22 --> 00:49:24: the plan check did it digitally.
00:49:26 --> 00:49:28: Yeah, that's great. So I mean laneway houses.
00:49:28 --> 00:49:30: I agree, there's there's an opportunity there.
00:49:30 --> 00:49:32: So our team is looking at that.
00:49:32 --> 00:49:36: 'cause the the current regulations kind of are quite prescriptive.
00:49:36 --> 00:49:38: I think. Hopefully some of the tree,
00:49:38 --> 00:49:40: by allow relaxations there's some additional flexibility.
00:49:40 --> 00:49:43: I know you know a number of laneway homes get
00:49:43 --> 00:49:44: impacted by trees.
00:49:44 --> 00:49:47: But yeah I think you know the really like long
00:49:47 --> 00:49:47: term.
00:49:47 --> 00:49:50: The Holy Grail, Duncan as you just described is to
00:49:50 --> 00:49:53: be able to accept and review applications digitally that we
00:49:54 --> 00:49:54: don't have.
00:49:54 --> 00:49:58: The technology exists. We don't have it in Vancouver yet.
00:49:58 --> 00:49:59: To be able to do that,
00:49:59 --> 00:50:01: but when we can get there again,
00:50:01 --> 00:50:03: this this business looks very,
00:50:03 --> 00:50:05: very different at that point in time,
00:50:05 --> 00:50:08: so we are making kind of successive techno technology
investments
00:50:08 --> 00:50:09: to get there.
00:50:09 --> 00:50:11: We have enabled over the last year a number of
00:50:11 --> 00:50:14: different permit types to submit online.
00:50:14 --> 00:50:17: We're working up to be able to submit development permits
00:50:17 --> 00:50:18: online as opposed to in person,
00:50:18 --> 00:50:21: so that's kind of the first step for us.
00:50:21 --> 00:50:24: The actual review our staff are using now digital tools
00:50:24 --> 00:50:25: to review plans,
00:50:25 --> 00:50:28: so we've kind of made that shift.
00:50:28 --> 00:50:31: Again, the next step is to actually have software applications
00:50:31 --> 00:50:35: that will review the plans based on an algorithm that's
00:50:35 --> 00:50:36: a lot of work.
00:50:36 --> 00:50:37: It involves kind of digitising,
00:50:37 --> 00:50:40: our building code and again it's possible it's it's a
00:50:40 --> 00:50:44: topic they know lots of folks are talking about how
00:50:44 --> 00:50:45: we could get there,
00:50:45 --> 00:50:48: but that's probably kind of a few more steps down
00:50:48 --> 00:50:50: the down the road map.
00:50:50 --> 00:50:53: Right, so I guess that might be the benefit of
00:50:53 --> 00:50:55: having a city manager who you know earned his chops

00:50:55 --> 00:50:58: in a in the running technology services of the city.

00:50:58 --> 00:51:01: But I know we have colleagues at a new line,

00:51:01 --> 00:51:03: New York in particular. I think they have a very

00:51:03 --> 00:51:04: fully digitized process,

00:51:04 --> 00:51:06: so lots of lots of potential there.

00:51:06 --> 00:51:09: So I think will be really interested to know have

00:51:09 --> 00:51:11: you come back and and talk with energy as it

00:51:11 --> 00:51:11: goes.

00:51:11 --> 00:51:14: But I had one question that was sent in to

00:51:14 --> 00:51:16: me was you know as relates to you know the

00:51:16 --> 00:51:19: permitting process and you know the ability to to,

00:51:19 --> 00:51:21: you know, speed that up or.

00:51:21 --> 00:51:23: Or shorten it is is you know,

00:51:23 --> 00:51:26: I think given the even in the you know relatively

00:51:26 --> 00:51:28: short time of 10 years ago you have a lot,

00:51:28 --> 00:51:30: you know affordability is only gotten more,

00:51:30 --> 00:51:33: uh, as a challenge, more and more acute,

00:51:33 --> 00:51:35: and so you know, is there thought at the city

00:51:35 --> 00:51:36: level?

00:51:36 --> 00:51:38: And I, I think we actually asked the mayor the

00:51:38 --> 00:51:39: same question,

00:51:39 --> 00:51:42: so I can't remember what he said but was is

00:51:42 --> 00:51:45: there thought about the city looking for ways to allow

00:51:45 --> 00:51:46: sort of an intake for what?

00:51:46 --> 00:51:49: I'll just generically call like non conforming projects.

00:51:49 --> 00:51:51: Either they're slightly slightly this slightly that.

00:51:51 --> 00:51:53: You know they don't quite fit exactly in a plan

00:51:53 --> 00:51:55: or there is no plan,

00:51:55 --> 00:51:56: so we just don't accept it.

00:51:56 --> 00:51:58: You know, is there a way to it if some

00:51:58 --> 00:52:01: criteria around accepting something that if it tackles,

00:52:01 --> 00:52:03: say affordability or or murp housing or rental housing or

00:52:03 --> 00:52:04: something like that?

00:52:05 --> 00:52:07: Yeah, that's why I think you hit on a real

00:52:07 --> 00:52:10: challenge we've had there historically.

00:52:10 --> 00:52:12: Where you know, applications to come in there outside

00:52:12 --> 00:52:15: policy.

00:52:15 --> 00:52:18: We haven't really had a mechanism to deal with them.

00:52:18 --> 00:52:21: It's an issue that Teresa and her team have been

00:52:21 --> 00:52:24: working on in planning and and have mapped out or

00:52:24 --> 00:52:27: in the process of mapping out a process to deal

00:52:24 --> 00:52:27: with non policy compliant inquiries and and to be able

00:52:27 --> 00:52:28: to surface.

00:52:28 --> 00:52:30: You know where there are potential opportunities to deal with

00:52:30 --> 00:52:31: things like housing,

00:52:31 --> 00:52:34: to be able to move those through the system and

00:52:34 --> 00:52:36: so that's work that's.

00:52:36 --> 00:52:38: Underway again, it's not something we've had historically.

00:52:38 --> 00:52:40: There's lots of value in it,

00:52:40 --> 00:52:43: counsels expressed interest, they've asked us and now have data

00:52:43 --> 00:52:46: on what all of those non policy compliant inquiries are.

00:52:46 --> 00:52:49: So that's yeah, that's a that's a piece of work

00:52:49 --> 00:52:50: that's in progress.

00:52:52 --> 00:52:54: Wow, that's great to hear and I think that'll be

00:52:54 --> 00:52:56: something to continue learning more about.

00:52:56 --> 00:52:59: 'cause I know there's probably a lot of people in

00:52:59 --> 00:53:01: school who would be willing to work with the city

00:53:01 --> 00:53:04: on various innovative proposals if if there was an option.

00:53:04 --> 00:53:07: There is a question here that I I know seeking

00:53:07 --> 00:53:10: is a bit off the permanent 'cause it seems where

00:53:10 --> 00:53:12: a lot of the folks to spin this idea of

00:53:12 --> 00:53:14: financing growth. And you know,

00:53:14 --> 00:53:16: if I could just read it more more verbatim.

00:53:16 --> 00:53:18: Which is, you know, is there or are you willing

00:53:18 --> 00:53:21: to look at efficiency for financing growth through targeted taxes

00:53:21 --> 00:53:22: much like CSCS?

00:53:22 --> 00:53:25: Kind of our, uh, by lobbying for municipal finance changes

00:53:25 --> 00:53:28: that will allow more longer term debt in a much

00:53:28 --> 00:53:31: more efficient as opposed to amortizing it.

00:53:31 --> 00:53:34: Stay off off the backs of residents who purchased the

00:53:34 --> 00:53:36: buildings of the CCS ultimately come from.

00:53:38 --> 00:53:42: Yeah, I think the municipal finance reform is a topic

00:53:42 --> 00:53:43: that you know.

00:53:43 --> 00:53:47: We and other municipalities in BC and across Canada continue

00:53:47 --> 00:53:50: to kind of push and advocate for with both the

00:53:50 --> 00:53:52: province and the federal government.

00:53:52 --> 00:53:56: We are very constrained in our revenue generating capacity.

00:53:56 --> 00:53:59: You know the tools that municipalities have relative to the

00:53:59 --> 00:54:03: cost burden that municipalities bear and and that that cost

00:54:03 --> 00:54:05: burden is increasing overtime.

00:54:05 --> 00:54:08: Again, I think like just looking at the.

00:54:08 --> 00:54:10: Infrastructure needs for Vancouver and Vancouver.

00:54:10 --> 00:54:12: Share of their regional infrastructure needs.

00:54:12 --> 00:54:16: We don't really have an adequate system to pay for

00:54:16 --> 00:54:16: that,

00:54:16 --> 00:54:18: so that that discussion is ongoing.

00:54:18 --> 00:54:20: You know, it's it's very slow.

00:54:20 --> 00:54:25: You know. Understandably, federal and provincial governments aren't particularly interested

00:54:25 --> 00:54:27: in giving up parts of their revenue share to support

00:54:27 --> 00:54:28: municipalities,

00:54:28 --> 00:54:32: and so there's a discussion about is this revenue reallocation

00:54:32 --> 00:54:35: or is there some way to kind of increase the

00:54:35 --> 00:54:36: size of the pie?

00:54:36 --> 00:54:39: Those are those are kind of two.

00:54:39 --> 00:54:42: Complementary, concurrent conversations so you know other than to say

00:54:42 --> 00:54:44: we're pushing hard on that.

00:54:44 --> 00:54:46: Both through Ubmd FCM as well as directly kind of

00:54:47 --> 00:54:48: direct advocacy from the city.

00:54:48 --> 00:54:51: It's a it's an issue that we're going to be

00:54:51 --> 00:54:54: coming to council within the next month on for an

00:54:54 --> 00:54:56: update on municipal finance reform.

00:54:56 --> 00:54:59: So yeah, don't have a clear kind of sense of

00:54:59 --> 00:55:02: where that's going to land or timeline for it,

00:55:02 --> 00:55:05: but it's I think you know one again,

00:55:05 --> 00:55:08: one of the maybe bright lights or lights of hope

00:55:08 --> 00:55:10: coming out of the pandemic.

00:55:10 --> 00:55:13: Is recognition, at least at the federal government of the

00:55:13 --> 00:55:13: rule,

00:55:13 --> 00:55:16: that cities play, and the fact that there was direct

00:55:16 --> 00:55:19: investment from the federal government into cities through the restart

00:55:19 --> 00:55:22: program as well as the rapid housing initiative,

00:55:22 --> 00:55:25: you know? So the city of Vancouver received housing funding

00:55:25 --> 00:55:26: directly from the federal government?

00:55:26 --> 00:55:29: That's never happened before, so there is a very different

00:55:29 --> 00:55:30: conversation now.

00:55:30 --> 00:55:32: Going on with the federal government,

00:55:32 --> 00:55:35: which may play a significant role in solving this particular

00:55:35 --> 00:55:35: question.

00:55:36 --> 00:55:38: Yeah, that's actually a really good point,

00:55:38 --> 00:55:39: and we've hosted a number of conversation.

00:55:39 --> 00:55:41: The various federal officials and ministers,

00:55:41 --> 00:55:43: and otherwise. And and it does feel like cities are
00:55:44 --> 00:55:45: back on the agenda at the federal level,
00:55:45 --> 00:55:47: which is great to see.
00:55:47 --> 00:55:48: So hopefully that often only stays,
00:55:48 --> 00:55:49: but, you know, strengthens more.
00:55:49 --> 00:55:51: We're running fast running at a time.
00:55:51 --> 00:55:53: I want to see if we can slip two more
00:55:53 --> 00:55:56: in another one that I think Patty and I both
00:55:56 --> 00:55:57: really want to know.
00:55:57 --> 00:55:59: But first, maybe I, I don't,
00:55:59 --> 00:56:00: I, I think it's important to ask,
00:56:00 --> 00:56:02: especially given you know what you highlighted around.
00:56:02 --> 00:56:04: You know, the how the city needs to have a
00:56:04 --> 00:56:05: working relationship.
00:56:05 --> 00:56:07: And much like you, I wanted to.
00:56:07 --> 00:56:10: With the host nations is how do you factor in
00:56:10 --> 00:56:13: whether it's you know DI training or what's often called?
00:56:13 --> 00:56:16: You know Jedi training, which is justice equity diversity and
00:56:16 --> 00:56:19: inclusion into into planning both generate either what you're
trying
00:56:19 --> 00:56:22: to do is strategies of the city or or literally
00:56:22 --> 00:56:25: within you know when you're having those conversations
about the
00:56:25 --> 00:56:27: future of planning in in the City of Vancouver as
00:56:28 --> 00:56:29: it relates to city building.
00:56:30 --> 00:56:33: Yeah it's a I mean it's a it's a corporate
00:56:33 --> 00:56:34: challenge for us.
00:56:34 --> 00:56:37: We interact with the nations and those issues come up
00:56:37 --> 00:56:38: across multiple departments.
00:56:38 --> 00:56:40: For us planning for sure.
00:56:40 --> 00:56:42: You know the history of planning is is not one
00:56:42 --> 00:56:43: that's inclusive.
00:56:43 --> 00:56:46: You know, in terms of zoning and zoning was for
00:56:46 --> 00:56:48: and how it's been used.
00:56:48 --> 00:56:51: So there's there's a lot of work to do there.
00:56:51 --> 00:56:53: I mean, we are doing work to hire staff who
00:56:53 --> 00:56:56: who are indigenous who can assist our teams.
00:56:56 --> 00:56:59: That's a difficult role for them to play.
00:56:59 --> 00:57:00: So we need to support.
00:57:00 --> 00:57:03: Staff as well. You know we have,
00:57:03 --> 00:57:06: you know, within the City Managers office we have a
00:57:06 --> 00:57:09: kind of equity lead and staff that focus directly on

00:57:09 --> 00:57:11: our relationships with the nation.

00:57:11 --> 00:57:14: So part of it is resourcing to support that training

00:57:14 --> 00:57:16: is a component of it.

00:57:16 --> 00:57:18: We've done a lot of training for for hundreds of

00:57:19 --> 00:57:19: our operations.

00:57:19 --> 00:57:21: Staff around chance finds archaeological finds.

00:57:21 --> 00:57:24: You know that's an issue of real concern to the

00:57:24 --> 00:57:25: nations.

00:57:25 --> 00:57:29: It's an issue where we have not done a good

00:57:29 --> 00:57:31: job in the past.

00:57:31 --> 00:57:32: And it's a, you know,

00:57:32 --> 00:57:34: it's staff were out there in the field everyday.

00:57:34 --> 00:57:37: Who are faced with those decisions and have to react

00:57:37 --> 00:57:40: appropriately in the course of their work when they're excavating

00:57:40 --> 00:57:41: and come across artifacts.

00:57:41 --> 00:57:44: So yeah, there's a there's a lot of work that

00:57:44 --> 00:57:45: we have to do there,

00:57:45 --> 00:57:48: you know, I? I think at this point in time,

00:57:48 --> 00:57:50: part of the exercise for us is listening.

00:57:50 --> 00:57:53: You know, the City Council has endorsed the UN Declaration

00:57:53 --> 00:57:55: on the Rights of Indigenous People,

00:57:55 --> 00:57:58: and as structured, a committee consisting of counselors and representatives

00:57:58 --> 00:58:00: from each of the three nations to to really.

00:58:00 --> 00:58:02: Start to dig into what can.

00:58:02 --> 00:58:04: What should the city be doing to implement UNDRIP?

00:58:04 --> 00:58:06: And we're going to hear and I think learn a

00:58:07 --> 00:58:09: lot from those conversations and that's really important.

00:58:09 --> 00:58:12: Is us taking our lead from the nations and understanding

00:58:12 --> 00:58:13: you know where we where?

00:58:13 --> 00:58:16: We can have impact that things that we should be

00:58:16 --> 00:58:18: focused on changing and what sequence?

00:58:18 --> 00:58:20: So yeah, I know that's a relatively general answer to

00:58:20 --> 00:58:21: your question Duncan,

00:58:21 --> 00:58:22: but yeah, it's we've got.

00:58:22 --> 00:58:25: We've got a long way to go there.

00:58:25 --> 00:58:27: I think we're still at early days.

00:58:27 --> 00:58:28: Yeah,

00:58:28 --> 00:58:30: and absolutely, and there's a lot of work we can

00:58:30 --> 00:58:30: do.

00:58:30 --> 00:58:32: Is you allowed to either be a part of what

00:58:32 --> 00:58:34: you're doing and also to look internally here,

00:58:34 --> 00:58:36: and so I hope we'll be we'll be having conversations
00:58:37 --> 00:58:37: like that,
00:58:37 --> 00:58:39: and but also together, but within our own organization over
00:58:39 --> 00:58:40: the coming months.
00:58:40 --> 00:58:42: You know, there are a couple more questions here about
00:58:42 --> 00:58:43: the resilience of arming,
00:58:43 --> 00:58:44: planning, and missing middle housing,
00:58:44 --> 00:58:46: but given the short amount of time,
00:58:46 --> 00:58:48: we're basically at 1:00 o'clock and I want to give
00:58:48 --> 00:58:50: you the last word and Patty the last word,
00:58:50 --> 00:58:52: but I I would be remiss if I I thought
00:58:52 --> 00:58:54: about asking you to start,
00:58:54 --> 00:58:56: but it's perfect. We can ask it at the end.
00:58:56 --> 00:58:57: It's a little more lighthearted.
00:58:57 --> 00:59:00: But I think it is actually quite important and something
00:59:00 --> 00:59:01: has really helped the city,
00:59:01 --> 00:59:04: Vancouver's image and that's this idea of the,
00:59:04 --> 00:59:06: you know, the amount of temporary patios you touched on
00:59:06 --> 00:59:09: New Plaza is this focus on outdoor amenity enhancement for
00:59:09 --> 00:59:12: residents that came out of the necessity of the of
00:59:12 --> 00:59:14: the pandemic. Trying to give restaurants a chance to survive
00:59:14 --> 00:59:16: and give people more space field side.
00:59:16 --> 00:59:18: But I think it you know,
00:59:18 --> 00:59:20: I think we all want to see that not only
00:59:20 --> 00:59:23: permanent but look to even continue to expand that.
00:59:23 --> 00:59:25: So I'm hoping maybe you could comment on how maybe
00:59:25 --> 00:59:28: the city and yourself would look to continue.
00:59:28 --> 00:59:29: Dot support that, but also,
00:59:29 --> 00:59:32: uh, you know, inspire more focus on investment in these
00:59:32 --> 00:59:33: kind of features.
00:59:33 --> 00:59:34: Long
00:59:34 --> 00:59:35: term, nice way to sneak that
00:59:35 --> 00:59:37: question in there. Yeah yeah.
00:59:37 --> 00:59:40: It's it's been remarkable and and I think you know
00:59:40 --> 00:59:40: again,
00:59:40 --> 00:59:42: essentially the as you say,
00:59:42 --> 00:59:45: the pandemic forced us there and it forced us to
00:59:45 --> 00:59:46: be far more.
00:59:46 --> 00:59:49: I think flexible and take formal quote risk than what
00:59:49 --> 00:59:52: the city would have typically done and the results are
00:59:52 --> 00:59:52: fantastic.
00:59:52 --> 00:59:55: You know all of the things that we would have

00:59:55 --> 00:59:58: typically worried about as the negative consequences have virtually.

00:59:58 --> 01:00:00: There's been, there's been virtually no issues,

01:00:00 --> 01:00:02: so we've proven this out.

01:00:02 --> 01:00:04: I I can't see us going back I,

01:00:04 --> 01:00:06: I think City Council has heard very clearly they're really

01:00:06 --> 01:00:06: keen.

01:00:06 --> 01:00:09: I, I think this is now my perspective,

01:00:09 --> 01:00:10: a permanent feature of Vancouver.

01:00:10 --> 01:00:12: At least. I certainly hope it is,

01:00:12 --> 01:00:13: I think from a staff perspective,

01:00:13 --> 01:00:16: we're all expecting that this is something we now do

01:00:16 --> 01:00:16: every year.

01:00:16 --> 01:00:19: You know, I the caveat is it's those permits have

01:00:19 --> 01:00:22: been free for the last two years at some point

01:00:22 --> 01:00:22: of time,

01:00:22 --> 01:00:25: there's going to have to be a feed that comes

01:00:25 --> 01:00:27: with them so that we can keep doing the work.

01:00:27 --> 01:00:29: But no, it's it's. Been remarkable,

01:00:29 --> 01:00:32: I we've learned a ton as a staff group around

01:00:32 --> 01:00:34: being able to do this fast,

01:00:34 --> 01:00:37: working with the business improvement associations and

hospitality industry.

01:00:37 --> 01:00:39: So yeah, lessons on all different levels.

01:00:39 --> 01:00:41: But yeah, I'm with you.

01:00:41 --> 01:00:45: I really hope we it's something that just becomes part

01:00:45 --> 01:00:48: of kind of Vancouver now and we don't ever go

01:00:48 --> 01:00:51: back to the days before we didn't have it.

01:00:51 --> 01:00:51: Well,

01:00:51 --> 01:00:54: we like to think of ourselves as a global city

01:00:54 --> 01:00:56: and I think you go to any global city and

01:00:56 --> 01:00:58: there's plenty of patios and sidewalks and office.

01:00:58 --> 01:01:00: Uh, you know. Around tip for people to enjoy outdoor

01:01:00 --> 01:01:00: space,

01:01:00 --> 01:01:02: especially as we go into the summer.

01:01:02 --> 01:01:04: But I really want to thank you for the time.

01:01:04 --> 01:01:07: I don't know digit patio or pool where we've run

01:01:07 --> 01:01:07: out of time,

01:01:07 --> 01:01:09: but I want to give you a chance to get

01:01:09 --> 01:01:12: a last grasp mark before we walked wrap up here.

01:01:13 --> 01:01:14: What Will Paul let you do that?

01:01:14 --> 01:01:16: And I'll just do a quick

01:01:16 --> 01:01:19: close following her, so just a huge thank you again,
01:01:19 --> 01:01:21: Dunkin, to you and Patty and Shannon you alive for
01:01:21 --> 01:01:22: giving the opportunity.
01:01:22 --> 01:01:24: It's it's great. I really appreciate it.
01:01:25 --> 01:01:28: Well, well, Polly was our equal pleasure and I'm just
01:01:28 --> 01:01:30: wanting you to know that you will.
01:01:30 --> 01:01:32: I support your aspirations for you.
01:01:32 --> 01:01:33: Order official efficiency. Pardon me.
01:01:33 --> 01:01:36: The effectiveness everything that you're going to bring in
Aubrey,
01:01:36 --> 01:01:38: how fraught, and you know,
01:01:38 --> 01:01:40: we're here to help you accomplish those goals.
01:01:40 --> 01:01:43: So thank you again and we look forward to continuing
01:01:43 --> 01:01:44: the dialogue.
01:01:45 --> 01:01:46: That would be great appreciated.
01:01:46 --> 01:01:46: Thank you,
01:01:46 --> 01:01:49: Patty. Thank you Paul for joining us and for hosting
01:01:49 --> 01:01:52: and thanks everyone who's still in the line for spending
01:01:52 --> 01:01:53: this extra few minutes with us.
01:01:53 --> 01:01:56: And as always, I want to thank you for all
01:01:56 --> 01:01:58: our annual sponsors that are up here behind me for
01:01:58 --> 01:02:01: their ongoing support and we hope you'll join us.
01:02:01 --> 01:02:04: You've got a couple more events to finish off before
01:02:04 --> 01:02:04: this summer,
01:02:04 --> 01:02:07: including one with the minister Rob Fleming and administer
state
01:02:07 --> 01:02:08: Baubau transportation infrastructure.
01:02:08 --> 01:02:10: I think that'll be really interesting conversation,
01:02:10 --> 01:02:12: so if you can't join us for that,
01:02:12 --> 01:02:13: will see you at IU.
01:02:13 --> 01:02:14: I bet hopefully in
01:02:14 --> 01:02:16: person very soon. Sounds great.
01:02:16 --> 01:02:17: OK bye
01:02:17 --> 01:02:19: everyone, thank you.

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