



Office of the Mayor

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Coleman's 2011 Budget: New Services, No New Taxes

SAINT PAUL – After four years of working smarter to provide better service at a better price, Mayor Chris Coleman announced today that the 2011 budget would mean no new or raised taxes in Saint Paul. A direct result of the hard work and dedication of City employees and residents, the budget furthers Saint Paul as a national model for fiscal responsibility.

“This budget reflects our commitment to providing better service at a better price. In these past four years, we have made tough choices and sacrifices in the face of an economic recession and cuts to LGA. This year the state kept it’s commitment to provide Minnesota cities with stable funding, and in turn we are able to keep taxes flat for residents in 2011. We must focus on rebuilding Saint Paul while laying the foundation for a growing economy,” Mayor Coleman said.



Mayor Coleman announced that the City will invest \$140,000 in the Parks and Recreation department, allowing them to increase staff and expand hours in Community Centers, while increasing outreach for our North End Teen Center, No School Days and Summer Blast programs.

Parks and Recreations will also receive \$160,000 to provide a career skills component to their Youth Jobs Corps initiative. Jobs Corps employees will now receive training in computer skills; resume writing, interview preparation, developing a career path and college access information. The department will also expand the Job Corps program, reaching out to older youth and young adults who don't meet current age requirements.

In addition to construction of the Central Corridor beginning on University in 2011, Mayor Coleman said work will also begin on replacing the Lafayette and Cayuga bridges. The Lafayette Bridge replacement is a \$200 million project using state and federal funds. When completed, the bridge will be a “complete streets” bridge, providing bicycle and pedestrian connections from downtown and the East Side to the West Side, Dakota County and beyond.

The Cayuga Bridge project will create a full access interchange between Phalen Boulevard and I-35E. The new bridge will fulfill the Phalen Boulevard promise of providing new employers with a direct connection to I-35E and the regional transportation network.

The budget invests \$500,000 in Saint Paul Police and Fire Departments, providing for better equipment, increased training and faster response times. The Police Department will utilize their \$200,000 to add six additional Sergeants and a Commander who will be assigned to the newly formed FBI Safe Streets initiative. Police will also replace 610 guns and offer three additional training opportunities throughout the year. For the Fire Department, \$300,000 will maintain staffing and allow for two additional Supermedic Teams, shortening fire and EMS response times.

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Budget in Brief

Highlights

- Mayor Coleman continues to focus on reforming government, making tough choices and providing residents with better service at a better price, embodied this year by a balanced budget that does not raise taxes.
- \$300,000 for Parks and Recreation to restructure their department, including more community outreach and career development for City youth.
- \$500,000 for Police and Fire Departments, resulting in better equipment, increased training and faster response times.

Financial Stability

- Despite the economic recession and the recent instability of state aid, Mayor Coleman's 2011 proposed budget.
- Maintains structural balance, a key financial goal of his administration for the past four years.
- Maintains current City services without raising the property tax levy or fees.

Wise Investments

Mayor Coleman's 2011 budget leverages partnerships with the state and federal government to make investments that will rebuild Saint Paul:

Public Safety Services

- Maintains our police force of 610 sworn officers and provides \$200,000 for training and equipment, allowing for 610 guns to be replaced and three additional training opportunities throughout the year.
- Aligns the command structure in the Police Department with the recommendations of the Berkshire report that identified strategies for an efficient and effective department. This will mean six additional Sergeants and one Commander who will be assigned to the newly formed FBI Safe Streets initiative.
- In the Fire Department, invests \$300,000 to maintain staffing at the SAFER grant level for 2011. This allows for two additional Supermedic Teams, which improve the efficiency of our transport service, and shortens the fire and EMS response times in neighborhoods where they are operating.

- Builds upon the recent effort to recruit and test fire fighters by ensuring that our testing is fair and efficient.

Parks and Library Services

- Continues to restructure our recreation services, providing \$160,000 for increased staff, expanded hours and better community outreach.
- Improves our recreational programming, investing \$140,000 to develop valuable job opportunities and training for our youth.
- Improves the capacity in our libraries, reallocating funds within the department for increased multilingual programming, including an additional staff person, and more services to meet the diversity of our residents.

City Business Operations

- Continues our top-to-bottom reform of how the City does business by implementing our COMET project.
- Builds capacity city-wide and in selected departments to ensure departments are organized correctly and adopting financially sound practices.
- Strengthens the City’s core business tools, such as email and networks, to ensure we are able to operate electronically.

City Infrastructure

- Continues the investment in streetscape improvements and parking mitigation along the Central Corridor.
- Provides the matching funds for Cayuga and Lafayette Bride projects which will rebuild two of the City’s major transportation corridors.
- Builds capacity within Public Works to ensure our transportation corridors support and encourage alternative forms of transportation.
- Continues the annual investment in maintaining our facilities, pathways and roadways.

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Rebuilding Saint Paul

Overview

Budgets are a reflection of values and priorities – and this budget reflects our commitment to keep our economy growing. As we lay a foundation of strong infrastructure, we are investing in what we know to be true – that well built and maintained streets, bridges and transit provides the pathway to connecting people with jobs and keep our regional economy growing.

Infrastructure: The core of a great city

We will continue rebuilding Saint Paul, laying the foundation for a better future, moving forward with projects that will strengthen the region and further Saint Paul as a great City to work, live and play. The following is a list of highlighted infrastructure projects:

Infrastructure projects occurring within Saint Paul include:

- Construction of the Central Corridor will begin in 2011. The billion dollar project is estimated to reach completion in 2014.
- The \$200 million Lafayette Bridge replacement project is scheduled to begin construction during winter of 2010 and is estimated for completion in 2014.
- We will move forward with the Cayuga bridge replacement, fulfilling the Phalen Boulevard promise of providing new employers with a direct connection to I-35E and the regional transportation network. The bridge project is expected to be completed in 2015.

2011 Capital Improvement Projects

- We will continue street revitalization through our Residential Street Vitality Program, revitalizing 10.4 miles of residential streets and sidewalks. Since the program began in 1996, 164.1 miles of street has been reconstructed.
- In the next year we will begin the new Hamline Avenue Bridge design, start construction of the Lexington Trail from Front Street to Minnehaha, and make safety improvements to Rice and Maryland adding left turn lanes.

Public works commitment to maintenance of infrastructure also includes:

- We will continue analyzing our processes and procedures to find efficiencies and offer better service at a better price.
- We are examining costs, looking at funding options and recommendations for the implementation of high tech, customer friendly parking meters.
- With the Saint Paul Arterial Roadway Traffic Flow Improvements project, we will install fiber optic cable and retune 62 traffic signals along 15.5 miles of roadway in Saint Paul.
- Approximately 12 miles of sewer will be relined in 2011, totaling 200 miles since the project began.

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Saint Paul Education Strategy

Overview

This budget also continues our commitment to change the way we approach education in this community. In partnership with the Saint Paul Public School District, the Parks and Recreation Department and Public Library will lead the City's efforts to provide high quality learning opportunities for children throughout the City. By doing our part to extend the learning day beyond the school doors, we will help our educators ensure youth are ready for life after graduation.

New Service Delivery with Innovative Promotion

Mayor Coleman's Second Shift Initiative has focused on extending the learning day. By working with community partners and across City departments, we have broken-down barriers to ensure our children receive valuable education outside the doors of school classroom. A number of new ways and key additions will shape the way the City addresses youth education:

- LinkUpSaintPaul.org – Launched this morning, this innovative website connects parents and youth with activities offered by the City and more than 50 community organizations, allowing residents to easily locate quality out-of-school-time programming in their neighborhood.
- Parks and Recreation will bring programs and staff to the community – Partnering with the SPPS, City after-school programs will be taken into schools and other non-Parks and Recreation facilities to ensure we are reaching youth in the community. We will also invest in additional staff and hours to expand programming and increase outreach for programs such as our North End Teen Center, No School Days and Summer Blast programs.
- We are investing more in the Youth Job Corps Program so youth will end their time in Job Corps with more than just work experience. Working off the successful model developed in the Saint Paul Public Library, youth will receive training in computer skills, resume writing, interview preparation, financial literacy, developing a career path, and college access information. We will expand to include older youth not eligible for the Youth Job Corp Program but who are already involved in teen programs within our recreation system such as anti-gang programs, diversion programs, programs intended to keep kids in school and teen leadership groups.

Connecting Residents to Workforce Skills and Education

In Saint Paul we are not only helping our residents look for jobs, we are educating them on how to better land the job when they find one. Public Libraries and Parks and Recreation will continue to provide job-seeking assistance and computer classes in our facilities as well as numerous new initiatives in 2011.

- Our Libraries will expand bilingual services and workforce development as they offer more digital literacy classes for the community. The library provides residents with access to 365 computers and job-seeking assistance for a total of 690 hours every week. In comparison the Saint Paul workforce center only offers residents access to 22 computers for a total of 42 and a half hours every week.
- With funding from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the library recently launched the Mobile WORKplace initiative, bringing laptops out into the community and providing classes on computer literacy. Many of the students in these classes had never touched a computer or used a word processing program, which is often a requirement for twenty-first century jobs. By offering ten classes a week in languages such as Somali, Spanish and Hmong and English, we are educating residents who are otherwise unable to come into a library for a class.

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