

City of Emeryville

2022 Local Revenue Measure Feasibility Project

FACT SHEET



Background: The City of Emeryville provides public services and operates facilities that are vital to community safety and the quality of life of all our residents. Despite the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the City is focused on protecting the local quality of life by maintaining a safe and vibrant community, prioritizing safe neighborhoods, repairing and renovating streets and roads, providing meals to seniors and those most vulnerable, and supporting local businesses. The City is committed to providing city services in a fiscally responsible manner.

The City makes every effort to use resources wisely. We focus City resources on providing direct services to Emeryville. During the worst time of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21, the City did not reduce service levels. Instead, we redirected capital funds (normally allocated to street repairs, playgrounds and parks maintenance) to meet direct community service and programmatic needs. Borrowing funding from one part of the City Budget (e.g. Capital funds) and using it for one-time reallocation to city service needs is not sustainable for the long-term.

COVID's Detrimental Impact on the City's Finances. Despite our best efforts through the pandemic, the City has identified a gap between revenues and expenditures going forward. To help close the gap, the City has: 1) applied funds generated in prior years to current needs; 2) deferred some maintenance and capital costs to subsequent fiscal years; and 3) held the line on starting new capital projects. Even so, if no additional revenue is generated, the City will be forced to lower service levels to Emeryville residents. Further economic impacts are expected over the next few years.

City General Funds are used to provide essential city services that local residents tell us they value and rely upon, including:

- **PUBLIC SAFETY:** Maintaining police patrols, 911 emergency response, disaster preparedness, improving code enforcement, and increasing pedestrian safety. (Fire Protection services are provided by Alameda County Fire).
- **ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS:** Providing solutions to address homelessness in Emeryville.
- **COVID-19 RESPONSE/ECONOMIC RECOVERY:** Supporting small businesses and attracting new businesses, jobs, and economic activity.
- **PUBLIC WORKS:** Improving transportation offerings for all modes of transit, including walking, biking, and rolling; and maintaining and enhancing urban forests, parks, and playgrounds.
- **CLEAN WATER/ENVIRONMENTAL:** Providing funding for storm drain repairs and maintenance to prevent flooding, protect against sea level rise, and keeping creeks, streams, and neighborhoods clean and pollution free.

To protect Emeryville's future and keep our city moving forward, City leaders have been evaluating possible options to close a projected funding gap now and on the horizon – and doing so with the least impact on local residents. No decisions have been made yet – and none are expected until summer 2022.

One possible solution that will have the least impact on Emeryville residents' daily lives is a modest increase in Emeryville's existing **Real Property Transfer Tax (RPTT)** for properties worth more than \$1 million. The RPTT is a one-time tax levied upon the purchase of residential and commercial real estate. The RPTT is collected only when real estate is bought or sold. ALL funds generated from a possible measure would be **locally controlled** and would **stay in Emeryville** to provide essential city services and facility improvements.

2022 TIMELINE: This spring, the City is taking deliberate steps to LISTEN to our community BEFORE key decisions are made. Our LISTENING Initiative will focus on City needs, possible solutions gathering community input. No decisions have been made yet on a November ballot measure – and no decisions are expected until summer 2022. If the City Council decides to move forward with a November 2022 ballot measure, the City must file the measure with the County Registrar of Voters by August 12, 2022.

For more information or to share your opinions, please contact JoinTheConversation@emeryville.org or call (510) 596-4300.