

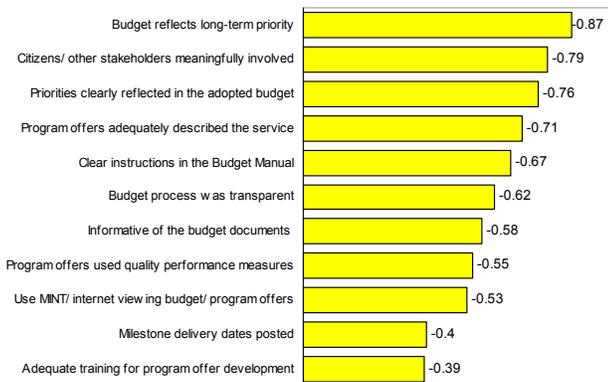
# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BUDGET PROCESS REVIEW: FY2006 (#006-05A)

The FY2006 PRIORITY-BASED BUDGETING process changed the way the Multnomah County approached budgeting. Using the GAP method, survey participants indicated that overall they were highly satisfied with the new PRIORITY-BASED BUDGETING process and its outcomes. The results were vastly improved over results from the FY2005 process.<sup>1</sup>

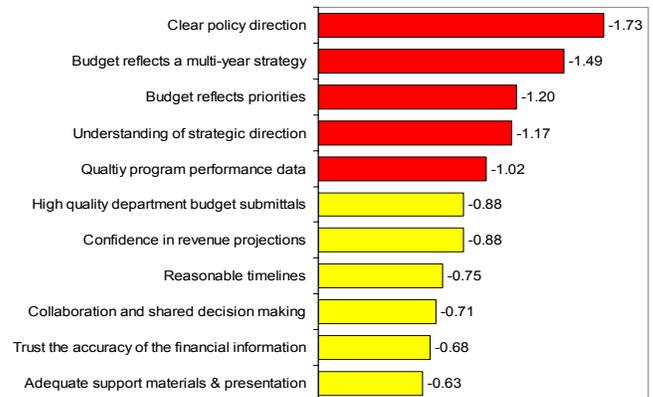
- Sixty-five (65) surveys were returned for an overall response rate of 62%—the highest ever overall response rate.
- Seventy-five percent of survey respondents reported this year’s budget process was better than the previous year’s.
- On a scale of 1 to 10, the overall satisfaction rating was the highest it’s been in the last three years (mean=7.05).
- Departments’ staff rated Budget Office’s staff overall positively, particularly on professionalism, cooperation and completeness of documentation. Budget Office staff generally rated department’s staff positively as well.
- All satisfaction ratings on budget training/preparation exceed 3 on a 4-point scale. MINT/Internet access to budget documents, opportunity to provide input, and confidence in revenue projections were ranked highest in satisfaction.

Figures 1a and 1b display the FY2006 and FY2005 budget processes with the most problematic GAP scores. Unlike five of the FY2005 GAP scores, all of the FY2006 results were within desired parameters. Although modest gaps in areas such as *long-term priority reflected in the budget* and *citizens/ stakeholders being meaningfully involved* indicate opportunities to improve, ratings fell within the desired quadrant indicating both ‘High Importance and High Satisfaction’ (Fig. 2a and 3a).

**Figure 1a. FY2006 GAP Scores**

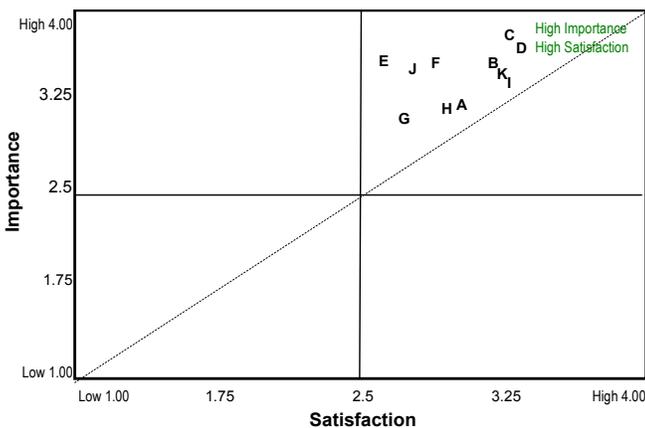


**Figure 1b. FY2005 GAP Scores**

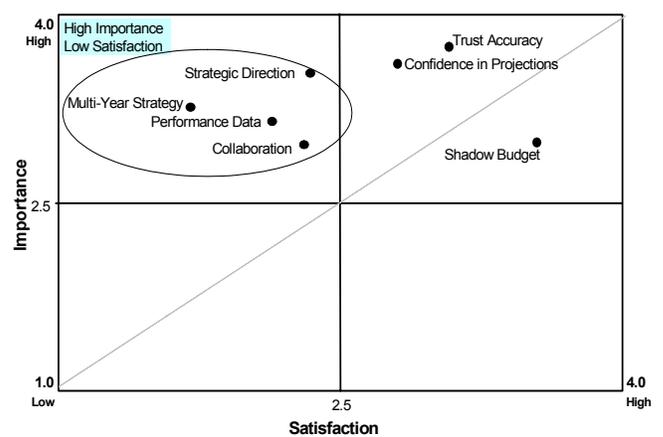


The GAP models below illustrate the **Budget Process** areas with the largest GAP scores—the difference between the respondent’s rating of issue importance and their subsequent level of issue satisfaction—for FY2006 and FY2005. Figure 2a shows that the new PRIORITY-BASED BUDGET PROCESS had substantially improved GAP scores over last years budgeting process. Many of the issues identified in FY2005 appeared to have been greatly improved during in FY2006 process.

**Figure 2a. FY2006 Budget Process GAP Model<sup>2</sup>**



**Figure 2b. FY2005 Budget Process GAP Model**

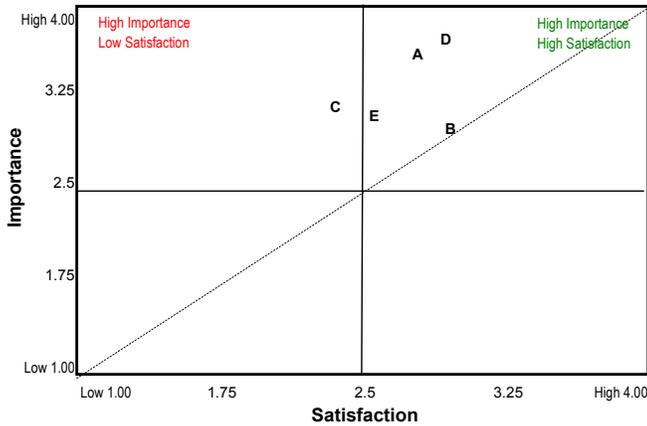


<sup>1</sup> The full 18-page report (*FY2006 Budget Process Review #006-05*) is available on-line or by contacting the Budget Office Evaluation.

<sup>2</sup> **A**-On-going communication; **B**-Priority driving resource allocation; **C**-Accuracy of the financial information; **D**-Confidence in grant and revenue projections; **E**-Reflects long-term priority and multi-year strategy; **F**-Used quality performance measures; **G**-Collaboration and shared decision-making; **H**-Useful input/feedback from Outcome team; **I**-Opportunity to provide input; **J**-The process was transparent; **K**-Used MINT/Internet for budget documents.

Figure 3a and 3b display the GAP model results for questions regarding the final adopted budget. Larger gaps between satisfaction and importance in most areas of this section suggest room for improvement. However, only citizen/stakeholder involvement (C) fell in the ‘High Importance and Low Satisfaction’ quadrant (satisfaction score=2.38 importance score=3.17, GAP score= -0.79). Figure 3a shows that the new PRIORITY-BASED BUDGET PROCESS had substantially improved GAP scores over survey questions from last year’s adopted budget.<sup>3</sup> Many of the problem issues identified in the FY2005 process appeared to have greatly improved with the new FY2006 PRIORITY-BASED BUDGET PROCESS.

**Figure 3a. FY2006 Adopted Budget GAP Model<sup>4</sup>**



**Figure 3b. FY2005 Adopted Budget GAP Model**

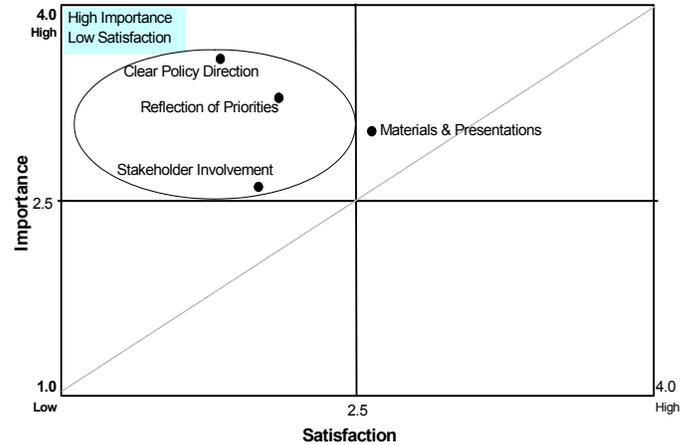
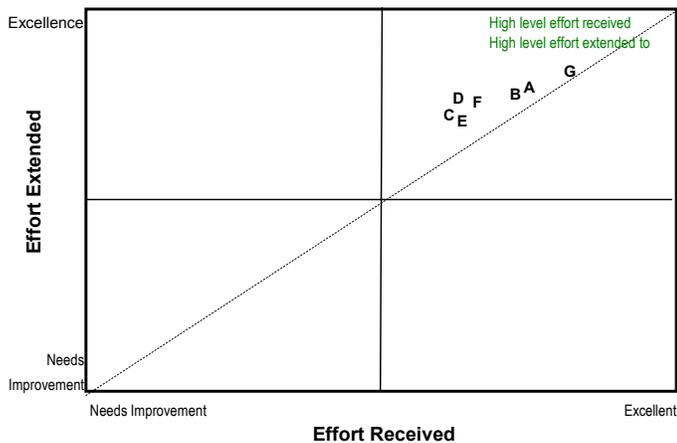
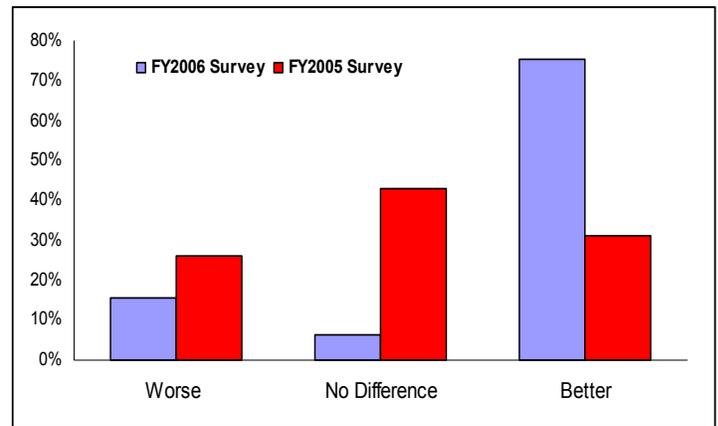


Figure 4 displays the GAP model results for the effort department staff and budget office staff both extended and received with their various budget counterparts. Not surprisingly respondents generally rated their efforts extended to other parties better than their ratings on efforts received. Overall, high agreement was found between the efforts both received and extended, especially for *professionalism, cooperation, and the completeness of the documents*.

**Figure 4. GAP Model Between Effort Received and Extended<sup>5</sup>**



**Figure 5. Comparison of Current Year and Previous Year**



Finally, survey participants were asked to rate their experience (worse, no different, or better) for the FY2006 budget process compared to the FY2005 budgeting process. Seventy-five percent of respondents believed that FY2006 budget process was better than the process of FY2005 (Figure 5). Only 6% said there was ‘no difference.’ The same question was asked in last year’s budget survey, with less than a third (31%) answering ‘better than previous year’.

A list of all questions as they appeared on the survey, the means for satisfaction and importance, their overall GAP scores and the open-ended comments are available on-line in the full 18-page report entitled *FY2006 Budget Process Review #006-05*.

<sup>3</sup> Note: Not all of the adopted budget questions were exactly the same for each year. For more information see the full 18-page report (*FY2006 Budget Process Review #006-05*) available on-line or by contacting the Budget Office.

<sup>4</sup> A-Budget reflects priorities; B-Organizing Budget by priority area/policy objectives helps; C-Citizens and stakeholders involvement; D-Program offers give good descriptions; E-Use MINT/Internet to view adopted budget/program offers.

<sup>5</sup> A-Level of cooperation; B-Completeness of the documents; C-Level of communication; D-Timeliness of the documents; E-Amount of information; F-Quality of the documents; G-Level of professionalism.