

Road Repair and Street Safety Initiative

Resolution of the Citizen Review Committee

Whereas, the gas tax has not increased in 22 years; and

Whereas, state collected and distributed Highway User Revenue Fund revenues continue to decline as fuel efficiencies increase; and

Whereas, sweeps for funding of the State Highway Patrol from HURF monies has exacerbated the impact of declining HURF revenues on ADOT and local governments, including the City of Flagstaff (and Coconino County); and

Whereas, these revenue shortfalls have forced the City of Flagstaff to limit funding for street preservation and road repairs; and

Whereas, the constrained city street and road repair budgets have resulted in a backlog of street preservation and road repairs; and

Whereas the weather in the region poses incremental burdens on street preservation and maintenance, due to the limited work season and the harsh and numerous winter freeze / thaw cycles; and

Whereas, street preservation and road repair projects funding of 16 million dollars approved by City voters in 2010 reduced, but did not eliminate the backlog; and

Whereas, the City of Flagstaff has implemented significant cost savings efficiencies street maintenance in order to continue a minimal street preservation programming; and

Whereas, additional transfers of 1 million ongoing dollars by the City Council from the General Fund to street preservation projects in fiscal year 2014 reduced, but did not eliminate the backlog; and

Whereas 55% of City residents in a recent survey indicate that good street and road maintenance is important to them; and

Whereas 62% of residents in the recent surveys support a small road repair tax over a long period of time; and

Whereas, in 2000 the voters of Flagstaff overwhelmingly supported a series of street, bridge and traffic improvements that are being funded by sales taxes that run through 2020; and

Whereas the expiration of those street and bridge taxes may provide an opportunity for the City to propose a future series of street and road improvements for traffic mitigation and circulation enhancement; and

Whereas, facing a growing backlog of street preservation and maintenance projects, the City Council has directed the City Manager to study the problem and recommend potential approaches to fund the shortfall; and

Whereas, as a key component of the City Manager's preparation of a response to the Council, he appointed this Citizens' Review Committee (CRC) to provide him with advice and recommendations; and

Whereas the CRC has reviewed, analyzed, and discussed the wide range of issues effecting the City's street preservation and maintenance situation; and

Whereas, it appears that current available funding cannot, alone, resolve the existing street preservation and maintenance backlog; and

Whereas, the estimated 37 million dollar backlog will grow to over 57 million dollars in five years if not addressed and over 68 million dollars in ten years.

Therefore, the CRC hereby recommends:

That the City Manager recommends to the City Council that it refer a 0.508% increase in the City imposed sales tax for a period of 20 years to fund:

- All necessary annual operations and maintenance pavement preservation to maintain the improved condition; and

- Repair of all City streets with an overall condition index (OCI) of less than 70 (out of 100); and

- Repair all water, sewer, and stormwater projects in conjunction with such repairs to streets with an OCI less than 50; and

- Selected bicycle improvements, bus pullouts, FUTS improvements, and pedestrian crossing improvements; and

- Selected congestion relief projects along Milton Road; and further

That the City Manager recommends to the City Council that it impose additional property taxes to replace selected missing sidewalks in conjunction with repairs to streets with an OCI less than 70; further

Resolved by a consensus of the members of the Citizen Review Committee present on March 13, 2014.



City of Flagstaff Road Repair and Street Safety Initiative Citizen Review Committee Members

Scott Baugh

Rich Bowen

Kwon Choi

Guillermo Cortes

Eck Doerry

Deborah Harris

Jacquie Kellog

Aaron Kotzin

Shari Miller

Kevin Parkes

Minesh Patel

Steve Peru

Eve Ross

John Tannous

Jack Welch

Nat White

Don Walters



City of Flagstaff

Road Repair and Street Safety Initiative

Citizen Review Committee

The Flagstaff City Council directed staff to develop a funding proposal that will address the backlog of road repaving, repairs and maintenance as well as safety improvements to the City's transportation infrastructure.

The goal of the proposal is to financially support improvements to Flagstaff's transportation infrastructure including road repairs and safety improvements. The City Manager seeks input from a Citizen Review Committee on how best to achieve this objective. The Committee will consist of key stakeholders in the Flagstaff community.

OBJECTIVE OF COMMITTEE: To review financial and performance history, understand trends and issues, provide recommendation to City Manager on how best to fund improvements to Flagstaff's transportation infrastructure including road repairs and safety enhancements.

QUESTION: How should the City fund capital improvement projects to fix potholes and repave deteriorating streets in neighborhoods throughout Flagstaff; repair outdated water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure; improve safety for transit, pedestrians and bicyclists; and improve sidewalk accessibility?

BACKGROUND

Flagstaff has over 630 lane miles of roads — many of them in substandard condition with potholes. In fact, bad roads and potholes can cost Flagstaff drivers hundreds of dollars per year due to wear and tear on their cars. Streets connect people to work, school, doctors' offices, grocery stores; places that are vital to everyone's well being. Providing smooth and pothole-free streets is essential to reducing the costs of road induced damage and preventing accidents. The City is responsible for maintaining approximately 630 lane miles of streets and roadways comprising of over 900 street segments. In a 2013 Community Survey, Street Maintenance was the lowest rated City service with only 33% of respondents indicating an "excellent" or "good" level of service. The condition of our streets is at a critical juncture. If we do not invest in improving the overall condition of our roads, costs will significantly increase, street degradation will continue, and the backlog of streets needing reconstruction will grow

exponentially. In fact, the City projects that in 10 years 79% of our street segments will be below the target overall condition score of 70 out of 100.

Throughout this process the Committee will review the current condition of the City's streets and the associated costs to bring the condition up to the targeted overall condition score of 70 out of 100. The most cost-effective pavement management strategy is to preserve streets in good condition instead of letting them deteriorate. Cost effectiveness might also include simultaneous improvements of utilities (water, sewer and stormwater) and minor pedestrian, bicycle and transit facilities. The lower the overall condition, the more expensive it is to fix. While new streets generally remain in good-to-excellent condition for several years with little or no upkeep, the rate of deterioration increases rapidly after several years, depending on the type and use of the street. Completing work to preserve the condition of the pavement increases the life of the street while also saving significant costs.

The Committee will be asked to formally convene six times for briefing and working meetings. Finally, the Committee will be asked to work through a consensus building process that will help the City prioritize and develop its approach for bringing forward a road repair and safety improvement proposal to Flagstaff voters. This work will be completed in the form of a recommendation to the City Manager. The City Manager will bring forward this recommendation to the City Transportation Commission, which serves as an advisory capacity to the City Council.

The recommendation will include feedback on the following topics:

- Scope of proposed initiative
 - Maintenance and preservation of roads vs. system improvements
 - Improve current condition of roads vs. improve current condition and maintain upgraded condition
 - Utilities infrastructure improvements (water, sewer, stormwater)
 - Ancillary repairs
 - Multi-modal (FUTS, bike, pedestrian and bus)
- Financing tools
 - Sales tax increase (amount and sunset)
 - Bond authorization
 - Other
- Transportation and transit tax renewals
- Ballot language and messaging