

Sales tax proposals for public transportation, streets and infrastructure

Question #1

0.3 percent for streets and infrastructure

A special sales tax for public infrastructure and capital investment

A dedicated revenue source for streets, sidewalks, trails, equipment, and storm sewers. The sales tax revenue will help Lawrence catch up on the maintenance of residential streets and make improvements to high traffic streets. Projects include the North Lawrence stormwater pump station project; the Burroughs Creek rail to trail, fire trucks replacement, substantial additional investments in residential street maintenance and sidewalk projects, and the rehabilitation and rebuilding of several major arterial and collector streets.

Question #2

0.2 percent for public transportation

A special sales tax for public transit operations and capital investment

Public transportation in Lawrence travels throughout the community to businesses, educational institutions and employment areas. With a dedicated funding source, the City will have the resources to merge the transit system with the University of Kansas transit system – ensuring substantial continuing resources to serve both community and student needs in an integrated system.

Question #3

0.05 percent for public transportation, expanded

A special sales tax for public transit system enhancements

Additional dedicated resources for the transit system will provide for route enhancements and vehicle and facility improvements. Examples include increased bus service frequency on busy routes and alternative fuel buses.

The additional .05 sales tax, only effective if the 0.2 percent sales tax for transit also passes, will provide for transit system enhancements such as higher frequency on core routes, diesel and/or hybrid electric vehicles and additional transit system capital improvements.

How will the money be spent?

Streets, Infrastructure & Fire trucks

In Lawrence, 65.8% of streets need more maintenance than is currently funded. 30.1% of city streets need preventative maintenance – crack sealing, mill and overlay and microsurfacing while 35.7% of Lawrence streets need to be rebuilt.

The 2007 Citizen Survey ranked street maintenance as the city service that should receive the most emphasis.

The 0.3 percent sales tax proposal will provide dedicated resources towards this high priority, including the rebuilding of several major streets throughout the community.

Additional funds are dedicated to maintain neighborhood streets. The sales tax proposal also includes dedicated funding for two major community infrastructure projects; 1) the replacement of a 1930's era North Lawrence Pump Station at Fifth and Maple providing additional storm water protection and 2) completion of the Burroughs Creek rail to trail project in eastern Lawrence matching a state grant. Additional funds will be used to construct sidewalks throughout Lawrence providing pedestrians improved walkways.

Planned major street projects include 19th Street, Iowa to Naismith; Bob Billings Parkway east of Kasold; and portions of Kasold and Wakarusa needing reconstruction.

Passage of the sales tax proposal will allow the Fire Medical Department to follow an annual ongoing replacement plan for fire trucks.

Transit

In 2007, the transit system provided 388,325 one-way trips, and paratransit provided 57,497 one-way trips providing transportation for many Lawrence residents to employment, school and medical services.

The 0.2 percent sales tax will provide dedicated resources to operate the existing fixed route and paratransit service (for individuals with disabilities). This will allow for possible merger with KU's transit system.

The additional .05 sales tax, only effective if the 0.2 percent sales tax for transit also passes, will provide for transit system enhancements such as higher frequency on core routes, diesel and/or hybrid electric vehicles and additional transit system capital improvements.



How long will the sales tax be in place?

All approved sales taxes will be effective April 1, 2009 and sunset in 10 years.

When does voting begin?

Advanced voting: October 15

General Election: November 4

Register to vote: www.douglas-county.org

More information?

www.lawrenceks.org/sales_tax_proposal

Questions and contact information

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