

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

SUBJECT: Adoption of a resolution stating the City's support of placing a local option sales tax on the ballot in November 2015.

SUMMARY: The proposed resolution declares the City's support of action by the Salt Lake County Council placing the transportation sales tax on the November 2015 ballot.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with the passage of the proposed resolution.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

MOTION RECOMMENDED:

"I move to approve the resolution supporting action by the Salt Lake County Council placing the local option transportation tax on the November 2015 ballot."

Roll Call vote required

Prepared by:


Jeremy Olsen
Economic and Development Assistance
Supervisor

Reviewed by:


Bryce Haderlie
Interim City Manager

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

In its 2015 general session, the Utah State Legislature enacted HB 362, which gives local governments the authority to enact a 0.25% general sales tax for transportation projects. The tax is implemented after approval by voters in a general election, and is administered on a county by county basis, meaning the local governing body for each county must place the issue before voters on the ballot in either 2015 or 2016.

Before deciding whether to place the local option question before voters, the Salt Lake County Council has requested municipalities within its jurisdiction to enact a resolution supporting the Council's action.

If approved by voters, the City would receive 0.10% of the total, the County would receive 0.05%, and the Utah Transit Authority would receive 0.10%. Additionally, the City would be obligated to maintain current levels of transportation funding, meaning the new revenue could not replace general fund monies allocated to road projects.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-115

Date: June 10, 2015

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST JORDAN UTAH, SUPPORTING THE AUTHORIZED 0.25% LOCAL OPTION GENERAL SALES TAX DEDICATED TO TRANSPORTATION, ENCOURAGING THE COUNTY OF SALT LAKE TO SUBMIT THE PROPOSAL TO VOTERS IN NOVEMBER 2015, AND ENCOURAGING VOTERS TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL.

WHEREAS, a safe and efficient transportation system creates the foundation for economic growth, improved air quality and public health, and enhanced quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the creation and maintenance of transportation infrastructure is a core responsibility of local government; and

WHEREAS, Utah's population is expected to grow by 2 million residents by 2040; and

WHEREAS, West Jordan's residents demand new comprehensive transportation options such as bike lanes, multi-use paths, off-road trails, and transit in addition to traditional roads; and

WHEREAS, due to our drastic shortfall in transportation revenue, the City is allocating funding from the telecommunications tax to supplement the Class B&C Fund revenue in order to try to meet our local transportation needs, although no logical nexus exists between the tax and the expenditure; and

WHEREAS, research from the Utah Department of Transportation indicates that road rehabilitation costs six times as much as road maintenance, and road reconstruction costs ten times as much as road maintenance, and

WHEREAS, investing in transportation results in economic development for the City of West Jordan and Salt Lake County and accessible good-paying jobs for our residents; and

WHEREAS, improving comprehensive transportation in the City of West Jordan and Salt Lake County will reduce private vehicle usage which will in turn lead to improved air quality; and

WHEREAS, poor air quality discourages economic development, business recruitment and tourism visits, and contributes to asthma and other health ailments; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1 in 10 Utah adults suffer from asthma and struggle to breathe during poor air quality days; and

WHEREAS, nearly 57% of Utah adults are overweight, nearly 200,000 Utahns have diabetes, and diabetes and obesity related health care costs in Utah exceed \$700 million; and

WHEREAS, investing in safe and connected trails, bike lanes, sidewalks, and multi-use paths will encourage our residents to be more active, enable them to spend more time with their families via active transportation, and result in improved personal and community health; and

WHEREAS, Utah has created a Unified Transportation Plan to address these comprehensive transportation and quality of life issues; and

WHEREAS, the Utah State Legislature recognized the local transportation needs and enacted HB 362 which authorized counties to impose and voters to approve a 0.25% local option general sales tax dedicated to local transportation; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Jordan will, upon county imposition and voter approval, receive 0.10 of the 0.25% sales tax to invest in critical local transportation needs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF WEST JORDAN, UTAH:

SECTION 1. Support the 0.25% Local Option General Sales Tax. The City Council supports the proposed 0.25% Local Option General Sales Tax that the Salt Lake County governing body may submit to voters in November.

SECTION 2. Encourage Submission of Proposal to the Voters of Salt Lake County. The City Council urges the county governing body to submit the 0.25% local option general sales tax dedicated to transportation to the voters of the county for the November 2015 election. The City Council also publicly supports the county governing body in submitting the 0.25% local option general sales tax dedicated to transportation to the electorate of the county.

SECTION 3. Encourage Voters to Enact the 0.25% Local Option General Sales Tax. The City Council encourages voters to carefully consider the potential impact from the 0.25% general sales tax local option and to support the enactment of the 0.25% local option general sales tax because of the potential impact explained below.

SECTION 4. Road and Street Needs in West Jordan. The City has significant traditional transportation needs that the municipal 0.10 portion could address. For example, the city has a backlog of road maintenance projects such as capacity improvements to 7800 South. Adoption of the municipal 0.10 would enable the city to invest in the critical projects that our residents expect.

SECTION 5. Active and Alternative Transportation Infrastructure Needs in West Jordan. The City has significant active and alternative transportation needs that the municipal 0.10 portion could address. For example, our residents are demanding improved sidewalks and pedestrian safety modes, enhanced bike lanes, better connectivity with transit, more traffic calming devices, and other modern transportation infrastructure. Investment in active transportation options will encourage residents to travel via walking, biking, and transit, result in a healthier population, reduced emissions, decreased health care costs, and improved quality of life. Adoption of the municipal 0.10 would enable the city to invest in the critical projects that our residents expect.

SECTION 6. Investment in Transit. The City supports continued investment in public transit because transit can help relieve traffic, promote walkable communities, and improve air quality. The transit system will receive 0.10 of the county imposed and voter approved 0.25% local

option general sales tax. The City expects the transit system to utilize the revenues collected within the City for projects that will expand local bus service, foster local and regional connectivity, and benefit the residents of the City.

SECTION 7. Distribution of this Resolution. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Salt Lake County governing body, the Utah League of Cities & Towns, the Utah Association of Counties, the Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives, the President of the Utah State Senate, State Representatives and Senators who represent the City, and the Governor of Utah.
SECTION 8. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective upon passage.

Adopted by the City Council of West Jordan, Utah this 10th Day of June, 2015.

Mayor Kim V. Rolfe

ATTEST:

Melanie S. Briggs
City Clerk

Voting by the City Council:	"AYE"	"NAY"
Chris McConnehey	_____	_____
Judy Hansen	_____	_____
Ben Southworth	_____	_____
Sophie Rice	_____	_____
Jeff Haaga	_____	_____
Chad Nichols	_____	_____
Mayor Kim V. Rolfe	_____	_____