

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY, STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter Referring  
A Ballot Measure Authorizing  
A Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax for  
County Road Maintenance

RESOLUTION NO. 2016- 20  
Page 1 of 2

**WHEREAS**, ORS 319.950 authorizes a County to enact an ordinance taxing fuel for motor vehicles after submitting the proposed tax to the electors of the County for their approval; and

**WHEREAS**, Clackamas County will submit a ballot measure in November 2016 for a countywide, seven-year \$0.06 motor vehicle fuel tax; and

**WHEREAS**, Clackamas County held a summit on June 9, 2016 seeking feedback from the cities about means to address county road maintenance funding needs that could also support city transportation funding needs; and

**WHEREAS**, feedback from the cities at the summit on June 9 included support for a "gas" tax contingent upon the County's commitment to split the revenues with the cities – 60% to the County and 40% to the cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has agreed to spend its 60% share of revenue to address road maintenance needs for 47 paving and safety projects in unincorporated Clackamas County; and

**WHEREAS**, cities within Clackamas County are encouraged to create similar project lists and are required to spend their share of the 40% of revenue on transportation projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the motor vehicle fuel tax is scheduled to sunset 7 years after it begins; and

**WHEREAS**, cities and the County have the opportunity, with a successful vote, to work together to improve the transportation through the cities and county;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT:**

1. A measure is hereby referred to the voters of Clackamas County regarding road funding substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and related explanatory statement, subject only to ministerial correction by staff.

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY, STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter Referring  
A Ballot Measure Authorizing  
A Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax for  
County Road Maintenance

RESOLUTION NO. 2016- 80  
Page 2 of 2

2. The measure election hereby called shall be held in Clackamas County on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.
3. The County hereby authorizes the Chair, the County Administrator, the County Counsel or their designees to submit, sign and otherwise take all necessary action to effectuate the foregoing and to file the ballot title with the County Clerk for publication.

DATED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Chair

  
Recording Secretary

## **EXHIBIT A**

### **BALLOT TITLE**

#### **CAPTION (10 words):**

Temporary 6-Cent Per Gallon Vehicle Fuel Tax

#### **QUESTION (20 words):**

Shall Clackamas County adopt a seven-year, 6-cent-per-gallon motor vehicle fuel tax dedicated to road maintenance projects?

#### **BALLOT SUMMARY (175 words):**

The measure imposes a temporary 6-cent-per-gallon tax on motor vehicle fuel sales within Clackamas County. The tax revenues must be used as required by the Oregon Constitution for construction, reconstruction, improvement, repair, maintenance, operation and use of public roads and streets within the county. The tax is estimated to raise approximately \$9 million per year.

The County will use 60 percent of the net revenue for 47 specific County road paving and safety projects. A list of county projects and their estimated costs can be found at <http://theroadahead.us/>.

The remaining 40 percent of net revenues will be distributed semi-annually to the cities in Clackamas County to use for their own transportation projects. Distribution to cities will be based proportionately on population within Clackamas County using figures provided annually by Portland State University.

The tax is implemented in March 2017 and will expire seven years after the implementation date. The County will adopt an ordinance for the administration of the motor vehicle fuel tax, and establish and implement licensing requirements.

### **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (500 words)**

Road funds primarily come from motor vehicle fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees. Oregon law prohibits using ad valorem (property) taxes for roads. The county uses road funds efficiently, but is unable to keep pace with maintenance needs. There is a \$17 million annual gap between funds needed to maintain roads and revenue.

Over 50% of Clackamas County's 1,400 road miles are in fair or poor condition. Every year, a larger percentage of county roads slip into disrepair, and the county doesn't have the necessary revenue to keep up. Waiting also comes at a price, as the cost to reconstruct a road in the future is more than 10 times greater than the cost of providing preventive maintenance today.

Ongoing preventive maintenance is critical to safe roads. Smooth roadways, clear lane markings, unobstructed sightlines, drainage and well-marked intersections help reduce crashes and keep travelers safe.

Oregon law allows the voters of a county to vote to impose a motor vehicle fuel tax. The measure would impose a 6-cent per gallon tax on motor vehicle fuel sold in Clackamas County. Annual revenues generated by the motor vehicle fuel tax are estimated to be \$9 million. The tax would be collected by the Oregon Department of Transportation and then distributed to the County. The Department of Revenue will charge a fee for collecting and distributing the tax revenues.

The County will receive 60% of the net revenues and use those revenues for 47 specified County road maintenance and safety projects. The remaining 40% of the net revenues collected will be distributed semi-annually to all cities in Clackamas County. Distribution of the net revenues to each city will be based on the proportional population of the city located within the jurisdictional boundaries of Clackamas County. City populations will be determined by the most current figures provided annually by Portland State University Population Research Center.

The motor vehicle fuel tax revenues must be used as required by the Oregon Constitution for construction, reconstruction, improvement, repair, maintenance, operation and use of public highways, roads, streets and roadside rest areas in the county. If approved, the County will adopt an ordinance for the administration of the tax. The tax would expire seven years after the date of implementation.

Explanatory Statement Furnished by Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

  
Authorized Signature

Date: Aug. 11, 2016