

Helena Citizens Council Resolution on Local Motor Fuel Tax Option

Whereas, safe and well maintained streets, curbs, sidewalks and bike paths in the public road right of way are essential for transportation, commerce, education, public safety, and convenience for all; and;

Whereas, funding for street maintenance and improvements at the national, state and local levels have not keep up with inflation creating a backlog of needed maintenance and improvements; and;

Whereas, the projected revenue from State Gas Tax provides less than 10% of the needed revenue and the City's Street Maintenance District provides only 12% of the needed revenue for City streets; and;

Whereas, Urban funds from the State may only be spent on State designated routes (arterials, collectors and highways) in the City; and;

Whereas, the cost for priority improvements identified in the Helena Area Transportation Plan far exceeds available funding; and;

Whereas, the Helena Citizens Council has identified the following long term funding shortfalls:

- Deferred street maintenance/replacement
- Implementation of Helena's Complete Street Policy
- ADA access improvements such as sidewalk crossing, structures, and transit stops.
- Railroad grade separation on Montana Avenue.
- Bicycle paths and lanes
- Missing sidewalks and functional pedestrian connections, e.g. safe access to schools.
- Truck routes – truck congestion and impacts on neighborhood livability.
- Alternative through routes.
- Implementation of regional transportation plan priorities.

and;

Whereas, MCA 7.14 Part 3. allows for implementing a Local Motor Fuel Excise Tax Option by initiative or by referral pursuant to a resolution of the County Commission; and;

Whereas, The Local Option Gas Tax at \$0.02 per gallon sold could provide additional gas tax funds up to \$487,000 for Lewis and Clark County according to MDT; and:

Whereas, funds derived from a local motor fuel excise tax can only be used for the construction, maintenance, and repair of public streets and roads; therefore

Be it resolved that the Helena Citizens Council recommends to the Helena City Commission that they request the Lewis and Clark County Commission, with participation by the City of Helena, to develop and refer a Local Option Gas Tax to the voters in the amount of \$0.02 to be equitably distributed to the County and City for local street maintenance and improvements.

Approved by Majority Vote of the Helena Citizens Council on _____, 2016.

By _____
Helena Citizens Council Chair

Exhibit A: Lewis and Clark County Fuel Tax Estimation

Exhibit B: MCA 7.14 Part 3