



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Commission

FROM: Nick Hutchinson, City Engineer

DATE: February 12, 2020

SUBJECT: **Street, Bridge, and Sidewalk Millage beyond 2021**

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The City's Street, Bridge, and Sidewalk Millage has historically operated on a 5-year cycle. The last time the millage appeared on the ballot for voter approval was in August of 2016. To maintain that five-year cycle, the millage would next be due to appear on the ballot sometime in 2021.

However, since the City has eliminated odd-year elections, there would no longer be an existing election on which to piggy-back the millage approval. Holding a special election for this item could cost up to \$100,000. In order to avoid this cost, the City is planning to put the next Street, Bridge, and Sidewalk Millage on the November 2020 ballot for voter approval. The language of this new millage would be written in such a way as to get the millage back on to an "even year" cycle, with future millages being either 4 or 6 years in length, as opposed to five.

While the ballot language for the Street, Bridge, and Sidewalk Millage is relatively generic, for the last two millages City Council has passed accompanying Resolutions, which describe in more detail the purpose of the millage and what it can be used for. While this Resolution has not yet been written for the upcoming millage, a copy of the previous Resolution is attached to this memo for your review.

At this time, staff are contemplating two changes to the millage. First would be to explore raising the millage rate, which is currently at 2.125 mils, in order to better address the needs of our transportation system. This may or may not be possible, as there are limits to the total mils that can be levied by a municipality. Staff are currently looking into the feasibility of this idea.

The second would be the possibility of changing the language in regards to the construction of new sidewalks to allow this millage to pay for the full cost of such projects (currently a portion of new sidewalk construction is paid for through special assessments to adjacent property owners).

Prior to finalizing the new millage, staff would like to seek feedback from the Transportation Commission.

cc:

Kayla Coleman, Transportation Commission staff liaison

Craig Hupy, Public Services Area Administrator

Nick Hutchinson, City Engineer

Howard Lazarus, City Administrator