

# MOVING MONETT FORWARD – PHASE 2

## THE CITY OF MONETT'S TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX EXTENSION PROPOSAL

**What is the Transportation Sales Tax?** In 2015, the voters of Monett approved a one-half cent sales tax to provide funding for the City's Long-Range Transportation Improvement Plan. The tax began in April of 2016 and is authorized for seven years.

**Why is the City asking voters to renew it now?** The City has accomplished a number of projects that were identified in the first transportation plan but wants to build a new overpass on Chapell Drive that will eliminate the last at-grade railroad intersection in Monett. By having voters authorize the extension now, the City can begin preliminary design work and apply for grant funding that can off-set a portion of the cost.

**What is the estimated cost to build the Chapell Drive overpass?** Preliminary estimates are \$3.4 - \$4.0 million. The City intends to leverage our local match to apply for grants that would free up funds to be used for other local transportation needs.

**What has the City done with the Transportation Sales Tax funds they've collected since April, 2016?** The City conducted a five-month long planning process with significant public engagement that identified certain programs and projects. The annual programs included replacement of deficient sidewalks and construction of new sidewalks and an annual set-aside for airport improvements that funds the City's local match requirement. Airport improvements are a cost-share with 90% federal funding, 5% state funding and 5% City funding. The major street projects that have been completed since 2016 are:

- New sidewalks on Scott Street from Cox Hospital to Monett Middle School
- New sidewalks on Dunn and Lincoln to Monett Elementary School
- New sidewalks on 4<sup>th</sup> Street from Cleveland to downtown
- Turn lane/intersection improvements to Hwy 60/37 both southbound and westbound in partnership with MoDOT;
- Construction of a new connector road (Enterprise Drive) between Chapell Drive and Bridle Lane that will allow the proposed Chapell Drive overpass to connect to Bridle Lane;
- Realignment of Callan Street to Bridle Lane to allow for the expansion of local businesses;
- Milling and overlay of Dairy Street from Hwy 37 to Kyler;
- Engineering studies for street and pedestrian improvements to Central Avenue from Broadway to Cleveland;
- Engineering study of the 9<sup>th</sup> St. and Cleveland Ave. intersection;

- Engineering for upcoming roadway improvements to Bridle Lane from Hwy 60 to County Road;
- Provided the local match for on-going capital improvements at the Monett Regional Airport.

The following projects will be completed in the remaining three years of the seven-year plan:

- In 2022-23, new sidewalk, street and stormwater improvements on Central Avenue (Hwy 37) from Broadway to Cleveland;
- In 2022-23, construction of a roundabout on Central Avenue (Hwy 37) at the intersection with Broadway;
- New sidewalks to be constructed in center city between Eisenhower and 13<sup>th</sup> Street and north of Hwy 60;
- Asphalt overlays of major streets.

**What other projects are planned if the extension of the sales tax is approved?** The City's primary focus will be:

- Construction of an overpass of the BNSF railroad on Chapell Drive which will (a) benefit local traffic and commercial traffic in and out of the City's industrial park as this route becomes the newly designated truck route, (b) allow for unrestricted access to and from the new hospital for emergency vehicles, (c) allow for better access for fire and police responses including rural fire response to areas north and east of Monett;
- Widen and add curb/gutter sections to Bridle Lane from Hwy 60 north to County Road;
- Milling and asphalt overlays of major City streets including Cleveland (east and west of Hwy 37), Eisenhower (north and south of Hwy 60), Chapell Drive (FR 1090) both north and south of Hwy 60, and Broadway from Hwy 37 to Kyler/13<sup>th</sup> Street;
- Roadway and stormwater improvements on 13<sup>th</sup> Street from County Road north to Cleveland Avenue;
- Continuation of the sidewalk replacement program.

**Has the City used any Transportation Sales Tax money to replace expenses that were paid from the General Fund like wages, chip and seal maintenance, or other routine street department costs?** No, 100% of the Transportation Sales Tax money has been utilized for new projects and improvements. No money from the sales tax extension would pay for personnel costs or routine maintenance other than the new asphalt overlay program.

**When is the election?** The sales tax extension will be on the ballot with the April 7<sup>th</sup> municipal election. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

**What percentage is needed to approve the extension?** A simple majority is needed to extend the sales tax.

**Is there a sunset provision to the sales tax?** Yes, the first Transportation Sales Tax had a seven-year sunset provision that expires in April, 2023. The sales tax extension is for ten years. Voters would have to authorize any further extensions.

**Why is the tax extension for ten years?** For a large project such as the Chapell Drive overpass, ten years will be needed to pay for the project and the other work included in the plan. The City intends to borrow the funds needed to build the overpass immediately rather than waiting to build up the cash to complete the project several years from now.

**What is the ballot language?**

Shall the City of Monett, Missouri reimpose and extend a sales tax of one-half of one percent (0.5%) for transportation purposes from and after April 1, 2023, which may include the plan, design, and construction of a railroad overpass on Chapell Drive and other needed improvements to expire ten (10) years after the commencement of the collection of the reimposed and extended tax unless otherwise extended by approval of the voters?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_