



THIS PROPOSITION WILL IMPROVE OUR CITY STREETS AND ROADS FOR YEARS TO COME

CITY OF KELSO PROPOSITION 1

Not all roadways are created equal when it comes to public funding. Federal and State governments take care of their highways as well as a small number of local Kelso roads that are designated as arterials or “freight mobility” roads. Since over 80% of Kelso’s streets are classified “residential,” they are not eligible for Federal or State maintenance monies. Therefore, the allowance for almost all street repairs and improvements within the city limits must be raised by the city.

In a 2022 workshop, the Kelso City Council reviewed the health of the city’s streets. A consulting firm confirmed that many of our roads are in serious disrepair. The estimated cost to repair or reconstruct those roads exceeds \$14 million.

After exploring several options. The City Council acted to create a Transportation Benefit District which approved a 0.1% sales tax to raise a portion (approximately \$350,000) of the amount needed to improve street surfaces.

The City now seeks the voters’ approval to add an additional 0.2% to the City’s sales tax. This tax would generate approximately \$1 million in revenue per year to further address road maintenance and rebuilding. This levy equates to \$.02 cents for every \$10 spent within Kelso. This is paid by everyone who purchases goods (excluding groceries) and services; not just Kelso residents.