

DATE: July 23, 2019

STAFF: Chad Crager, Interim Deputy Director of PDT

WORK SESSION ITEM **City Council**

THIS ITEM HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

Larimer County Proposed Regional Transportation Tax for the November 2019 Ballot.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this work session is to update Council on the plans that Larimer County has in proposing a regional transportation and County facility tax for this upcoming November 2019 ballot.

Larimer County Commissioner Steve Johnson and Larimer County Manager Linda Hoffman will be presenting at this Work Session.

GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

This is an opportunity for Council to provide feedback and ask questions directly of Larimer County Commissioner Steve Johnson and County Manager Linda Hoffman.

1. Is Council supportive, neutral, or opposed to the upcoming Larimer County regional tax initiative?
2. Does City Council support a measure to fund the Transit Master Plan?

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The City of Fort Collins has collaborated with Larimer County and other local agencies since early 2018 on a county-wide project to develop regional transportation solutions. A list of projects was generated that would compete for funding as a result of the proposed Larimer County Regional Tax Initiative. There are 43 projects on the list from across the County and they were evaluated and prioritized based on five criteria:

Criteria Weighting	
Connectivity	25%
Multimodal	15%
Congestion Relief	25%
Safety Mitigation	25%
Project Reach	10%

100%

- Connectivity. Does the project complete a link between communities or between major corridors?
- Multimodal. Would the project improve accommodation for multiple travel modes?
- Congestion relief. Would the project address an existing congestion problem?
- Safety mitigation. Would the project address a documented safety problem?
- Project Reach. How wide-reaching is the project and how many people would be impacted by the project?

In addition to a ¼ cent tax for transportation, an additional ¼ cent tax is also being considered for County facilities. This results in a total proposed County sales tax increase of ½-cent tax that may be on the November ballot.

Staff Concerns

While City Staff agrees in working with our regional partners to find solutions to transportation issues, City staff has reviewed the proposed initiative and project list and has the following concerns:

1. Lack of flexibility of the project list. Inevitably, over a twenty-year horizon, priorities and projects will change and other funding sources may become available. A ballot-mandated project list does not allow the County and the communities to react to changing technologies, new funding sources, and new priorities.
2. Inequitable distribution of projects. It is projected that 52% of sales tax receipts from this proposal will be collected within the City of Fort Collins. Approximately 30% of the distribution would be within the city limits. Nearby projects have indirect benefit to Fort Collins, but do not make up the difference.
3. Lack of transit solutions. The City Council priority regarding Transportation is to encourage and increase Transfort use/additional bus rapid transit (BRT) corridors. The proposed transportation tax doesn't reflect this priority.
4. Lack of public outreach.

In addition, the ¼ cent County Facility Tax was recently added with little discussion with County communities.

ATTACHMENTS

1. County Regional Transportation Infrastructure Projects Map (PDF)

