

**RESOLUTION NO. 742-16**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY AT THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2016, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY TO COLLECT UP TO AN ADDITIONAL 2/10 OF 1% SALES TAX FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING AND EXPANDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION THROUGHOUT THE REGION, ESTABLISHING THE PERIOD OF COLLECTION FOR THE ADDITIONAL SALES TAX; AND OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATED THERETO.

**SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

Spokane County, Washington

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY as follows:

WHEREAS, the Spokane Transit Authority (STA) is a municipal corporation operating and existing under and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of the State of Washington, including RCW Title 36, Chapter 57A, Public Transportation Benefit Area; and,

WHEREAS, the Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC) Metropolitan Transportation Plan: *Horizon 2040*, referencing the Washington State Office of Financial Management population forecasts, anticipates that Spokane County will grow by nearly 165,000 persons and 68,000 additional jobs will be created by the year 2040; and,

WHEREAS, SRTC monitors demographic and economic trends and indicators related to demand for transit services including an aging population, veterans and people with disabilities, and young persons and has forecast an increase in demand for public transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the costs of providing services and facilities to accommodate the demand for transit are anticipated to exceed revenues generated by established and authorized funding mechanisms; and,

WHEREAS, in response to community feedback, the Board of Directors of STA (the Board) desires not only to maintain the existing level of transit service but to improve and expand transit service in response to growing demand; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 36.57A.060, the Board adopted *Connect Spokane: A Comprehensive Plan for Public Transportation* in 2010, which was most recently amended in 2014; and,

WHEREAS, *Connect Spokane* is consistent with *Horizon 2040*; and,

WHEREAS, the Board and STA staff have engaged in developing an implementation strategy for *Connect Spokane* to connect the community to public services, improve travel flow by connecting jobs and workers and partner in advancing regional economic development; and,

WHEREAS, the planning process included extensive deliberations among members of the Board, the STA Citizen Advisory Committee, Corridor Advisory Panels, local jurisdictions, STA employees, and interested stakeholder groups, as well as public input, culminating in a plan for sustaining and improving transit services titled "STA Moving Forward: A Plan for More and Better Transit Service," (*STA Moving Forward*) adopted by the Board by Resolution No. 727-14; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to pursuing state and federal grants and increased fare and advertising revenues, an increase in sales tax is necessary to maintain and improve public transportation services, including the projects identified in *STA Moving Forward*; and,

WHEREAS, RCW 82.14.045 authorizes the Board to seek voter approval of a sales and use tax to be imposed within the boundaries of Spokane Transit Authority ("STA) in a total rate not to exceed nine-tenths of one percent of the selling price or value of the article used; and,

WHEREAS, in an election held March 10, 1981, voters approved the creation of STA and authorized a sales and use tax of three-tenths of one percent for the purposes of funding public transportation; and,

WHEREAS, in an election held May 18, 2004, voters authorized the collection of an additional sales and use tax of up to three-tenths of one percent, expiring on June 30, 2009, resulting in a total sales and use tax of up to six-tenths of one percent, for the purpose of replacing the revenues lost by STA when the state-wide motor vehicle excise tax was repealed by voter initiative and by the Legislature; and,

WHEREAS, in an election held May 20, 2008, voters approved the continued collection of the previously approved sales and use tax of up to three-tenths of one percent, maintaining a total sales and use tax of up to six-tenths of one percent, for the purpose of providing quality and cost effective public transportation as part of its general comprehensive plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the election of November 8, 2016, is an appropriate time at which to provide the citizens of STA the opportunity to consider a 0.2% sales and use tax above and beyond the current six-tenths of one percent sales and use tax; and,

WHEREAS, a majority of the persons voting in an election called for this purpose must approve any increase in the sales and use tax collected for STA operations, maintenance and capital expenses; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that citizen control over STA's use of its sales and use tax revenues can be exercised through the implementation of a time limitation on the collection of (a "sunset clause") the proposed additional sales and use tax revenue above and beyond the current rate of six-tenths of one percent sales and use tax; and,

WHEREAS, the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington provide that the question of increasing STA's existing sales and use tax rate shall be submitted to the qualified electors of STA for their approval.

WHEREAS, upon approval of an increased sales and use tax rate, it is the goal of the Board to implement service enhancements as defined in the STA Moving Forward Plan for the benefit of the citizens and users of the system as soon as reasonably possible to include extended hours of operations on both weekdays and weekends, to extend services to Providence Medical Center located in the City of Spokane Valley and increased hours of operation on the West Plains.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of Spokane Transit Authority as follows:

Section 1: Findings. The Board finds and declares that it is in the best interests of the inhabitants of STA to carry out the projects included in the *STA Moving Forward* plan and further finds after reviewing all the funding methods within its authority it would not be possible to implement *STA Moving Forward* without a sales tax increase.

It is further found and declared that the best interests of the citizens of the Spokane region, the users of STA's public transportation system, and the economic interests of the Spokane region require the submission to the qualified electors of STA a proposition of whether STA shall be authorized to collect an additional sales and use tax of up to two-tenths of one percent to increase the funding (a total of up to eight-tenths of one percent) of the region's public transportation system at a special election to be held on November 8, 2016.

It is further found and declared that the funding approved by the qualified electors shall be used to maintain the existing transit system, including fixed-route bus, paratransit and vanpool services, and improve transit services through the implementation of the projects identified in *STA Moving Forward* throughout the region.

Section 2. Use of Proceeds. Upon approval of the increased level of sales and use tax funding, STA intends to continue providing quality and cost-effective public transportation services (as authorized in Ch. 36.57A RCW) as part of its general comprehensive plan and improve and expand services as part of *STA Moving Forward* to best serve the residents of STA, as amended from time to time to meet changed conditions and requirements.

Section 3: Sales and Use Tax Election The Spokane County Auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections in Spokane County, Washington, is requested to call and conduct said election to be held within STA on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of STA, for their ratification or rejection, the Board's proposal authorizing STA to increase the sales tax from the current level of six-tenths of one percent to a level of up to eight-tenths of one percent for the purposes set forth in this resolution effective on April 1, 2017, or the earliest possible implementation date by the Department of Revenue. The Clerk of the Authority is authorized and directed to certify said proposition to said official in the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. 1  
SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
PRESERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Spokane Transit Authority Board of Directors approved a proposition seeking an increase in its sales and use tax authority to maintain the existing transit system, including paratransit and vanpool services, and improve fixed-route bus service through high frequency, high performance transit service, including extended hours on all basic and frequent routes, expanded transit service to new areas, new routes, and expanded passenger services including new and enhanced park and ride lots. This proposition would authorize the collection of an additional sales and use tax of up to 2/10 of 1%, 1/10<sup>th</sup> effective April 1, 2017 and the second 1/10<sup>th</sup> effective April 1, 2019 both expiring no later than December 31, 2028, all as provided in Resolution No. 742-16. Should this proposition be:

APPROVED ?

REJECTED ?

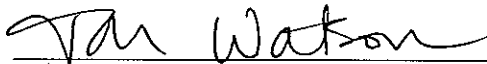
Section 5: Effective Date This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon passage.

Section 6: Severability In the event any one or more of the provisions of this Resolution shall for any reason be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect or invalidate any other provision of this Resolution, but this Resolution shall be construed and enforced as if such invalid provision had not been contained herein; provided that any provision which shall for any reason be held to be invalid shall be deemed to be in effect to the extent permitted by law.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Spokane Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on the 21st day of April, 2016.

ATTEST:

SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY

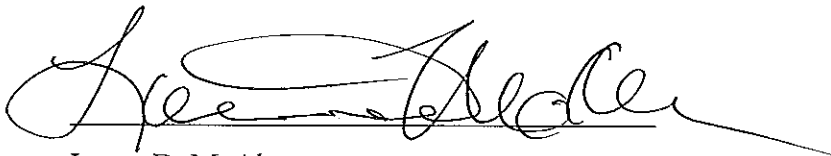


Jan Watson, Clerk of the Authority



Al French, Chairman of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Laura D. McAloon  
Attorney for Spokane Transit Authority