

Complete Our Streets Task Force

Finance Committee

Summary Recommendations

The minimum need over the next 10 years to fix our streets to an acceptable condition, to maintain that condition and to do the priority improvements (primarily widening and intersections) is currently estimated to be \$1.6 billion. We believe that we must strive to meet this need. Accordingly, our summary recommendations are as follows:

Immediate Solutions

1. We must pass a bond issue of not less than \$650 million for streets. This money should be used entirely to recondition and “fix” our streets to an average rating (per the Department of Public Works rating system) of 70.
2. A permanent sales tax of \$0.005 or one-half cent should be passed and these monies dedicated to continuous street repairs and maintenance activities. At current collection rates, this tax will generate approximately \$35 million annually – an amount that should grow with time. The ordinance authorizing this sales tax vote should be structured in such a way as to ensure that the revenue from this tax is dedicated solely to streets and not be used to reduce other general fund monies normally allocated to the Department of Public Works.
3. The City should mount an all out lobbying effort with its legislative partners (other cities in the region, Chambers of Commerce and the like) to support the bill to be introduced in the Oklahoma Legislature which will redeploy 30% of the state tag fees to municipalities for roads and bridges. This amounts to approximately \$200 million annually and we believe that Tulsa should fight to receive no less than 25% of that amount, that being \$50 million annually.

The Finance Committee has other ideas which may be implemented over time. Most of these recommendations will work to improve and pay for our transportation system in the future but unless all of the above occur, these other recommendations will not serve to solve the current problems of our streets.