



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED ON BALLOT PROPOSALS FOR STREET AND SIDEWALK MILLAGES

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Sept. 28, 2011 — The City of Ann Arbor is providing three sessions in October for the public to review and discuss two ballot proposals that will appear on the November 8, 2011 ballot. The public meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard
- Wednesday, Oct 12, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Clague Media Center, 2616 Nixon Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 18, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Forsythe Media Center, 1655 Newport Rd

Proposal 1 is the Street and Bridge Resurfacing and Reconstruction Millage. This millage has been authorized by Ann Arbor voters approximately every 5 years since 1984. The funds raised through this 2-mill levy are used to maintain the quality of Ann Arbor roads and bridges, and are used to leverage federal and state matching dollars for the same purpose. The levy amount for a property with an average market value of \$214,000 is \$214.00/year. More information is posted online at www.a2gov.org/StreetMillage.

- For nearly 30 years the Street and Bridge Resurfacing and Reconstruction Millage—augmented with matching funds from federal and state grants--has been the principal funding source for resurfacing and reconstructing Ann Arbor's neighborhood and "major" streets and bridges. The City of Ann Arbor maintains approximately 200 miles of residential streets, 100 miles of major streets, and 13 bridges. Because of the frequent changes in our local temperature, roads in Southeast Michigan experience severe freeze and thaw cycles, which greatly impact their life span. Many of our roads need a new asphalt surface after 15 to 20 years, and need complete reconstruction after 30 years. From 2007-2011, the total millage proceeds are approximately \$46 million. During the same time period, the City leveraged \$27 million in federal aid.
- Prior to the 1980s, Ann Arbor had no dedicated funds for street reconstruction. The overall condition of the roads was very poor. As a means to improve the quality of our road transportation system, citizens approved the first Street Reconstruction Millage in 1984. Following this, in 1988, 1991, 1996, 2001, and again in 2006, the voters of Ann Arbor approved the collection of 2 mills annually for five years each for the reconstruction of streets. In November 2011, voters will be asked to renew the 2-mill Street and Bridge Resurfacing and Reconstruction Millage for five years (2012-2016).

Proposal 2 is the Sidewalk Repair Millage. This millage will only go into effect if voters authorize both Proposal 1 and 2. If both proposals pass, the Sidewalk Repair millage would increase the amount of the Street and Bridge Resurfacing and Reconstruction Millage from 2 mills to 2.125 mills and increase the tax levy by \$13/year for an average market value home. The additional one-eighth (0.125) mills would be

applied toward sidewalk repairs throughout the city. If Proposal 1 passes and Proposal 2 does not pass, the Street and Bridge Resurfacing and Reconstruction millage would go into effect at the level of 2 mills and would not provide for sidewalk repairs.

- From 2005-2011, the City coordinated a cycle of sidewalk inspection/enforcement throughout the City. Property owners with faulty sidewalks were required to make the necessary repairs. Most property owners responded promptly and responsibly, repairing over 47,000 slabs throughout the city. The citywide sidewalk inspection/enforcement cycle is now complete, and is not scheduled to be repeated. Instead, a millage option (Proposal 2 – Sidewalk Repair Millage) will appear on the Nov. 8, 2011 ballot that offers an alternative method for managing sidewalk repairs.
- **All sidewalk repairs that were marked under the previous multi-year program will be completed this year.** For the small percentage of property owners that have not yet made the required repairs, the City has taken over and will complete the repairs by the end of 2011. All construction costs plus administrative fees will be charged to the non-compliant property owners.
- If authorized, Proposal 2 would shift the responsibility for repairing sidewalks from the property owners to the City of Ann Arbor. The funding for a City-managed Sidewalk Repair Program would be generated through a one-eighth (0.125) mill increase to the proposed Street and Bridge Resurfacing and Reconstruction Millage (Proposal 1). A one-eighth (0.125) mill translates into approximately an additional \$13/year for a home of average market value (\$214,000) in the City of Ann Arbor.
- The Sidewalk Repair Millage will go into effect only if both Proposal 1 and Proposal 2 are passed by voters in the Nov. 8, 2011 election.

Public comments and questions are welcomed on both proposals. The public is encouraged to attend the public meetings scheduled in October, and to consult the web pages for **the Street and Bridge Resurfacing and Reconstruction Millage** at www.a2gov.org/StreetMillage and the web pages for the **Sidewalk Repair Millage** at www.a2gov.org/SidewalkRepair, or to e-mail ProjectMangement@a2gov.org, or phone 734.794.6410 ext “0.”

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, learn, work, thrive and visit (www.a2gov.org/news). To keep up with City of Ann Arbor information, subscribe for e-mail updates (www.a2gov.org/subscribe), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/a2gov>) or become a city fan on Facebook (www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor). The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve. # # #