

Vote **Yes** On Prop. 1

Each registered voter in Cottonwood Heights will receive a ballot in the mail starting in October. Some will have local election decisions, but all will be asked to vote on Proposition One. Prop One asks whether voters should approve a quarter cent sales tax increase (except on food) to fund local transportation and transit. 40% of the funds will go to local municipalities for transportation, bike paths, sidewalks and other infrastructure needs. 20% will go to counties for similar applications. Utah Transit Authority will receive the other 40% to improve bus service in the community. And for those concerned about how UTA would deploy these funds, they have made it crystal clear to all elected officials it will be used to improve frequency and number of existing bus routes.

This tax amounts to one penny paid for every four dollars spent on taxable goods and services. As a fiscal conservative, I am loath to support new taxes unless there is a clear need and obvious benefit. In this case, the need is abundantly clear and benefit easily understood. It is estimated this new tax will cost about \$40 per person per year. However, the cost of not properly funding our road and infrastructure maintenance will result in roads falling into disrepair. Such roads result in higher fuel use, tire wear and extra car maintenance. In other words, there is a cost to doing nothing.

It is important to understand that for every dollar we are able to allocate to road maintenance we save \$6 in future repairs and up to \$25 in reconstruction costs when roads fail beyond our ability to repair. Maintaining a vibrant transportation system is critical to not only our own personal travel, but economic prosperity in general. Our ability to access goods and services depends on a strong transportation and transit system. Business depends on an effective transportation system.

Traditionally, cost of road maintenance has been funded by gas taxes. Most of the gas taxes we pay are funneled to the federal and state coffers. This new revenue would be earmarked specifically for local transportation and transit needs. Absent this extra revenue, cities will be required to either allow roads to deteriorate over time, repurpose funds from public safety (police and fire) or other community services, or find other ways to raise revenue through property taxes to meet transportation needs.

More than 110 cities and towns in Utah, including Cottonwood Heights, passed resolutions urging Prop One be put on the ballot. We all recognize that as stewards of the public trust, we must speak out that transportation funding has reached a critical point. This new revenue source is much more of an investment than a cost. Properly deployed, these revenues will save money in the long term.

Voting YES on Prop One will save Utah families money by maintaining our infrastructure properly, protect local businesses, improve air quality and assure we maintain a quality of life through well maintained roads and better transit services.

Mayor Kelvyn Cullimore, Jr.

Cottonwood Heights