

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT RENEWAL ON NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

Visitors to the city account for majority of TBD funding

(Airway Heights, WA) --- The city of Airway Heights is asking voters to consider a renewal of its Transportation Benefit District (TBD) to continue funding streets, sidewalks, pedestrian safety, and projects designed to relieve traffic congestion.

The TBD renewal raises money for transportation projects through a 0.3 percent sales tax, or three cents on a \$10 purchase. More than 70 percent of vehicles traveling along U.S. 2 stop in Airway Heights for food, fuel, and to shop or attend events and conferences. As a result, most of the TBD funding comes from visitors to the city.

In 2013 voters approved a TBD which has raised approximately \$3.9 million in revenue and leveraged an additional \$10 million in grants to fund traffic congestion relief, sidewalk connections and pedestrian safety, street and road maintenance, and multiuse pathways and trails.

Some projects the TBD has funded include:

- Garfield reconstruction from U.S. 2 to Russell Street. This project improved traffic flow by widening Garfield, removing 90-degree turns, adding missing pedestrian lighting, and separating bicycle lanes from sidewalks to protect pedestrians and bicyclists. It also added parking lanes to accommodate residential parking along the roadway.
- Russell and Sprague streets reconstruction. This section of roadway is the primary access route to the correctional facility and the County ORV Park. This project improved traffic flow to and from these locations and improved pedestrian safety by adding multiuse pathways for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Ninth Avenue pedestrian crossing. This project added a rectangular rapid flashing beacon pedestrian crossing at Ninth and Hayford Road to improve pedestrian visibility when crossing Hayford. It also added a pedestrian island to help pedestrians cross the five-lane roadway in safer segments.

If voters renew the TBD in November, here are some of the projects the city would like to fund:

- Pedestrian safety projects along U.S. 2, North Hayford Road, South Hayford Road and 12th Avenue. This area is developing rapidly, and traffic is expected to continue to increase as planned developments go in. This project will provide dedicated pedestrian and bicycle facilities to reduce conflicts with vehicular traffic.
- 12th Avenue and Hayford Road traffic signal installation. The signal will control traffic better by reducing the speed on Hayford. The project also will add lighting to improve both pedestrian and roadway visibility.
- West Plains' connections at the Sixth, 10th and 12th avenues form a multimodal corridor for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. U.S. 2 provides almost exclusive access to Airway Heights and the West Plains area of Spokane. This project will extend Sixth, 10th and 12th avenues to two or

three lanes to improve traffic flow at these intersections by forming an alternative east-west corridor to U.S. 2. The project will also add bike lanes or a multiuse pathway, and separated sidewalks and bus stops.

- South Hayford Street widening. This project will widen Hayford from two to four lanes with a center turn lane and add sidewalks on both sides of the road for pedestrians and bicyclists.

If voters approve the TBD renewal, the city will raise approximately \$935,000 a year. The city can leverage that amount to obtain grants and turn the initial investment into another \$21 million for a total of \$30.5 million over the TBD's 10-year period.

“Good transportation infrastructure is critical to relieving traffic congestion and attracting businesses and visitors for shopping and dining, all of which generates revenue for city services residents want,” said Albert Tripp, city manager of Airway Heights.

The TBD renewal will be on the November 8, 2022, general election ballot. More information can be found at www.cawh.org. City Manager Albert Tripp is also available to answer questions at 509-434-4885.

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The City of Airway Heights, Wash. (pop. 10,562) was named after its location between Fairchild Air Force Base and the Spokane International Airport in Spokane County. Airway Heights is a full-service city with its own police, fire department, and municipal court system. The City's vision is to maintain its small town feel where neighbors are friendly, welcoming, and willing to help each other. Airway Heights operates under a balanced budget and has passed all its independent audits by the state. More information on Airway Heights can be found at www.cawh.org.