

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BOND PROPOSAL

The deteriorating condition of local roads is readily apparent to every resident and many who travel through our community. The State funding mechanisms for maintenance, repair, and replacement of local roads is inadequate. Simply put, the local roads continue to get worse and the cumulative cost to remedy the conditions increases. Failing to maintain and/or improve the condition of the roads will negatively impact the property values, public safety, and the quality of life in our community.

The purpose of the South Lyon Road Improvement Plan is to preserve and maintain safe neighborhoods in an effort to sustain the quality-of-life South Lyon residents expect and is part of a long-term solution aimed at the systematic maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of City roads. Stabilizing South Lyon's financial condition and dedicating funding for road improvements will help all City functions and assist in maintaining the expected quality of service. One scenario for a Road Improvement Plan would include a bond proposal, which will be supplemented by Act 51 funds, and general fund contributions. Once funding is secured through a bond proposal, the Road Improvement Plan would be implemented.

How much money would a Road Bond Proposed Millage increase generate ?

Over the life of the proposed Road Bond Levy, the increase would generate approximately \$18 million dollars. The first three years, the millage increase would be 2 mills (\$2 per \$1,000 of taxable value) The following 7 years, the increase of 3 mills would be offset by the dropping off of (3 mills) which pays for the current Water and Sanitary bond. This would mean that the residents would see no additional increase in their overall millage rate for the following 7 years.

Where is all the tax money going that the City already gets to maintain roads?

Currently the only funds the City receives for roads comes from the State as part of the gas tax (Act 51). The road funding is used to pay for wages and benefits associated with costs of routine maintenance, patching, sweeping, snow plowing, salt application, storm sewer repairs, traffic services, signals, equipment etc. The current funding we receive is inadequate to fund any type of road improvement program.

Aren't there any grant funds available to improve local roads?

There are no grant funds available for Local Roads. There are some grants available for Major roads, but not enough to satisfy all the needed improvements.

How will money raised by a Road Bond Millage increase be used ?

The funds will be deposited in an interest-bearing Municipal Street Fund that can ONLY be used as described in the ballot proposal and CANNOT be used for city operating expenses or for any other purposes.

How long would a millage to pay for a Road Bond be levied ?

A proposed millage would be levied for a 10-year period. Enough time to pay off the proposed road bond.

How will the millage increase be levied ?

If a Road Bond millage increase is approved, it will be included in property tax bills starting in the Summer of 2023.

When would we see a road improvement program begin ?

If the Road Bond Proposal is approved in August 2022, the initial planning and design work will begin right after the election, and the road construction would begin in the summer of 2023.

How will the road projects be prioritized ?

Project priorities are based on PASER rating (which is a condition assessment of all the roads in South Lyon). The road condition, age, and utility improvements will also be considered in setting out a plan for the 23.5 miles of local streets, and 4.5 miles of major streets. This rating along with other factors such as traffic volumes and patterns, infrastructure needs, and frequency of maintenance needs, will be used to determine which roads will be improved in a given year.

How will the roads be repaired ?

Roads identified as poor will be reconstructed by pulverizing the existing pavement followed by grading the pulverized material and placing at least three (3”) inches of new asphalt. For roads in fair condition, the repair would include milling of the top surface, base repairs and a 1½” to 2” full width asphalt overlay.

Are all roads in the City of South Lyon under the jurisdiction of the City of South Lyon ?

Certain roads (Pontiac Trail and 10 Mile Road) are under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission of Oakland County. Those roads are maintained by RCOC. There also are other private roads that are maintained by associations. (Please refer to the PASER Map that identifies public, private roads, and federally funded roads)

Why is asphalt used for roads instead of concrete?

The initial cost of asphalt has traditionally been more affordable than concrete. The City is committed to watching the costs of these products and will respond by using the paving method that we feel is the best choice for our roads considering available funding resources and existing conditions.

How long will the road improvements last ?

Reconstruction of a road lasts 20-25 years, maintenance will increase that life expectancy. Rehabilitation will last 10-12 years and can also be extended with preventative maintenance.

Will there be any other work done along with a road improvement program?

The City is in the third year of a four year program to inspect underground infrastructure (sanitary sewers). If there are any improvements that are needed to any utilities in the same area as a road project, they will be completed prior to, or at the same time as the road improvements.

How will the improvements to the sanitary sewer or watermain be paid for ?

Sanitary Sewer and Watermain improvements will be paid for by the water and sewer fund. They will not be paid for by proceeds from the road millage.

My road is fairly new, why should I vote for the millage?

Although your road is currently in good condition, eventually it will need to be repaired. We all drive on roads other than the one that is in front of our property, so it is important that the roads are maintained. Roads in poor condition can contribute to a higher rate of wear and tear on your vehicle leading to higher repair/maintenance costs.

What if my subdivision road is not currently part of the City Road System. Will money from this road millage proposal go towards my road ?

If your road is a private road, we are not allowed to use public funds to maintain your road. Subdivisions which are currently privately maintained by the developer, but are scheduled to be a part of the City Road system in the future (Knolls, Charleston Park, Fieldstone, etc.) after the subdivision is completed, will be part of our regular maintenance and repair program just as other City roads.

What happens if a road millage doesn't get approved ?

The City's Road Improvement Plan is contingent upon passage of a Bond Proposal. If a road millage doesn't get approved, the roads will only receive minimal preventative measures. (i.e. pothole patching, crack sealing, etc) The City would have to save money for several years before taking on subdivision paving projects.