



URMD

URBAN ROAD MAINTENANCE DISTRICT

Urban Road Maintenance District Advisory Committee

To: Washington County Board of Commissioners
From: Bonnie Hadley, Chair
Date: 06/15/2016
Subject: **URMDAC Recommendation on Transportation Funding**

At its May 18, 2016, meeting, the Urban Road Maintenance District Advisory Committee unanimously voted to recommend that your Board enact a County vehicle registration fee at up to the full rate of \$43 per vehicle per year. Further, URMDAC supports the Board taking this action without a vote of the electorate.

Background

The members of URMDAC are well aware of the transportation funding challenges faced by the County. Although maintenance of urban neighborhood streets within URMD is adequately funded, funding for the major road system which URMD roads connect to is strained due to lower than anticipated gas tax revenues and increasing road maintenance costs.

Without a more stable source of revenue, deferred maintenance of the County's major road system would continue to grow and the roads we depend on would fall into disrepair. Our economic well-being and road user safety depend on a properly maintained transportation system. Allowing that system to deteriorate would adversely affect the livability of our communities.

URMDAC recognizes there are limited options for increasing revenue and agrees that a countywide vehicle registration fee is the most viable choice. Committee members also acknowledged public concerns about additional taxes or fees, and the need to be sensitive to those concerns. Based on our experience as members of URMDAC, we are confident that Washington County's allocation of revenues raised through countywide vehicle registration fees will be dedicated to cost-effective County road maintenance.

Several URMDAC members commented that their support of the vehicle registration fee stems from their awareness of the County's road maintenance program plus the funding challenges. We feel that with that same awareness the public will also support it.

The committee would not support the Board's proposal to enact a vehicle registration fee if it weren't absolutely necessary. URMDAC recommends the Board take this action to ensure a well maintained roadway system into the foreseeable future.

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