

Frequently Asked Questions about Measure D

Q: What is Measure D?

A: Measure D is a one-half percent (0.50%) transactions and use (sales) tax which would provide funding exclusively for Martinez road improvement and maintenance needs. For every \$100 spent on *taxable transactions* (which do not include items such as grocery food or prescription medications), shoppers would pay an additional 50¢.

Q: What did the City do with the money it had for roads?

A: Since 2005, the City has invested approximately \$15 million on road improvement and maintenance using a combination of Gas Tax, Measure C and J, and grant funding. Recently completed residential paving projects include those in Virginia Hills, Rolling Hills, and Pine Street area neighborhoods. We have also completed work on major thoroughfares such as Arnold Drive and Muir Road, and are about to begin major paving projects on Center Avenue near Pine Street and Morello Avenue near Highway 4, now that we have secured the required Caltrans permits.

Q: Why does the City need Measure D?

A: Even with these large investments, our overall street condition is declining. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) *Pavement Condition Index for Bay Area Jurisdictions, 2015* report ranked the condition of Martinez streets as next to last in the County, and among the worst in the entire Bay Area.

Studies such as the *Pavement Management Program (PMP) P-TAP 14 Budget Options Report* issued by QES on March 16, 2015, identified a need of approximately \$3.5 million per year for road improvement and maintenance just to maintain our current Pavement Condition Index (PCI) score of 51, and a need of \$4.8 million per year to increase the PCI score by 5 points.

Grants, which have historically made up approximately 40% of the budget for pavement improvement/rehabilitation projects, are becoming scarce, and our annual funding for road improvement and maintenance from recurring sources (e.g. Gas Tax, Measure C and J) is now only projected to be around \$1 million per year.

Q: How much additional revenue is Measure D expected to generate to pave Martinez roads?

A: If passed by 2/3 of the voters in November 2016, Measure D is projected to generate an additional \$2.1M per year for paving, which will more than triple our current anticipated annual funding levels for paving from recurring sources and help us address many of our deteriorating residential roads.

Q: Will Measure X provide funding to pave Martinez roads?

A: Measure X is a one-half percent (0.50%) transportation sales tax of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA). It is estimated to generate an additional \$839,000 annually to the City for paving if it passes with a 2/3 vote on November 8, 2016.

Q: What paving resources will the City have if BOTH Measure D and Measure X pass?

A: As mentioned, the City's recurring funding sources for paving are only expected to generate around \$1 million per year. When combined with potential new funding from Measure D of \$2.1 million per year and Measure X of \$839,000 per year, the City would have approximately \$4 million each year available for road improvement and maintenance.

Q: Will Measure D fix all our paving problems?

A: No, but it will give us a significant new funding source for paving and put us on the path to dramatically improving our roads, especially in our residential areas. It will also allow us to salvage some roads which have not yet structurally deteriorated to the point of requiring an extremely costly full depth replacement, and instead use less expensive slurry seals or other methods.

Q: Will the public have an opportunity to provide input on road selection?

A: Yes. Each year, the City will hold a public workshop to discuss and prioritize the paving projects to be funded by the proceeds from Measure D. The public will also have an opportunity to provide input when the paving projects are formally approved at a City Council meeting.

Q: When would the sales tax increase go into effect and how long will it last?

A: If passed by 2/3 of the voters in November 2016, the tax would go into effect no sooner than April 1, 2017, and last for 15 years.

Q: Who will make sure the funds do not get spent elsewhere?

A: A Citizen's Oversight Committee will provide strict financial oversight and ensure all funds go where they are supposed to - improving Martinez roads!

Q: Does the tax measure pay for any General Administration and City Overhead costs?

A: No. The only allowable staff time costs are those spent directly on pavement projects, such as design, bidding, inspection, construction engineering, and construction oversight.

Q: What is the current sales tax rate in Martinez?

A: The current sales tax rate in Martinez is 8.5%, putting Martinez among the lowest in the County. Additionally, an existing temporary 0.25% State sales tax increase from Prop 30 expires on December 31, 2016.