



City of Brighton
www.brightoncity.org

THE CONVERGENCE OF STREET INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND FISCAL REALITIES

MAYOR MUZZIN/ CITY COUNCIL

Brighton, Where Quality is a Way of Life, it is why many of us moved here, it is why many of us stay here, it is why people and businesses choose to invest here. However, there is a cost to maintain quality, particularly when it comes to infrastructure. Well over a year ago, City Council, with the support of City Staff, revived a conversation with the community regarding the need for a new significant and sustained investment in the City's public street network. This City is on, and will continue to be on, a path of exponential decline until this needed investment gap is filled.

On August 7, 2018, voters turned down the proposed solution by a slim 128-vote margin. This was a closer margin than was seen in 2013 when voters were asked to support increased street funding. The 2018 question sought 4.3466 mills per year for 10 years to be committed to streets and related infrastructure. Leading up to the vote and following the outcome, City Council and City Staff, heard four key messages from the community:

1. There is no question the City's streets are bad and need increased investment
2. The Full Headlee Override of 4.3466 mills was too much
3. Ten years was too long of a time frame
4. The millage language was not specific enough

In September 2018, City Council appointed three City Council members to a Fiscal Realities Task Force to review this feedback, and the realities of the City's infrastructure investment needs, and bring back a recommendation to City Council at their annual goal setting retreat. The resulting recommendation was reported in the October 29, 2018 E-Newsletter. In summary, the Task Force proposed a three-legged approach – an approach that puts more burden on the City to meet half of the funding gap and an investment by City taxpayers to meet the other half in a joint approach to halting the decline in the City's public street network.

On May 7, 2019, voters will be asked to participate in a solution to the City's infrastructure investment needs. A reduced Headlee Override request of 2.5 mills per year for seven (7) years will be sought from taxpayers. Your feedback helped shape this new millage question. The revenue that would be generated would play a critical role in supporting a quality public street network. With 80% of the City's public streets in poor condition, we must increase investment, but the City cannot reverse this trend without the additional support of the community. The reality is that the longer the community goes without addressing this challenge the costs and impacts on taxpayers will only increase. After the 2008 recession, City revenues were reduced significantly and even today these revenues are held down—costs were cut, employees gave concessions, and yet the City kept delivering services, but struggled to keep up with infrastructure and other capital investments. Over the last few years, City operations have been re-organized further reducing costs to taxpayers. To facilitate this new lower millage question, City Council has directed the City Manager to develop a budget recommendation that seeks further concessions from City employees, reduces services, including the elimination of a police officer through attrition, totaling approximately \$500,000 in savings. This will be no small feat. In addition, City Council will review additional non-millage revenues and continue to pursue additional economic development opportunities with a goal to generate an additional \$500,000 in new revenues over the next few years. Leaving a gap of approximately \$1 million dollars to be met via a 2.5 mill Headlee Override Question on the May 7 ballot.

We need the participation and support of our community to solve this challenge and move this community forward – to protect quality here in the City of Brighton. City Council has done everything it can to reduce the ask of taxpayers. I on behalf of my fellow Council members respectfully request that you give the May 7 City millage request your thoughtful consideration. This is an investment where taxpayers will see tangible results during the seven-year term requested.

More information is available at www.brightoncity.org/streets including a calculator to calculate what your investment would be under the new ballot proposal. You may also reach out to any of your Council members or City Staff with further questions. Together we can meet this challenge head on and begin investing in our public street network again. Thank you for your consideration and do not hesitate to reach out should you have questions,

Jim Muzzin, Mayor

On the May 7, 2019 ballot, City of Brighton voters will consider a Headlee Override Millage Proposal for Public Street and Related Infrastructure Improvements.



THE NEED

The City of Brighton's streets are in poor condition and require investment. According to a comprehensive assessment completed by the City's engineering firm in 2016, the City's public streets are in poor condition and require significant investment. Nearly \$2 million per year is needed to prevent further deterioration and to begin improving the City's public street system. The 2018 pavement condition assessment showed 80% of public streets in poor condition.

THE CAUSE

The City's revenues are not keeping pace with investment needs. Due to state law and the 2008 recession, the City is unable to recover property tax revenue at the same rate as property value increase.

THE PLAN

If the proposal is approved, the City will restrict these funds to reconstruction and maintenance of streets and related infrastructure. The revenues that would be generated will be committed by this City Council to fund a data-driven and accountable streets program plan. Revenues accounted for in a separate fund and program status will be reported on annually.

SHARED INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The City's fiscal year 2019/2020 draft budget includes a series of cuts to services, a reduction in the police department, and other non-new millage revenues to help fund streets and related infrastructure. The city is also in the process of negotiating with its collective bargaining units to realize additional savings. If passed, this reduced millage request, made possible by the above efforts, would complete a shared investment strategy to begin restoring the quality of our public street network.

THE ASK

Shall the City of Brighton, for the purpose of improving, replacing, resurfacing, reconstructing and constructing public streets, sidewalks, curbs, drainage structures, and necessary rights-of-way improvements, be authorized to levy a new millage of 2.5 mills per \$1,000.00 of taxable value for a period of 7 years, beginning 2019 through 2025, inclusive? This millage represents a partial restoration of the previously voter-approved Charter millage of 20 mills per \$1,000.00 of taxable value, and is an increase over the current 15.6534 mills per \$1,000.00 of taxable value levied by the City, which has been reduced by the Headlee Amendment (MCL 211.34). The proposal would generate approximately \$1,150,000 per year, beginning July of 2019, subject to any future reductions of the Headlee Amendment.

SAMPLE MILLAGE INCREASE CALCULATIONS

Taxable Value	\$51,875	\$72,625	\$93,375	\$114,125
Annual Impact of Headlee Override	\$129.69	\$181.56	\$233.44	\$285.31
Monthly Impact of Headlee Override	\$10.81	\$15.13	\$19.45	\$23.78



NEW RESIDENTIAL TRASH SERVICE CONTRACT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ 810.225.9255

City Council has approved a five-year contract with Waste Management for residential trash service. Waste Management is our current trash service provider; however, there will be some changes with this new contract. The most significant change will be that residents will now be provided with a 64-gallon recycle container, with a lid. Additionally, the collection process will be done with automated trash trucks, so there is a specific placement location and orientation of the carts that will need to be followed when carts are placed at the curb for collection. Because the collection is automated, only trash and recycling that fits in the containers will be picked up. Recycle carts will begin to be delivered during the last two weeks in June 2019 and the new contract will be effective beginning July 1, 2019. The new contract results in a reduction in the monthly cost to residents from \$16.01 per month to \$15.80. The cost will increase by 4% each July 1 beginning in 2020. All of the other services currently offered as part of residential trash service will remain the same, including:

- Service Days
- Weekly Recycling Pick Up Service
- One free bulk item pick up per year
- Yard Waste service
- The annual Spring Clean Up Event

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to pay for the carts?

No. Two carts (one for trash and one for recycle) will be provided at no charge to each residence. Trash carts that are in acceptable condition will not be replaced.

Do I have to use the carts? Use of the cart for trash is required.

What if I have more material than the cart will hold?

Regular weekly service includes the contents of the carts only. Additional contents will have to be held until the next

scheduled pick up or residents may contact Waste Management for a bulk, or special pickup.

Can I have more than one cart?

Yes, WM will provide additional carts for an additional charge. Contact Waste Management for information.

Can I keep my current recycle bin?

Yes, you may keep your current recycle bin for use as you choose. However, after June 30, 2019, recycling contents will only be collected when placed in the new 64-gallon cart.

What container do I use for yard waste?

There are no changes to the yard waste program and residents will continue to use properly marked containers (up to 32 gallons) and bags with a maximum weight of 50 lbs. per container/bag.

What if my cart is lost or damaged?

Every cart has a serial number coded to the address where originally delivered. Contact WM for information on cart replacement.

Whom do I contact if I have questions?

Contact Waste Management at 866.797.9018 or the City of Brighton DPW at 810.225.8001.

Check our Facebook page, website, your utility bill, and e-newsletter for additional information as the new contract date nears. A detailed program instruction guide will also be delivered with your new recycle cart.



PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

FOR AGENDAS & MINUTES SEE BRIGHTONCITY.ORG

City Council

1st & 3rd Thursdays / 7:30 p.m. / City Hall
Study session begins at 6:30 p.m.

Downtown Development Authority

3rd Tuesdays / 7:15 a.m. / City Hall

Principal Shopping District

1st Tuesdays / 7:45 a.m. / City Hall

Brighton Arts & Culture Commission

2nd Mondays / 5:30 p.m. / City Hall

Planning Commission

1st & 3rd Mondays / 7:00 p.m. / City Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals

2nd Thursdays (as needed) / 7:00 p.m. / City Hall



CARL'S CONCERT & THE AMP GRAND OPENING
ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFITING THE CARL NAGY FOUNDATION
 Supporting education for emotional health, anxiety
 and suicide awareness for our local area schools

@lovecarl2019

3:45 pm : Ribbon Cutting

4:00 pm : Brighton High School Jazz Band

4:45 pm : Sanctuary Blues Band

7:30 pm : SPONGE



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