

RESOLUTION 2021 - 07

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF SUNNYSIDE, WASHINGTON, EXPRESSING  
SUPPORT FOR THE ADOPTION OF HOUSE BILL 1523  
AMENDING STATE LAWS REGARDING VOTER APPROVAL  
OF SALES AND USE TAX LEVIES TO FUND TRANSPORTATION  
IMPROVEMENTS.**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Sunnyside has the responsibility under the Constitution of the State of Washington for the construction, improvement, maintenance, protection, and operation of public ways within the corporate limits of the City pursuant to RCW 35A.11.020 and Chapter 35A.47 RCW; and

**WHEREAS**, existing laws of the State of Washington empower municipalities to establish a Transportation Benefit District to maintain and renew essential transportation infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, existing laws of the State of Washington further empower municipalities to seek authorization via a vote of the people to impose a sales and use tax within the city limits of the City to fund transportation improvements within their Transportation Benefit District; and

**WHEREAS**, existing laws of the State of Washington further provide that such voter approved authorization shall expire after ten (10) years, and voters may only renew such authorization once, for a total maximum period of twenty (20) years; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2019, the City of Sunnyside approved Ordinance No. 2019-02 establishing a Transportation Benefit District pursuant to chapter RCW 36.73; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 24, 2020, the City of Sunnyside approved Resolution 2020-07 to place before voters a ballot proposition for authorization to impose a sales and use tax within the city limits for a period of ten (10) years to fund transportation improvements within the Sunnyside Transportation Benefit District; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 4, 2020, voters within the City of Sunnyside approved the ballot proposition to impose a sales and use tax by a 52% majority; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Walla Walla has informed the City of Sunnyside of House Bill 1523, introduced in the 2021 Washington State Legislature, that would amend RCW 82.14.0455 to remove the restriction on the voters' authority to renew authorization to impose a sales and use tax only two times; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Walla Walla has requested a position of support on House Bill 1523 from other Cities like the City of Sunnyside that fund Transportation Benefit Districts via voter-approved sales tax revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that, given the limited funding available for transportation projects, there is a need for a stable revenue source, fully subject to voter approval, to maintain and renew the City's essential transportation infrastructure;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYSIDE, WASHINGTON**, as follows:

**Section 1.** The City Council of the City of Sunnyside, Washington, takes an official position in support of House Bill 1523, an act relating to renewal of the sales and use tax for transportation benefit districts.

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall be effective upon passage, approval and signatures hereon in accordance with law.

PASSED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2021.



FRANCISCO GUERRERO, MAYOR

ATTEST:



JACQUELINE RENTERIA, CITY CLERK