

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BALLOT INITIATIVES – 2004

(CURRENT AS OF 10/19/04)

STATE	CITY	SUBJECT	DATE/COMMENT
AK	Anchorage	Proposition 11 asks voters whether Anchorage should issue up to \$1.57 million in general obligation bonds to pay for public transportation improvements.	ON BALLOT 04/06/04 DEFEATED 52% TO 48%
AZ	Phoenix	Maricopa County officials have a scheduled a 1/2 cent sales tax extension and a \$16 billion regional transportation plan on the May ballot. Phoenix's light rail system would also be funded with these two initiatives. The state legislature has pushed this vote back to November. Maricopa 2020 website: www.maricopa2020.com	ON BALLOT 11/04
AR	Jonesboro	The North East Arkansas Transit Authority board unanimously approved a motion to request that the Craighead County Quorum Court place a referendum on November's general election ballot to create and support through funding a Jonesboro-Craighead County transit system for a 3-year trial period.	DELAYED UNTIL 2005
CA	Bay Area	Under SB 916 of 2003, residents of seven Bay Area counties would vote in March 2004 to raise bridge tolls by \$1 to spend an estimated \$125 million a year for transit, planning and roads. The Bay Area's priorities include a \$50 million fourth hole in the Caldecott Tunnel, \$36 million to expand ferry service and \$50 million for a new five-lane span for the Benicia-Martinez bridge. Funds would also strengthen Bay Area Rapid Transit underground tunnels, renovate the TransBay Terminal in San Francisco and study Bay Area access to a proposed high-speed rail system in California. The measure needs majority approval of voters in seven counties with state-owned toll bridges to pass. That includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Solano counties. Yes on Measure 2 website: www.measure2.org	ON BALLOT 3/2/2004 APPROVED 56% TO 44% How Bay Area voted on Measure 2 County: YES NO Alameda 54% to 46% Contra Costa 51% to 49% Marin 64% to 36% San Francisco 69% to 31% San Mateo 55% to 45% Santa Clara 59% to 41% Solano 41% to 59%
CA	Bay Area	Voters in San Francisco, Alameda and Contra Costa counties will vote in November on a \$980 million bond issue to pay for earthquake safety modifications to BART. The same measure lost by 2.2 percentage points in 2002.	ON BALLOT 11/04
CA	Statewide	Initiative No. SB 1856 would authorize \$10 billion in bonds for a high-speed rail system between L.A. and San Francisco. It would also tackle other public transportation needs. The bipartisan measure passed in the legislature and was referred to the voters for approval.	DELAYED UNTIL 11/06
CA	Contra Costa County	Contra Costa County Transportation Authority is pushing for a renewal of Measure C, the countywide half-cent sales tax, set to expire in 2009. The measure has funded highway and transit projects since 1989. The new Measure C would raise \$1.6 billion in transportation funding through 2029 and update the "Growth Management Program" initiated by the first Measure C. A decision will be made in August on whether or not to place it on the November ballot. CCTA Measure C website	ON BALLOT 11/04
CA	Sacramento County	Sacramento County Transportation Authority officials have proposed extending Measure A, the existing half-cent transportation sales tax, which is set to expire	ON BALLOT 11/04

		in 2009. If approved, the extension would raise \$4.7 billion for road and transit improvements	
CA	San Mateo County	The San Mateo County Transportation Authority has adopted an expenditure plan for the reauthorization of Measure A, a half-cent transportation sales tax, which will net approximately \$1.5 billion over 25 years. Transit projects will receive 30%. A local group, Citizens for Better Transit, has opposed the expenditure plan and is considering adding a competing ballot initiative.	ON BALLOT 11/04
CA	Solano County	The Solano County Transportation Improvement Authority is advancing its plans for a separate, countywide tax that would raise an estimated \$1.43 billion during the next 30 years. A daunting, two-thirds approval, however, would be required to pass the tax measure. www.solanotraffic.org	ON BALLOT 11/04
CA	Sonoma County	This November, Sonoma County voters will be asked to approve a sales tax hike that could raise \$470 million over 20 years to relieve the traffic congestion on Highway 101 and local streets. The spending plan for Measure M, the Traffic Relief Act for Sonoma County, also funds bike and pedestrian projects and continues work on a North Bay passenger rail line.	ON BALLOT 11/04
CA	Sonoma and Marin Counties	The Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit board is considering adding a quarter-cent sales tax on the November ballot to fund commuter rail	DELAYED UNTIL 2006
CA	Santa Cruz County	The widening of Highway 1 and the construction of a 31-mile rail trail along the old Union-Pacific Rail line are now linked together on a November transportation ballot initiative. Residents of Santa Cruz County will be asked to pay a half-cent sales tax to raise \$530 million for the new projects as well as a passenger train station in Pajaro and a tourist trolley to run between Aptos and Capitola.	ON BALLOT 11/04
CA	Orange County	Worried that the CenterLine light-rail project does not have enough congressional support to win federal funding, Orange County transit leaders have begun discussing whether the \$1 billion proposal should be put to a countywide vote in November	DELAYED
CA	San Bernadino County	A plan to spend \$6 billion in local transportation money over the next 30 years was approved by the county's transportation agency, SANBAG, paving the way for a November ballot. According to the plan, nearly \$362 million would be allocated for a MetroLink extension to Redlands and a Gold Line extension to Montclair. Other improvements include \$180 million for bus and rapid transit. Measure I Central	ON BALLOT 11/04
CA	Marin County	Marin's Congestion Management Agency has called for a Marin-specific half-cent sales tax increase that would generate an estimated \$275 million over 20 years. Funds would be dedicated to expanding the local bus system, improving road maintenance and widening Highway 101 through the heart of the county. Marin County Sales Tax Expenditure Plan website	ON BALLOT 11/04
CA	Ventura County	Ventura County supervisors voted 4 to 1 to place a 1/2 cent sales tax increase measure on the November ballot to pay for road and transit improvements. Ventura County is the largest county in the state without its own transportation tax. 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Information	ON BALLOT 11/04
CA	San Diego	San Diego's regional planning agency, SANDAG, has produced a \$9.5 billion draft Expenditure plan for the TransNet program, a half-cent sales tax extension that funds transit and highway projects throughout the region, set to expire in 2008. The extension would provide funding through 2028. TransNet website	ON BALLOT 11/2/04
CO	Denver	The Regional Transportation District is moving forward with their \$4.7 billion FasTracks transit expansion plan which calls for construction of new light-rail or commuter-rail lines from central Denver to Lakewood/Golden, Arvada, Boulder/Longmont, north Adams County and Denver International Airport, as well as along I-225 in Aurora. Fastracks Yes website: www.fastracks.org	ON BALLOT 11/04
CO	Garfield County	Garfield County commissioners agreed to put a question on the November ballot asking voters outside [Aspen] city limits to decide if Garfield County	ON BALLOT 11/04

		should join the Roaring Fork Transit Authority.	
CO	El Paso County	County commissioners have proposed and approved a plan to form The Rural Transportation Authority which would serve Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls and unincorporated El Paso County if approved by voters. It would be funded with a 1-cent sales tax increase, with 55 cents of the tax expiring after 10 years. Fifty-five percent of the funding is set to go for road construction, 35 percent toward maintenance and 10 percent to transit. Roadway and maintenance money will be apportioned to the cities and county based on population.	ON BALLOT 11/04
CO	Aspen	Facing a 50% service cut, and for the second time in four years, the Roaring Fork Transit Authority plans to approach voters to bail it out of a financial jam. RFTA's board of directors voted 6-1 to seek a sales tax increase from the towns and counties throughout the Roaring Fork Valley, the size of the increase yet to be determined, although the total amount collected cannot exceed one cent in any jurisdiction.	ON BALLOT 11/04
FL	Statewide	A repeal provision to develop and operate a high-speed ground transportation system in the state.	ON BALLOT 11/04
FL	Miami Beach	Miami Beach voters will be able to weigh in on a nonbinding question to determine whether BayLink, the light-rail trolley system that would move people around South Beach and connect to downtown Miami, should be built.	ON BALLOT 11/04
FL	Broward County	To improve Broward's mass transit options, the county hopes to develop a program with the Metropolitan Planning Organization that would pay for transit partly through an expanded impact fee.	MONITOR PROGRESS
KY	Lexington	LexTran's new general manager, Terry Garcia Cruz, wants to put a 5 mill property or occupational tax on the November ballot, which would be the agency's first dedicated funding source, and would allow for necessary service expansions.	ON BALLOT 11/04
IN	Indianapolis	A 1% food and beverage tax to fund transit projects has been proposed by IndyGo. Monitor development.	DELAYED UNTIL 2005
MI	Van Buren County	The Van Buren Public Transit system, at risk of complete service elimination, has operated without a dedicated funding source. The county board has recommended a county levy of up to a quarter-mill for the November 2 election. If passed, the levy would raise an estimated \$513,853 per year	DELAYED UNTIL 2005
MI	Port Huron	Residents in Fort Gratiot, Port Huron and Port Huron Township will vote on renewing a four-year property tax that funds bus services run by Blue Water Area Transit.	ON BALLOT 5/4/04 APPROVED 69% TO 31%
MI	Saginaw	The City of Saginaw has approved the proposed ballot language for the renewal of 3 mills for the Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services (STARS)	ON BALLOT 3/2/04 DEFEATED BY 200 VOTES
MI	Flint	The MTA (Flint) is proposing a new tax, 0.3 mills would pay to support existing services, and 0.1 mills would finance additional service, including additional vehicles on the road and expansion of night hours on fixed routes. The tax would raise \$3.8 million in new money.	ON BALLOT 8/3/04 APPROVED 54% TO 46%
MI	Lansing	The Capital Area Transportation Authority is calling for a .0322 millage increase, a total of 2.22 mills on property for five years. If approved, the millage would bring approximately \$12.1 million annually.	ON BALLOT 8/3/04 APPROVED 60% TO 40%
MI	Ludington and Scotville	The Ludington Mass Transit Millage renewal request is for 0.75 mills for Ludington residents and 1.3 mills for Scotville residents. The renewal is for 5 years. The November ballot will include a two-county transportation proposal for all residents of Mason and Oceana counties. All residents would pay 0.6 mills for the service. If that proposal passes in November, it will over-ride this Primary ballot request.	ON BALLOT 8/3/04 APPROVED 71% TO 29%
MI	Marquette	The Marquette County Transit Authority is calling for an additional .2 mill on an	ON BALLOT 8/3/04

	County	existing .4 mill (total .6 mill) ad valorem property tax. If approved, the tax would yield approximately \$836,000 annually.	APPROVED 65% TO 35%
MI	Lake County	To provide funding for the Yates Dial-A-Ride program that serves all of Lake County, the proposal calls for a .4 mill over 5 years, and would raise \$165,000 annually	ON BALLOT 8/3/04 APPROVED 56% TO 44%
MI	Midland County	This millage renewal calls for .15 mill over a period of 5 years for the provision of county-wide public transportation services, and is expected to raise approximately \$512,443 annually.	ON BALLOT 8/3/04 APPROVED 70% TO 30%
MI	Shiawassee County	The Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency is calling for a first-time millage in the amount of .225 mills over a 2 year period. If approved, the millage would generate approximately \$56,000 a year.	ON BALLOT 8/3/04 APPROVED 62% TO 38%
MI	Charlevoix County	This proposal will permit the County of Charlevoix to restore the .25 mill, previously approved by the electors for the purpose of providing funds for the operation of the County Transit System. The millage is for a period of 4 years and would raise \$396,755 annually.	ON BALLOT 8/3/04 APPROVED 65% TO 35%
MI	Gogebic County	This millage renewal proposal would fund Gogebic County Transit for 4 years at a rate of .33 mills. If approved, it would raise approximately \$122,010 annually.	ON BALLOT 8/3/04 APPROVED 77% TO 23%
MI	Tuscola County	This millage renewal proposal would fund public bus transportation services in Almer Township and Indianfields Township for 4 years. At a rate of 1 mill, the approved proposal would raise approximately \$190,000 for both townships.	ON BALLOT 8/3/04 APPROVED 61% TO 39%
MI	Manistee County	This proposal would fund Dial-A-Ride services in Manistee County for 6 years with a .33 millage. Estimated annual revenue, if approved, would be \$276,794.	ON BALLOT 8/3/04 FAILED 45% TO 55%
MI	Kalamazoo	City commissioners have approved placing a 1-mill property tax renewal for Metro Transit on the Nov. 2 general election ballot. If approved, the levy will raise a projected \$1.56 million. The owner of a home with a market value of \$100,000 and taxable value of \$50,000 would pay \$50 in property taxes.	ON BALLOT 11/04
MO	Branson	Voters in Branson will be able to decide in August whether to extend a 1/2% retail sales tax that is set to expire in November 2005. The tax will fund roads and public transportation.	ON BALLOT 8/04 APPROVED 81% TO 19%
MT	Flathead County	County commissioners in October voted unanimously to put a \$1 million tax levy request on the June 2004 primary election ballot. The tax would bring approximately \$106,000 annually for Eagle Transit, which when matched with federal dollars, would total about \$212,000 annually.	ON BALLOT 6/8/04 APPROVED 62% TO 38%
OH	Hamilton	In early December the Hamilton City Council voted to place a 0.5-mill property tax on the March 2 ballot for continued transit services. The levy would generate about \$449,000 a year for the city's general fund, but council members have said the funds would be used solely for transit operations.	ON BALLOT 3/2/04 DEFEATED 69% TO 31%
OR	Bend	Interim City Manager Ron Garzini has proposed establishing an independent transit district funded in part with a new property tax of roughly 29 cents per \$1000 assessed value. The proposal needs approval from Deschutes County Commissioners before it can go to Bend voters.	ON BALLOT 11/04
SC	Charleston	After the Supreme Court overruled the 2002 transit tax that voters approved due to ballot language errors, the county wide 1/2¢ sales tax to fund transit, greenspace, and roads is again on the ballot	ON BALLOT 11/04
TX	Austin	Capital Metro is considering asking voters in November to consider a commuter rail starter line, utilizing an existing railroad track that it owns. The proposal would call for diesel-powered trains to run from Leander to downtown Austin, at a cost of less than \$100 million.	ON BALLOT 11/04
TX	Balcones Heights	Balcones Heights residents will cast ballots to decide whether to stay with VIA Metropolitan Transit, and they will also decide whether to create an economic development corporation with the estimated \$540,000 in sales tax funds that now go to VIA	ON BALLOT 9/11/04 APPROVED 82% TO 18%

TX	San Antonio	VIA Metropolitan Transit is considering asking voters in November to raise the transportation sales tax 3/8cent to increase services.	ON BALLOT 11/04
TX	Richland Hills	In December 2002, the City Council voted to hold a special election to decide whether the city should remain with the Fort Worth Transportation Authority, aka the "T." Keep the "T" Website	ON BALLOT 2/7/04 APPROVED 67% TO 33%
VA	Arlington County	Arlington County has a proposal to issue \$18.5 million in bonds to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of construction , acquisition, and rehabilitation of Metro facilities by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority	ON BALLOT 11/04
VA	Fairfax County	The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on June 21 agreed to let residents vote Nov. 2 on more than \$300 million worth of bonds for transportation, human services, parks and libraries. The board proposed issuing \$165 million worth of bonds for transportation projects. Two-thirds of those moneys – \$110 million – would go to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for infrastructure renewal, improved system access and system expansion.	ON BALLOT 11/04
WA	Vancouver	Voters will decide, probably in September, whether to double a 0.3 percent transit sales tax to stave off deep cuts in Clark County's bus system. C-Tran's board of directors voted unanimously to put a ballot measure before voters that would increase frequency and duration of bus service in Clark County and continue commuter routes to Portland that would otherwise be cut.	ON BALLOT 11/04
WA	Spokane	After voters turned down a 3mil tax to fund transit in 2002, Spokane Transit Authority is facing a 45% service reduction. Board members decided in February to place a 3mill tax on an upcoming ballot May 18.	ON BALLOT 5/18/04 APPROVED 69% TO 31%
WA	Everett	City officials are discussing whether to ask voters to approve a sales tax increase for financially strapped Everett Transit. The agency cut service 14 percent last year, and the City Council last week reviewed a public-transit plan that forecasts further reductions in 2005.	APPROVED 56% TO 44%
WA	Seattle	I-83, to kill the Seattle Monorail project, just made it onto the November ballot after a state Court of Appeals overturned an earlier ruling.	ON BALLOT 11/04
WA	King County	The Metropolitan King County Council has placed two advisory measures on the Nov. 2 ballot. One asks voters if they support developing a package of congestion-relief and safety projects and placing it on the ballot in November 2005. The other asks how they'd like to pay for it.	ON BALLOT 11/04
WV	Parkersburg	The Mid-Ohio Valley Transit Authority is seeking a renewal levy as it works to expand its routes. The agency is asking for \$1.595 million a year over five years, an increase from the \$1.25 million, two-year levy now in effect.	ON BALLOT 11/04