

RESOLUTION NO. 227-04

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NOVEMBER 2, 2004
BALLOT ISSUE TO CREATE THE PIKES PEAK RURAL
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB) has identified over \$550 million in unfunded transportation needs in the City over the next ten years, and

WHEREAS, other communities in the Pikes Peak Region, including El Paso County, Manitou Springs and Green Mountain Falls, have identified over \$146 million in additional unfunded transportation needs over the next ten years, and

WHEREAS, the City of Colorado Springs has signed an Intergovernmental Agreement with El Paso County, the City of Manitou Springs and the Town of Green Mountain Falls to create the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority, if such creation is approved by the voters of those local governments in an election, and

WHEREAS, the Board of El Paso County Commissioners approved a ballot issue for the November 2, 2004 election that, if approved by the voters, would allow the creation of the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority, and

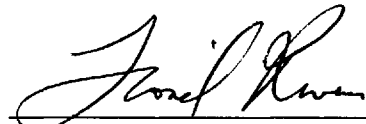
WHEREAS, the formation of the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority is advantageous for the residents of the City because the 1.0% sales and use tax will provide a dedicated source of funding for critical transportation construction projects in and around the City. The 1.0% sales and use tax will not be applied to purchases of food for domestic home consumption, prescription medications, or residential utility bills. If the ballot issue is approved, then the 1.0% sales and use tax in the City will be collected for a full ten (10) years for the purposes of funding construction, maintenance, repair, and operations for roadways and bridges (35% of net revenue), improved transit service (10% of net revenue), and for specific regional roadway capital improvements (55% of net revenue).

WHEREAS, in the best interest of the City for the health, safety and welfare of its residents to help alleviate extreme traffic congestion, create safer traffic conditions, and provide for a regional transportation system through the ballot issue that will provide a dedicated funding source for construction and maintenance of transportation projects identified in the Ballot as the best option available to the Colorado Springs metro area at this time.

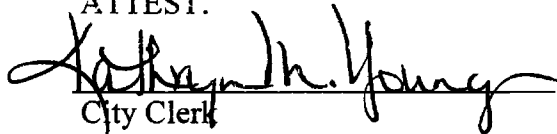
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS:

1. That the City Council supports the November 2, 2004 ballot issue to create the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority and to provide for a dedicated sales and use tax to fund necessary infrastructure improvements.
2. Members of the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB) are hereby authorized to speak in their capacity as CTAB members, at all times, with others about the Rural Transportation Authority and the ballot issue.
3. The City Council authorizes distribution of this resolution in accordance with the City Code and the Fair Campaign Practices Act.

Dated at Colorado Springs this 12 day of October, 2004



Mayor

ATTEST.


City Clerk



DATE: September 30, 2004

TO: Lorne Kramer, City Manager

Lorne Kramer
Ronald L. Mitchell

FROM: Ron Mitchell, Public Works Director

William Healy, Planning and Community Development Director

Craig Blewitt, Transportation Planning Manager

Wm F. Healy
CB

SUBJECT: Resolution Regarding the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (RTA) Ballot Issue

SUMMARY

The City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, City of Manitou Springs and Town of Green Mountain Falls have jointly entered into an intergovernmental agreement that, if approved by voters, would create the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (RTA). The Pikes Peak RTA issue has been formally placed on the November 2, 2004 election ballot.

A resolution that would express City Council's support for the Pikes Peak RTA ballot issue is attached.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

City Council discussed the potential formation of a Rural Transportation Authority (RTA) with the El Paso County Commissioners at three joint meetings during 2004. At the January 9, 2004 joint meeting, the City Council and County Commissioners agreed on an RTA proposal for citizen discussion and review. At the April 30, 2004 joint meeting, the City Council and County Commissioners finalized the RTA proposal and agreed on a list of roadway capital projects to be funded through the RTA. At the July 9, 2004 joint meeting, Manitou Springs and Green Mountain Falls requested to be included in the proposed RTA and were accepted by the City and County.

On August 10, 2004 City Council approved, by resolution, the Pikes Peak RTA Intergovernmental Agreement. This agreement specifies important aspects of the RTA including the name and purpose of the RTA, how the Board of Directors will be appointed and what their duties will be, and provisions for distributing the RTA's assets. Council's approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement followed two public hearings on the agreement, held on July 27, 2004 and on August 10, 2004.

On August 26, 2004 the El Paso County Commissioners formally placed the Pikes Peak RTA ballot issue on the November 2, 2004 election ballot.

BACKGROUND

The cost of needed transportation improvements and maintenance activities in Colorado Springs and other communities in the Pikes Peak Region greatly exceeds the funding resources available to address those needs. The Citizens' Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB) has identified over \$550 million in unfunded, roadway capital projects, maintenance activities and transit service improvements that are needed over the next ten years. An additional \$145 million in unfunded transportation improvement and maintenance needs have been identified in El Paso County, Manitou Springs and Green Mountain Falls.

Since January 2004, the Colorado Springs City Council and El Paso County Commissioners have been considering the creation of a Rural Transportation Authority, as allowed by 1997 State Legislation, to address area wide unfunded transportation needs. In July 2004, the City of Manitou Springs and the Town of Green Mountain Falls joined the effort to place a ballot issue on the November 2004 ballot to ask area voters to allow the creation of an RTA. All four of the local governmental entities (Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Manitou Springs and Green Mountain Falls) signed the Pikes Peak RTA Intergovernmental Agreement on August 26, 2004 and on that same date the County Commissioners officially placed the RTA issue on the November 2004 election ballot.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The RTA proposal would assess a 1% sales tax in the City of Colorado Springs, unincorporated El Paso County, the City of Manitou Springs and the Town of Green Mountain Falls for a period of ten years. This sales tax is expected to generate approximately \$65 million (in 2004 dollars) annually in those first ten years to implement roadway capital, maintenance and transit projects as specified in the RTA ballot language and intergovernmental agreement (IGA). In accordance with the RTA proposal, the sales tax assessment would be reduced to 0.45% after ten years. A sales tax of 0.45% would generate approximately \$29 million (in 2004 dollars) annually for transportation maintenance and transit projects, as specified in the RTA ballot and IGA.

ALTERNATIVES

City Council can approve the attached resolution supporting the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority ballot issue as written, approve the attached resolution with revisions, or not approve the resolution.

Attachment

C: Mike Anderson, Budget Department Director
Terry Velasquez, Finance Manager
Pat Kelly, City Attorney
Robert Mack, Senior Attorney
Dave Nickerson, Deputy City Manager
Bob Stovall, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist