



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2022

COUNTY EXECUTIVE EHLMANN PROPOSING \$20 MILLION TO FIX POTHOLES THROUGHOUT ST. CHARLES COUNTY

ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO – St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann today announced he is proposing an aggressive initiative to fix potholes throughout the county, including the replacement of more than 10,000 slabs of concrete and miles of asphalt roadways. Ehlmann is requesting that the County Council approve \$10 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the work.

Further, he is proposing an additional \$10 million from the County's ½-cent Transportation Sales Tax funds be combined with a 50-50 match with municipalities for their own slab replacement programs that could potentially result in a total of \$30 million of road replacement and improvement throughout the county.

As subdivision development has continued to expand in the county over the past three decades, the number of miles of subdivision streets has steadily increased. This increased traffic, coupled with seasonal weather extremes, has resulted in a backlog of work in the county and in municipalities. By devoting these funds for road repairs, Ehlmann hopes to significantly reduce the backlog.

With the Missouri legislature leaving intact the additional motor user fee it approved in 2021 for the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), the County will no longer have to use its funds to cost-share construction projects in St. Charles County.

“By the County using \$10 million of the ARPA allocation to fund additional pothole repair and slab replacement, and combining that with \$10 million from the ½-cent Transportation Sales Tax in matching funds for the municipalities as they use their ARPA or general funds to repair roads, the overall program could result in thousands of slab replacements and miles of asphalt repair on the county's local and subdivision roads,” Ehlmann says.

Under this proposed plan, cities would be able to seek reimbursement from the County for 50 percent of the cost to replace broken concrete slabs and reconstruct asphalt roads in poor condition. The maximum funds available to a municipality would be based on their percentage of the county's incorporated population and the work would need to be completed by Dec. 31, 2022. The smaller cities such as Cottleville, Dardenne Prairie, Weldon Spring and St. Paul, which contract with St. Charles County for slab replacement and pothole repair from the Road and Bridge Tax, will have their repairs matched by the ½-cent Transportation Sales Tax as well.

-more-

ARPA Funds for Roads, page 2

The County's ½-cent Transportation Sales Tax, administered by the St. Charles County Road Board, was reauthorized in April of 2022 for another 10 years by 72 percent of county voters. The funds are used for traffic relief, roadway safety improvements and to construct, reconstruct and repair roads, bridges, and transportation infrastructure within St. Charles County.

The ordinance related to this initiative will be introduced at the County Council meeting on May 31, 2022, and could potentially be approved at the June 13 meeting.

-end-

Media Contact: Mary Enger, Communications Director, 636-949-1856, or 636-443-1008, menger@sccmo.org

About St. Charles County:

St. Charles County, Missouri, founded in 1812, is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri. With a population of 405,262, is it the state's third largest county. It is home to 21 scenic county parks of which four are in reserve, encompassing 4,197 acres.

With one of the largest economies in the state, St. Charles County is home to multinational companies including General Motors, Citi, MasterCard Worldwide and Boeing. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.

St. Charles County Government has more than 1,170 employees in more than 30 departments and offices who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop. For more information, please visit sccmo.org.