

**CITY OF ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-14**

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Ellensburg, Washington, providing for the submission to the qualified voters of the City of a proposition authorizing the collection of a sales and use tax of up to two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) for the purpose of funding public transportation (transit) systems; and requesting that the Kittitas County Auditor place the proposition on the November 4, 2025 ballot.

WHEREAS, under RCW 35.92.060, the City of Ellensburg, Washington ("City") is authorized to construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, add to, alter, maintain, operate, or lease transportation facilities; and

WHEREAS, under RCW 35.95.030, the City is authorized to appropriate general funds for the operation, maintenance, and capital needs of City-owned or -leased and City-operated public transportation (transit) systems; and

WHEREAS, under RCW 82.14.045, the City, with voter approval, is authorized to impose a sales and use tax of up to nine-tenths of one percent (0.9%) upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the boundaries of the City to provide funds for the operation, maintenance, or capital needs of public transportation (transit) systems; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ellensburg ("City") has established through Ordinance No. 4707, codified as Chapter 1.82 of the Ellensburg City Code ("ECC"), a transportation benefit district pursuant to RCW 35.21.225 and Chapter 36.73 RCW ("TBD"); and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 4719 amended Chapter 1.82 ECC to provide that the City Council would thereafter assume the rights, powers, immunities, functions, and obligations of the governing board of the TBD, thereby abolishing its governing board; and

WHEREAS, Central Transit, operated by HopeSource through a combination of funding provided by the State of Washington, the City, and the Associated Students of Central Washington University, provides bus transportation and paratransit services for persons with disabilities throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, under Resolution No. 2016-3, approved by the voters at the April 16, 2016 election, Chapter 36.73 RCW, RCW 82.14.0455, and Chapter 2.27 ECC, the TBD imposed a sales and use tax of 0.2% commencing October 1, 2016 for a period of ten years (expiring September 20, 2016); and

WHEREAS, the City Council now desires to fund the operation, maintenance, or capital needs of public transportation (transit) systems by imposing a sales and use tax of up to two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) in accordance with RCW 82.14.045, upon voter approval thereof; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 2025-15, the City Council has repealed the sales and use tax currently imposed by the TBD effective on the date the sales and use tax authorized by this resolution is approved by the voters and collected by the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Ellensburg, Washington, as follows:

Section 1. Submittal to voters. To provide the necessary funding for the public transportation systems identified in Section 2 of this resolution, including Central Transit, the City Council shall submit to the qualified voters of the City a proposition authorizing the City to fix and impose a sales and use tax of up to two-tenths of one percent (0.2%), pursuant to RCW 82.14.045.

Section 2. Use of revenues and description of public transportation (transit) systems. The sales and use tax authorized by this resolution shall be used by the City to fund public transportation (transit) systems, including, but not limited to, the following purposes:

1. The provision of public transportation (transit) services by personnel, equipment, and maintenance necessary to operate a public transportation system in the City;
2. The planning, marketing, and public engagement for the provision of public transportation (transit) services; and
3. The acquisition, maintenance, and replacement of public transportation (transit) vehicles, equipment, and supporting infrastructure facilities outlined in the City's adopted transit development plan;

Section 3. Ballot proposition. The City Council hereby finds and declares that the best interests of the City require the submission to the qualified voters of the City a proposition of whether the City shall impose a sales and use tax within the limitations established in RCW 82.14.045 for their approval or rejection. The Kittitas County Auditor as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in Kittitas County, Washington is hereby requested to call and conduct a special election to be held within the City on November 4, 2025, and to submit to the qualified voters of the City for their approval or rejection a proposition to impose a sales and use tax of up to two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) of the selling price in the case of a sales tax or value of the article used in the case of the use tax. The sales and use tax authorized by this resolution is in addition to any other taxes authorized by law and shall be collected from those persons who are taxable by the State of Washington under Chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the boundaries of the City. Upon approval by the voters of the proposition hereinafter set forth and the sales and use tax authorized by this resolution is collected, the sales and use tax currently imposed by the TBD will be repealed and the City may use the sales and use tax authorized by this resolution for the purposes described in this resolution. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to certify to the Kittitas County Auditor,

no later than August 5, 2025, a copy of this resolution and the following proposition to be submitted to the qualified voters at that election, in substantially the following form:

CITY OF ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON
PROPOSITION 1
SALES AND USE TAX FOR
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (TRANSIT) SYSTEMS

The City Council of Ellensburg, Washington adopted Resolution No. 2025-14 concerning sales and use taxes to fund public transportation (transit) systems. This resolution would authorize the collection of a sales and use tax at a rate of up to 0.2% on all taxable retail sales within the City, in accordance with RCW 82.14.045, upon which the existing 0.2% sales and use tax imposed by the City transportation benefit district will be repealed, all for the purpose of funding operation, maintenance, or capital needs of City public transportation (transit) systems identified in Resolution No. 2025-14, including Central Transit.

Should this resolution be approved?

YES ☐

NO ☐

For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot proposition required by RCW 29A.36.080, the City Council hereby designates the City Clerk (Beth Leader, leaderb@ellensburgwa.gov) and the City Attorney (Christopher Horner, hornerc@ellensburgwa.gov) as the individuals to whom such notice should be provided. The City Attorney and City Clerk are each individually authorized to approve changes to the ballot title, if any, deemed necessary by the Kittitas County Auditor.

The City Clerk is authorized to make necessary clerical corrections to this resolution, including the correction of scrivener's or clerical errors, references, resolution numbering, section numbers, and any reference thereto.

The proper City officials are authorized to perform such duties as are necessary or required by law to submit the question of whether the sales and use tax shall be imposed, as provided in this resolution, to the qualified voters of the City at the November 4, 2025 election.

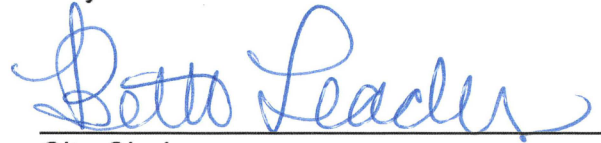
Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this resolution shall be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, then such provision shall be null and void and shall be separable from the remaining provisions and shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions or of the imposition or collection of the tax authorized herein.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Ellensburg this 7th day of July, 2025.



Mayor

Attest:



City Clerk