

**RESOLUTION NO. 012720-02  
CITY OF WAITE PARK**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAITE PARK, MINNESOTA  
APPROVING THE USE OF A LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX  
AUTHORIZED BY SPECIAL LAW**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waite Park is located in Central Minnesota and part of the St. Cloud Regional area; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waite Park is known as *The City Where Minnesota Connects* as it includes the major roadways of Interstate #94, Highway #23, Highway #15, and County Road #75 that are all within the City's municipal boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waite Park is a regional destination center because of its commercial and industrial businesses. The community's population of 7,777 residents expands during the daytime to a population of over 30,000 as a result the large number of visitors who work and shop in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waite Park, as part of the St. Cloud Regional Cities, currently collects a one-half of one percent of sales tax through December 31, 2038. Sales tax funds are shared amongst the St. Cloud Regional Cities and the City of Waite Park has already identified and designated its share of these funds to specific projects. The list of regional projects far exceeds the amount of revenue generated for the City of Waite Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waite Park, unlike its neighboring St. Cloud Regional Communities, receives no Local Government Aid to lessen the impact of providing services to a much larger population than just its resident population; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waite Park has a demand for capital investment beyond its current tax levy and current local option sales tax collected; and

**WHEREAS**, 80% of the sales tax generated in the City of Waite Park is generated by people outside the Waite Park community; and

**WHEREAS**, the projects identified all serve a regional purpose that extends the benefit beyond the residents of Waite Park; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 297A.99-Local Sales Taxes, the City may impose a general sales tax, if permitted by special law, for the purpose of funding construction and rehabilitation of capital projects; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 297A.99, subdivision 2, prior to the City of Waite Park City Council requesting legislative approval to impose a local sales tax authorized by a special law, the City Council must first adopt a resolution indicating approval of the tax; and

The City Council of the City of Waite Park, Minnesota, does ordain:

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF WAITE PARK, MINNESOTA  
THAT:**

1. The City Council hereby approves a proposed general sales tax of one half-percent be used for the following capital projects:
  - a. **10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Regional Corridor:** Up to \$15.5 million to be collected over 9 years.

- b. **Regional Trail Connections:** Up to \$10 million to be collected over 5 years.
- c. **South Side Regional Park Development:** Up to \$10 million to be collected over 5 years.
- d. **Public Safety Facility:** Up to \$12 million to be collected over 6 years.

**Total Estimated Cost of all Regional Projects is \$47.5 million to be collected over 25 years\* with an estimated average of \$1.9 million to be collected each year.**

**\*Please Note:** The actual amount of years the tax is collected is dependent on which projects are approved by voters.

- 2. The descriptions of each project and its specific regional significance is attached as Exhibit A.

Adopted by the Council this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard E. Miller  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shaunna Johnson  
City Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer

**ACTION ON THIS RESOLUTION:**

Motion for adoption:  
Seconded by:  
Voted in favor of:  
Voted against:  
Abstained:  
Absent:  
Resolution

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Waite Park City Council at a duly authorized meeting held on 1/27/2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shaunna Johnson  
City Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer

## EXHIBIT A

### REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPOSED PROJECTS

#### **10<sup>TH</sup> Avenue Regional Corridor:**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Regional Corridor Improvements includes the reconstruction of this minor arterial roadway from Third Street North to Parkway Drive. This roadway connects the cities of Waite Park, St. Cloud, and Sartell, to the retail center of Waite Park. This segment of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue presently experiences an average daily traffic of 14,000 vehicles per day, causing significant traffic congestion and delays.

The project includes adding traffic lanes to improve capacity, and intersection improvements to increase capacity and improve safety, and pedestrian. Because the road right-of-way is not wide enough to accommodate the proposed improvements, there are significant right-of-way acquisitions planned.

#### **Regional Trail Connections:**

The City of Waite Park is the location where access to hundreds of miles of trails will exist in the future provided the City can invest in making the trail connections. The Lake Wobegon Trail comes into the City of Waite Park from the north side of the community. This trail extends from Waite Park to Osakis with additional connections to the Central Lakes Trail and the Soo Line Trail. In addition, the Riccori and Glacial Lakes State Trail will connect to Waite Park on the West side of the community providing access to a future trail from Waite Park all the way to Wilmar. The City's goal with the Regional Trail Connections is to connect these two major regional trail systems together (Wobegon Trail and Glacial Lakes State Trail) and build a trail segment to connect the Glacial Lakes Trail to the exiting City trail system in the southern part of Waite Park to allow for the connection to Quarry Park, a regional county park. With completion of this regional trail connection, visitors would have access to trails from Willmar to Waite Park and from Waite Park to Fergus Falls and all the way to Superior. The funds used for the regional trail connections would include purchasing right-of-way, constructing the trail, and constructing a pedestrian bridge over highway #23 to provide safe trail access.

#### **South Side Regional Park Development:**

The City is pursuing the establishment of park land and associated recreational facilities in the southern area of the community, in the identified growth corridor area. Park facilities will have regional significance due to proximity to both current Stearns County Quarry Park (regional/statewide draw for outdoor recreation and quarry swimming that hosts over 145,000 visitors a year) and to Waite Park's "The Ledge" amphitheater 5,000 seat concert venue facilities, including exploration of possible camping facilities to serve both these uses and promote regional tourism draw. Planned location along or near County Road 137 is also located within short driving distance of multiple neighboring municipalities, furthering expected impact beyond Waite Park.

#### **Public Safety Facility:**

The City of Waite Park has 18 full-time sworn police officers and a staff of over 25 in the police department. A city of 7,777 would not typically have this large of a police department but the personnel are needed, as well as the need for a public safety facility to provide the added level of services created by the 30,000-day time population of the community. The public safety facilities exceed current capacity and as a result, addressing public safety facility needs is needed. In 2020, the City of Waite Park ranked #6 in the most dangerous cities in the state of Minnesota. Waite Park ranks #7 in violent crimes, with 386 per 100,00 people. It is also #1 in the State of Minnesota for property crime. The significance of these numbers is that 80% of the crimes committed in Waite Park are committed by people that do not live in this community. As a result, public safety in the Waite Park community becomes very regionally significant.