



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 3, 2008**

**Contact:** Niel Laudati 541.726.3780

Cell 541. 221.3686

**~ MEDIA ADVISORY ~**

**Street Fund Survey now Online**

Springfield's streets and the maintenance of our streets is a source of civic pride and something the City takes very seriously. However, like cities around the country, paying for the maintenance of our infrastructure becomes more challenging each year. In March 2008, the Mayor appointed a panel of citizens, the Street Preservation Task Force, to examine the City's Street Fund. The Task Force was asked to determine if the level of preservation and maintenance being performed on the City's streets was appropriate. If it was then should the City seek additional revenue sources to be able to continue to fund that level of maintenance?

They concluded that the level of preservation and maintenance appropriate and that the City should seek additional revenue, specifically endorsing the idea of a Street Preservation Fee. This fee, if enacted, would be paid by every resident and business. The Task Force suggested that a residential fee be established at about \$1.75 a month, with a sliding scale that could be higher for businesses, depending on the level of transportation activity.

Additional research by city staff stated that there are a number of issues on imposing and collecting this fee and asked the Council whether to proceed or to consider, at least for the short term, an alternative increase of \$0.02 per gallon on the existing \$0.03 cent per gallon local fuel tax.

We are now looking for public comment on these two alternatives. In order to gather community comments and suggestions, a very short online survey has been developed. There is also material available to allow the public to review all of the materials that the Council and Task Force have seen, get answers to the most frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the subject. Staff will analyze the results of the survey and report back to the Council on January 12, 2009.

A link to the survey is available on our website at [www.ci.springfield.or.us](http://www.ci.springfield.or.us) and will be available until January 8.

