

Streets & Sidewalks Program

Millage Proposal Fact Sheet



On Tuesday, November 8, 2022, voters in St. Johns will be asked to consider a city ballot proposal for the Streets and Sidewalks Program. This proposal, if passed, would permit the city to continue to levy three mills for six years (2023-2028) to fund street and sidewalk improvements.

How long have we had an additional street millage and what has been accomplished?

The first four-year (4 mill) street millage was approved in 2013 and a five-year (3 mill) renewal was approved in 2017. The city has resurfaced approximately 23 miles of streets, which is approximately half of the total street mileage in the city.

What is the focus of this project?

The project will address street improvements throughout the city but will have more focus on sidewalk improvements than in the past. The city has mapped approximately 2.5 miles of existing sidewalks that are hazardous and need immediate repair. The project will also focus on connecting sidewalks, especially in school zones, where gaps exist.

What streets are proposed to be fixed?

Visit cityofstjohnsmi.com to view the proposed locations and schedule for improvements. St. Johns has approximately 45 miles of local streets that are the city's responsibility to maintain. The M-21 and US 127 BR corridors are maintained by the Michigan Department of Transportation and are not under the city's jurisdiction.

Will there be any water, sanitary sewer, or storm sewer improvements made as a part of this project?

The funding for utility upgrades comes from the water/sewer fund. Street millage funding will not be used for this purpose. Our Department of Public Services evaluates all proposed projects and makes improvements to water hydrants and valves as needed each year. They also evaluate the sanitary and storm sewer collection systems to ensure repairs are made prior to street resurfacing.

Does the city apply for street improvement grants and how does this millage affect the grant process?

Yes, the city applies for grants through the Michigan Department of Transportation to assist in street repairs. These grants allow the city to accomplish larger projects, like the pathway project on Scott Road. Often, these grants require a 20% local match, and millage funds allow the city to match this amount.

The city gets a share of the state tax on gasoline. Why are additional funds needed?

The city receives approximately \$950,000 each year from the state as its share of the tax on gasoline and registration fees. These funds are used primarily for street maintenance activities such as snow removal, street sweeping, pothole filling, and limited street improvements. There are not sufficient funds available from state sources to improve the many miles of streets and sidewalks that are in disrepair.

