

# Proposal 1—May 5, 2015

## ***Better Connections, Better Future!***

### **What is Proposal 1?**

Proposal 1 on the statewide ballot on May 5 not only fixes our roads, but includes enough new revenue to guarantee that public transportation agencies are adequately funded now and in the future. This will allow transit agencies to provide newer, safer, and more buses that can go to more destinations with greater frequency. Transit agencies will be able to look at expanding hours of operation and restoring service that has been cut in recent years.

### **What if Proposal 1 doesn't pass?**

Passage of Proposal 1 fixes roads and benefits transit, but if it doesn't pass, none of this can happen. Transit agencies will be forced to continue making cuts in service. Some systems might even be forced to consider ceasing operations. There is no back-up plan to Proposal 1. It took legislators and the Governor *18 years* to put this proposal together for voters to consider. It could be just as long before a new plan can be prepared. Time that our roads and transit systems don't have.

### **Why not just do more with the money already available, instead of raising the sales tax?**

It is a 1 penny increase in the state sales tax from 6 cents to 7 cents – but there is also an *elimination of the current 19 cent/gallon gasoline tax*. And the lowest income earners, who can least afford the penny sales tax increase, also get a *higher income tax credit* under this plan. MDOT has already cut significantly over the past decade and begun using better construction techniques to make roads last longer. The fact is that maintaining roads and transit, just like owning private cars and keeping them well maintained, is expensive. We simply don't have enough money in the entire state budget—if it all went to roads and transit—to keep our system up to good standards.

### **Is some transportation funding currently used for other non-transportation purposes? Is this true?**

Yes, but *under this plan that practice ends*. Every transportation dollar will go to transportation. But only if Proposal 1 passes.