



**Question: Is the completion of the proposed new Riverside Bridge dependent on the passing of the City's proposed 3/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax?**

The answer to that question, based on the proposed cooperative funding plan agreed to by the OSRD, County, and City, is YES. I say this because 50% of the City's Riverside Bridge contribution, as outlined in the funding plan, will be coming from the new revenue generated by the passage of the 3/8 cent transportation sales tax. Please see the list of funding scenario facts below and the attached funding breakdown spreadsheet.

**Facts:**

1. The proposed new bridge that would be built under the 3-way cooperative funding agreement is a \$3M dollar project which includes two-vehicular lanes, a dedicated bike/pedestrian lane, and 2-new elevated roadway approaches. It will take all three entities (City, County, OSRD) working together to fund this plan.
2. The lowest engineer estimate that has been presented to complete a bridge, without City/County funding assistance, is \$2.1million dollars. This would be a two lane bridge with **NO** new roadway approaches & **NO** dedicated bike/pedestrian lane.
3. It is the City's understanding that at the moment, the OSRD does not have the funding capacity to complete a \$2.1 million project on their own. Furthermore, the city is not aware of the OSRD's "Plan B," or if there is one in the event that the proposed 3/8 cent sales tax does not pass and the city is unable to come up with the level of financial contribution as outlined in the proposed funding plan. However, I have provided some additional facts below which I hope will shed some light on how the City's 3/8 cent sales tax and proposed Riverside Bridge project are related.
4. OSRD funding scenario for the bridge includes \$740,993 from FEMA; \$123,498 from SEMA; and \$200,000 of their local funds totaling \$1,064,491 of available funds. The OSRD must spend all the FEMA/SEMA funds by May 2019 or risk losing the remaining unspent funds.
5. The County and City have both agreed to provide \$400,000 each from their Federal STP transportation fund balances, but can only do so per the adopted standards of the Ozark Transportation Organization (OTO) totaling \$800,000 which requires the addition of the dedicated bike/pedestrian lane.
6. Any use of the Federal STP funds requires a 20% match from the local agency providing the funds, in this case, the City and County. As outlined in the cooperative funding plan the County's required 20% match (\$100,000) will be covered by the OSRD and the City's required 20% match (\$100,000) will be covered by the city from the new revenue generated by the passage of its 3/8 cent transportation sales tax.
7. The City's total project contribution is \$825,000 (\$400k STP & \$425k sales tax revenue) per the proposed cooperative funding plan. The City will not have the \$425,000 in cash to contribute if the 3/8 cent transportation sales tax does not pass.

Please remember the Riverside Bridge project is only one of the projects being proposed in the 5-year plan to be supported by the 3/8 cent transportation sales tax. It represent only 15% of the estimated new revenue from the new sales tax, and only 4.25% of the total \$19.5 million dollar 5-year plan.

