

Resolution No. 2013-10

Resolution of Support

Wheelage Tax

WHEREAS, well maintained roads provide safe routes for travel and access to our community, and

WHEREAS, well maintained roads provide a strong foundation for economic vitality and growth, and

WHEREAS, County Highways are an important component of our transportation system, providing regional access to and from communities and are the identified regional truck routes, and

WHEREAS, increasing costs of road construction and maintenance are placing a greater pressure on our governments to find revenues to continue to maintain valuable transportation infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, Washington County highway needs continue to increase and currently outpace funding by \$7,000,000 annually, and

WHEREAS, increasing property taxes to fund highways is the only revenue source currently available to the county, and

WHEREAS, County Governments in the Twin Cities Metro area have the option to levy a Wheelage Tax, under Minnesota Statute 163.051, capped at \$5.00 per vehicle, and

WHEREAS, in Washington County, this tax provides approximately \$1,000,000 of funding annually, specifically directed towards maintaining and improving county highways, and

WHEREAS, since 2007, the Wheelage Tax has helped to fund over 20 miles of road improvements in the County, and

WHEREAS, a Wheelage Tax reduces the pressure on the property tax, and acts as a user fee for transportation, and

WHEREAS, the ability to increase the amount charged per vehicle, will directly increase the funds available for the county to maintain and improve its county highway system.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Grant supports Washington County's 2013 Legislative Platform that supports an increase in the wheelage tax cap to \$10.00 and supports continuing local decision making authority to implement a wheelage tax.

Mayor Tom Carr

Kim Points, Administrator/Clerk