

The WW TBD Story

(we didn't want WW streets to end up like this!)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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Roads to Ruin: Towns Rip Up the Pavement

Asphalt Is Replaced By Cheaper Gravel; 'Back to Stone Age'

By LAUREN ETTER



Dan Koeck for The Wall Street Journal

A road crew in Jamestown, N.D., where road repair means reclaiming the original asphalt and processing it to resemble gravel.

Walla Walla TBD

The Citizens Speak Out in an informal 2007 survey!

Sunday
October 7, 2007
WALLA WALLA
UNION-BULLETIN
Bringing the valley home to you since 1869.



IN PANORAMA, C1
Who is watching who?

\$1.00

Survey voters say: Fix streets!

More than 1,200 readers participated in the survey to help rank priorities for capital projects.

By ALASDAIR STEWART
of the Union-Bulletin

You've seen the list of big-ticket wants and needs Valley taxpayers might be asked to ante up for in the next couple of decades.

And more than 1,200 of you have made yourselves heard, loud and clear, on what you want.

"Fix our streets!"

By a huge margin, "traffic improvement and street work" was the most popular item chosen from a list of 36 items compiled by the Union-Bulletin from master plans and interviews with local officials and agency workers.

Readers were asked to choose and prioritize their five top projects. Here are the rest of the top choices:

■ Aquatic center (No. 2). Besides those who voted for the center, about two dozen respondents specifically voted for a "swimming pool" instead. Some who voted for the aquatic center indicated they'd prefer a simple version. In the words of one voter, "Not a Walt

Cost of Community



A conversation about our future

Of the 1,232 responses deemed valid, 899 were from people who reported living in Walla Walla, just over 3 percent of the city's population.

Another 80 said they live in College Place, and 156 in other parts of Walla Walla County.

Please see **OVER, A4**

Disney pool!"

■ Police station and 911 dispatch center (3).

■ Another high school serving the Walla Walla area (4). Improvements at Walla Walla High School came in a distant seventh place, and improvements at Lincoln Alternative High School came in 15th.

■ Homeless shelter (5).

Coming in a very close sixth was a downtown parking garage.

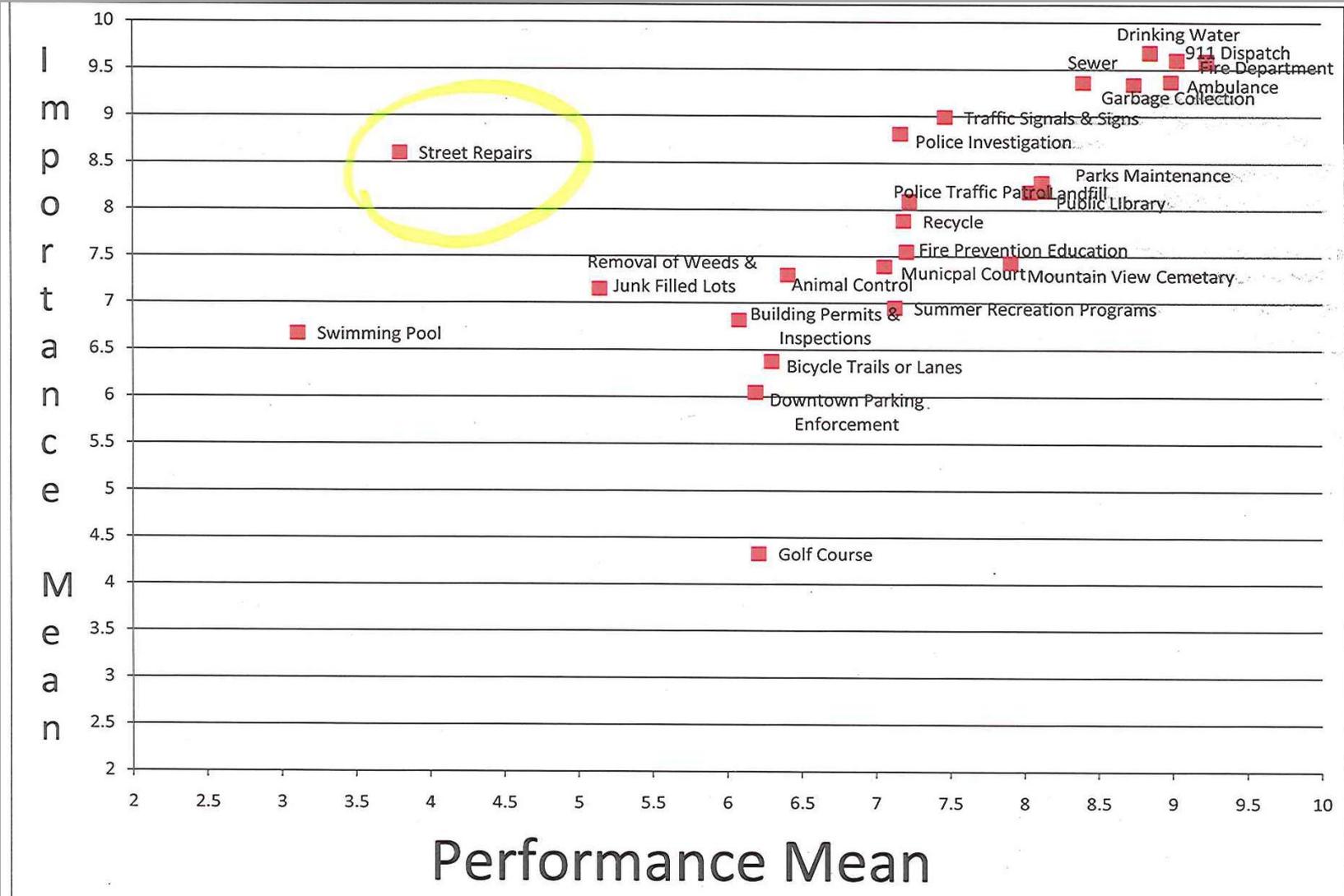
THE LIST

Here is how the 38 projects that received a significant number of votes in the Cost of Community survey ranked. Two of these projects were write-ins. The cutoff for projects on this list is 20 points. Point totals are in parentheses and are based on 5 points for a No. 1 ranking, 4 points for a No. 2 ranking, 3 points for a No. 3 ranking, 2 points for a No. 4 ranking and 1 point for a No. 5 ranking.

1. Traffic control and street work (2,631 points)
2. Aquatic center (2,042)
3. Police station, 911 dispatch center (1,833)
4. Another public high school to serve the Walla Walla area (1,211)
5. Homeless shelter (1,034)
6. Downtown parking garage (1,029)
7. Walla Walla High School improvements (657)
8. Fire equipment replacements (645)
9. Youth center (585)
10. Bicycle/pedestrian trails (542)
11. Combined community/senior/youth center (513)
12. Ice rink (443)
13. School technology (348)
14. Uncovering/enhancing Mill Creek channel through downtown (296)
15. Lincoln Alternative High School improvements (286)
16. New and expanded main portion for city library (221)
17. New fire stations in north and south of city (203)
18. Borleske Stadium improvements (192)
19. Walla Walla Public Schools support services building (191)
20. Completion of Mill Creek Sportsplex (178)
21. Walla Walla school safety work (176)
22. Community park in southeast Walla Walla (146)
23. New Valley Transit Market Station (133)
24. Restoration of City Hall to original exterior (129)
25. Prospect Point Elementary School improvements (115)
26. Garrison Middle School Improvements (111)
27. Cultural/art center (100)
28. Further development of Fort Walla Walla Park (95)
29. Berney Elementary School improvements (87)
30. Blue Ridge Elementary School improvements (83)
31. Swimming pool (81 — write-in)
32. Pioneer Middle School improvements (76)
33. Repair or replace city golf course clubhouse (72)
34. New city golf course maintenance building (44)
35. Green Park Elementary School improvements (31)
36. Costco (26 — write-in)
37. Sharpstein Elementary School improvements (25)
38. School District administration building (20)

2011 WW Statistically Valid Citizen Survey

Streets were identified as the greatest concern



In the 2011 Survey we asked the citizens which TBD funding options they preferred.

The citizens preferred the 0.2% sales tax increase

And to put it to a vote...

Each of these options yields about \$1M/Yr:

Option 'A': Local Option Vehicle Tax of \$50/year per vehicle

Stable revenue source with low volatility
Runs Ad Infinitum

Option 'B': Property Tax Levy Lid Lift - \$.50 per \$1,000 AV property tax

Good for six years
50 cents per \$1,000 AV= \$100.00 per year for a \$200,000 home.

Option 'C': Sales Tax increase of 0.2%

Increases local sales tax from 8.6% to 8.8%
Time limit of 10 years

Option 'D': Cut \$1M from existing General Fund activities

Created a Street Task Force of community leaders, business owners and citizens to craft and promote the program.

2011 Street & Roads Task Force 2011

Doug Bayne

Ann Haley

Greg Loney

Pete Reid

Jim Peterson

Jim Abajian

Ki Bealey

Jim Johnson

Barbara Knudson

Peggy Sanderson

Steve Roy

Damien Sinnott

Randy Glasier

Public Outreach

Through several town hall meetings & civic club presentations we presented survey results and painted the larger picture of our streets challenge.

Let's Talk About Our Streets...
Rotary Club of Walla Walla
September 15, 2011



Together, the Citizen Street Task Force and City Hall, communicated the core issues

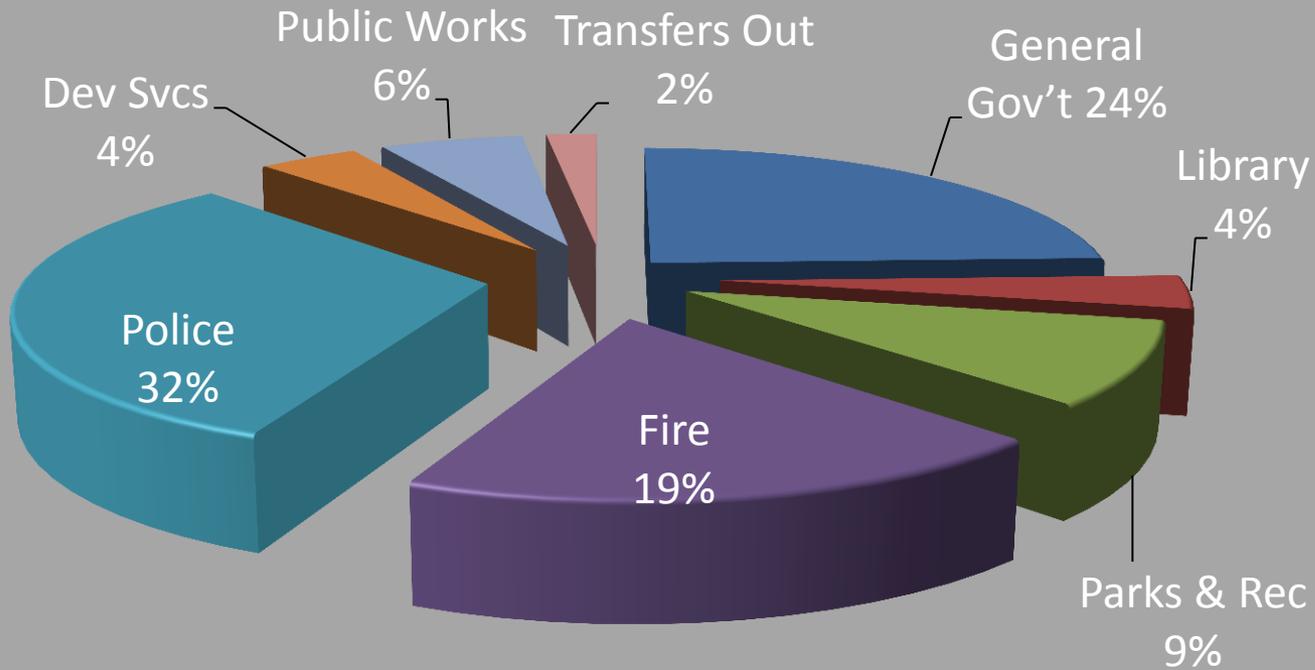
Key Issue - Declining Resources

- 1987 - Federal Revenue Sharing ends, WW loses about \$757,000/year
- 1999 - I-695 passes, WW loses about \$1.2 M/Year
- 1999 – Lost \$347,000/year due to the elimination of loss of Sales and Use Equalization Funding

Total revenue reduction YTD from identified sources, not adjusted for inflation: \$36,732,000

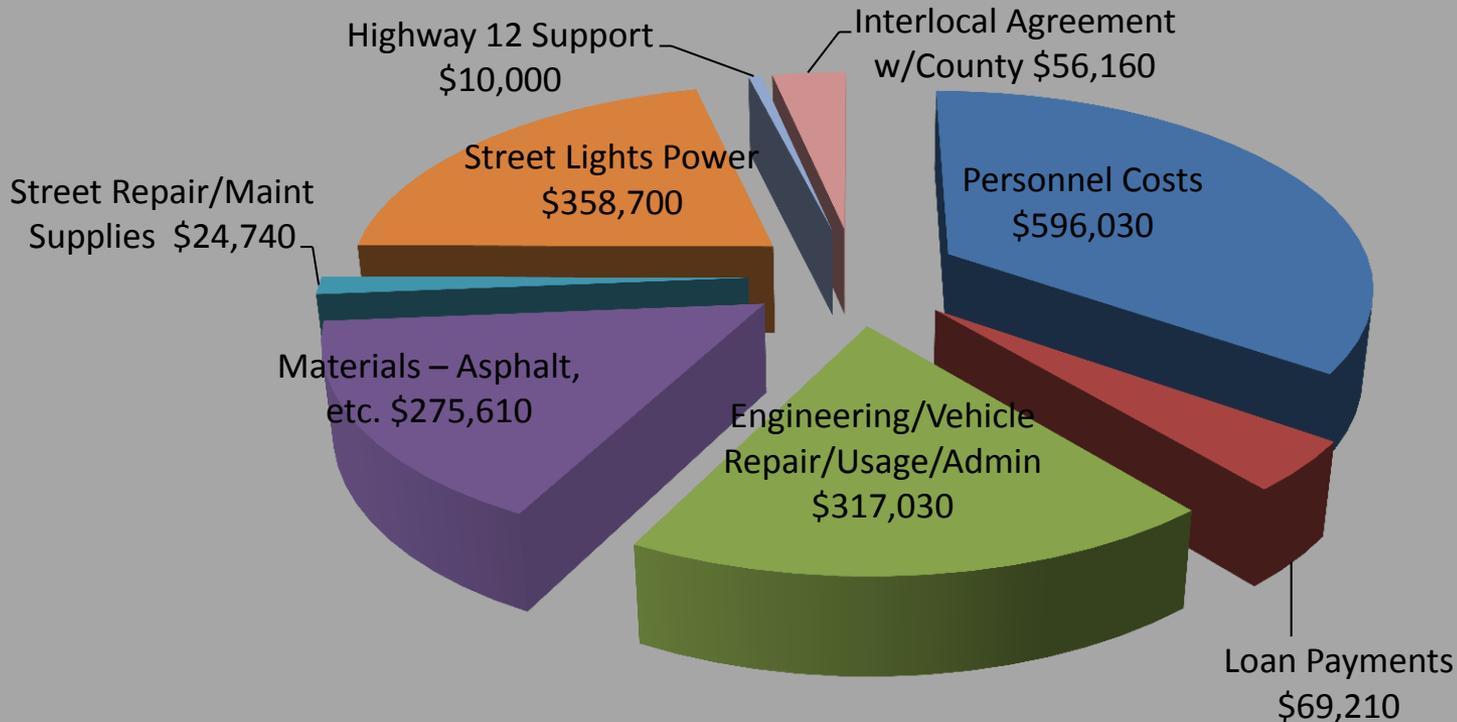
We shared financial information

If Not To Streets, Where Are My Tax \$ Going?



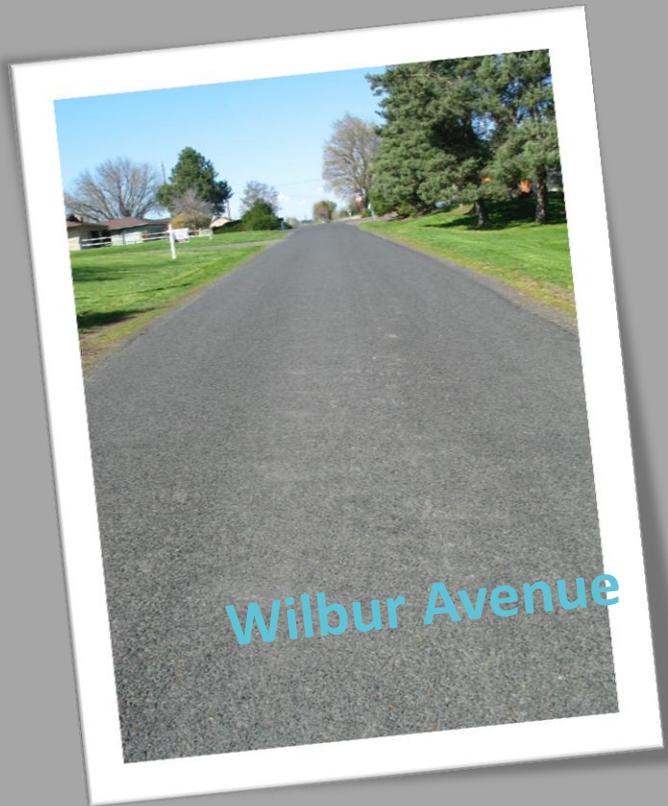
Total 2011 General Fund \$23,404,260

Current paving funding was less than \$300,000/year, yet a 2004 study indicated a need of \$1,500,000/year just to maintain the current pavement ratings.



Streets Fund Annual Expenses - \$1,707,480
\$78,189 spent in winter 2010/11 filling pot holes!

Explained why County Roads were in better condition



Why Are WW County's Road So Fine?

- WA State Law provides Counties with a permanent Road Tax.
- WW County residents pay a Road Tax of \$2.14 /\$1,000 assessed value.
- WW County Road Dept receives about \$4.8M/year dedicated for roadway maintenance.
- IF the City had exactly the same we'd have \$4,257,996/year for our streets!

The City formed a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) in October 2011.



The proposition to increase sales tax by 0.2% for the WW TBD passed in February 2012 with 62% (a simple majority was required)



A standing Citizen Street Committee was appointed in June 2012 to work with staff. The sales tax collection begins in July 2012 and the first street improvements w/ TBD funds begin in May 2013.

