

The Town of Buchanan roadway system is 45.97 miles. In 2017, 51.40% of the Town roads, or 23.63 miles, were rated fair to very poor. The largest local sources of revenue supporting transportation infrastructure expenses are the property and road maintenance tax levy. Due to State imposed financial constraints, these mechanisms do not provide adequate revenue to maintain and reconstruct the roadway system. The Town is limited to increasing the tax levy by the percentage of annual net new construction. In the past four years, the average increase in the tax levy to support Town services including street improvement projects has been 00.80%. To have the capacity to finance transportation infrastructure and maintain and improve road conditions additional funding is needed.

One option is Special Assessments, wherein a benefiting property owner in a street improvement project area pays for the cost of the storm sewer, driveway apron, ditching and/or curb and gutter. The individual special assessment amounts will vary, dependent on the project, and may cost up to \$20,000 per parcel.

A second option is a Transportation Utility Fee, wherein a property owner is annually charged a fee based on the land use and the estimated number of trips generated. The estimated annual fee for a transportation utility charge ranges from a residential–single family fee of \$210.00 per year to a commercial fee of \$88,000.00 per year.

A third option is to ask the electorate for a Property Tax Levy Increase, wherein a binding referendum would be put on the ballot for a vote. An average assessed single family home value of \$227,700.00 would see a \$426.00, or 56%, increase in their Town taxes compared to 2018.

All three options would generate approximately \$1,250,000 in revenue and provide sufficient funds to support street improvement projects.

**Should the Town of Buchanan rely principally on Special Assessments, a Transportation Utility Fee or a Property Tax Levy Increase to supplement the cost of street improvement projects?**

- A. Special Assessments
- B. Transportation Utility Fee
- C. Property Tax Levy Increase

**Explanatory statement and effect of vote:**

If you answer “Special Assessments” to this question, you are indicating that you support the implementation of a Special Assessment Policy, where benefiting property owners in a project area are special assessed a portion of the cost for a street improvement project.

If you answer “Transportation Utility Fee” to this question, you are indicating that you support the establishment of a Transportation Utility, where all Town property owners are charged an annual fee based on an estimated number of trips generated to supplement the cost for street improvement projects.

If you answer “Property Tax Levy Increase” to this question, you are indicating that you support the increase of the Property Tax Levy, where all property owners would see an increase in their Town taxes to supplement the cost of street improvement projects.