



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Voters Overwhelmingly Approve 0.2% Sales Tax within Transportation Benefit District Supporting the Interstate 5/State Route 501 Interchange Replacement Project

Press Contact Information:
Justin.Clary, City Manager
PH: 360.887.3557
justin.clary@ci.ridgefield.wa.us

Ridgefield, WA, November 5, 2008 – Unofficial election results released by the Clark County Elections Office today indicate that a 0.2% sales tax increase supporting the I-5/SR 501 Interchange Replacement Project in Ridgefield, Washington has been approved by an overwhelming margin of 73%.

The sales tax, which equates to two cents in sales tax on a ten dollar purchase, was identified as a revenue source that could generate up to \$2 million towards the Interchange Project over the ten year life of the tax. The sales tax will only be incurred within the boundaries of a Transportation Benefit District that was created by the Ridgefield City Council as authorized under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 36.73. Through the election results, the City of Ridgefield became the first agency in the State of Washington to successfully enact a sales tax increase through a transportation benefit district.

“Ridgefield is a small, but rapidly growing community. The City is proactively addressing an infrastructure issue that will allow commercial and employment-based development to occur that will, in turn, improve the quality of life of our community” said Ridgefield Mayor Ron Onslow. “The sales tax component of the transportation benefit district legislation is fair in that anyone using the new interchange to buy goods at a store that has been constructed due to the new interchange will be paying their fair share. At two pennies for every ten dollars of purchased goods, the tax will be a bargain compared to the cost of driving to a neighboring community to make the same purchase.”

