

FIVE YEAR LOCAL OPTION TAX TO PROVIDE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Vote on City Measure to be held November 4, 2008

This measure would authorize the continuation of a five year levy of \$60,000 per year for a total of \$300,000 to be used to continue the City of Milton-Freewater's public transportation services. The funds would be used to continue the senior and disabled taxi ticket program, as well as the general ridership bus program which provides rides from Milton-Freewater to Walla Walla. Funds from the measure will be used as matches to secure state and federal grant monies to continue the transportation services to the public at the same or higher levels of service as being currently provided. The taxi ticket program currently runs six days per week and the bus service runs three days per week.

The senior and disabled taxi program provides dial-a-ride service within the city as well as a small outlying area to seniors aged 60 and over and disabled patrons of any age. The program has been offered by the City of Milton-Freewater since 1971. It provides over 8,000 rides per year on average. Patrons are picked up at their homes and taken to their destinations with assistance with getting in and out of the taxi, and with packages if needed. Patrons pay just \$1.00 per one way ride.

The City's bus service is provided with a 2008 14 passenger mini bus which runs a fixed route through Milton-Freewater and select stops in Walla Walla. The bus makes four trips per day, three days per week. One of the stops in Walla Walla connects riders with the Valley Transit Transfer Station, so the bus can be used to make many other public transportation connections. Ridership on the bus has grown dramatically in recent months with the increase in fuel prices. The bus system was used by 3,023 riders in 2007. Riders pay \$1.00 per trip.

If approved, this measure would maintain the current tax rate of 37 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value and would cost the owner of a home assessed at \$75,000 TMV, \$27.75 per year.