

1 **BOARD BILL NO. 227 INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

2 An ordinance calling and providing for the holding of an election in the City of St. Louis
3 on April 4, 2017, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the City of St. Louis a
4 proposal to impose a one half of one percent sales tax on all retail sales made in the City of St.
5 Louis which are subject to taxation under Chapter 144 RSMo. for economic development
6 purposes.

7 **WHEREAS**, expanding access to transit is critical to addressing the myriad of challenges
8 facing the St. Louis Metropolitan Region; racial disparities; poverty, crime, and education chief
9 among them; and

10 **WHEREAS**, light rail connects communities to economic growth, grows regional
11 productivity, deconcentrates poverty, promotes healthy living, creates vibrant and accessible
12 public spaces, and catalyzes development in struggling neighborhoods; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the City, in collaboration with the Bi-State Development Agency and East
14 West Gateway, is currently updating the alignment to account for new ridership estimates, as
15 well as relocation of the National Geospatial Agency directly adjacent to the proposed
16 alignment; and

17 **WHEREAS**, once complete, the study will allow us to enter Project Development with
18 the Federal Transit Administration, starting a process that will allow us to apply for funding
19 through the New Starts Program; and

20 **WHEREAS**, East-West Gateway, our region's Metropolitan Planning Organization,
21 declared the North/South Metrolink the City's Locally Preferred Alternative in 2008, and
22 reapproved the alignment's status as a Tier 1 regional priority in 2015, in the Connection 2045
23 long-range transportation plan; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Transit Administration recently invested \$375,000 into
2 conducting a Transit Oriented Development Planning Study along the North/South Metrolink
3 alignment;

4 **WHEREAS**, a successful New Starts application must include a minimum of forty
5 percent (40%) local matching funds; and

6 **WHEREAS**, State legislation prohibits the use of funds raised from the gas fee or tolls
7 for public transit; and

8 **WHEREAS**, North/South Metrolink will be expensive, and the construction of the full
9 31.5 mile alignment will require a creative approach to funding; and

10 **WHEREAS**, 50% of the proceeds from the half cent economic development sales tax are
11 dedicated to the North-South Metrolink alignment; and

12 **WHEREAS**, these projected revenues could provide a financing capacity of over two
13 hundred and fifty million (\$250,000,000), and leverage an equivalent amount in New Starts
14 funding, bringing the total project funding to half a billion (\$500,000,000) ; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the ongoing study will also identify a viable minimum operable segment,
16 which must combine density, need, and opportunity; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the minimum operable segment will serve South St. Louis, which includes
18 the region’s densest communities; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the minimum operable segment will serve North St. Louis, which includes
20 the region’s most carless communities; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the minimum operable segment will serve the National Geospatial-
22 Intelligence Agency, helping to realize the project’s tremendous catalytic potential; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the minimum operable segment will serve the recently designated Choice
2 Neighborhood geography, and connect the 53% of households in zipcode 63106 without access
3 to a car to opportunities throughout the region; and

4 **WHEREAS**, studies out of the Federal Reserve speak to the transformative impact of
5 light rail, whose recent expansion raised property values by up to thirty percent (30%) in St.
6 Louis County; and

7 **WHEREAS**, light rail’s full economic development potential will be harnessed by a
8 strategy that includes innovative approaches to neighborhood and workforce development as
9 well as investments into public safety and infrastructure; and

10 **WHEREAS**, together, these initiatives will help grow existing momentum in the central
11 corridor to neighborhoods north and south.

12 **WHEREAS**, the City of St. Louis (the “City”) is a body corporate and a political
13 subdivision of the State of Missouri, duly created, organized and existing under and by virtue of
14 its charter, the Constitution and laws of the State of Missouri; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the City is authorized pursuant to Section 67.1305 of the laws of the State
16 of Missouri, upon submission to and approval by the qualified voters of the City, to impose a one
17 half of one percent sales tax on all retail sales made in the City which are subject to taxation
18 under Chapter 144 RSMo. for economic development purposes; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the City does now find and determine that it is desirable and in the public
20 interest that the proposition hereinafter provided for be submitted to the qualified voters of the
21 City at an election.

1 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

2 **SECTION ONE.** An election shall be held and the same is hereby called and ordered
3 to be held in the City of St. Louis, Missouri on the 4th day of April, 2017, at which there shall be
4 submitted to the qualified voters of said City, pursuant to Section 67.1305 RSMo., the
5 proposition as hereinafter set forth. The proposition shall read substantially in words and figures
6 as follows:

7 Shall the City of St. Louis impose a sales tax at a rate of one half of one percent for
8 economic development purposes including (1) North/South Metrolink, (2) neighborhood
9 development, (3) workforce development; (4) anti-crime infrastructure, including security
10 cameras as well as a monitoring system, and (5) to upgrade the city's infrastructure, with annual
11 public audits?

12 **SECTION TWO.** The foregoing proposition shall be submitted to qualified voters in
13 the City at an election in said City to be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. If the proposition shall
14 receive in its favor the votes of a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon, the tax as set
15 forth within said proposition shall be authorized and adopted and become part of the laws of the
16 City of St. Louis on the first day of the second calendar quarter following the calendar quarter in
17 which the election was held, as provided in Section 67.1305 RSMo. The qualified voters may, at
18 such election, vote a ballot substantially in the following form:

1 **OFFICIAL BALLOT**

2 Instructions to voters:

3 To vote in favor of the proposition submitted upon this ballot, place a cross (X) mark in
4 the square opposite the word "YES"; and, to vote against the said proposition, place a cross (X)
5 mark in the square opposite the word "NO".

6 **PROPOSITION ____**

7 | Shall the City of St. Louis impose a sales tax at a rate of one half of one percent for
8 economic development purposes including (1) North/South Metrolink; (2) neighborhood
9 development; (3) workforcdevelopment; (4) anti-crime infrastructure, including security
10 cameras as well as a monitoring system; and (5) upgrading the city's infrastructure, with annual
11 public audits?

12 YES

13 NO

14 **SECTION THREE.** Notice of the election on such proposition shall be published and
15 said election shall be conducted in the manner provided by law.

16 **SECTION FOUR.** The Board of Election Commissioners for the City of St. Louis,
17 Missouri shall provide notice of such election, shall provide the ballots or voting machines, or
18 both, shall conduct the election, and shall certify the results of said election, according to the
19 laws regulating such elections.

20 **SECTION FIVE.** Immediately upon the passage and approval of this ordinance, the
21 Clerk of the Board of Aldermen shall certify a copy thereof to the Board of Election
22 Commissioners for the City of St. Louis, Missouri for action and proceedings by said Board in
23 accordance herewith and as required by law.

1 **SECTION SIX.** Upon the approval of the tax by the qualified voters of the City, the
2 City shall establish an “Economic Development Tax Board” consisting of five (5) members as
3 required by Section 67.1305 RSMo. Board members shall be appointed in the following manner:

4 One (1) member shall be appointed by the school districts included within any economic
5 development plan or area funded by the sales tax authorized under Section 67.1305 RSMo. Such
6 member or members shall be appointed in any manner agreed upon by the affected districts.

7 Three (3) members shall be appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the majority of
8 the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis.

9 One (1) member shall be appointed by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis.

10 **SECTION SEVEN.** It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Board of Aldermen
11 that each and every part, section and subsection of this Ordinance shall be separate and severable
12 from each and every other part, section and subsection hereof and that the Board of Aldermen
13 intends to adopt each said part, section and subsection separately and independently of any other
14 part, section and subsection. In the event that any part, section or subsection of this Ordinance
15 shall be determined to be or to have been unlawful or unconstitutional, the remaining parts,
16 sections and subsections shall be and remain in full force and effect, unless the court making
17 such finding shall determine that the valid portions standing alone are incomplete and are
18 incapable of being executed in accord with the legislative intent.

19 **SECTION EIGHT.** The Board of Aldermen hereby finds and determines that this
20 Ordinance constitutes an “emergency measure” pursuant to Article IV, Section 20 of the City
21 Charter, because this Ordinance calls and provides for an election and vote by the people, and as
22 such, this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval by the Mayor as provided in
23 Article IV, Section 20 of the City Charter.