

Comparison of the 2006 Light Rail Ballot Measures

The ballot measure proposed by the Light Rail Steering Committee was intended to determine one thing: do the citizens want to use existing money to complete the preliminary engineering and secure the right of way for a future light rail project?

Proposed ballot measure:

“Should STA use its available resources, including tax revenues, for the continued development of a light rail system between Spokane, Spokane Valley, and Liberty Lake, but not to include final design and construction of a light rail system, and resulting in no decrease in current overall bus, paratransit, or rideshare services or increase in the current transit sales tax of six-tenths (0.6) percent?”

After scrapping the ballot measure they had asked the Light Rail Steering Committee to craft, the STA Board composed and adopted the following two ballot measures, purportedly to provide more clarity:

Ballot measure #1:

“Should Spokane Transit Authority identify regional funding sources and local taxing alternatives and develop a funding plan to build a \$263,000,000 Light Rail project, in 2006 dollars, to run from Spokane City, through the City of Spokane Valley, to the City of Liberty Lake and bring that funding plan to the voters at a future election?”

Ballot measure #2:

“Should Spokane Transit Authority use existing resources to fund preliminary engineering / design and environmental analysis for a future Light Rail system to run from Spokane City, through the City of Spokane Valley, to the City of Liberty Lake?”