



Office of Wabaunsee County Clerk
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Jennifer A. Savage, County Clerk
Juanita Hedges, Deputy
Kristy Haden, Deputy

Commission meetings every Monday at 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Commission District #1

Joel Fager, Alma

Commission District #2

Rodney L. Allen, Maple Hill

Commission District #3

Jim Suber, Maple Hill

HB 2160 – Providing sales tax authority for Wabaunsee County for roadway and bridge maintenance and improvement: all pursuant to K.S.A. 12-187 et seq.

Our original legislation allowed Wabaunsee County to impose a .5% sales tax for Roads and Bridges resulting in a 2007 election in which voters approved the tax (Final vote Yes – 1803 No-725). Currently our tax will sunset in the fall of 2022 and we are wanting the flexibility to offer up a renewal of this tax to a vote in a general election. Many of our businesses are on or near I-70 and this tax allows us to capture revenue from travelers, whereas the majority of citizens residing in Wabaunsee County do a heavy amount of shopping in other jurisdictions where they pay their local sales taxes.

In 2018, the tax provided \$ 279,457.37 in revenue to our county.

Infrastructure maintenance is becoming more challenging as the cost of bridges in particular seem to be outpacing other government costs in terms of growth.

We currently maintain:

180 bridges (anything longer than a 20ft deck)

160 miles of gravel

70 miles of paved roads

Approximately 800 culverts.

Currently 30 of those bridges alone are 'functionally obsolete'/'Structurally deficient' bridges that will need replaced in the near future. The estimated cost of those 30 bridges will be over \$10,500,000.00 to replace. This will be our goal to assist in funding one bridge replacement per year along with paved road maintenance.

In the past we have used this revenue to either chipseal or overlay all pave county roads and replace bridges.

This simply maintains our sales tax rate at 8.0% when the other sources are included. If you go east or west into Topeka or Manhattan their local sales tax rates are higher. Our County of under 7000 citizens relies primarily on single home residences and agricultural land for revenue and this sales tax helps to spread the burden

Our intent would be to bring this to our voters in 2020.

Thayne Bush / Wabaunsee County Road and Bridge Director