



Staff Report

September 16, 2024 Council Workshop Meeting

Transportation Benefit District Presentation

Presenters: Cathy Huber Nickerson, Finance Director and Steve Wall, Public Works Director

Time Estimate: 15 minutes

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BACKGROUND: This presentation provides information on Transportation Benefit Districts to inform Council of optional revenue sources as part of the City's 2025-2026 biennial budget process.

SUMMARY: Transportation Benefit Districts are utilized in more than 110 cities and towns in Washington State as of January 2024. These cities and towns utilize sales tax or vehicle license fees to support transportation costs in the Transportation Benefit Districts. This presentation will review how the district is formed, governed, funding sources and other considerations.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY: A dedicated revenue source for Street Preservation would move the City closer to meeting essential street maintenance to meet best practices and save money for the residents in the future by not allowing streets to deteriorate at a rate that will be more expensive to repair.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES: Of the two funding options, vehicle tab license fees will be a direct revenue source for the users of the City's transportation system but not all. Visitors will not have a share in this revenue option. Sales tax is the more equitable option with visitors and residents paying into the transportation system. Even those who do not have vehicles, benefit with the complete street program for sidewalks and bicycle lanes.

BUDGET IMPACT: This presentation is to provide information of another revenue source which not only may contribute to resolving the City's structural deficit but may provide a revenue source to resolve the City's street preservation funding shortage.

RECOMMENDATION: This presentation is to inform the Council and the Community.