

King County Transportation District Board Members,

On behalf of Beaux Arts Village, the Towns of Hunts Point and Yarrow Point and the Cities of Clyde Hill and Medina, we are writing regarding the proposed 0.1% sales and use tax being considered by the King County Transportation District (KCTD). We recognize that there are funding challenges facing the unincorporated roads that our residents rely on, but we are concerned that KCTD's proposal as written would limit cities' ability to fund our own critical transportation projects. If the proposal moves forward, we are supportive of the Sound Cities Association's request for 25% city pass-through funding.

Our interconnected transportation system relies on all parts to function effectively. While county roads are critical, more than 5,000 center lane miles (or over 75%) of roads are in King County cities, and that infrastructure is built and maintained by cities according to their distinct needs. Local funding is critical for maintaining these roads in safe conditions, but countywide taxes can create voter fatigue that threatens the availability of necessary local funds. Particularly in our communities, city officials are the ones who meet with residents at the grocery store and must be able to explain how their taxes are funding local improvements. With more than 95% of sales tax revenue coming from cities, it would be reasonable for cities to keep a portion of that revenue for transportation projects that benefit our residents and the region as a whole.

In addition to providing necessary funding for cities, revenue sharing would be in line with past work from the county. The most notable example of this is the Parks Levy, which for nearly 20 years has included city funding. In addition, KCTD's proposed 0.2% sales tax in 2014 would have distributed roughly 35% for cities had it been approved by voters. We believe that the SCA position of a 25% pass-through for cities follows this precedent, and would alleviate the burden of a countywide tax on cities while still generating needed funding for the Road Services Division.

We appreciate your work to address some of our region's most pressing transportation funding challenges. We believe that a countywide proposal to raise revenues for unincorporated roads should include pass-through funding so that cities can continue to do our part to support regional infrastructure.

Thank you for your engagement on this issue, and we look forward to continuing this discussion.

Sincerely,

Aletha Howes, Beaux Arts Village Mayor  
Joe Sabey, Town of Hunts Point Mayor  
Katy Kinney Harris, Town of Yarrow Point Mayor  
Dean Hachamovitch, City of Clyde Hill Mayor  
Jessica Rossman, City of Medina Mayor  
Jeff Swanson, Medina City Manager