



## City of Tacoma

## City Council Action Memorandum

**TO:** Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Public Works Director/City Engineer  
Joseph M. Franco, Special Assistant to the Director, Public Works  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Ordinance – Amendments to Title 10 Related to Transportation Benefit District –  
April 30, 2024  
**DATE:** April 12, 2024



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### SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

An ordinance amending Chapter 10.28 of the Municipal Code, relating to the Transportation Benefit District (TBD), by amending Section 10.28.020, entitled “Transportation Benefit District—Statement of Purpose”, and Section 10.28.060, entitled “Use of Funds”, to clarify language to enhance the usage of funds within the benefit district.

### COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Council Members Joe Bushnell, Sarah Rumbaugh, and Kristina Walker.

### BACKGROUND:

**This Department’s Recommendation is Based On:** Ordinance No. 28099 was passed on November 20, 2012, which established the transportation benefit district within the City of Tacoma jurisdiction and created a new chapter, Chapter 10.28, in the Tacoma Municipal Code, entitled “Transportation Benefit District”.

Section 10.28.020 states that the purpose of the chapter is to establish a transportation benefit district within the limits of the City of Tacoma under the authority set forth in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 35.21.225 and chapter 36.73 RCW. Currently, the limitations of the Transportation Benefit District are funded only to provide adequate funding levels to projects set forth in the City’s Capital Improvement Plan, the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan, and the City’s Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Section 10.28.060 also limits the scope of the usage of funds to the City’s Capital Improvement Plan, the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan, the Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program, and investments in bicycle, pedestrian, and freight mobility.

The proposed changes will clarify the language to enhance the purpose and scope of the TBD to allow funds to be also used for maintenance, preservation, and operations of the City’s street and transportation system.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The Public Works Department continually receives feedback and comments from Tacoma community members, staff, and Council Members alike regarding the street and transportation network in Tacoma. We receive this feedback via email, Tacoma FIRST 311 requests, phone calls, and other community outreach events. Due to funding constraints, many arterial roads in Tacoma need major rehabilitation or reconstruction and this clarification of language will assist in more funding options within the TBD.

### 2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

#### Equity and Accessibility:

Overall, the proposed amendment allows for more flexibility on the scope of work and funding for the TBD by addressing the needs of maintaining and preserving the transportation system of the City. Also, the proposed

ordinance has the potential to reduce transportation inequities, disparities, and discrimination experienced by underrepresented communities in Tacoma. It promotes equity by ensuring that transportation resources are allocated in a manner that addresses the diverse needs of all residents and fosters inclusive and accessible transportation networks.

**Improved Accessibility:** By enhancing the scope of the TBD to include overall maintenance and preservation of the City's street and transportation system, this proposed ordinance can help ensure that transportation infrastructure in underrepresented communities receives adequate attention and resources. This can lead to improved accessibility to essential services, employment opportunities, and educational institutions for residents of these communities.

**Equitable Distribution of Resources:** The proposed amendments to allow funds generated by the TBD to be used for maintenance, preservation, and operations of the City's street and transportation system can contribute to a more equitable distribution of resources. This ensures that resources are allocated not only for new transportation projects but also for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of existing infrastructure, benefiting all residents regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location within Tacoma.

**Enhanced Mobility Options:** Investing in bicycle, pedestrian, and freight mobility, as outlined in Section 10.28.060, can improve mobility options for residents of underrepresented communities who may rely on alternative modes of transportation. This can help reduce transportation disparities and provide more equitable access to transportation networks for individuals who may not own a car or have limited access to public transit.

**Economy/Workforce:** *Equity Index Score: Low Opportunity*

Increase the ability to maintain and preserve the transportation infrastructure along with new infrastructure projects supporting existing and new business developments.

Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy. And contribute to build trust with our community

**Civic Engagement:** *Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity*

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Representation at public meetings will reflect the diversity of the Tacoma community.

**Livability:** *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.

**Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).**

The expansion of the TBD scope of work to include maintenance and preservation of the City's street and transportation system creates opportunities for job creation. Infrastructure projects, such as road maintenance, resurfacing, and repair, typically require a workforce of construction workers, engineers, planners, and other professionals, contributing to employment opportunities. Investment in infrastructure also allows ensures businesses can efficiently transport goods and services, access markets, and attract customers, fostering economic growth in Tacoma.

The proposed amendment to the TBD code can also lead to community input and engagement in the transportation planning and decision-making process as well as transparency and accountability for the funds enhancing trust and confidence in local government.

Finally, these proposed amendments will enhance community livability. Investment in the transportation network encourages active transportation modes, promoting public health and reducing traffic congestion and leading to a higher quality of life.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

| <b>Alternative(s)</b>    | <b>Positive Impact(s)</b>                                                                 | <b>Negative Impact(s)</b>                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Do not pass amendment | Continues the same funding options for street and transportation projects in the TBD      | Continuing the same funding boundaries does not address long-term infrastructure investments which leads to further deterioration of the transportation network |
| 2. Pass amendment        | Increased funding options for the TBD which improves infrastructure funding opportunities | Does not address the full needs of the infrastructure funding and potential increased costs on taxpayer                                                         |

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

The Public Works Department (PW) can evaluate this in a few ways, through the pavement condition index (PCI), safety performance metrics, and community satisfaction surveys. PW monitors the PCI within Tacoma which a numerical rating system is used to assess the condition of paved surfaces, such as roads, streets, and highways. It provides a standardized method for evaluating the overall condition of pavement based on visual inspections and distress surveys, with higher scores indicating better pavement condition.

**STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

The Public Works Department recommends that Council approve the proposed ordinance requesting to amend Chapter 10.28 of the Municipal Code, relating to the Transportation Benefit District, by amending Section 10.28.020, entitled "Transportation Benefit District—Statement of Purpose", and Section 10.28.060, entitled "Use of Funds", to clarify language to enhance the usage of funds within the benefit district.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Exhibit A