




City of Tacoma

Transportation Benefit District Board Action Memorandum

TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Jake Green, Street Operations Assistant Division Manager, Public Works
Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Director/City Engineer, Public Works 
COPY: Transportation Benefit District Governing Board and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution - Approval of 2025-2026 Transportation Benefit District Budget and Spending Plan –
December 3, 2024
DATE: November 6, 2024

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution approving the 2025-2026 Transportation Benefit District Budget and Spending Plan.

BACKGROUND:

This Department's recommendation is based on RCW 35.21.225 and 36.73.020 and City of Tacoma Ordinance No. 28099, which authorized the establishment of a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) for the purposes of acquiring, constructing, improving, providing, and funding transportation improvements within the TBD, consistent with any state, regional, or local transportation plans and necessitated by existing or reasonably foreseeable congestion levels.

On November 27, 2012, the TBD Governing Board (Board) adopted Resolution No. TBD 001 authorizing the collection of a vehicle license fee of \$20.

On July 14, 2015, the Board adopted Amended Resolution No. TBD 008 to place ballot measure Proposition No. 4, later referred to as Proposition A, on the ballot for the General Election. Proposition A, which authorized a sales tax increase of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) to fund street improvements was passed in the November 3, 2015, General Election.

The City's Office of Management and Budget estimates the City will collect \$5,796,000 (authorized vehicle license fee) and \$9,493,127 (sales tax increase of one-tenth of one percent) in the 2025-2026 biennium. This is a decrease in revenues of \$5,668,429 from the previous biennium as the revenue generated from the sales tax increase of one tenth of one percent sunsets on March 31, 2026. In addition, there are anticipated investment revenues of \$51,772 and a planned use of \$364,400 of existing cash balance, bringing the total of TBD revenues for the 2025-2026 biennium to \$15,705,299.

The proposed Budget and Spending Plan includes the regular planned transfer of \$5,800,000 to the 1065 Streets fund along with an additional \$387,650 to 1065 Streets specifically to replace aging fleet equipment. In addition, there is a budgeted transfer of \$9,493,127 to the 1085 Streets Initiative fund, and a balancing entry of \$24,522 to the ending cash balance, for a total expense appropriation of \$15,705,299.

RCW 36.73.020 states the Board shall consider the following criteria when selecting transportation improvements: reduced risk of transportation facility failure and improved safety; improved travel time; improved air quality; increases in daily and peak period trip capacity; improved modal connectivity; improved freight mobility; cost-effectiveness of the investment; optimal performance of the system through time; and other criteria, as adopted by the governing body in Chapter 10.28 of the Tacoma Municipal Code.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The TBD Budget and Spending Plan provide maintenance of the City’s street system and affects all of Tacoma’s residents. Maintenance projects are selected primarily upon the pavement condition of the City’s street system and the Department uses the City’s Equity Index to help guide selection of maintenance in underserved or underrepresented communities. A public hearing was held on October 29, 2024, which provided residents the opportunity to learn about and testify on the 2025-2026 TBD Budget and Spending Plan.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

The proposed 2025-2026 TBD Budget and Spending Plan will provide maintenance and repair of residential streets and the construction of new ADA accessible curb ramps at various locations throughout the City, as identified in Exhibit A, entitled “2025-2026 Transportation Benefit District Budget and Spending Plan”. Maintenance projects are selected using best asset management practices and the City’s Equity Index.

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

Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

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

The TBD Budget and Spending Plan will provide maintenance of the City’s arterial and residential street system; improve safety, travel time, and air quality; increase in daily and peak period trip capacity; improve modal connectivity; and affect all of Tacoma’s residents and businesses.

ALTERNATIVES:

| Alternative(s) | Positive Impact(s) | Negative Impact(s) |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Do not approve the TBD Budget and Spending Plan. | There are no positive impacts of not approving the TBD Budget and Spending Plan. | The City will continue to collect the TBD revenue; however, without an approved Budget and Spending Plan the City cannot appropriate the funding for transportation improvements nor coordinate with stakeholders and utilities. |

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

The Department tracks the expenses and the amount of maintenance performed and provides the Board with annual and biennium reports of work completed.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Public Works Department recommends the Transportation Benefit District Board approve the 2025-2026 Transportation Benefit District Budget and Spending Plan.



FISCAL IMPACT:

The authorized vehicle license fee of \$20 will generate an estimated \$5,796,000 (authorized vehicle license fee) and the sales tax increase of one-tenth of one percent will generate an estimated \$9,493,127 (sales tax increase of one-tenth of one percent), for a total of \$15,289,127 of TBD revenues in the 2025-2026 biennium. In addition, there are anticipated investment revenues of \$51,772 and a planned use of \$364,400 of existing cash balance, bringing the total of TBD revenues for the 2025-2026 biennium to \$15,705,299.

| Fund Number & Name | COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER) | Cost Element | Total Amount |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1070 Transportation Benefit District Vehicle Fee | 663000 | 4317600 | \$6,212,172 |
| 1070 Transportation Benefit District Sales Tax | 663001 | 4313270 | \$9,493,127 |
| TOTAL | | | \$15,705,299 |

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

The Transportation Benefit District Funding is being used.

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget?

No

The proposed Budget and Spending Plan is for the 2025-2026 biennium.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?

No

ATTACHMENTS:

- Exhibit A - 2025-2026 Transportation Benefit District Budget and Spending Plan