CITY OF Vancouver WASHINGTON

Transportation Benefit District

Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Chair Erik Paulsen, Vice Chair
Bart Hansen - Ty Stober - Sarah J Fox - Diana H Perez - Kim D. Harless
Lon Pluckhahn, Executive Director

Transportation Benefit District Meeting Agenda

November 4, 2024
6:30 PM
415 W. 6th St., Vancouver, WA
Cityofvancouver.us/tbd

Call to Order and Roll Call

Public Hearing

The following item(s) are scheduled for public hearing. Members of the public addressing Directors are requested to give their name and city of residence for the audio record. Unless otherwise announced by the Presiding Director, speakers are to limit their testimony to three minutes for each public hearing.

1. Resolution Adopting $50 Vehicle License Fee

A RESOLUTION of the Vancouver Transportation Benefit District authorizing an increase in the vehicle license fee from forty-dollars ($40.00) to fifty-dollars ($50.00) vehicle pursuant to RCW 36.73.065.

Staff Report: TBD24-003

Request: Following a public hearing, adopt a resolution implementing a $50 vehicle license fee for Vancouver's Transportation Benefit District

Chris Malone, Public Works Finance and Asset Manager, chris.malone@cityofvancouver.us

Adjournment

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A RESOLUTION of the Vancouver Transportation Benefit District authorizing an increase in the vehicle license fee from forty-dollars ($40.00) to fifty-dollars ($50.00) vehicle pursuant to RCW 36.73.065.

Staff Report: TBD24-003

To: Mayor and Transportation Benefit District
From: City Manager
Date: November 4, 2024

Subject
Resolution Adopting $50 Vehicle License Fee

Key Points

- Going from a $40 to a $50 vehicle license fee would generate approximately $1.3 million additional revenue for Vancouver's Transportation Benefit District.
- The additional revenue will help offset reduced General Fund contributions to the street funds that are being proposed as part of the 2025/2026 biennial budget.
- The $50 fee would not be collected until the second half of 2025 due to a 6-month waiting period as required by RCW 82.80.140.
- The additional revenues will be deposited into Vancouver's Transportation Benefit Fund and will be used for Vancouver's transportation needs in accordance with RCW 36.73 and Vancouver Municipal Code (VMC) 3.40.060.

Strategic Plan Alignment
Transportation and Mobility – a safe, future-ready and convenient transportation system

Present Situation
Background
In order to provide additional revenues for Vancouver transportation purposes, staff is proposing to increase Vancouver's Transportation Benefit District (TBD) vehicle license renewal fee from $40 to $50. This increase is anticipated to bring in an additional $1.3 million/year above and beyond the $5.2 million/year currently received for an estimated total of $6.5 million/year. This additional revenue will help offset the reduced General Fund contributions to the street funds that are being proposed as part of the upcoming 2025/2026 biennial budget.

Per the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) title 36.73.065(4), the TBD may increase the fee from $40 to $50 provided the $40 fee has been in place for at least 24 months (the $40 fee was implemented in 2018). Additionally, RCW 36.73.065(6) requires that the TBD publish the intent to impose a fee of more than $40 in a local newspaper by April 1st of the year in which the fee is to be imposed. If the $50 vehicle license renewal fee is approved, staff will publish the intent to increase the fee in the newspaper as soon as practicable.

As background, the vehicle license fee is collected by the Washington State Department of Licensing at the time of registration renewal in accordance with a written agreement with the Vancouver Transportation Benefit District. In accordance with RCW 82.80.140, the Department of Licensing will

deduct 1% of the fee collected for administration and collection expenses incurred. The state treasurer shall distribute the proceeds from the vehicle fee monthly. Fee collection may not be sooner than six (6) months following the signed and dated resolution creating the fee.

The revenue from the fee will be deposited in the Transportation Benefit District Fund (Fund 634) and will be used for Vancouver transportation projects in accordance with RCW 36.73 and VMC Chapter 3.40. A separate resolution is being prepared for the 2025/2026 TBD budget and workplan and the TBD board will vote on it on December 2nd, 2024.

Advantage(s)

1. Will provide additional revenue to help with Vanouver's transportation needs.
2. Will allow reduction of General Fund support to Vancouver's street funds as proposed in the City's 2025/2026 biennial budget.

Challenge(s)

Will cost Vancouver residents an additional $10 every time they renew their annual vehicle license tabs.

Budget Impact

The additional revenues and expenses are already factored into the proposed 2025/2026 biennial budget.

Prior Council Review

Multiple 2025/2026 biennial budget workshops with City Council.

Action Requested

Following a public hearing, adopt a resolution implementing a $50 vehicle license fee for Vancouver's Transportation Benefit District

Staff Contact

Chris Malone, Public Works Finance and Asset Manager, chris.malone@cityofvancouver.us

Attachments:

1. Resolution

11/4/2024

RESOLUTION NO. TBD- 2024-03

A RESOLUTION of the Vancouver Transportation Benefit District authorizing an increase in the vehicle license fee from forty-dollars ($40.00) to fifty-dollars ($50.00) vehicle pursuant to RCW 36.73.065.

WHEREAS, streets are the City of Vancouver's largest physical asset and are critical to our community's safety, economy and livability; and

WHEREAS, RCW 36.73.065 authorizes a Transportation Benefit District that includes all the territory within the boundaries of the jurisdiction establishing the district, may increase, by majority vote of the district's governing board, the vehicle license fee from forty-dollars ($40.00) to fifty-dollars ($50.00) after 24 months of having a forty dollar fee established; and

WHEREAS, the Vancouver Transportation Benefit District adopted a forty-dollar ($40.00) vehicle license fee on December 18, 2017 resolution number TBD 2017-003 which is more than 24 months ago; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the District finds that additional revenues are needed for Vancouver's Transportation Department to help reduce reliance on Vancouver general fund revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the District finds it to be in the best interests of the District to establish an increase in the annual vehicle fee from forty-dollars ($40.00) to fifty-dollars ($50.00) for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, providing, and funding transportation improvements, including the operation, preservation, and maintenance of these facilities or programs, within the District that are consistent with any existing state, regional, or local transportation plans. Applicable local transportation plans include the most recent versions

of the City of Vancouver's Capital Facilities Plan, Transportation Improvement Plan, Pavement Management Plan, and Transportation System Plan.;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VANCOUVER TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT:

Section 1. An annual vehicle license fee in the amount of fifty-dollars ($50.00) is hereby established, consistent with RCW 36.73.065, to be collected by the Washington State Department of Licensing on qualifying vehicles as set forth in RCW 82.80.140 and Chapters 36.73 and 46.16 RCW

Section 2. The vehicle license fee shall take effect for notices mailed in 2025 for vehicle license renewals due as soon thereafter as the Washington Department of Licensing is reasonably able to incorporate collection of the $50 fee. The $50 Vehicle License fee will not be collected sooner than six months after approval of this resolution as provided in RCW 82.80.140(4).

Section 3. The revenues received from the $50 vehicle license fee shall only be expended on transportation projects approved by the Board of the District during adoption of the District's biennial budget. The transportation projects and programs to be funded with the revenues from the vehicle license fee shall be completed in partnership with the City of Vancouver and will be selected from the most recent version of the Transportation Improvement Program, annual Pavement Management Plan or Transportation System Plan.

Section 4. The Board directs the Board Clerk to notify the Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) of the vehicle fee established in Section 1 of this ordinance and to request that DOL take all steps necessary to implement collection of this fee in accordance with RCW 82.80.140.

DATED this _____, of _____, 2024.

_____
Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Chair

Approved as to form:

_____
Transportation Benefit District Attorney