

## **Vancouver Transportation Benefit District**

**Dec. 18, 2017**

**TBD17-003:** **ADOPTION OF A \$40 VEHICLE LICENSE FEE**

**Staff Contact(s):** Chris Malone, Public Works Finance and Asset Manager, 487-7711  
Sara Baynard-Cooke, Assistant City Attorney, 487-8542

**Originated by:** Resolution No. TBD 2015-003 implementing a \$20 vehicle license fee adopted December 7, 2015

**Attachment(s):** Resolution No. TBD-2017-003

**Budget Impact/  
Source of Funds:** Additional \$20 fee will not begin to be collected until 6 months following adoption. 2018 expenditures will be reflected in a separate Transportation Benefit District Budget Resolution

**Prior Board Review:** Joint TBD/City Council workshop on December 4, 2017

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### **Background**

A Streets Funding Commission presented a series of written recommendations to Vancouver City Council on October 1, 2015. Included in the recommendations is the creation of a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) and imposition by the TBD of a \$20 per vehicle license fee beginning in 2016 rising to \$40 in 2018 after the \$20 fee has been in place for 24 months.

Authority to impose the \$40 vehicle license fee is provided by Municipal Code Chapter 3.40.070(B), RCW 36.73.040(3)(b) and RCW 82.80.140. These sections of law provide that a District that includes all the territory within the boundaries of the jurisdiction establishing the district may increase the vehicle license fee by a majority vote of the governing board of the district from \$20 to \$40 if the \$20 vehicle license fee has been imposed for at least twenty-four months. Second Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5987, in section 309, provides that this fee can be raised to \$40 by majority vote of the governing body if the \$20 vehicle fee has been imposed for at least twenty-four months.

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It is proposed to increase the vehicle license fee from \$20 to \$40 for eligible vehicles within the city limits of the City of Vancouver. The license fee is collected by the Washington State Department of Licensing at the time of registration renewal through 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 on a monthly basis. Fee collection may not be sooner than six (6) months following the signed and dated resolution creating the fee.

The 2017 revenues for the existing \$20 vehicle license fee will be approximately \$2.4 million. It is estimated that the revenues from a \$40 vehicle license fee will be approximately \$4.8 million annually. It is estimated that the revenues for 2018 will be approximately \$3.6 million because the increased fee does not start until 6 months following adoption. The revenue will be deposited in a separate fund, the Transportation Benefit District Fund, and will be used for transportation projects in accordance with RCW 36.73 and VMC Chapter 3.40. A separate resolution is being prepared for the 2018 TBD budget.

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**Action Requested:** On December 18, 2017, following a public hearing, adopt a resolution increasing the vehicle license fee from \$20 to \$40.



To request other formats, please contact:  
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12/18/2017

RESOLUTION NO. TBD- 2017-003

A RESOLUTION of the Vancouver Transportation Benefit District authorizing an increase in the vehicle license fee from twenty-dollars (\$20.00) to forty-dollars (\$40.00) 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 day-to-day and long-term economy and livability; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2015, the Vancouver City Council adopted policy goals for 2015, including a street funding goal whose outcome included by year end "an adopted street funding program that provides reliable, dedicated, long-term funding for streets, including pedestrian, bike and accessible infrastructure"; and

WHEREAS, a special Street Funding Commission, (the Commission) composed of individuals representing community, business, neighborhoods and City Council was created to review staff and third-party analysis, assist in gathering public input, seek out additional details, and weigh available options; and

WHEREAS, the Commission was tasked to provide specific recommendations to City Council to assist them in meeting the adopted policy goal relating to streets, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has completed its work and presented its findings and recommendations in a formal report to Council presented October 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recommended increasing the vehicle license fee from twenty dollars (\$20) to forty dollars (\$40) after 24 months pursuant to RCW 36.73.065; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Vancouver (the "City") in Ordinance No. M-4139 created the Vancouver Transportation Benefit District (the "District") as authorized by RCW 35.21.225 and subject to the provisions of RCW 36.73; and

WHEREAS, the geographical boundaries of the District are composed of the corporate limits of the City as they currently exist or as they may exist following future annexations; 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 twenty-dollars (\$20.00) to forty-dollars (\$40.00) after 24 months; and

WHEREAS, the Vancouver Transportation Benefit District implemented a twenty-dollar (\$20.00) vehicle license fee adopted December 7, 2015 resolution number TBD 2015-003; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the District finds it to be in the best interests of the District to establish an increase the annual vehicle fee from twenty-dollars (\$20.00) to forty-dollars (\$40.00) 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 and necessitated by existing or reasonably foreseeable congestion levels. Applicable local transportation plans are the City of Vancouver's Capital Facilities Plan, Transportation Improvement Plan, Pavement Management Plan, and Transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan.; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VANCOUVER TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT:

Section 1. An annual vehicle license fee in the amount of forty-dollars (\$40.00) 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 2018 for vehicle license renewals due as soon thereafter as the Washington Department of Licensing is reasonably able to incorporate collection of the \$40 fee. The \$40 Vehicle License fee will not be collected sooner than six months after approval as provided in RCW 82.80.140(4).

Section 3. The revenues received from the \$40 vehicle license fee shall only be expended on transportation projects approved by the Board of the District during adoption of the annual 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 from the adopted 2018-2023 Transportation Improvement Program as hereafter revised and extended or the annual Pavement Management Plan. Projects shall include mobility, safety, accessibility, and neighborhood traffic programs, arterial improvement projects, traffic signal and lighting projects and pavement preservation and reconstruction projects.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Timothy D. Leavitt, Chairman

Attest:



Natasha Ramras, Treasurer

*Carrie Leavelle for Natasha Ramras*

Approved as to form:



Transportation Benefit District Attorney