

Press Release: February 12, 2017

Richland Schedules Public Hearing for Transportation Benefit District Formation

On February 21, 2017, the City of Richland will hold a public hearing regarding a proposed formation of a Transportation Benefit District (TBD).

A Transportation Benefit District is an entity created for the sole purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, providing and funding transportation improvements within the established District. Under RCW 36.73 the Washington State legislature permits local governments to form a TBD and fund it through a variety of funding mechanisms, the most common being a Vehicle license fee.

The goals for the proposed TBD are two-fold. First, completion of the Duportail Bridge and second, increasing resources for the City's Pavement Preservation Program. The Duportail Bridge continues to be a top priority for City Council, staff and our citizens. While the City has raised substantial funding from granting agencies, including \$20 million from the Washington State Legislature, there is still a funding gap to complete the project. In addition, there continues to be a funding shortfall in the City's Pavement Preservation Program. For the past several years Council and staff, through the City's Capital Improvement Plan, have considered a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) as a viable option for filling the gap in funding for both efforts.

City Council will consider the proposal to form a TBD for the purposes of funding the Duportail Bridge and supporting the Pavement Preservation Program, with collection of a \$20 vehicle license fee to begin in January, 2018. The fee would be collected at the time of vehicle license renewals. This has been a well thought-out strategy and is the recommended direction after considering several other fee/tax options.

Citizens can attend the public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 505 Swift Blvd, Richland.

For more information regarding Richland's proposed TBD or to view Frequently Asked Questions, visit www.ci.richland.wa.us/tbd.