



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**City Manager's Office**  
**123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3001**  
**[www.kirklandwa.gov](http://www.kirklandwa.gov)**

---

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** James Lopez, Deputy City Manager of External Affairs  
Don Robinson, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator

**Date:** September 28, 2022

**Subject:** TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT COMMUNITY FORUM

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council hold a community forum to hear feedback on enacting the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) \$20 vehicle licensing fee to pay for median maintenance and accelerate pedestrian and bike safety improvements identified in the Safer Routes to School and Active Transportation Plans. The community's feedback will help inform the Council's decision on whether to implement the fee.

**BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

At the November 16th, 2021 Council meeting, the City Council adopted Resolution R-5502 adding the following new initiative to the Council's 2021-2022 City Work Program:

*Activate the Kirkland Transportation Benefit District in 2022 for the purpose of funding Safer Routes to School Action Plans priority projects, Active Transportation Plan priority projects, Vision Zero priority projects and other active transportation projects.*

During the Study Session on November 16, staff illustrated how enacting the TBD and implementing a \$20 Vehicle License Fee (VLF) could generate debt financing to accelerate the 40 highest priority projects from the Safer Routes to School Action Plan (SRTSAP). At the study session, Council provided feedback on the projects and expanded the list to include priority projects from the 2022 Active Transportation Plan (ATP), increasing the list of projects from 40, to 45. Council also provided feedback that renewed focus needs to be placed on the maintenance of medians and sidewalks throughout the City, and particularly downtown.

Although the Council has set aside dedicated budget allocations for SRTS projects, current funding levels require 20 to 30 years to build the 45 highest priority projects. Based on data from the Department of Revenue, staff project that a \$20 VLF would generate approximately \$1.34 million in annual revenue. This additional revenue would allow the City to create a dedicated tree and median maintenance crew and issue bonds to complete all 45 safety projects within six years. The proposed project list may be found at this link: [Transportation Benefit District – City of Kirkland \(kirklandwa.gov\)](http://Transportation Benefit District – City of Kirkland (kirklandwa.gov))

As a directive from Council to gather resident and business feedback on the proposal, the City Manager's Office created a comprehensive community engagement plan that includes broad outreach to the community at large through a community forum style event, stakeholder meetings, multiple focus groups, and online engagement.

The purpose of the October 3, community forum is for interested residents, businesses, and other impacted groups to learn about and provide feedback on council's decision to consider accelerating these investments by implementing the \$20 car tab.

The event will include a presentation by the City Manager describing the City's authority utilizing the TBD and the reasons the Council is considering of the \$20 car tab. Following the presentation, a staff panel will answer questions and address comments raised during the event. The information provided during the community forum will help shape the Council's decision on moving forward later in the year.

More information can be found on the community forum page: [Funding-for-safer-routes-to-schools-and active transportation projects.](#)

**NEXT STEPS:**

The City Council attend the community forum as part of the City's comprehensive community engagement plan.