Michael Fong/MF
Transportation Benefit District VLF
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Version #5

SEATTLE TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 1

A RESOLUTION of the Seattle Transportation Benefit District authorizing a twenty-dollar vehicle license fee pursuant to RCW 36.73.065.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Seattle has the responsibility under the Constitution of the State of Washington for the improvement, maintenance, and protection of public ways within the corporate limits of the City pursuant to RCW 35A.11.020 and Chapter 35A.47 RCW; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 36.73 RCW provides for the establishment of Transportation Benefit Districts (TBD) by cities and counties and to levy and impose various taxes and fees to generate revenues to support transportation improvements within the district that are consistent with state, regional or local transportation plans and necessitated by existing or reasonably foreseeable congestion levels; and

WHEREAS, the City's Transportation Strategic Plan, Bicycle Master Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, Freight Mobility Action Plan and soon to be developed Transit Master Plan outlines key strategies, objectives and investments for improving safety, mobility, modal connectivity, and access through providing effective transportation choices; and

WHEREAS, in Ordinance 123397, the City Council established the Seattle Transportation Benefit District; and

WHEREAS, RCW 36.73.065 authorizes a Transportation Benefit District to impose, by majority vote of the district's governing board, a vehicle license fee up to twenty-dollars on vehicle owners in the City of Seattle; and

WHEREAS, since 2008, the Seattle Department of Transportation's revenues from the State Gas Tax has declined by 2%, General Fund has declined 21% and Real Estate Excise Tax has declined by 60%; and

WHEREAS, since 2008 in inflationary adjusted dollars, the Seattle Department of Transportation's revenues have declined by nearly $13 million and continued budget reductions are anticipated as part of the Mayor's proposed 2011-12 biennium budget; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the Seattle Transportation Benefit District finds that it is appropriate to establish a twenty-dollar annual vehicle license fee that will generate an estimated $6.8 million annually to support the preservation and maintenance of transportation infrastructure and make investments to enhance pedestrian and bicycle mobility within the district boundaries; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with RCW 82.80.140, the new twenty-dollar vehicle license fee may not be collected until six months after approval of this action by the governing board; and

WHEREAS, City Council Resolution 31240 established the City's intent to convene a Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee III, among whose purposes is to develop and present a proposed project list and spending plan by June 30, 2011 for anticipated revenues generated from a new twenty-dollar annual vehicle license fee to be considered by the City Council for the 2012 budget process and beyond; and

WHEREAS, it is the expectation of the Seattle Transportation Benefit District to contract with the City of Seattle to utilize revenues for transportation purposes; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SEATTLE TRANSPORTATION BENFIT DISTRICT, THAT:

Section 1. An annual vehicle license fee in the amount of twenty-dollars ($20.00) is 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 revenues generated by the license fee shall be used in accordance with the purposes set forth in SMC 3.120.040. The District plans to contract with the City of Seattle to utilize the revenues generated from the annual vehicle license fee as follows, after accounting for costs associated with the collection and disbursement of revenues for and administering the Seattle Transportation Benefit District:

a) Preservation and maintenance of the district's transportation infrastructure;

b) Enhancing bicycle and pedestrian safety and mobility within the district; and

c) Improving mobility and safety for people with disabilities.

Section 3. The Seattle Transportation Benefit District Governing Board requests that the City Clerk for the City of Seattle notify the Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) of the vehicle license fee established in Section 1 of this Resolution and to request that DOL take all the steps necessary to implement collection of this fee no later than May 1, 2011 in accordance with RCW 82.80.140.

Adopted by the Seattle Transportation Benefit District the 25th day of October, 2010, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 25th day of October, 2010.

Chair, Seattle Transportation Benefit District

Filed by me this 25th day of October, 2010.

City Clerk

(Seal)