#35
31320

Sahar Fathi/SF
Full Council
August 22, 2011
Version #4

RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION superseding Resolution 31315, guiding Seattle City Council to work with appropriate City departments in developing an ordinance to reduce the impact of a potential increase in the vehicle license fee on low-income residents of Seattle.

WHEREAS, the Seattle Transportation Benefit District is asking Seattle voters to approve or reject a $60 increase in the vehicle license fee on the November 8, 2011 ballot; and,

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council recognizes that new revenue derived from the increased vehicle licensing fee should be directed toward opportunities or projects that benefit Seattle's lower-income communities that will experience greater burdens from the increased vehicle license fee if passed; and,

WHEREAS, access to public transportation is critical to mobility for low-income residents; and,

WHEREAS, of the households with incomes below 150% of the Federal Poverty Line, 40% have no vehicle available in their household and are exclusively reliant upon public transportation to access their jobs, health care, food and other necessary services; and,

WHEREAS, according to the American Community Surveys Census Transportation Products of overall households in Seattle, 15% have no vehicle available in their household; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has strongly embraced the principles of equity through its Race and Social Justice Initiative; and,

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council must begin exploring potential mitigation options prior to public approval of an increased vehicle license fee in order to ensure that any new program or policy can be in place by the time such fee would take effect; and,

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council must begin exploring potential mitigation options prior to public approval of an increased vehicle license fee as it is likely that any mitigation program identified could have general fund implications as Seattle Transportation Benefit District Funds can only be used for transportation related projects and Council will be considering budgets prior to November 8, 2011,

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

Section 1. The Seattle City Council requests the Seattle Department of Transportation, the Seattle Human Services Department and the Seattle Office of Civil Rights and Seattle City

Light to work with Council staff to identify how the City might mitigate the adverse impacts of the increased fee on low-income residents of Seattle. Council requests presentations of identified mitigation opportunities by October 14, 2011.

Section 2. The Seattle City Council commits to ensuring that a substantial portion of the funds generated by the increased fee will be used for transportation projects that will benefit low-income communities in Seattle and are consistent with Seattle's identified transportation needs, such as system preservation and maintenance as described in the Transit Master Plan (forthcoming), the Freight Master Plan (forthcoming), the Pedestrian Master Plan and the Bicycle Master Plan.

Section 3. The Seattle City Council intends to pursue legislative changes at the state level to grant Seattle and the Seattle Transportation Benefit District authority to levy a motor vehicle excise tax for new revenues in place of a vehicle license fee in order to fund Seattle's transportation needs through a more equitable source of revenue than is currently available under state law with the vehicle license fee.

Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2011, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this_____ day of _____, 2011.

_____
President _____of the City Council

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

_____
Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2011.

_____
Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

Form revised: July 12, 2011

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
Legislative	Josh Fogt, 206-233-3811	

Legislation Title: A RESOLUTION superseding Resolution 31315, guiding Seattle City Council to work with appropriate City departments in developing an ordinance to reduce the impact of a potential increase in the vehicle license fee on low-income residents of Seattle.

Summary of the Legislation: The Seattle City Council: (1) requests the Seattle Department of Transportation, the Seattle Human Services Department and the Seattle Office of Civil Rights to work with Council staff to identify how the City can mitigate the adverse impacts of the increased fee on low-income residents of Seattle; (2) commits to ensuring that a substantial portion of the funds generated by the increased fee will be used for transportation projects that will benefit low-income communities in Seattle; and (3) intends to pursue legislative changes at the state level to grant Seattle authority to levy a motor vehicle excise tax in place of a vehicle license fee in order to fund Seattle's transportation needs through a more equitable, less regressive source of revenue than is currently available under state law with the vehicle license fee.

Background:

- The Seattle Transportation Benefit District is asking Seattle voters to approve or reject a $60 increase in the vehicle license fee on the November 8, 2011 ballot; and,
- New revenue derived from the increased vehicle licensing fee should be directed toward opportunities or projects that will benefit Seattle's lower-income communities who would experience greater burdens from the increased vehicle license fee if passed; and,
- Such new revenue could improve access to public transportation, which is critical for mobility to low-income residents; and,
- Such new revenue could implement priority projects in the transit master plan, the pedestrian master plan, and the bicycle master plan, for the greater good of all Seattle residents; and,
- Of the households with incomes below 150% of the Federal Poverty Line, 40% have no vehicle available in their household and are exclusively reliant upon public transportation to access their jobs, health care, food and other necessary services; and,
- According to the American Community Surveys Census Transportation Products of overall households in Seattle, 15% have no vehicle available in their household; and,

- The Seattle City Council must begin exploring potential mitigation options prior to public approval of an increased vehicle license fee in order to ensure that any new program or policy can be in place by the time such fee would take effect; and,

- The Seattle City Council must begin exploring potential mitigation options prior to public approval of an increased vehicle license fee as it is likely that any mitigation program identified could have general fund implications as Seattle Transportation Benefit District Funds can only be used for transportation related projects and Council will be considering budgets prior to November 8, 2011.

Please check one of the following:

__X__ This legislation does not have any financial implications.