

# 2014 05 27 Transportation Benefit District Minutes

## TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT BOARD MINUTES

Monday, May 27, 2014  
City of Lakewood  
City Council Chambers  
6000 Main Street SW  
Lakewood, WA 98499

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:45 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: 7 – Chair Don Anderson; Board Members Jason Whalen, Mary Moss, Mike Brandstetter, John Simpson, Marie Barth and Paul Bocchi.

### APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2014

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 18, 2014 MINUTES. VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN AND CARRIED.

### REVIEW OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS FUNDING OPTIONS

Assistant City Manager Kraus reviewed the current pavement preservation projects and other projects.

Discussion ensued on what the difference was between the current pavement preservation project and other projects.

Assistant City Manager Kraus then reviewed new street and sidewalk projects and grant funded opportunities.

Public Works Director reviewed the comparison of pavement ratings with other cities and the criteria and point system for prioritizing new street and sidewalk projects.

Discussion ensued on an engineer's view of prioritization of projects and that a neighborhood's view is not factored into the prioritization list.

Assistant City Manager Kraus then reviewed the funding mechanisms for the proposed transportation projects. She described the recommended next steps for consideration.

Discussion ensued on utility tax increases; what was Pierce County's levy road tax (\$1.80) prior to incorporation; extending the Washington Boulevard improvement project from Gravelly Lake Drive all the way to Edgewood as was recommended by the TBD Ad Hoc Subcommittee instead of shortened to Butte; what is the traffic count on the portion of Gravelly Lake Drive that is not proposed for improvement; improve Mt. Tahoma Drive sidewalk project to the Interlaaken Bridge to connect to 104th/Hipkins for neighborhood connectivity to the Central Business District and lake; move the Lake City business district sidewalks project to a higher priority and lower the priorities of the two Steilacoom Boulevard projects 87th to 83rd and 83rd to Weller and the South Tacoma Way 88th to N. City limits (possibly securing grant funds for completion); completing the Gravelly Lake Drive loop; and providing for a cost estimate on the Mt. Tahoma Drive project including the cost for right-of-way acquisition.

Chair Anderson asked the Board what funding sources were unpalatable and what scope of projects would the Board want to pursue.

Discussion ensued on concerns about raising a sales tax and utility tax; implementing a councilmanic \$20 vehicle tab fee as it is a transportation related fee dedicated to roads and a tool available for cities; not seeking a voter approved vehicle license tab fee as it has been difficult with other jurisdictions who have tried and most recently the \$60 tab fee that failed in Seattle; potentially increasing the gambling tax 2-3 percent and look at a levy-lid tax combining roads and parks improvements into a single levy-lid lift package that would bring advocates for transportation and parks related improvements; supporting a \$20 vehicle tab and general fund contribution for roads and possibly using Community Development Block Grant funds; requirement for a supermajority (60 percent of votes from 40% of voters who voted at the last preceding state election) for an

excess levy-lift lid and using the time prior to the 2016 general election on educating the public of the transportation improvement projects proposed and aiming for the 10 proposed transportation improvement projects; implementing a vehicle car tab sooner for street maintenance improvements at the same time a date is set for an electoral vote; and determining the proposed number of projects and scope to be included in the package.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to support a \$20 vehicle car tab; not propose a sales or utility tax; consider some gambling tax increase in the event the State \$417,000 transportation package is unfavorable; provide for a sunset clause; start sooner than later for maintenance projects; use available general fund dollars with excess levy lid lift for improvements; schedule an excess levy lid lift for a vote concurrently with the councilmanic vehicle tab fee initiative to allow time for public education and choice of election to meet the 40 percent voter validation without it being a general election and that at least six capital projects and possibly more be based on the costs to maintain credibility on the availability of funds.  
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It was the consensus of the Board to schedule another Transportation Benefit District Board meeting for further discussion.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

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DON ANDERSON, CHAIR

ATTEST:

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ALICE M. BUSH, MMC  
CLERK OF THE BOARD