



Public Infrastructure and Conservation

Deb Bell

Council Initiated:

Yes

No

ECAF: 2025-3508
Ordinance: 26-009

Type:

- Contract
- Board Appt.
- Code Amendment
- Budget Action
- Other

Requested Handling:

- Normal
- Expedite
- Urgent

Fund Source:

- General Fund
- Other
- N/A

Executive Rec:

- Approve
- Do Not Approve
- N/A

Approved as to

Form:

- Yes
- No
- N/A

Subject: Amending Snohomish County Code Section 2.85, relating to the Snohomish County Transportation Benefit District.

Scope: The proposed Ordinance would add the following new code section to Snohomish County Code:

1. 2.85.035 Vehicle License Fee. This would fix and impose an annual vehicle fee of twenty dollars (\$20), as authorized under RCW 82.80.140; and

amend the following three separate sections of Snohomish County Code:

2. 2.85.010 Transportation Benefit District Established. Allows for the geographic boundaries of the benefit district to change with the unincorporated limits of the county accounting for future annexations.

3. 2.85.020 Governing Board. Deletes the sentence “acting in an ex-officio and independent capacity”, affirming that the governing board of the transportation benefit district shall be the Snohomish County Council.

4. 2.85.040 Use of Funds. Allows for the funds generated by the transportation district to be used for any purpose allowed by law, within the meaning of RCW 36.73.015, eliminating a previous exhibit, and incorporates those County transportation planning documents that are approved by Council within the annual construction plan (ACP), the transportation improvement plan (TIP), the comprehensive plan and the biennial budget.

Duration: This fee would take place six months after the effective date of the ordinance.

Fiscal Impact: Current Year Multi-Year N/A

Expenditures (estimate)	2026	2027*	2028	2029	2030	2031
102 Road Fund	\$0	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
Revenue (estimate)	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
102 Road Fund	\$0	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
TBD sub-fund						

*According to the State Washington Open Data, there are 315,480 registered vehicles within unincorporated Snohomish County (315,480 x \$20 = \$6,309,600).

Authority Granted: The County Council adopted [Ordinance 10-103](#) in July 2011, under RCW 36.73.065. If an interlocal agreement under RCW 82.80.140 cannot be reached, a district that includes the unincorporated territory of a county may impose, by a majority vote of the governing body of the district, an annual vehicle fee of up to twenty dollars.

Public Infrastructure and Conservation

Deb Bell

Background: Snohomish County established a TBD in 2011 as a separate governing body to provide funding for transportation projects in unincorporated Snohomish County. The County Council was established as the ex officio governing body/board. However, a funding mechanism for transportation improvements was not included in the original ordinance.

In 2015, the Washington State Legislature enacted RCW 36.74.010, which permits counties by ordinance to assume the rights, powers, functions and obligations of a TBD, thereby consolidating its operations under the county’s direct governance. (This allows counties to streamline the TBD administration, reduce duplicative functions and cost, and provide greater efficiency and accountability in the use of transportation funds. [Full list of TBD in WA State.](#))

The proposed ordinance would amend Snohomish County Code 2.85 to reflect the changes necessary to update the governing structure, clarify administrative responsibilities, and align local code with state law, and is consistent with the proposed companion ordinances.

List of TBD’s WA State - Counties	Established	Powers Assumed	Sales Tax	Vehicle License Fee (VLF)	Border Area Fuel Tax	Other Notes
King County	2014	No				Unfunded-voted \$60 VLF and 0/1% sales tax failed 2014
Jefferson County	2024	Yes	0.10%	\$20		Imposed council manic revenue sources in 2025; TBD includes entire unincorporated county.
Pierce County	2014	No				Unfunded/no information. Unincorporated areas only.
Point Roberts (Whatcom County)	1992	N/A-not coextensive			\$0.01	
Thruston County	2014	No				Unfunded/no information. Unincorporated areas only.
Snohomish County	2011	No				Unfunded/no information. Unincorporated areas only.
WA State Initial Plate Fees	Transaction	WA State Repeating Fees	\$ per year		WA State TBD Counties / vehicles	Current \$ Collected per year
Owner Change	\$35.50	Base Fee	\$30		Jefferson/ 24,804	\$496,000
Each New Plate	\$50	Service Fee	\$8		Point Roberts	
Plate Reflection	\$2	Filing Fee	\$4.50		Thurston	
Plate Transfer	\$10	RTA	Varies by Value		King	
		District	Varies by Location		Pierce	
		Weight Fee	Varies by Vehicle			

Action Requested: For the Council to move the ordinance to March 25th GLS to set time and date for a Public Hearing, with the suggested date and time of April 22nd, 2026, at 10:30 am.