


PUBLIC WORKS

CURRENT NEEDS:

\$9M PER YEAR COVERS THE CURRENT DEFICIT AT CURRENT LOS. (THAT MEANS CURRENT STATE OF LOW STAFF AND SMALL CAPITAL PROGRAMS.)

\$30M ALLOWS PW TO GET BACK TO NORMAL STAFFING LEVELS AND NORMAL TIP LEVELS.

(THIS DOES NOT FULLY FUND THE NEEDS IDENTIFIED IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR PROJECTED GROWTH).

 **ROAD LEVY** Currently capped at 1% per year, current revenue \$75,240,104

ROAD FUND – INCREASING COSTS

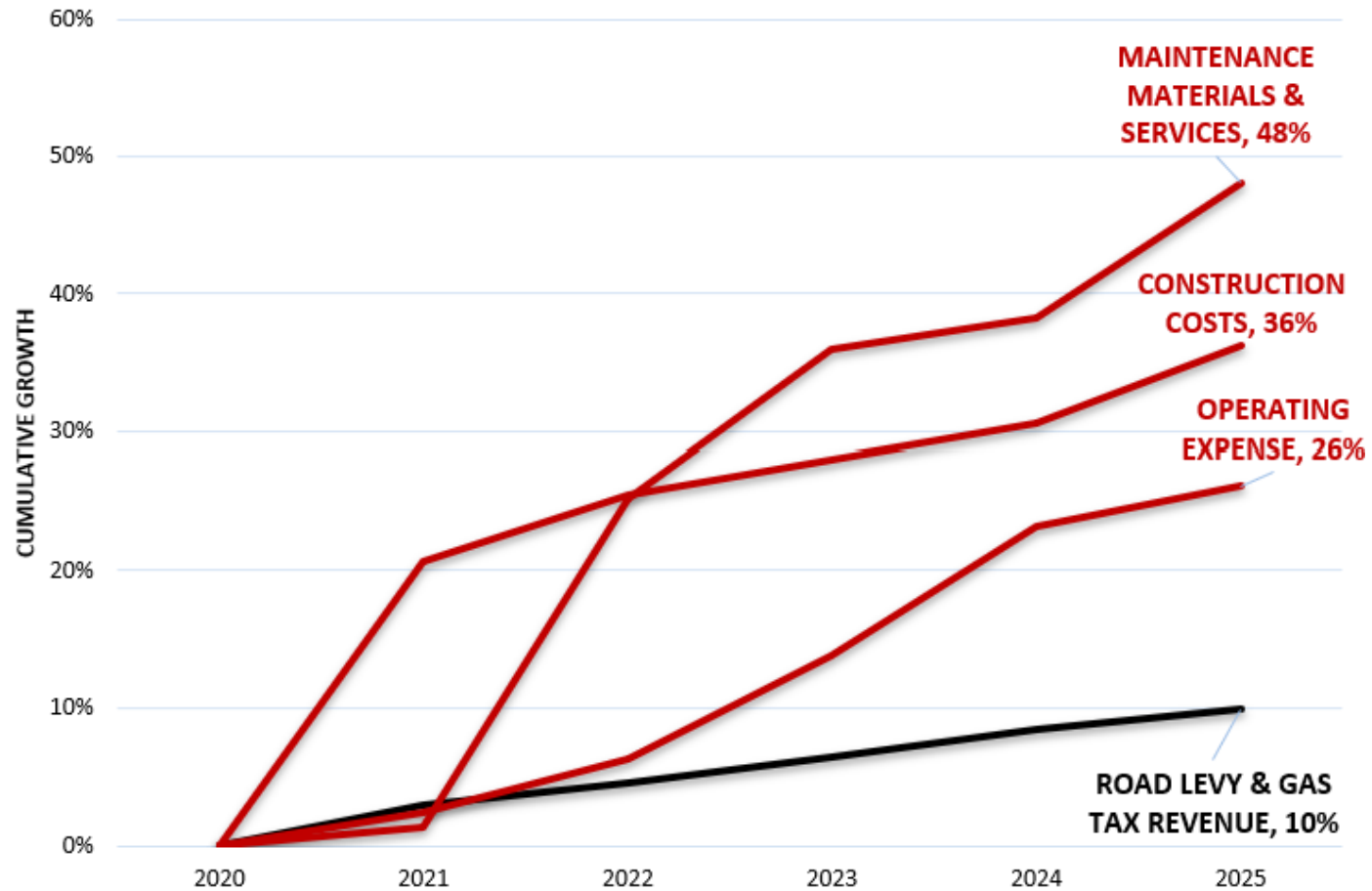
A structural budget deficit is a result of historic inflation, increased mandates, and declining revenue

- ▶ Consumer Price Index (CPI) for labor, materials, equipment, and services has outpaced revenues
 - Four-year Seattle Area Construction CPI up 39%
- ▶ Change in mandates = increased costs for the department
 - NPDES/drainage requirements
 - Fish passage requirements
 - Increased permitting timelines
 - Growing assets management responsibilities
- ▶ Revenue not keeping up with growing costs
 - Declining gas tax revenue
 - Road Levy annual increase capped at 1%



▶ culvert failure

5-YEAR HISTORIC COST GROWTH



ROAD FUND – FUNDING OPTIONS

- ▶ Title 13 permit fee increases (*Council approved December 2025*)
- ▶ ROW usage fee (*Council approved December 2025*)

- ▶ TBD – vehicle license fee
- ▶ TBD – sales tax
- ▶ Traffic mitigation fees
- ▶ Road levy lid lift

- ▶ REET (I and II)

Councilmanic Options for Revenue:

▲ TBD Unincorporated Snohomish County

- **Car tabs: \$20 per tab = \$6M/YR (Proposed)**

RCW 36.73.065(6) Councilmanic TBD license fees graduated steps:

- i. TBD may impose a license fee up to \$20 at any time, although the fees may not be collected until six months after approval.
- ii. The fee may be increased up to \$40, but only if a \$20 fee has been in effect for at least 24 months.
- iii. The fee may be increased up to \$50, but only if a \$40 fee has been in effect for at least 24 months.

- **Sales & Use Tax: up to 0.1% = \$3 ~ \$5M /YR**

TBDs can impose a sales and use tax in an amount not exceeding one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) for a period of **10 years** upon a majority vote of the governing body of the district (Council.) RCW 82.14.0455. Imposed 75 days after notice, and only on the first day of January, April or July. **See Jefferson County.**

▲ Fee's Charged for Services

- **Right-of-Way Fees: Passed 12/2025:** Long term – slow trickle as contracts expire & re-negotiated. (Charging “rent” for use.)

FYI - King County started 2016; earns ~\$10M/year

- **SCC Title 13 Roads & Bridges Permit Fees:** (updated 2025 – PDS fees).

- **Traffic Mitigation Fees:** Last updated 2021, currently being analyzed (current revenue: ~\$4.5M)

- ▶ **REET I & II** – current revenue \$1M/YR

CITIES IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY WITH TBD

City	Established	Sales Tax	Vehicle License Fee
Arlington	2013	0.20%	
Bothell	2015		
Brier	2025		\$20
Edmonds	2008		\$40
Everett	2014		\$20
Granite Falls	2015		\$20
Lake Stevens	2018	0.20%	
Lynnwood	2010	0.10%	\$40
Marysville	2013	0.20%	

City	Established	Sales Tax	Vehicle License Fee
Mill Creek	2026		\$20
Monroe	2012	0.20%	
Mountlake Terrace	2011		\$20
Mukilteo	2017	0.10%	
Snohomish	2010	0.20%	
Stanwood	2012		\$20
Woodway	2025		\$20

Darrington, Gold Bar, Index, Sultan do not have a TBD.

As of March 11, 2026

VOTER APPROVAL OPTIONS

TBD:

Car Tabs - If TBD intends to impose a vehicle tab more than \$40, requires a popular vote after approval by the TBD. (~\$12M)

Sales Tax - (up to 0.3% requires a popular vote after approval by the TBD. (~\$13.5M)

Levy Lid Lift:

Current Levy Capped at 1%

One time 23% - \$17M

Road Levy comparison (2025)

King County - \$102 million

Pierce County - \$87 million

Snohomish County - \$75 million

ROAD LEVY LID LIFT

Overview:

- Council permitted to increase 1% annually without voter approval (I-747)
- Voters can approve “lid lift”
 - Ceiling \$2.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value
 - Current rate \$0.75 per \$1,000
- Provides funding for previously deferred and new capital projects

Options:

- Multi-year levy
 - Variable rate (9%/7%/5%/2% over 4 yrs)
 - Cuts still needed depending on timing
 - Slower revenue increase; impact to homeowners spread out
- One-time lid increase
 - 23% increase one year; standard annual increase after
 - Brings in higher revenue initially and stabilizes funding and build more projects

ROAD LEVY – RULES FOR COUNTY

Allowed (Informational)

- Neutral, factual information on levy mechanics, revenues, projects, funding gaps, and infrastructure conditions
- Responding to public inquiries with balanced, fact-based information
- County Council taking a position during a public meeting with public comment
- Personal political activity by staff/officials on personal time and without public resources

Prohibited (Advocacy)

- Using public funds, staff time, equipment, email, websites, or social media to encourage a "Yes" or "No" vote
- One-sided messaging emphasizing only benefits of passage or consequences of failure
- Campaign-style materials, calls to action, or coordination with advocacy groups using public resources
- Using official authority, titles, or county resources to influence voter behavior

ROAD LEVY – Community Engagement

Levy Stakeholders

- Independent External Stakeholder Group
 - Polling and surveys
 - Messaging/mailings
 - Campaigning

Snohomish County

- Staff/official capacity
 - Community engagement/awareness
 - Engagement topics:
 - Maintenance and operations: safety, paving, potholes, plowing
 - Budget cuts and limited capital investments
 - Efficiencies/fiscal stewardship
- Limitations: [RCW 29B.42.010](#)

ROAD LEVY – ELECTION SCHEDULE

Milestone	August 2027 election	November 2027 election	November 2028 election
Begin process	Fall 2026	Fall 2026	Fall 2027
Ballot & Public outreach • Estimated county cost for levy activity: Up to \$1 million	Jan. 27, 2027	March 16, 2027	March 16, 2028
Submit resolution to Council	Feb. 28, 2027	May 18, 2027	May 18, 2028
Levy ballot resolution approved by Council and Exec signs	April 24, 2027	July 22, 2027	July 22, 2028
Last day to file resolution with Auditor	May 1, 2027	Aug. 3, 2027	First week in Aug 2028
Election Day	Aug. 3, 2027	Nov. 2, 2027	Nov. 7, 2028
Levy rate effective	Jan. 1, 2028	Jan. 1, 2028	Jan. 1, 2029



FUNDING OPTIONS – FOR CONSIDERATION

- ▶ **TBD – vehicle license fee**
 - \$20 annual fee/vehicle -- \$6 million annual revenue
 - 9 cities already have enacted

- ▶ **TBD – sales tax**
 - 0.01% or 0.02% -- \$4 million annual revenue
 - 7 cities and 1 county already have enacted

- ▶ **Traffic mitigation fees**
 - Increase fees to recover partial cost of growth/new development
 - Index fees to keep up with the cost of inflation

- ▶ **Road Levy lid lift**

Questions?

Road Levy - County Comparison (Pre Sheriff Transfer)

Note: SnoCo has less Road Levy revenue and smaller tax payer rate

