

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Ordinance establishing a Transportation Benefit District; specifying the boundaries for the Transportation Benefit District; specifying the transportation improvements to be funded by the Transportation Benefit District; and creating a new Chapter 4.22 of the Bellevue City Code entitled "Transportation Benefit District".

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance establishes a citywide Transportation Benefit District, identifies the transportation improvements to be funded by the Transportation Benefit District, and creates a new Chapter 4.22 - Transportation Benefit District. On July 10, 2023, following a public hearing on the formation of the district and discussion of the formation during Regular Session, Council directed staff to bring back this Ordinance for final adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6748

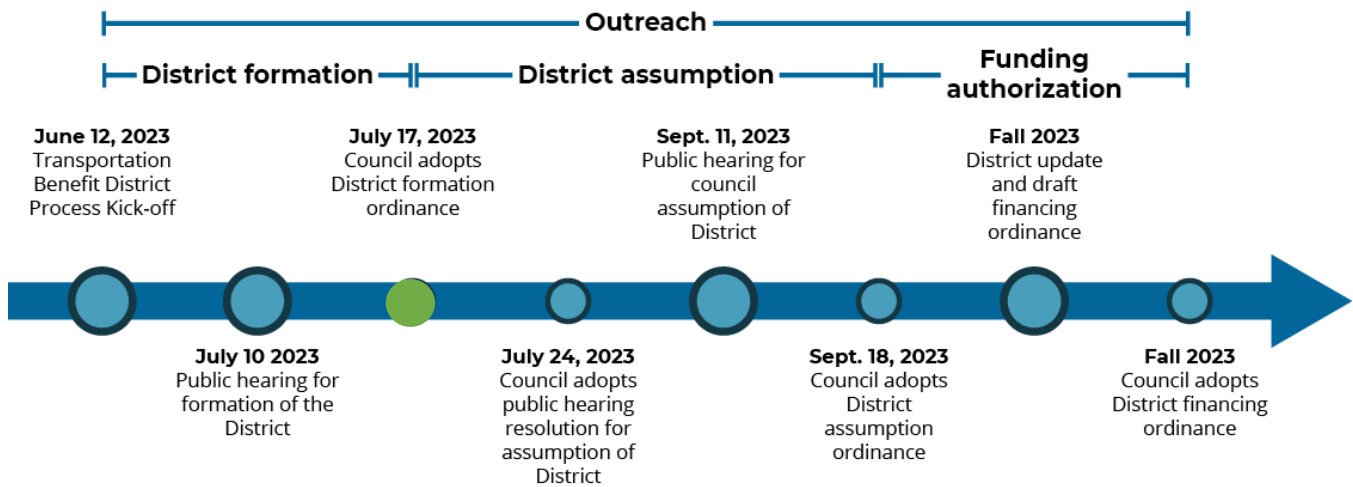
BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The concept of forming a Transportation Benefit District was presented to Council at Study Session on June 12, 2023. During that presentation, staff described how a Transportation Benefit District could be used to fund the restoration of budget reductions to transportation maintenance that were initially implemented in the 2021-2022 budget cycle to address citywide impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff also described the growing backlog of work across all reoccurring capital investment programs as another need that could be addressed. These programs are identified in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and will preserve, operate, and maintain the City's long-term investments in its transportation infrastructure, reduce the risk of transportation facility failure, improve safety and accessibility, expand and upgrade multimodal transportation infrastructure, continue optimal performance of the infrastructure over time, and avoid more expensive infrastructure replacements in the future. This includes programs, such as: Bridge and Pavement Restoration, Neighborhood Traffic Safety, Major Maintenance, Smart Mobility Plan Implementation, Vision Zero, Pedestrian Facilities Compliance (upgrade of curb ramps to current American Disability Act [ADA] standards) and Neighborhood Sidewalks.

Creating a Transportation Benefit District is a multi-step process that begins with the formation of the district. The district will encompass the entire city limits of Bellevue. A public hearing was held at the

July 10, 2023 Regular Session to receive public input on the formation of the district. Following discussion of the proposed formation, Council directed staff to bring back this Ordinance for adoption.

The complete process to create a Transportation Benefit District is shown in the graphic below and described in more detail in Attachment A. The larger circles represent presentations that will be made to Council throughout the process. The smaller circles are milestones that will be completed through consent or Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions. The green circle represents the current step in the process. Attachment A provides the proposed code language for new Chapter 4.22 - Transportation Benefit District of the Revenue and Finance Code.



POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Creation of a Transportation Benefit District supports multiple Transportation policies, including TR-55 – “maintain and enhance safety for all users of the roadway network,” and TR-56 – “ensure that maintenance of the existing transportation system be given priority consideration.”

Creation of a Transportation Benefit District would also support Council’s “High-Quality Built and Natural Environment” strategic target area vision for “a clean, high-quality environment and excellent and reliable infrastructure that supports our vibrant and growing city.”

Lastly, Section XI.I “Preserve Existing Capital Infrastructure Before Building New Facilities” of the *Comprehensive Financial Management Policies* states “it is the city's policy to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to preserve the city's existing infrastructure before targeting resources to build new facilities that also have operating and maintenance obligations. This policy addresses the need to protect the city's historical investment in capital facilities and to avoid embarking on a facility enhancement program, which when coupled with the existing facilities requirements, the city cannot afford to adequately maintain.”

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact in the formation of a Transportation Benefit District. The formation of the district would be the first of many steps toward creating a new revenue stream that could fill the deferred maintenance budget for Streets and Signals Maintenance. This was reduced in the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget by \$1.7 million and \$1.8 million, respectively, to address COVID-19 pandemic impacts. This budget cut was continued in the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget due to competing needs in the City. Reoccurring capital investment programs could also be enhanced to meet the needs of our growing city.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance establishing a Transportation Benefit District; specifying the boundaries for the Transportation Benefit District; specifying the transportation improvements to be funded by the Transportation Benefit District; and creating a new Chapter 4.22 of the Bellevue City Code entitled "Transportation Benefit District".
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Transportation Benefit District Detailed Timeline
Proposed Ordinance 6748

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A