

Comments and Questions Received through Outreach Process

Prepared 7/5/2023

	Questions/Comments	Context	Response
1	Although staff is recommending a 0.1% sales tax, vehicle license fees should still be considered by council.	Bellevue Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee	Council will have the opportunity to consider the funding mechanisms in the fall after the Transportation Benefit District formation and assumption processes are complete.
2	Why is staff recommending a councilmanic approach (versus voter approved) to the approval of the Transportation Benefit District funding.	Bellevue Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee	Council will have the opportunity to consider the means of approving the funding mechanism in the fall after the Transportation Benefit District formation and assumption processes are complete.
3	Why wasn't the maintenance budget restored in the 2023-2024 biennium despite the overall city budget increasing?	Bellevue Downtown Association Transportation Committee	Multiple other city priorities for new funding were identified during the budget process. The future option of using a Transportation Benefit District was proposed to address the Transportation Maintenance budget while fulfilling other priorities in the near-term.
4	If sales tax is used to fund the district, what purchases would it affect?	Bellevue Downtown Association Transportation Committee	In Washington state, sales taxes apply to "tangible personal property" and cover purchases made in the state, as well as internet and mail order purchases received in the state. Select services like medical bills, haircuts, consultants, etc. are not taxable as they are not considered, "tangible personal property." Additionally, certain retail purchases are exempted from the tax including prescription drugs and most groceries. Sales tax does not apply to the purchase or sale of real estate.
5	How was funding of maintenance and operations for new infrastructure covered prior to 2021?	Bellevue Downtown Association Transportation Committee	Prior to 2021, any new infrastructure/asset added to our right-of-way was quantified - everything from a sign and pavement marking to a full traffic signal - and an annualized value for maintenance was determined. The maintenance budget was increased in the 2019-2020 biennium to account for ongoing maintenance of new infrastructure, but this process of incrementally increasing the budget was not continued in 2021 and beyond.
6	How will Bellevue residents get a chance to ask questions and provide	Email to staff	Staff are working on creating opportunities to further engage with the residents: staff will have a booth at a few local public events; information will

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	comment on creating a Transportation Benefit District?		be sent directly to local community-based organization to provide background and the opportunity to engage; updates on the process will be shared through the city's communication channels; and, staff are available via email or phone to answer questions.
7	Is there a backlog of maintenance or programmatic projects waiting for funding?	Email to staff	Yes! Many of our on-going capital investment programs work from a backlog of projects to determine how funding is allocated annually. A few of the programs are used to address near-term immediate needs that are smaller in scale. Many of our maintenance programs are done annually, like paint line refreshing, but we also have backlogs of maintenance work like sidewalk repairs. With our expanding and changing infrastructure, there is also a need to allocate more resources to routine work like street sweeping to meet our goals for frequency of cleaning bike lanes, arterials and neighborhood streets.