Transportation Benefit District (TBD) Fact Sheet

What is a Transportation Benefit District (TBD)?

Washington State law allows cities and counties to create Transportation Benefit Districts (TBDs) to fund transportation projects. These funds can be collected through vehicle license fees or sales taxes.

The City of Wenatchee formed a TBD in 2011. In 2022, a 0.1% sales tax was enacted to support local transportation improvements.

How Are TBD Funds Used?

TBD funds help maintain and improve Wenatchee's transportation system including but not limited to streets and sidewalks. One of the key programs funded by the TBD is pavement preservation, which keeps roads in good condition and extends their life. Common street maintenance methods include:

Overlays – Grinding down old pavement and applying a new layer, or simply adding a fresh asphalt layer.

Pavement Repair – Replacing damaged sections of roadway with new materials.

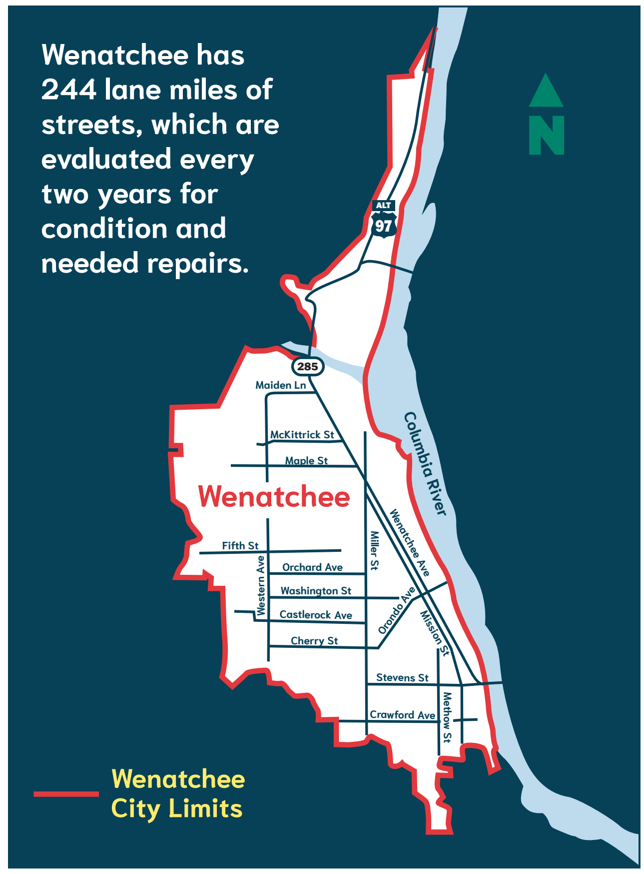
Chip Seals – Spraying liquid asphalt on the road and covering it with small stones to seal the surface.

Crack Sealing – Filling cracks to prevent water damage and extend the life of the pavement.

TBD Funds can also be used to fund:

Sidewalk Improvements – Installing new curb ramps, replacing damaged ones, and repairing sidewalk panels.

Capital Projects – Supporting expansion projects identified in the City's Transportation Improvement program that are locally significant.



Why a sales tax?

A sales tax is paid by all who shop in Wenatchee—not just residents—so everyone who uses the streets helps support their upkeep.

Proposition 1 – August Special Election

A Transportation Benefit District measure is scheduled to appear on the August 5, 2025 ballot for voter consideration. If approved, the measure would increase the TBD sales tax rate from 0.1% to 0.3%, providing additional funding for transportation improvements.

The City is asking voters to consider an additional 0.2% sales tax, bringing the total TBD sales tax to 0.3%. This increase would provide long-term funding for transportation improvements.

Current Funding Picture

Current TBD sales tax (0.1%): $1.5 million/year

Minimum annual funding needed: $4.2 million/year

How Does This Compare to Other Funding Options?

Vehicle License Fee

Impact to Taxpayers*

$90 per vehicle

***Car Tab Fee** – *In 2021, the $20 car tabs generated $649,321 in revenue. If the City has the same number of vehicles to license, $90 car tab fees would generate $2,921,945 (which rounds up to $3 million).*

Property Tax

Impact to Taxpayers*

$270 per $500,000 home

***Property Taxes** – *According to the Chelan County Assessor, the City's 2025 taxable assessed value is $5,528,307,120. Multiplying $0.54 per thousand of assessed value generates $3,000,000.*

Increase TBD Sales Tax

Impact to Taxpayers*

$40 per $20,000 spent on taxable goods

Sales Tax – If a household spends $20,000 per year on taxable goods, the 0.2% increase to sales tax would cost an additional $40 per year.

Key Points

- Wenatchee's current transportation funding falls short of what is needed to fund transportation improvements.
- A TBD sales tax measure will be on the August 2025 ballot to allow voters to consider increasing funding from 0.1% to 0.3% for ten years starting in 2026.
- All revenue generated would support the improvement, maintenance and repair of streets, sidewalks, and related infrastructure within Wenatchee city limits.

Disclaimer: *This fact sheet is provided by the City of Wenatchee for informational and educational purposes only. It is intended to explain the Transportation Benefit District and related funding needs. It does not advocate for or against any ballot proposition, in accordance with Washington State Public Disclosure Commission guidelines.*

Remember to Vote August 5th 2025!

Questions? Contact: Email: cityclerk@wenatcheewa.gov | www.WenatcheeWA.gov/TBD