

Initiative 976 and How It Affects Bainbridge Island

Facts you should know

Overview

Washington Initiative 976 (I-976), described as the “\$30 car-tab initiative,” is a ballot measure that would cause the City of Bainbridge Island to lose about \$600,000 per year if passed by statewide voters during the November election. If I-976 is approved, among other things, it would result in the repeal of all local Transportation Benefit District (TBD) fees. For Bainbridge Island, the fees provide \$400,000 for annual pavement repairs and \$200,000 per year in funding for traffic calming measures and expanding public transit services.

How does the City of Bainbridge Island spend its TBD money?

\$400,000
for road repairs



\$200,000
for traffic calming
& public transit



\$600,000
annual funding



In 2019, the City used revenue generated by the vehicle fees to repair five miles of roads using a chip sealing process.

What projects are at risk?

For Bainbridge Island, I-976 would affect projects funded through the City's Transportation Benefit District (TBD). Since 2014, the City has used, on average, \$400,000 of TBD funds annually to support maintenance of the City's 140-mile road network – that's about 60 percent of the total spending for the City's annual road maintenance program. The annual road maintenance includes asphalt patching, crack and chip sealing, and large pavement replacement projects. The TBD also uses funding to acquire rights-of-way for sidewalks and bicycle improvements. National benchmarks suggest that proper maintenance for a network our City's size should require an annual budget between \$1.5 and \$2.5 million, not including costs for reconstruction. The City of Bainbridge Island is currently able to provide less than \$1 million annually for this work. Without the TBD funds, the City would need to reduce road maintenance efforts, or redirect funding from other activities.

In addition to funding for road maintenance, the City could lose an additional \$200,000 in annual TBD funds recently approved by the City Council for future use. The City intends to use the additional funding for projects to slow traffic near schools and businesses and to expand public transit services through Kitsap Transit's BI Ride service (a shared-ride service that operates on Bainbridge Island both by rider request and by serving scheduled stops). To view all TBD projects, visit

bainbridgewa.gov/496/Transportation-Benefit-Fund.

Why is road maintenance so important?

Road maintenance is a critical investment for the City, as the costs of not maintaining roads grow exponentially over time. As roads deteriorate from lack of maintenance, they reach a point where less costly maintenance is no longer suitable, and more expensive repairs are needed. This is similar to a leak in your roof. If the shingles aren't soon replaced when a leak is discovered, the drywall and rotted framing will also require replacing, adding a significant cost to the repair. In addition, when roads are repaired, vehicles are less likely to be damaged due to poor road conditions (potholes, cracks, or other road defects).

If a Bainbridge Islander has a small SUV (e.g., Subaru Forester) that's under 4,000 lbs., then the following fees would apply:

Current fee structure

Filing

\$4.50 | Registration Filing

Registration

\$0.25 | License Plate Technology

\$0.50 | Department of Licensing Service

Service

\$8.00 | Registration Service Fee

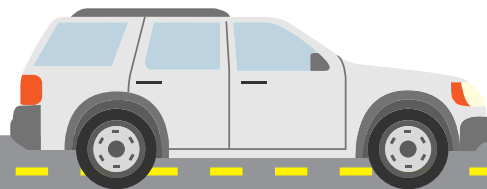
The TBD fee currently supports **\$600,000** in annual road improvements on Bainbridge. If I-976 is approved, this funding would be eliminated.

\$30.00 | Transportation Benefit District

\$25.00 | Vehicle Weight

\$30.00 | Registration License

The vehicle weight fee currently funds statewide road maintenance, transit and ferry improvements, and traffic enforcement. If I-976 is approved, this funding would be eliminated.



Regional Impacts: The Washington State Vehicle License Fees supports funding for major transportation improvements. The adoption of I-976 would reduce funding for highways, bridges and overpasses, transit, light rail expansion, ferry maintenance, and freight corridor improvements. At this point, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has not done an analysis to determine the immediate impacts to the SR 305 roundabout project if I-976 passes.

City Level Projects: The adoption of I-976 would reduce roadway improvement funds for 62 cities throughout the state, including Bainbridge Island. Overall, cities like Bainbridge Island, Seattle, and others in Western Washington would lose \$60 million per year in crucial funding needed to repair potholes, upgrade safety, and expand public transit services.

Safety Projects: I-976's proposal to reduce license fees would reduce funding to fix unsafe roads, bridges, and overpasses. A 2019 report from the American Society of Civil Engineers graded the condition of Washington's roads a **C-**. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were more than 560 roadway fatalities on Washington roads in 2017, many caused by poor road conditions.

Ferry Projects: According to WSDOT, the passage of I-976 would reduce funding for ferry vessel improvements and construction by \$1.3 billion by 2031.

State Patrol Funding: I-976 would cut \$15 million per year from the state patrol budget reducing funding for Washington State's Troopers' Association programs, which includes traffic enforcement, criminal investigations, vehicle enforcement, and ferry vessel and terminal security.

Total funding loss statewide through 2025 would include:



-\$20 billion funding loss
Sound Transit Link Light Rail, Bus, and Sounder Expansions.

-\$1.5 billion funding loss
for public transportation, rail, and bicycle/pedestrian improvements.



-\$5.4 million funding loss
to fund ferry operations and maintenance.

-\$4.3 million funding loss
to address congestion on roads and highways.



-\$88 million funding loss
that funds state highway patrol, traffic enforcement, and ferry vessel security.

Questions?

For more information, please visit our website:
www.bainbridgewa.gov/496/Transportation-Benefit-Fund

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