

**A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE POINT ROBERTS
TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**DEFINING TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEWLY
AMENDED STATE LAW**

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council Members, acting ex officio and independently, compose the governing body of the Point Roberts Transportation Benefit District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 42.30, the Point Roberts Transportation Benefit District is subject to the Open Public Meeting Act; and

WHEREAS, the introduction, publication, consideration and adoption of resolutions of the Board which carry the force of law or which exercise the powers of the Board as listed in RCW 86.15.080 shall be accomplished following the same procedure as that used for ordinances of the Whatcom County Council, except where otherwise stipulated by state law; and

WHEREAS the Whatcom County Administration acts as administration for the Point Roberts Transportation Benefit District; and

WHEREAS the Whatcom County Treasurer acts, ex officio, as Treasurer of the Point Roberts Transportation Benefit District; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Senate Bill 6017 was enacted into law on June 6, 2024, and RCW 82.47.030 was amended, and currently reads: "The entire proceeds of the tax imposed under this chapter, less refunds authorized by the resolution imposing such tax and less amounts deducted by the border area jurisdiction for administration and collection expenses, shall be used solely for the purposes of border area jurisdiction street maintenance and construction. However, a border area jurisdiction not directly connected to the continental United States may use the proceeds of the tax imposed under this chapter for transportation improvements as defined in RCW 36.73.015;" and

WHEREAS the legislative intent of Washington State Senate Bill 6017 was made clear: "The legislature recognizes that the border area fuel tax is not the state gas tax, but rather a local option, voter-approved transportation tax collected locally to be used for local transportation purposes. The legislature finds that because this local option tax is not collected by the state of Washington, it is not subject to the 18th amendment to the Washington state Constitution and is therefore not required to be used exclusively for highway purposes. The legislature further finds that during the global COVID-19 pandemic, border areas were disproportionately hurt economically due to border closures and experienced significant reductions in tax revenues. The legislature further recognizes that current law significantly restricts the use of the border area fuel tax to street maintenance and construction. For example, the Point Roberts area has over \$1,000,000 of border area fuel tax revenue that remains unused due to the restrictive nature of the current law.

1 Therefore, the legislature intends with this act to expand the use of the border area fuel tax
2 to include transportation improvements more broadly to provide border areas the flexibility
3 to use this local funding source to best meet the jurisdiction's local transportation needs;"
4 and
5

6 **WHEREAS** RCW 36.73.015 (6) defines transportation improvements broadly, and
7 includes: investment in new and existing highways and arterials, high capacity
8 transportation, public transportation, and other projects of statewide or regional
9 significance, as well as the operation, preservation, and maintenance of facilities and
10 programs; and
11

12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Council acting as
13 the governing body of the Point Roberts Transportation Benefit District acknowledges the
14 recent change to state law and considers transportation improvements, as defined in RCW
15 36.73.015 (6), to be appropriate expenditures of tax revenue collected pursuant to the Point
16 Roberts Benefit District boundaries, as specified in Whatcom County Ordinance 1991-043.
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18 **APPROVED** this ____ day of _____, 2024.
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24 ATTEST:

GOVERNING BODY, POINT ROBERTS
TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

25
26 _____
27 Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Board Chairperson

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29 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

30
31 George Roche (via email 7.29.2024)

32
33 Civil Deputy Prosecutor