



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2024-494

File ID:	AB2024-494	Version:	1	Status:	Approved
File Created:	07/16/2024	Entered by:	JGernand@co.whatcom.wa.us		
Department:	Council Office	File Type:	Resolution Requiring a Public Hearing		
Assigned to:	Council	Final Action:	09/10/2024		
Agenda Date:	09/10/2024	Enactment #:	RES 2024-037		
Related Files:					

Primary Contact Email: jgernand@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution defining transportation improvements in accordance with newly amended state law (Council acting as the Governing Body of the Point Roberts Transportation Benefit District)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

This resolution of the Whatcom County Council acting as the governing body of the Point Roberts Transportation Benefit District, in accordance with recent changes to state law, considers transportation improvements, as defined in RCW 36.73.015(6), to be appropriate expenditures of tax revenue collected pursuant to the Point Roberts Benefit District boundaries.

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
08/06/2024	Council	INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING	Council
		Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremier	
		Nay: 0	
09/10/2024	Council	APPROVED	
		Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremier	
		Nay: 0	

Attachments: Proposed Resolution, Proposed Resolution (corrected Scrivener's errors) for 9.10.2024, Memo

1 PROPOSED BY: SCANLON, ELENBAAS, BUCHANAN
2 INTRODUCTION DATE: AUGUST 6, 2024

3
4 **A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE POINT ROBERTS**
5 **TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT**

6
7 **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-037**

8
9 **DEFINING TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEWLY**
10 **AMENDED STATE LAW**

11
12 **WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Council Members, acting ex officio and
13 independently, compose the governing body of the Point Roberts Transportation Benefit
14 District; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to RCW 42.30, the Point Roberts Transportation Benefit District
17 is subject to the Open Public Meeting Act; and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, the introduction, publication, consideration and adoption of resolutions
20 of the Board which carry the force of law or which exercise the powers of the Board as listed
21 in RCW 86.15.080 shall be accomplished following the same procedure as that used for
22 ordinances of the Whatcom County Council, except where otherwise stipulated by state law;
23 and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Administration acts as administration for the Point
26 Roberts Transportation Benefit District; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Treasurer acts, ex officio, as Treasurer of the Point
29 Roberts Transportation Benefit District; and

30
31 **WHEREAS**, Washington State Senate Bill 6017 was enacted into law on June 6,
32 2024, and RCW 82.47.030 was amended, and currently reads: "The entire proceeds of the
33 tax imposed under this chapter, less refunds authorized by the resolution imposing such tax
34 and less amounts deducted by the border area jurisdiction for administration and collection
35 expenses, shall be used solely for the purposes of border area jurisdiction street
36 maintenance and construction. However, a border area jurisdiction not directly connected to
37 the continental United States may use the proceeds of the tax imposed under this chapter
38 for transportation improvements as defined in RCW 36.73.015;" and

39
40 **WHEREAS**, the legislative intent of Washington State Senate Bill 6017 was made
41 clear: "The legislature recognizes that the border area fuel tax is not the state gas tax, but
42 rather a local option, voter-approved transportation tax collected locally to be used for local
43 transportation purposes. The legislature finds that because this local option tax is not
44 collected by the state of Washington, it is not subject to the 18th amendment to the
45 Washington state Constitution and is therefore not required to be used exclusively for
46 highway purposes. The legislature further finds that during the global COVID-19 pandemic,
47 border areas were disproportionately hurt economically due to border closures and
48 experienced significant reductions in tax revenues. The legislature further recognizes that
49 current law significantly restricts the use of the border area fuel tax to street maintenance
50 and construction. For example, the Point Roberts area has over \$1,000,000 of border area
51 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, other projects of statewide or regional significance.
9 Further, the operation, preservation, and maintenance of facilities and programs is also
10 considered a transportation improvement; and
11

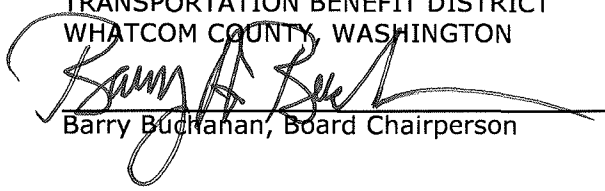
12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Council acting as
13 the governing body of the Point Roberts Transportation Benefit District acknowledges the
14 recent change to state law and considers transportation improvements, as defined in RCW
15 36.73.015 (6), to be appropriate expenditures of tax revenue collected pursuant to the Point
16 Roberts Benefit District boundaries, as specified in Whatcom County Ordinance 1991-043.
17

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19 **APPROVED** this 10th day of September, 2024.
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22
23
24 ATTEST:

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26 
27 _____
28 Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

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

29
30 
31 _____
32 Barry Budifohan, Board Chairperson
33

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

31 George Roche (via email 7.29.2024)

32 _____
33 Civil Deputy Prosecutor