

Black Diamond Transportation Benefit District

In 1987 the State Legislature created Transportation Benefit Districts (TBD) as an option for local governments to fund transportation improvements. Since 2005, the legislature has amended the TBD statute to expand its uses and revenue authority. Most recently, the legislature amended the TBD statute to authorize the imposition of vehicle fees and transportation impact fees, and for cities to absorb the rights and responsibilities of the TBD. Black Diamond's TBD was established in late summer/early fall 2015. Over 75 other entities in the State have established TBDs, as seen [here](#) including their rates. (www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/localfees.html)

Who may create a TBD?

The legislative authority of a county or city may create a TBD. Black Diamond's TBD was established by [Ordinance 15-1057](#) after a public hearing was held August 6th 2015, and transferred to the city which assumed the rights, powers, functions and obligations after a public hearing on October 1, 2015, by [Ordinance 15-1059](#), in accordance with state law. For more information on Washington State TBD law, please refer to the [Washington State Legislature website](#). (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=36.73>)

What transportation improvements can be funded by a TBD?

The definition of transportation improvements is fairly broad. This can include maintenance and improvements to city streets, county roads, state highways, public transportation, transportation demand management, and other transportation projects identified in a local, regional or state plan. Black Diamond's TBD will concentrate on the preservation, improvement and maintenance of Black Diamond's roadways. Such activities include street lighting and roadside mowing, as well as chip and seal repairs, striping and pavement markings. Some money has been set aside for sidewalk repairs, snow and ice control, and dangerous tree removal.

How is the TBD funded?

The TBD in Black Diamond is funded from an annual vehicle fee of \$20 authorized by [Resolution 1501](#) on September 17, 2015. This fee is collected at the time of vehicle renewal. (HB 1485 increased this option of up to \$40, by voter approval)

Can I opt out of the Fee?

No, it isn't an option such as Washington State Park donations; however certain 100% disabled in duty veterans can apply for no-cost licensing fees for one vehicle. For more information, contact (<http://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/spdav.html>)

\$20 Car Tab Fees help maintain Black Diamond's Roadways

People living within Black Diamond city limits are paying an additional \$20 fee when they renew their car tabs. Black Diamond joined over 75 cities in the State that have utilized the Transportation Benefit District authority to collect car tab fees, to help fund street maintenance activities and street improvement projects. In Black Diamond, this source of revenue helps to support maintenance activities on existing Black Diamond city streets. These activities include but are not limited to; roadway striping, traffic signs, pothole repair, vegetation removal, street lights, pavement, signals and sidewalks and shoulders and addressing safety issues.

About the Transportation Benefit District

In 2015 the Black Diamond City Council enacted Ordinance 15-1057 establishing the Black Diamond Transportation Benefit District (TBD) and Resolution 15-01 establishing the \$20 car tab fee. This revenue was needed to maintain street maintenance, as State gas tax revenues had continued to decline. On October 1, 2015 City Council assumed the rights, powers, functions and obligations of the TBD as allowed by SSB 5987. The State of Washington website www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/localfees.html explains in more detail about TBDs and how the funds are to be used.