

Edmonds Transportation Benefit District

Proposition 1

Ballot Title

The Board of Directors of the Edmonds Transportation Benefit District adopted Ordinance No. 2 concerning financing specified transportation improvements by an increase in vehicle fee. This proposition would authorize an additional vehicle fee under RCW 82.80.140 of \$40, for a total of \$60 per vehicle, in order to fund transportation improvements specifically described and prioritized in the ordinance, which would include walkways, bicycle loop signage, signalization, intersection improvements, lighting, corridor enhancements, and roadway improvements, all as provided in Ordinance No. 2. Should this proposition be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement

The Board of the Edmonds Transportation Benefit District has identified thirty-seven (37) transportation improvement projects for funding through a voter authorized increase in the local vehicle fee of Forty Dollars (\$40.00) per vehicle. The 37 projects include construction of walkways, pedestrian lighting improvements, intersection improvements, street upgrades, traffic calming programs, and new signal construction and replacement in addition to resurfacing of city streets to preserve their condition and reduce future maintenance costs. The additional revenue guaranteed by the fees is dedicated to these projects and can be used for no other purpose. 99% of the monies generated (the State Department of Licensing takes 1% to administer the program) will be spent on projects to improve Edmonds local transportation system. A detailed list of the improvements, their cost and priorities are contained in TBD Ordinance No. 2 and are available upon request from the Edmonds City Clerk and are posted on the City's web site www.ci.edmonds.wa.us. The vehicle fee will expire when the improvements are constructed, unless sooner terminated by the TBD.

more argument statements for this proposition on the next page

Edmonds Transportation Benefit District

Proposition 1 (continued)

Statement For

Statement by: Don Fiene,
Kristiana Johnson, Dave Orvis

Please approve Proposition 1 to improve Edmond's streets, sidewalks and bicycle ways. Safety is important in Edmonds.

With a contribution of \$3.33 per month per vehicle, we will fund basic transportation projects for the Edmonds Transportation Benefit District.

All money collected by Proposition 1 will be spent *only* on Edmond's streets and sidewalks, as required by State law. It will not be used for services or salaries. It cannot be siphoned off for other City priorities.

School children will benefit by having safer ways to walk to schools and parks. All pedestrians in Edmonds will benefit, including our senior and disabled citizens.

Drivers will benefit by having resurfaced streets, repaired potholes, and improved traffic conditions.

Bicyclists will benefit by having better, safer bike routes with improved signage.

Without Proposition 1, our roads will continue to degrade and cost more to rebuild. Unsafe streets will deter folks from walking and biking, and walkways to our schools will remain unfunded. Inadequate roads could also deter economic development in Edmonds.

Vote "Yes" to approve Proposition 1, and we will collect an estimated \$1 million per year, to improve our transportation system. We will also be eligible for State and Federal grants that require a local contribution.

Thank you for your support.

Proposition 1 is endorsed by

Mayor Mike Cooper, City Council President Steve Bernheim, City Council members Diane Buckshnis, Adrienne Fraley-Monillas, and Strom Peterson. Edmonds Transportation Committee The Sierra Club

For more information please visit www.EdmondsTransportation.com

Statement Against

Statement by: Priya Cloutier,
D.J. Wilson

A majority of the City Council, sitting in its capacity as the Transportation Benefit District, is asking you to expand its taxing authority.

It's asking you to adopt car tab fees of \$60/year for each car you own. Here's what they won't tell you.

Little accountability to the taxpayers.

By prioritizing 37 total projects, the Council effectively prioritizes none of them. It will take 60 years to complete the project list at the proposed funding levels. Rather than have a short, discreet list so voters could measure progress, this list is effectively never-ending.

Does nothing to solve our basic budget issues.

This wish list is a "want-to-have." It's not a "need-to-have." We'd all like more sidewalks. But the budget crisis facing the City is in basic operations, like police and parks. However, 100% of this tax increase is restricted to infrastructure, not operations.

Moreover, the Council plans to ask you for another tax increase – for police and parks – in the range of \$8-15/month for the average home. That levy for police and parks is a "need-to-have." Not this one.

The most regressive tax Edmonds can impose

There are no exceptions in this tax, like in the sales tax. There are no exemptions like in poverty taxes. This hits everyone with a car – employed or not, home owner or renter. As a result, it burdens younger, lower income families more than folks better able to pay.

Please vote "**No**" on this levy. Let's do this right. We can do better.

Rebuttal of Statement Against

The opposition wants you to wait for a short-term, property levy to pay for **operations:** salaries and benefits.

Proposition 1 is a direct investment. Expenditures go to specific **capital projects:** streets and sidewalks.

Proposition 1 is fair and affordable. Drivers will pay only 11 cents per day for the roads they drive on in Edmonds.

Without Proposition 1, you could wait 80 years to get your street repaved.

Vote YES! We can't afford to wait!

Rebuttal of Statement For

Council members DJ Wilson, Michael Plunkett, and Lora Petso all voted against this proposal. These three seldom agree, but when they do, you know the evidence must be strong.

This package offers little accountability to voters as it will take 60 years to complete.

It is the most regressive tax possible in the worst economy in many of our lives.

This does nothing to fix the City's budget problems.

Edmonds can do better than this.