



# CITY OF BLAINE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: April 10, 2017  
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### **Funding for Blaine Transportation Benefit District on ballot**

*Ballots must be postmarked by April 25 to count*

BLAINE, WASH. – The City of Blaine would like to remind residents that it has a proposal on the April 25 Special Election ballot to fund a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) with a two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) sales tax increase. Ballots are scheduled to be in the mail to all registered voters by April 7, and must be postmarked by election day to count.

If approved by voters, the city sales tax would change from 8.5% to 8.7%, which is the same as neighboring communities of Lynden, Ferndale and Bellingham. These communities have Transportation Benefit Districts, and fund them through a sales tax, as well.

Funding from a sales tax (as opposed to a property tax increase) means that visitors to Blaine will contribute to the maintenance and improvement of streets and trails they use, as well. A significant amount of revenue from the local sales tax comes from Canadians who use mailbox services and purchase dairy products in the city.

In addition, all of the sales tax collected as part of the TBD (estimated at \$200,000 per year) will stay in the Blaine community. Currently, the city retains less than one percent of the sales tax collected for goods and services.

The ballot measure will provide a dedicated revenue source for streets and trails for the next 10 years. Revenue also can be used as matching funds for grant applications to help local tax dollars go further.

The TBD is the first step of a larger Strategic Economic Initiative to revitalize the City of Blaine. One priority area identified by community members was a need to raise revenue for city services through economic development efforts. Good transportation links are the first step to bring people to Blaine for shopping and recreational opportunities.

More information about the TBD, including a list of projects eligible for funding, can be found at [www.ci.blaine.wa.us/903/Transportation-Benefit-District-TBD](http://www.ci.blaine.wa.us/903/Transportation-Benefit-District-TBD). Public Works Director Ravyn Whitewolf is also available to answer questions at (360) 332-8820, or [RWhitewolf@cityofblaine.com](mailto:RWhitewolf@cityofblaine.com).

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*The City of Blaine (pop. 4,900) is 110 miles north of Seattle and 35 miles south of Vancouver, British Columbia. The City is located between the beautiful Cascade Range and Puget Sound, and steeped in the rich history of a logging and fishing town. The natural beauty of Blaine attracts visitors from Canada and neighboring communities for shopping, professional services, and recreational opportunities. Visitors are central to a thriving economy in Blaine, which helps fund city services for local residents.*