



# CITY OF BLAINE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: March 24, 2017  
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### **Questions about Blaine's Transportation Benefit District proposal?**

BLAINE, WASH. – The City of Blaine is hosting two public “Open House” meetings about its proposal to fund a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) with a two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) sales tax increase. The measure will be on the April Special Election ballot.

The first meeting will be April 8 at 1:00 p.m. at the Blaine Library (610 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Street). The second meeting will be April 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Semiahmoo Fire Hall (9001 Semiahmoo Parkway). Community members with questions are encouraged to attend before voting their ballots, which must be postmarked by April 25 to be counted. Ballots will be in the mail to all registered voters by April 7.

The Blaine City Council unanimously passed a resolution placing the funding proposal on the ballot for voter consideration. The sales tax would generate approximately \$200,000 a year, providing 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.

Funding from a sales tax (as opposed to a property tax increase) also means that visitors to Blaine will contribute to street and trail improvements. A significant amount of revenue from the local sales tax comes from Canadians who use mailbox services and purchase dairy products in the city.

If approved by voters, the city sales tax would be 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.

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).

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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.*