

ORDINANCE NO. 983

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK, WASHINGTON, ESTABLISHING A TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT, SPECIFYING THE BOUNDARIES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT, AND SPECIFYING THE MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION OF EXISTING TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park has the responsibility under the Constitution of the State of Washington for the improvement, maintenance, and protection of public ways within the corporate limits of the City pursuant to RCW 35A.11.020 and Chapter 35A.47 RCW; and

WHEREAS, the improvement, maintenance, and protection of public ways requires maintaining and preserving existing transportation improvements to avoid catastrophic failure of the improvements which would require significant additional funds to reconstruct; and

WHEREAS, the number one priority in the "Washington Transportation Plan for 2007-2026" adopted by the Washington Transportation Commission is to preserve and extend prior investments in existing transportation facilities and the services they provide to people and commerce; and

WHEREAS, the "Washington Transportation Plan for 2007-2026" identifies in Section II that there is no more fundamental transportation investment than existing system preservation – keeping the physical infrastructure in safe and efficient operating condition; and

WHEREAS, the investment principles from the Puget Sound Regional Council "Destination 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Central Puget Sound Region" states that the first priority should be to maintain, preserve, make safe, and optimize existing transportation infrastructure and services and Regional Transportation Policy 8.3 identifies the importance of maintaining and preserving the existing urban and rural transportation systems in a safe and usable state; and

WHEREAS, the City has limited transportation funding to pay for necessary transportation preservation and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the funding dedicated for the preservation and maintenance of the City's transportation infrastructure has been dramatically reduced due to the 2003 loss of King County Local Vehicle License fees (28% revenue reduction) and the ongoing annual decrease in Gas Tax revenues (0.8% annual reduction for past seven years); and

WHEREAS, while dedicated revenues have decreased, the ongoing annual costs to preserve and maintain the City's transportation infrastructure continue to rise leaving the City unable to continue to adequately preserve and maintain the City's transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 36.73 RCW provides for the establishment of transportation benefit districts and for the levying of additional revenue sources for transportation improvements within the district that are consistent with existing state, regional, and local transportation plans and necessitated by existing or reasonably foreseeable congestion levels; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35.21.225 authorizes the City Council to establish a transportation benefit district subject to the provisions of Chapter 36.73 RCW; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to form a Transportation Benefit District which includes the entire City of Lake Forest Park as the boundaries currently exist; and

WHEREAS, prior to establishing a Transportation Benefit District, the City Council shall conduct a public hearing upon proper notice, which shall describe the functions and purposes of the proposed Transportation Benefit District; and

WHEREAS, the City provided notice of and conducted the public hearing on the proposed establishment of a Transportation Benefit District in accordance with RCW 36.73.050; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park finds it to be in the best interests of the City to establish a citywide Transportation Improvement District for the preservation and maintenance of the City's transportation infrastructure consistent with Chapter 36.73 RCW, to protect the City's long-term investments in that infrastructure, to reduce the risk of transportation facility failures and improve safety, to continue optimal performance of the infrastructure over time, and to avoid more expensive infrastructure replacements in the future; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park shall establish a governing body for the Transportation Benefit District comprised of the City Council acting in an ex officio and independent capacity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish a Transportation Benefit District pursuant to RCW 35.21.225 and RCW 36.73, as the City Council finds it is in the public interest to provide adequate levels of funding for the purposes of ongoing transportation improvements that preserve and maintain the transportation infrastructure of the City of Lake Forest Park, consistent with Chapter 36.73 RCW.

Section 2. Creation of New City Code Chapter Providing for Formation of a Transportation Benefit District. The City of Lake Forest Park adopts a new chapter to the Lake Forest Park Municipal Code, 12.35 entitled “Transportation Benefit District”, which is set forth as follows:

12.35.010 Establishing Transportation Benefit District. There is created a transportation benefit district with geographical boundaries comprised of the corporate limits of the City as they currently exist or as they may exist following future annexations.

12.35.020 Governing Board.

A. The governing board of the transportation benefit district shall be the Lake Forest Park City Council acting in an ex officio and independent capacity, which shall have the authority to exercise the statutory powers set forth in Chapter 36.73 RCW.

B. The treasurer of the transportation benefit district shall be the City Finance Director.

C. The board shall develop a material change policy to address major plan changes that affect project delivery or the ability to finance the plan, pursuant to the requirements set forth in RCW 36.73.160(1).

D. The board shall issue an annual report, pursuant to the requirements of RCW 36.73.160(2).

12.35.030 Transportation Improvements Funded. The funds generated by the transportation benefit district shall be used for transportation improvements that preserve and maintain the transportation infrastructure of the City, consistent with the requirements of Chapter 36.73 RCW. The transportation improvements funded by the district shall preserve and maintain the City's previous investments in the transportation infrastructure, reduce the risk of transportation facility failure, improve safety, continue the cost-effectiveness of the City's infrastructure investments, and continue the optimal performance of the transportation system.

12.35.040 Establishment of Revenue Sources. The board shall have the authority to establish fees and other revenue sources consistent with RCW 36.73.065.

12.35.050 Dissolution of District. The transportation benefit district shall be dissolved when all indebtedness of the district has been retired and when all of the district's anticipated responsibilities have been satisfied.

Section 3. Severability. Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid for any reason, or should any portion of this ordinance be preempted by state or federal law or regulation, such decision or preemption shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to other persons or circumstances.

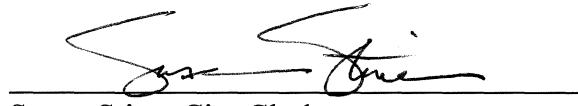
Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect after publication and posting as provided by law.

PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE of the members of the City of Lake Forest Park City Council this 23rd day of October, 2008.

APPROVED

David R. Hutchinson, Mayor

ATTESTED:


Susan Stine, City Clerk