

**CITY OF WHITE SALMON  
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-02-1125**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITE SALMON, WA, ESTABLISHING AN  
ANNUAL VEHICLE LICENSE FEE; ESTABLISHING SEVERABILITY AND AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, Chapter 36.73 RCW enables cities and counties to create transportation benefit districts to finance and carry out transportation improvements necessitated by economic development and to improve the performance of transportation systems; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of White Salmon approved Ordinance 2022-12-1119 establishing the White Salmon Transportation Benefit District pursuant to Chapter 36.73 RCW for the purpose of funding transportation construction, reconstruction, maintenance and operation and improvement projects that are consistent with existing state, regional, and local transportation plans; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved Ordinance 2023-02-1121 on January 18, 2023 assuming governing control of the District; and

WHEREAS, RCW 36.73.065 authorizes a transportation benefit district to initially impose, by majority vote, a twenty dollar (\$20.00) annual vehicle license fee as authorized in RCW 82.80.040; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with RCW 82.80.140, the new vehicle license fee may not be collected until six (6) months after approval of this action by the council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it to be in the best interest of the city and the District to establish an annual vehicle license fee in the amount of twenty (\$20.00) for the purpose of preserving, maintaining, operating, constructing, or reconstructing the transportation infrastructure of the District and funding improvements with the District that are consistent with the TBD Projects;

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITE SALMON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Annual Vehicle License Fee Established. An annual vehicle license fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) is hereby established. Consistent with RCW 36.73.065(4)(a)(i), as written or hereafter amended, to be collected by the Washington Department of Licensing on qualifying vehicles as set forth in RCW 82.80.140, as written or hereafter amended.

Section 2. Revenue Restrictions. The revenues received from the twenty dollar (\$20.00) vehicle license fee shall only be expended on TBD Projects approved by the city pursuant to Ordinance 2022-12-1119 and state law.

Section 3. Vehicle License Fee Collection Effective Date. The annual vehicle license fee shall take effect for notices mailed in 2023 for vehicle license renewals due on or after August 27, 2023, or as soon thereafter as the Washington Department of Licensing is reasonably able to incorporate collection of the \$20.00 fee; but in no event shall the vehicle license fee be collected sooner than one hundred and eighty days after approval of this ordinance, pursuant to RCW 36.73.065 and RCW 82.80.140(4). The vehicle license fee shall be collected during the term of the existence of the district and shall cease to be collected upon dissolution of the District.

Section 4. Notice to Department of Licensing. The City Council directs the City Clerk Treasurer to notify the Washington Department of Licensing (DOL) of the vehicle license fee established in Section 1 of this ordinance and to request that DOL take all steps necessary to implement collection of this fee in accordance with RCW 82.80.140.

Section 5. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance shall be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, then such provision shall be null and void and shall be separable from the remaining provisions and shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions, or of the imposition or collection of the tax authorized herein.

Section 6. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect five (5) days after passage and publication of an approved summary consisting of the title.

PASSED in regular session this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

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Marla Keethler, Mayor

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Stephanie Porter, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved as to form:

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Kenneth B. Woodrich, City Attorney