

# Initiative 976—November 5, 2019

## Ballot Measure Summary

Voters in Washington State will be asked on the November 5, 2019 ballot whether to approve an initiative concerning motor vehicle taxes and fees. The measure does several things:

- Limits annual license fees for vehicles weighing under 10,000 pounds at \$30, except voter-approved charges
- Eliminates the additional 0.3 percent sales and use tax on motor vehicle sales
- Bases vehicle taxes on the Kelley Blue Book value rather than the manufacturer's suggested retail price
- Repeals local Transportation Benefit District (TBD) fees that are car tabs, not sales tax
- Repeals or reduces fees on electric vehicles, snowmobile license and commercial trailer and reduces other fees
- Repeals authorization for certain regional transit authorities, such as Sound Transit
- Limits certain taxes and fees related to transportation

If passed, the total revenue loss over the next six years to the state and local governments is expected to be over \$4 billion.

## Most Impacted Account is the Multimodal Account Fund

The account that provides funding for transit agencies, including Mason Transit Authority, is the multimodal account. This account will be impacted by a loss of nearly \$1.5 billion between 2020-2025.

### For the 2019-21 biennium, WSDOT funded \$245m in Transit Grants:

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Regional Mobility Grant: | \$96.6m |
| Special Needs:           | \$48.4m |
| Rural Mobility Grants:   | \$32.2m |
| Connecting WA:           | \$28.1m |
| Vanpool Investments:     | \$10.3m |
| Commute Trip Reduction:  | \$8.5m  |
| Green Transportation:    | \$12m   |
| Coordination Grants:     | \$2m    |
| Other:                   | \$7m    |

### Other Programs Impacted:

The State Patrol  
Transportation Partnership  
Transportation Improvement  
Rural Arterial Trust  
Motor Vehicle  
Puget Sound Ferry Operations  
Snowmobile

## Impact of I-976 on Mason Transit Authority

On average, 25% of Mason Transit's annual operating revenue comes from the State Multimodal Account. Those state funds pay for Mason Transit's express service to Olympia and Bremerton, regional connector service, STAR pass program, fixed route and special needs funding .

The funding for those services would be disrupted and diminished which may cause a reduction in services Mason Transit would be able to provide in the future if replacement funding is not available. This would have the greatest impact on low-income workers and families.

Capital projects through Regional Mobility and Connecting Washington would be impacted as well.

Mason Transit's neighboring partners such as Intercity Transit, Grays Harbor Transit, Kitsap Transit and Jefferson Transit would also be impacted making regional connections more difficult.

## Other Impacts

Transportation System: Major road projects and maintenance, bridge repair, ferry service and freight mobility.

Programs that directly support the transportation needs of veterans, children, senior citizens and people with disabilities.

Elimination of funding for transportation infrastructure to 62 cities.