

Transportation Utility

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is the City Council considering a Transportation Utility?

- There have been recent and growing concerns around special assessments regarding assessment of sidewalk, assessment procedures and the amount of assessments to property owners. The Council has instructed staff to perform a review of the special assessment process and identify available funding options as a substitute for special assessments.
- The study can be found here: https://www.wirapids.org/uploads/1/0/3/3/103347874/special_assessment_alternatives_2020.pdf. The study identified that, on average, property owners being assessed for road improvements were paying \$5,321 in special assessment fees.
- The current special assessment program is meant to collect revenue from property owners who directly benefit from the improvements to the street. This revenue is used to offset street construction and maintenance costs being paid for from the general levy. The current special assessment revenues per year are approximately \$350,000 for street related items.
- The Transportation Utility has been selected as a viable mechanism to replace special assessment revenues that have historically provided funding for street replacement projects.
- Besides replacing \$350,000 in special assessment revenues, the Council is looking to increase the street resurfacing program by \$150,000.

2. What is the Transportation Utility charge?

- The transportation utility charge is comprised of a Base Fee and Trip Fee.
- The Base Fee is a fee that is equal for all utility accounts that recognizes that each utility account is receiving a uniform benefit of access to the transportation system and includes administrative costs and those fixed capital, operating and maintenance costs of the transportation system that are not recoverable by the trip fee.
- The Trip Fee is a fee on each utility account that is determined by multiplying the number of trips assigned to the utility account by the per trip rate. Trips for each utility account is determined based on its use as classified in the Institute of Transportation Engineer's Trip Generation Manual, 11th Edition.
- The Trip Generation Manual is a summary of trip generation data via text, tables, data plots and statistics that describe state-of-the-practice understanding of trip generation and characteristics associated with an individual land use.



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3. What is the definition of a trip?

- A single, one-direction vehicle movement between origin and destination. For example, driving from home to the grocery store is 1 trip and driving from the grocery store back home is 1 trip.

4. When is the Council expected to consider instituting the Transportation Utility?

- The Public Works Committee and Council will likely be considering the transportation utility in March and April of 2022.

5. When would billing start if the Transportation Utility is codified?

- If the utility is approved in April of 2022 a target start date would likely be July.
- Transportation Utility fees would be charged through the WW&LC monthly utility bills.

6. What are typical residential charges (base fee + trip fee) on an annual basis?

- Single Family Residential ~\$20/year (per dwelling unit)
- Duplex and triplexes ~\$17/year (per dwelling unit)
- Multi-family with 4 or more units ~\$16/year (per dwelling unit)

7. How are charges for commercial, institutional and industrial properties calculated?

- Commercial, institutional, industrial properties generate trips based on the type of business/use and certain characteristics, such as square foot of floor space, so each business has a unique charge.

8. I own undeveloped property in the City. Would this property be affected by the transportation utility?

- An undeveloped property having no assessed improvements or built infrastructure would be excluded from the transportation utility.

9. I own a property that has been vacant for some period of time. Would I be charged a transportation utility fee?

- It is proposed that a vacant property would be eligible for receiving a credit in the amount of the trip fee.

10. What will happen to special assessment bills? I have recently paid special assessments, am paying special assessment or am proposed to be invoiced for special assessments.

- The City Council is continuing to review and consider what owners have paid and/or continue to pay. There is currently a moratorium on billing special assessments until another funding source is in-place.



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