

**From:** Council  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2009 3:22 PM  
**To:** 'Jim Branson'  
**Subject:** RE: Transportation Benefit District No. 1

Thank you for writing to the Burien City Council. Your message will be forwarded to the appropriate staff for response and included in the Correspondence for the Record for a future City Council meeting.

L. Clausen  
City Manager's Office

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jim Branson [mailto:james.branson.206@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2009 6:59 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Transportation Benefit District No. 1

Mayor McGilton and Council Members,

136th Street is lined with mature trees, softening the street, combating global warming, and increasing the value of area homes.

Would the construction of new sidewalks or bike lanes result in the loss of these trees? On Des Moines Way, many large, graceful trees were cut down when the new bike path was put in, and in the year that it has been open, I have not seen a single pedestrian or cyclist use that path. Voters need to know: is a vote for TBD 1 a vote to cut down mature trees?

Jim Branson

*CC: Public Works Director 10-19-09  
RFTR: 11-02-09*

**Lisa Clausen**

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**From:** Larry Blanchard  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2009 6:05 PM  
**To:** james.branson.206@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Council Members; Larry Blanchard; Lisa Clausen; Mike Martin  
**Subject:** Transportation Benefit District No. 1-Response to Branson

Dear Mr. Branson:

Your email of October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 regarding cutting of trees in the Burien right-of-way of 136<sup>th</sup> Street was referred to me for response. Thank you for your concern. As you know, most of the trees installed along 136<sup>th</sup> Street prior to Burien incorporating were of a species that intruded into the existing sidewalk and the roots heaved the sidewalk all along 136<sup>th</sup> Street. The City wants to provide as safe as possible sidewalks that have even surfaces to reduce trip or fall hazards. The Bike Lane and Sidewalk Improvement Project on 136<sup>th</sup> Street will be designed with this goal in mind; however, since the design of these facilities cannot start until after voter approval of TBD #1, we do not yet know how many trees will need to be removed and replaced with less intrusive trees.

The Des Moines Memorial Drive Bike Lane and Sidewalk Improvements by the City of SeaTac utilized the same goal, to provide sidewalks that are constructed according to set standards to reduce potential trip and fall hazards. Although we do not have statistics on the use of this facility by bicyclists and pedestrians, I have observed its use in the short time that I have been with the City of Burien. A vote for TBD # 1 is a vote for the installation of Bicycle Lanes and Sidewalks along 136<sup>th</sup> Street to Standards that will reduce trip and fall hazards for safe walking and biking facilities.

Sincerely,

*Larry R. Blanchard*  
**Public Works Director**  
**City of Burien**