

From: Jenn Ramirez Robson
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2009 10:22 AM
To: Tim Davis
Cc: Council
Subject: RE: Utterly embarrassing vote on the car-tab fee

Dear Mr. Davis,

Thank you for contacting the Burien City Council regarding the recent Transportation Benefit District ballot measure. We have heard consistently from residents that sidewalks and bike paths are important. Asking the residents to vote on a vehicle license fee was one of the funding options we were looking at. Wherever possible we ask residents not only what is important to them but what they are willing to pay for. In light of the election results, a vehicle license fee to pay for sidewalks and bike paths may not be the right strategy right now.

In saying that I would also like to point out that the Burien City Council has not established a \$20 vehicle license fee in place of the \$25 fee that was on the ballot. While state law does allow for a lower vehicle license fee without a public vote, the Council has not pursued that option. City staff are analyzing the results of the Transportation Benefit District vote and will continue to look at other funding sources for sidewalks and bike paths in the City of Burien.

Best regards,

Jenn Ramirez Robson
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OUR VISION: We Are Innovative Stewards of Public Trust

From: Tim Davis [mailto:pdxfan@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 1:24 PM
To: Council
Subject: Utterly embarrassing vote on the car-tab fee

Dear Burien City Council,

It sounds like your citizens need a quick and stern education on what makes cities more desirable and healthy places to live. I am absolutely shocked by how badly voters shot down the extra \$25 car-tab fee. How was that proposal framed, and who could possibly be against that? Your citizens could have seen this money going

CFTR: 12/14/09

cc: CM DEPT for response

directly to fund the construction of sidewalks and bike lanes, but instead they showed a total lack of vision, education and community spirit. I'd expect a proposal like this to fail in Georgia or Texas, but the Puget Sound area? I am truly embarrassed for the region.

Even in the most conservative areas of the country, an overwhelming majority of adults favor building more walkable communities. We had a shot to do it right in Burien, and clearly the public there needs to learn how they're shooting themselves in the collective sidewalk-less foot by refusing to spend a \$2 pittance per month to completely revolutionize the quality of life in Burien. What is their problem?!?

I'm really glad that you were at least able to push through a \$20 fee in its place.

This is why we need strong local news and newspapers. People need to get off the couch and realize there's a world out there in which they can participate and improve. They are clearly not aware that the one and only trait that every single great neighborhood on Earth has in common is pedestrian-friendliness. The architecture and scale and population can vary wildly, but if you see lots of people walking around outside, you are guaranteed to find it inviting.

I was hoping Burien would rise above the dismal standard of most American suburbs. Let's hope your citizens can turn it around before they realize they've become Riverside or San Bernadino.

Thanks so much for the hard work you do--you obviously have your work cut out! :)

Sincerely,
Tim Davis