

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lake Stevens Residents Weigh In On Better Sidewalks, Streets and Pathways

Lake Stevens, Wash. – The City of Lake Stevens asked residents to participate in a survey about sidewalks, streets and pathways. City Council is considering asking voters to fund a Transportation Benefit District (TBD), similar to Snohomish and Marysville. City officials wanted to know what projects were a priority for Lake Stevens residents and businesses.

There were 740 completed surveys from residents. Participants were asked to rank sidewalk connections, street maintenance, and multi-use pathways in order of priority.

Results showed that 51.62% of survey responders wanted sidewalk connections. Of those responding, sidewalk connections to local schools were the highest priority followed by those that connected neighborhoods. Connections to commercial areas ranked third.

“This was great to see. It emphasizes the Lake Stevens City Council’s goal to be one community around the lake,” said Mayor Brett Gailey. “Sidewalks connecting to schools is important for safety, and it provides a the backbone for this mission.”

The second highest priority at 36.76% was for street maintenance, and more than 90% of survey responders want high volume roads such as arterials and collectors improved. These projects would support work by the Washington State Department of Transportation to alleviate traffic congestion on major intersections of Highway 9.

Multi-use pathways, such as those for walking or cycling received 11.62%. The city has been able to add or improve multi-use pathways through grants, but a TBD could provide matching funds for other funding programs.

“We appreciate everyone who participated in the survey.” said City Administrator Gene Brazel. “If we support investing locally? Then our city qualifies for a significant amount of matching funds for TBD projects.”

Almost 82% of survey responders supported the idea of funding a TBD to qualify for matching funds for transportation improvement projects. The city has the option to ask voters to fund a TBD by a one, two or three tenths of 1% sales tax. That’s 10-, 20- or 30-cents on a \$100 sale of goods.

On the amount of funding, survey participants preferred the 2/10 or 3/10 option by almost 28% and 27% respectively. Almost 24% preferred 1/10, and 21% preferred no sales tax increase.

Regardless, almost 61% of survey respondents liked the idea of a sales tax option. Sales tax would apply to both residents and visitors to the city who come for the purpose of shopping and recreation.

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“We’re going to have a public process over the next few months about funding a TBD,” said Gene Brazel. “This is a great opportunity for the public to shape this project, and we are grateful for participation.”

The City of Lake Stevens completed this survey as part of its agreement with Zencity (www.zencity.io), which identifies the needs of local government based on the voices of more local residents. For a full list of results, please visit <https://bit.ly/3GiTMVF>. City Administrator Gene Brazel also is available to answer questions at (425) 622-9414 gbrazel@lakestevenswa.gov.

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The City of Lake Stevens, Wash. (pop. 39,000) is located 36 miles north of Seattle in Snohomish County. The City shares the name of the lake it surrounds, and is nestled between the beautiful Cascade Range and Puget Sound. The City’s vision is to be “one community around the lake” with a vibrant economy, modern infrastructure, and exceptional quality of life for residents and businesses alike. More information about Lake Stevens can be found at www.lakestevenswa.gov.