

# How Could Approval of the City of Bellingham’s Transportation Fund Impact Local Bus Service?

This November, the City of Bellingham is asking voters to extend an existing sales tax. Called the Transportation Fund, it is intended to fund multimodal transportation projects throughout Bellingham. If renewed, the Transportation Fund would support three main purposes: resurfacing arterials, improvements to the non-motorized network (such as pedestrian and bicycle projects), and advancing the Climate Action Plan and the Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) Transit Plan.

## What Transit Improvements are Needed?

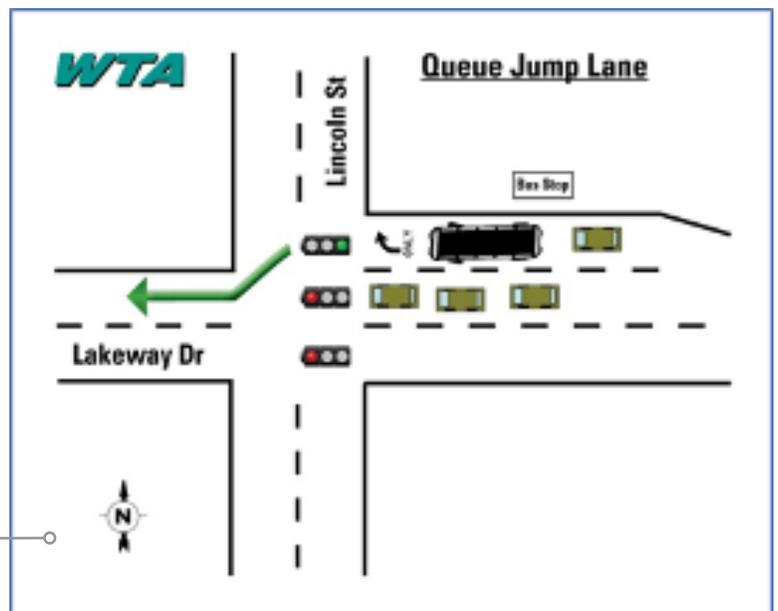
WTA is currently working on a Long Range Transit Plan called *WTA 2040*. Here are some of the projects that may be recommended, and that might be funded in part by the City’s Transportation Fund if extended:

- Improvements to transit speed and reliability, such as queue jump lanes, bus only lanes, and transit signal priority;
- Bus stop improvements, for example accessible pathways to transit stops;
- Electric buses and charging facilities;
- Expansion of downtown’s Bellingham Station.

## Why are these improvements needed?

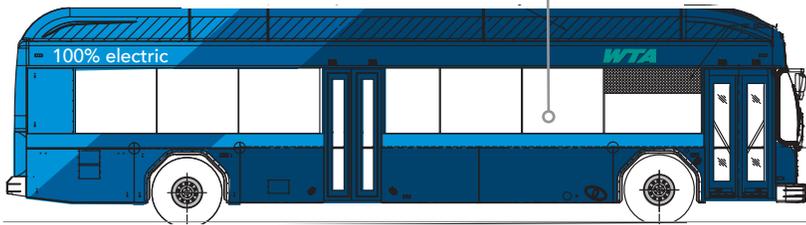
In the past few years, increasing congestion is causing WTA to dedicate more of its resources to keeping buses on time. This leaves less funding available for increasing frequency on existing routes, or for adding new service.

Tools like queue-jump lanes, transit only lanes and signal priority can help keep buses on time.



WTA has many bus stops that are hard to reach, especially for people with limited mobility.

Most of WTA's buses are currently powered by diesel. Electric buses would advance the goals of the Climate Action Plan.



In order to serve the Waterfront District, as well as to increase frequency on existing lines, WTA will need expanded capacity at downtown's Bellingham Station.



## In the previous ten years, what transit improvements resulted from the Transportation Fund?

- Queue-jump lanes and improvements to transit signal priority
- New bus pullouts during roadway resurfacing projects, which reduce congestion at bus stops
- New crosswalks, including High-intensity Activated Crosswalks (HAWK) signals, which improve pedestrian visibility and safety near bus stops
- New bus shelters at Bellis Fair Mall
- Between 2011 and 2016, when WTA had to temporarily cut Sunday service, the Transportation Fund paid for Sunday service in Bellingham. (In 2016, WTA was able to resume funding all Sunday service.)

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For more information on WTA 2040, including how to get involved, visit [www.WTA2040.org](http://www.WTA2040.org).

For more information on the City of Bellingham's Transportation Fund, visit <https://bit.ly/39WI4zS>