



# City of Tigard Press Release

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## **City Council Approves Revised Street Maintenance Fee Schedule, Possible Gas Tax**

Starting July 1, residential customers will see a drop of \$1.09 in their monthly street maintenance fee, which pays for the city's program that maintains Tigard's infrastructure on city-owned streets. Commercial customers will see a slight bump in their fees, which are assessed using a system that proportionally measures impacts of those businesses on roadways based on estimated vehicle use.

Following a public hearing on Tuesday, the City Council adopted a revised Street Maintenance Fee schedule. The Council had heard from residents and business over a three-month period and encouraged public input. The changes are meant to continue funding needed roadwork that supports one of the city's key pieces of infrastructure, which residents repeatedly identify as a priority in community surveys and communications shared with the city and the City Council.

"Tigard's more than 50,000 residents and 3,000 businesses rely on city-maintained roads every day of the year, and our Pavement Management Program that prioritizes our projects is the right way to keep our critical infrastructure in working order," said Toby LaFrance, director of Finance of Information Services. "Our goal is to keep our roadways in good, drivable condition and maintain them upfront rather than let them deteriorate further, which would be costlier in the long term to service."

Tigard has a backlog of streets that are in poor condition and are in need of an overlay. The cost to fix these streets is about \$11 million. Throughout 2015, the council directed staff to add these streets on top of the existing program.

Effective July 1, the fee on residential customers drops \$1.09, to \$5.30 a month. For business, whose fees are assessed on required parking spaces for their facilities, the monthly fee will increase from \$1.44 per space to \$1.86 per space. This difference reflects upcoming projects scheduled in the pavement plan that emphasizes road use in commercial areas.

Examples of streets that could see work in the near future include:

- Gaarde Street, between Walnut Street and Greenfield Drive,
- Boones Ferry Road, between 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and the Interstate 5 interchange.

The council also approved a planned ballot measure scheduled for the November general election. It would increase the Tigard gas tax 3 cents a gallon by an additional 5 cents a gallon—an amount to be confirmed at a future council meeting. The cost burden would be spread to a larger group of city road users beyond Tigard

residents, assessed on anyone who purchases gas inside city limits. The revenue would tackle a backlog of projects not being addressed in the current work plan.

If Tigard voters in November do not approve the dedicated funding source for road improvements through the planned gas tax increase, residents' monthly street fee charge on their utility statements would rise from \$5.30 a month to \$6.56, and the business parking space charge would increase from \$1.86 to \$2.15 each month.

Examples of backlogged projects that could be supported include:

- Hampton Street, between 72<sup>nd</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> avenues,
- Scoffins Street, between Main Street and Ash Avenue.

The city's Street Maintenance Fee also pays for \$100,000 of right-of-way maintenance. The maintenance keeps plantings and grounds around and in medians of larger roads in good condition. Starting July 1, commercial customers will be adding \$50,000 annually to this maintenance to support attractive medians that are now found on Pacific Highway and Main Street.

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