



# City of Tigard Press Release

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**Contact:**

Toby LaFrance  
Director, Finance and Information Services  
City of Tigard  
503-718-2406  
Toby@tigard-or.gov

## Local Fuel Tax Measure Headed for Fall Ballot

The Tigard City Council on Tuesday approved placing a fuel tax measure on the November ballot. The measure asks voters to approve an increase to the local gas tax of 5 cents a gallon. If approved by a majority of voters, the measure would raise about \$1 million in dedicated revenue to support Tigard’s transportation infrastructure by addressing key pavement management and capital projects, as well as pedestrian and bike improvements.

“A couple decades ago, the state gas tax was able to fund the maintenance of Tigard roads,” said Toby LaFrance, director of Finance and Information Services. “Unfortunately the state gas tax has not kept pace with road usage and inflation in operations and maintenance costs over the last 20 years. To keep our local economy running smoothly, the city needs dedicated resources that support a safe and efficient transportation system. This measure offers that. Residents and businesses in Tigard already share in the cost of road maintenance through the Street Maintenance Fee. Increasing the local gas tax by 5 cents ensures those costs are supported by *all* drivers who use the city’s roads and streets and purchase fuel in Tigard, not just the people who live here.”

If voters approve the measure, Tigard’s scheduled Street Maintenance Fee (SMF) increase will not go into effect on Jan. 1, 2017. The scheduled increase would be implemented according to the following table. Non-residential customers pay a fee based on required parking spaces as a proxy for the trips they create on Tigard’s streets.

<b>Tigard Street Maintenance Fee (SMF)</b>	<b>Current SMF July 1, 2016</b>	<b>Planned SMF Increase Jan. 1, 2017</b>	<b>Total SMF Jan. 1, 2017</b>
Monthly Residential	\$ 5.30	\$ 1.26	\$ 6.56
Monthly Non-Residential	\$ 1.86	\$ 0.29	\$ 2.15

The city estimates that the cost for the current backlog of pavement projects totals approximately \$11 million.

According to League of Oregon Cities, 24 cities in Oregon have a gas tax to fund local road improvement projects. Gas tax dollars cannot be used to pay for the potential light rail project in Tigard.

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