

#9-R-21

Transportation Utility Study Resolution

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Submitted on: July 7, 2021

Referred To: Mayor's Office

Whereas our transportation system is a utility essential for meeting the needs of residents of our community; and

Whereas the wheel tax has declined in share of how much of our road reconstruction projects it is able to fund, leaving us to either consider eventually increasing the wheel tax, finding an alternative to the wheel tax, or to live with the decreasing impact of the wheel tax on our road reconstruction project; and

Whereas alternative methods to the wheel tax of providing funding for our transportation system exists and are worth exploring; and

Whereas among these alternatives, the establishment of a transportation utility acknowledges explicitly that our transportation system is in fact a public utility and expands upon the idea behind the wheel tax which sought to find a more equitable sharing of funding to care for our transportation system than the funding mechanism that preceded it; and

Whereas by levying a quarterly fee on properties within the city of Appleton based on the type of property and the number of trips generated by that type of property, per statistics compiled by most recent edition of the Institute of Transportation Engineers's Trip Generation Manual rather than basing fee amounts on the number of registered vehicles are kept at a particular property, we can accomplish a more equitably funded transportation system;

Therefore, be it resolved that the City of Appleton include in the 2022 executive budget funds for the Department of Public Works to work with a consulting firm to determine the feasibility of creating a transportation utility for the city of Appleton that would assess a fee primarily to be used to assist in funding street maintenance projects, but may also be used as source of funds for other transportation services, not including operational expenses such as snow removal or street sweeping;

Be it further resolved, the wheel tax shall be eliminated should a transportation utility be established for the city of Appleton.

For further references:

Funding Streets Through Transportation Utility Fees - League of Wisconsin Municipalities:

<https://www.lwm-info.org/DocumentCenter/View/4060/Funding-Streets-through-Transportation-Utility-Fees--final-61620>

Trip Generation, 10th Edition - Institute of Transportation Engineers:

<https://www.ite.org/technical-resources/topics/trip-and-parking-generation/trip-generation-10th-edition-formats/>