

Regional Funding Challenges

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a Wenatchee Valley Perspective on:

- Implications of the shift to a stronger local role in transportation funding
- Implications of increased reliance on user fees for highways & public transit

Context for Local Funding

- Severe constraints on local taxation structure.
- Transportation has intense general fund competition at the local level.
- With these limitations & diminished state funding, local transportation infrastructure is drastically underfunded.
- In this context, are “local options” a realistic way to solve our deficits?

Local Option Taxes

- Practical limitations of Local Options:
 - Insufficient flexibility
 - Revenue @ councilmanic levels won't fund the deficits
 - Limited success with voters at higher amounts for TBD
- \$100 car tabs would replace only 1/3rd the amount rolled-back by the legislature in 2000
- Locals share this responsibility, **BUT local options should not be viewed as the solution.**

Implications of transitioning toward user-fees to fund transportation in NCW:

- Direct user fees cannot solely support rural highways & public transit
- These are public goods that require subsidy