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Budget Action description:

This green sheet would use \$300,000 of the Transportation Operating Fund’s 2015 Unreserved Fund Balance to fund the evaluation and development of a proposal related to impact fees for the City of Seattle. The Executive will use this funding to provide consultant and staff resources to provide the planning analysis and economic modeling on which to base the proposal, to support public outreach and engagement on the proposal, and to develop the proposal for Council consideration. The evaluation could be related to the following types of impact fees authorized by the Growth Management Act: 1) transportation; 2) school facilities; 3) fire facilities; and/or 4) parks, recreation facilities and open space. The Executive would be requested to develop a specific work plan for this funding and to present this work plan to the Council by March 31, 2015.

This green sheet adds the following proviso:

“Of the appropriations in the 2015 budget for the Finance General Reserves BCL, \$300,000 is appropriated solely for the evaluation and development of an impact fee proposal for the City of Seattle and may be spent for no other purpose. Furthermore, none of the money so appropriated may be spent until the Budget Director presents a specific work plan for this funding to the Transportation Committee.”

Background:

On September 10, 2014, the Transportation Committee held a special meeting to learn about the potential use of development impact fees within the City of Seattle. Councilmembers learned at the meeting that 80 other cities in Washington State have adopted some form of impact fees under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to help address the demands of growth. Under the GMA, impact fees may be imposed for improvements that are reasonably related to new development and reasonably benefit the new development.

Cities can impose impact fees for several different purposes, specifically for: 1) transportation; 2) publicly owned parks, open space, and recreation facilities; 3) school facilities; and/or 4) fire protection facilities. City leaders and community groups have shown particular interest in impact fees as they relate to transportation in order to pay for the increasing infrastructure demands that come with a growing City.

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Budget Action Transactions

Budget Action Title: Use \$300,000 of SDOT fund balance in 2015 for evaluation of development-related impact fees, establish a Finance General Reserve for the evaluation, and impose a budget proviso

#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BCL or Revenue Source	Summit Code	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Increase SDOT use of fund balance for impact fee evaluation				SDOT	USE OF FUND BALANCE	379100	10310	2015	\$300,000	
2	Decrease SDOT revenue from GSF support for impact fee evaluation				SDOT	OPER TR IN-FR GENERAL FUND	587001	10310	2015	(\$300,000)	
3	Decrease Finance General appropriations to SDOT for impact fee evaluation				FG	Transportation Fund	Q5971039	00100	2015		(\$300,000)
4	Increase appropriations in Finance General Reserves to establish a reserve for a impact fee evaluation				FG	Reserves	2QD00	00100	2015		\$300,000