

Four Reasons to Support the Motor Vehicle Registration Fee

1. Property Tax Relief.

Adopting a \$20 annual registration fee will reduce the property tax levy levied for cash for surface transportation infrastructure programs. These costs would be shifted from property owners to the owners of motor vehicles registered in the city.

2. Fairness.

This proposal would shift the cost of surface transportation infrastructure to the persons who use that infrastructure. Homeowners who do not own cars (elderly, disabled, etc.) would no longer have to pay property taxes, but owners of motor vehicles would pay for the surface transportation infrastructure that they use.

3. Eliminate or Reduce Arbitrary and Burdensome Special Assessments.

This proposal would also eliminate or reduce special assessments for street, alley and sidewalk improvements. Abutting property owners would no longer be assessed for these improvements or experience significant reductions in special assessments. Rather, the cost would be born by all operators of motor vehicles in Milwaukee.

4. Facilitate a Rational Process for Maintaining Surface Transportation Infrastructure.

The rising financial burden of special assessments has resulted in a helter skelter approach to maintaining surface transportation infrastructure. Close to 50% of assessable surface transportation projects are rejected because of public opposition to the special assessment cost. Therefore needed improvements in surface transportation infrastructure are either delayed or deleted. The result is deteriorating infrastructure and higher costs later when the work is eventually performed.

By eliminating special assessments, surface transportation infrastructure repairs would be based solely on need and not politics. Better surface transportation infrastructure would be the result thereby benefiting the entire city.