Distribution of Sales Tax

The sales tax received by the City has historically been divided between the Street Fund and the General Fund. Approximately 60% is allocated to the General Fund, 37% to the Street Fund and 3% to fund the radio communication system (previously paid for out of the Street Fund).

The Transportation Fund collects an additional 0.02%. Collection of the tax began April 1, 2011 and was renewed by the voters in November 2020 for a ten-year term. This tax is accounted for in a separate fund.

Distribution of Retail Sales Tax

- Whatcom Transportation Authority: 0.60
- Transportation Fund: 0.20
- Whatcom County: 0.15
- Jail Construction: 0.10
- Criminal Justice Fund*: 0.10
- EMS: 0.10
- County Mental Health Tax: 0.10
- City of Bellingham: 0.85
- State: 6.50

Total Retail Sales Tax Rate: 8.70%

*Criminal Justice Fund money is divided between the City and County based on population.