



King County

Office of Economic and Financial Analysis

King Street Center, 3rd Floor.

201 South Jackson Street

Seattle, WA 98104

206.477.3413

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2025

TO: King County Forecast Council

FROM: Lizbeth Martin-Mahar, Laurie Elofson, Tony Cacallori

RE: King County Revenue through March 2025

Actuals Compared to Budget Forecast - King County Revenue (through March 2025 unless noted)¹

Revenue	YTD Forecast (2024 Budget)	YTD Actual	Actual - Forecast	Difference (percentage)
Current Expense Levy*	\$ 23,870,000	\$ 23,361,906	\$ (508,094)	-2.1%
UAL/Roads Levy^	\$ 6,240,000	\$ 5,814,629	\$ (425,371)	-6.8%
Parks Levy^	\$ 10,260,000	\$ 9,749,896	\$ (510,104)	-5.0%
Veterans, Seniors, & HS Levy (1143)^	\$ 5,210,000	\$ 4,953,031	\$ (256,969)	-4.9%
Conservation Futures Levy (3151)^	\$ 3,030,000	\$ 2,910,483	\$ (119,517)	-3.9%
EMS Levy^	\$ 7,340,000	\$ 7,311,663	\$ (28,338)	-0.4%
Transit Levy^	\$ 2,090,000	\$ 1,987,902	\$ (102,098)	-4.9%
Marine Levy^	\$ 440,000	\$ 417,851	\$ (22,149)	-5.0%
Best Starts for Kids Levy^	\$ 9,260,000	\$ 8,884,404	\$ (375,596)	-4.1%
Crisis Care Centers Levy^	\$ 7,320,000	\$ 7,001,000	\$ (319,000)	-4.4%
County Hospital Levy^	\$ 3,340,000	\$ 4,701,196	\$ 1,361,196	40.8%
P&I on Delinquent Property Taxes	\$ 5,430,000	\$ 4,790,217	\$ (639,783)	-11.8%
Sales Tax - Local Option (2/25)	\$ 26,010,000	\$ 26,860,312	\$ 850,312	3.3%
Sales Tax-Criminal Justice (2/25)	\$ 2,760,000	\$ 2,758,800	\$ (1,200)	0.0%
Sales Tax-MIDD (2/25)	\$ 13,590,000	\$ 13,695,215	\$ 105,215	0.8%
Sales Tax - Transit (2/25)	\$ 123,740,000	\$ 124,664,671	\$ 924,671	0.7%
Sales Tax - Health Through Housing (2/25)	\$ 10,200,000	\$ 10,539,268	\$ 339,268	3.3%
Sales Tax - Cultural Access Program (2/25)	\$ 13,540,000	\$ 13,729,568	\$ 189,568	1.4%
Marijuana Excise Tax	\$ 750,000	\$ 716,369	\$ (33,631)	-4.5%
MV Fuel Tax-Roads+	\$ 2,780,000	\$ 2,304,371	\$ (475,629)	-17.1%
E-911 Excise Tax (2/25)	\$ 4,060,000	\$ 4,368,905	\$ 308,905	7.6%
Hotel/Motel Tax (2/25)	\$ 4,270,000	\$ 4,245,137	\$ (24,863)	-0.6%
Lodging Tax (HB 2015) (2/25)	\$ 590,000	\$ 730,731	\$ 140,731	23.9%
Rental Car Tax (2/25)	\$ 590,000	\$ 494,203	\$ (95,797)	-16.2%
REET 1 Revenue	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,666,055	\$ (133,945)	-7.4%
Wastewater Revenues+	\$ 137,120,000	\$ 136,109,094	\$ (1,010,906)	-0.7%
Solid Waste Net Disposal Charges+	\$ 37,220,000	\$ 36,478,781	\$ (741,219)	-2.0%
Transit Fare+	\$ 10,020,000	\$ 9,524,617	\$ (495,383)	-4.9%

¹ 2025 actual values are preliminary and subject to adjustment.

* 2025 budget is 97.5% of levy ordinance

^ 2025 budget is 99% of levy ordinance

+ 2025 budget is from Agency budget documents.

All other taxes' 2025 budget based on OEFA March 2025 Forecast

2025 Actuals Compared to Budget Forecasts

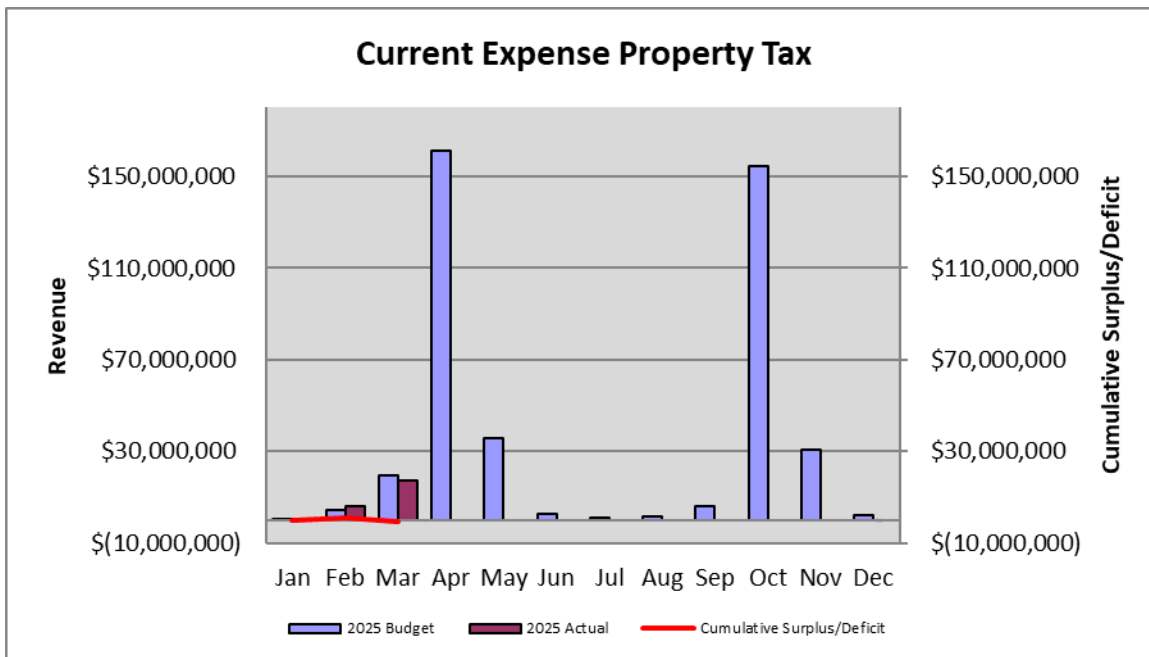
Through the end of March 2025, property tax revenues combined for all levies are down from the forecast by \$1.31 million or 1.5 percent. If the new hospital property tax levy is excluded, the other property tax levies are down 3.4 percent from the March forecast. This does not include the first and second half of the property tax collections for 2025 yet. The year-to-date (yoy) differences in the actuals versus the March forecast for individual levies were all negative ranging between -0.4 and -6.8 percent except for the new hospital property tax levy which was above the forecast by \$1.36 million. The EMS levy came in with the smallest percentage difference at -0.4% and the largest negative difference was the roads levy at -6.8 percent, below the March forecast. The first three months of collections of penalties and interest on delinquent property taxes came in -\$0.64 million or 11.8 percent below forecast.

Total taxable sales, categorized by industry sectors, were up slightly in the first two months of 2025 by 0.2 percent yoy. Year-to-date, about half the industry sectors were up from last year: information up 33 percent, finance and insurance up 14 percent, wholesale trade up 13.7 percent, real estate, rental and leasing up 6 percent, professional, scientific, and technical services up 8.5 percent, health care and social assistance up 14 percent, arts, entertainment, and recreation services up 5 percent, accommodations and food services up 2 percent and public administration up 71.1 percent over last year. For the first two months of 2025, some big sectors in the local economy were down from last year like retail trade sales down 2.6 percent (yoy), construction sales down 7.1 percent (yoy), manufacturing sales down 8.5 percent (yoy), transportation and warehousing down 15.8 percent, management of companies and enterprises down 38.6 percent and administrative support and educational services were both down 0.5 percent.

An appendix to this memo provides King County taxable retail sales by industry for the most recent month February 2025 compared to February 2024. This table indicates that in the month of February, total taxable sales were down yoy by 4.1 percent. This February aggregate taxable sales report is down nearly as much as the January 2025 report was up from last year. In January, we assumed some of the strong performance was consumers purchasing additional goods early before the tariffs began. Now in February, most sectors are down from last year like retail down 6 percent, wholesale down 1.8 percent, transportation and warehousing down 12.3 percent, manufacturing down 18 percent and public administration / DOL monthly filers are down 57 percent. A few industries had gains in February compared to last year like information up 31 percent, professional, scientific and technical services up 3.8 percent and finance and insurance up 3.2 percent.

The first two months of 2025 saw sales taxes above the March forecast by \$2.37 million, 1.3 percent, for all six sales tax levies. Sales tax distributions for transit were up the most \$0.93 million from the March forecast. Most of the sales tax levies were up from the March forecast except for the criminal justice sales tax which was only \$1,200 below its forecast.

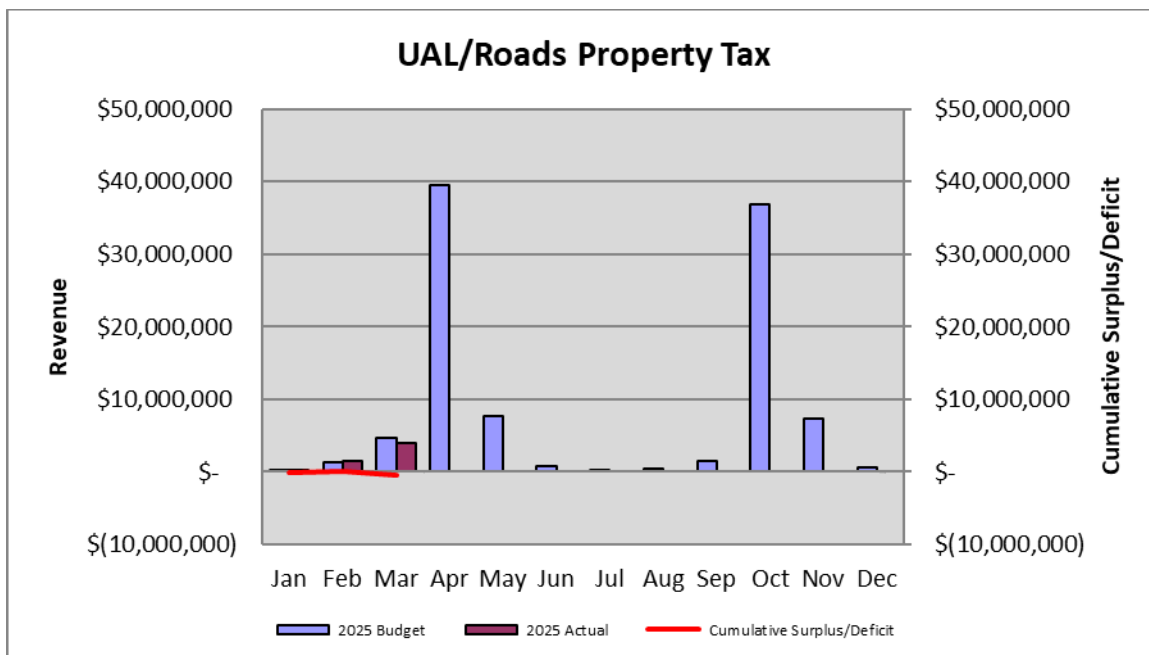
Other revenue streams that deviated from forecast by more than one percent included the E-911 excise tax at 7.6 percent above, but all other revenue sources were down compared to the last forecast. Marijuana excise tax was down 4.5 percent during the first quarter. Motor vehicle fuel taxes for roads was down 17 percent from the forecast. Real estate excise taxes were currently tracking 7.4 percent below forecast, lodging tax (HB 2015) was up 23.9 percent, rental car tax was down 16 percent, solid waste disposal charges down 2 percent and transit fare down 4.9 percent from projections in March.



Data Source: King County EBS Acct 31111 & 31112

Current Expense Taxes Comparison (March 2025)

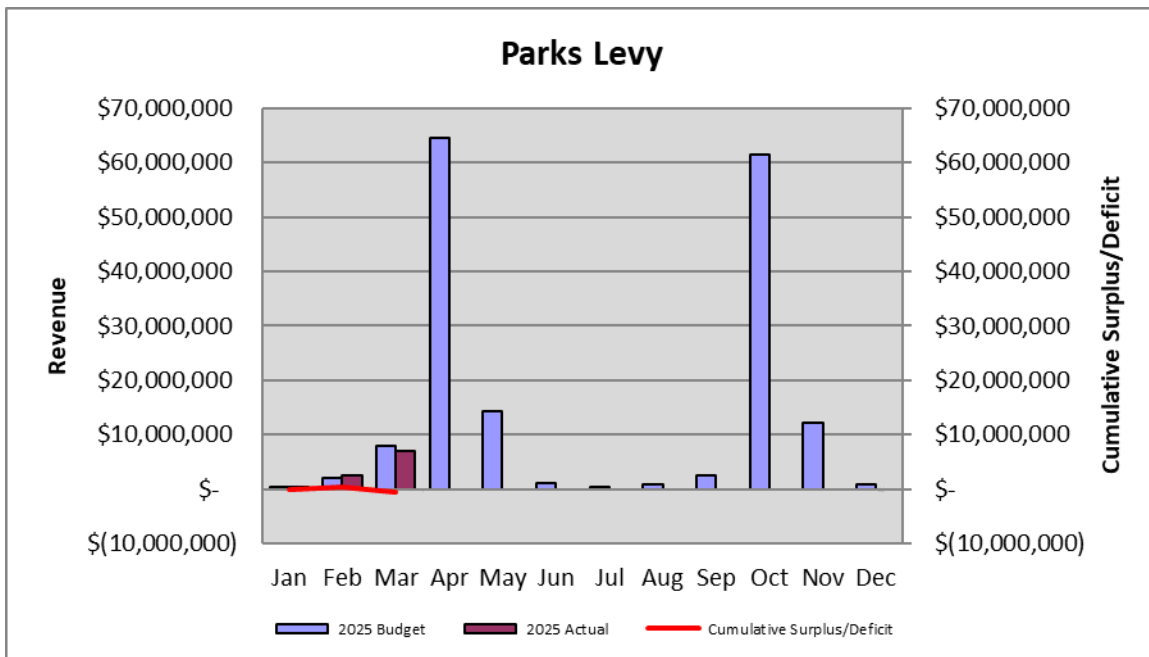
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 19,250,457	\$ 17,444,208	\$ (1,806,249)	-9.4%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct. 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

UAL/Roads Property Taxes Comparison (March 2025)

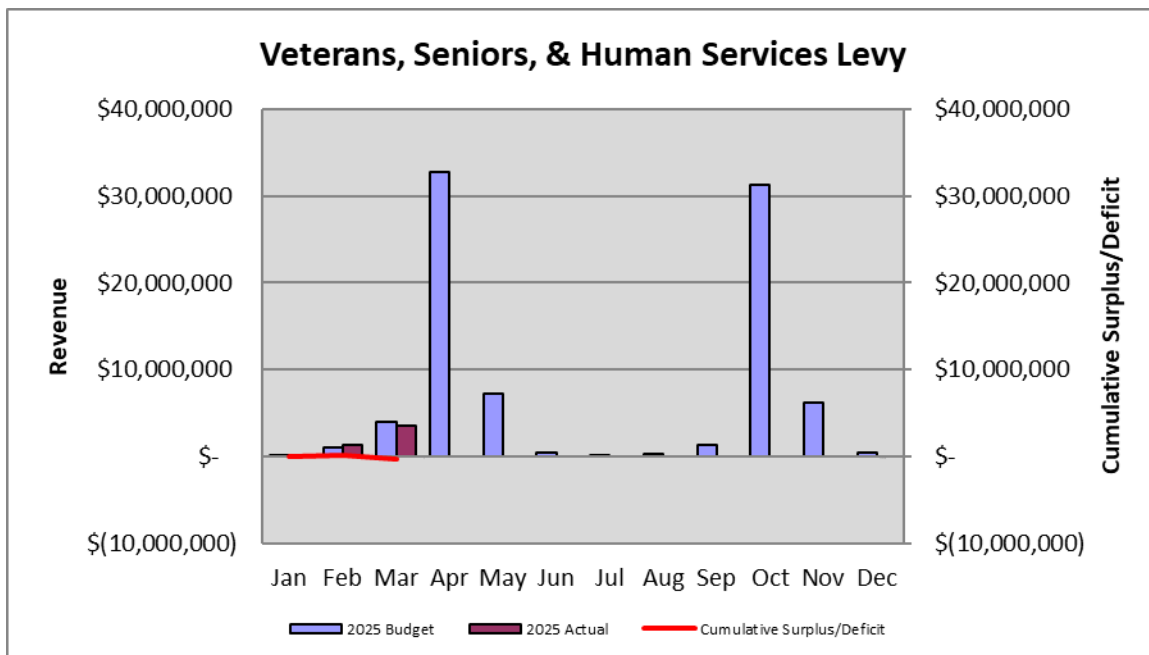
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 4,615,765	\$ 4,036,040	\$ (579,725)	-12.6%



Data: King County EBS 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

Parks Property Taxes Comparison (March 2025)

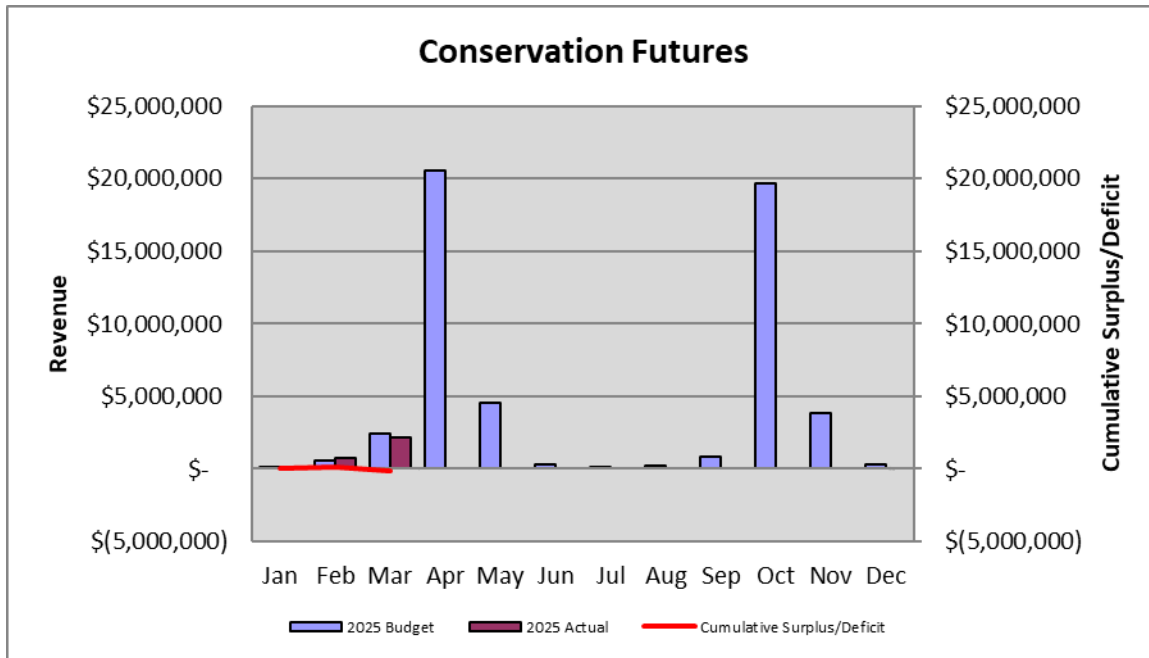
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 7,845,344	\$ 6,956,315	\$ (889,030)	-11.3%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 1143, Acct. 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

VSHSL Property Taxes Comparison (March 2025)

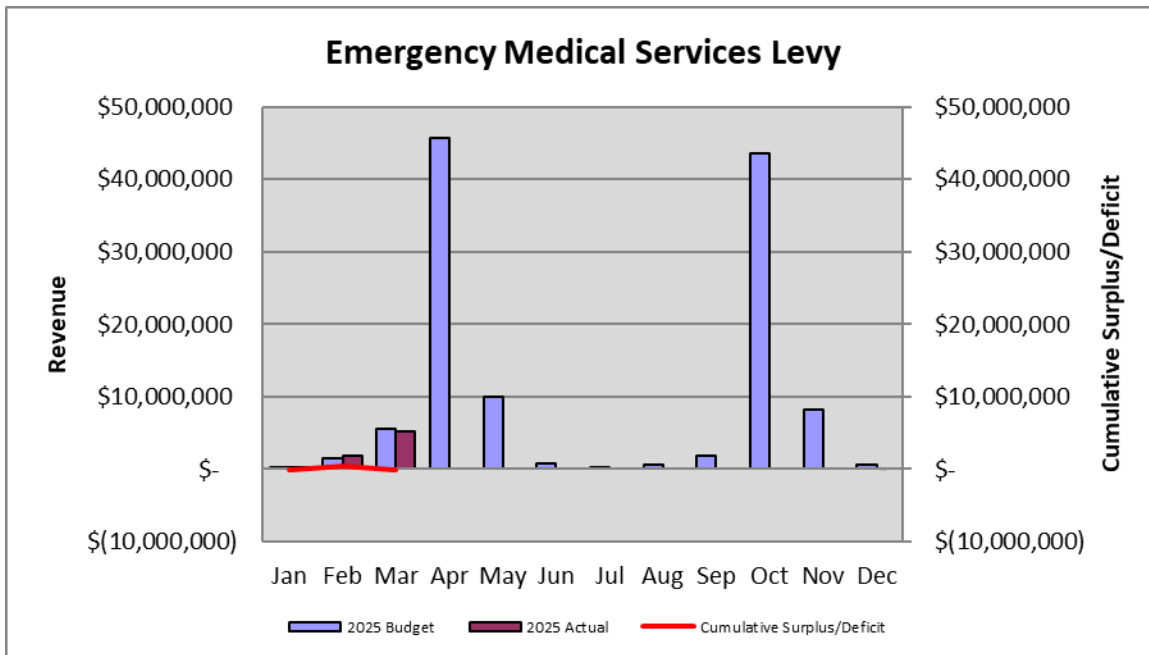
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 3,985,565	\$ 3,534,199	\$ (451,366)	-11.3%



Data Source: King County EBS, Acct. 31117

Conservation Futures Property Taxes Comparison (March 2025)

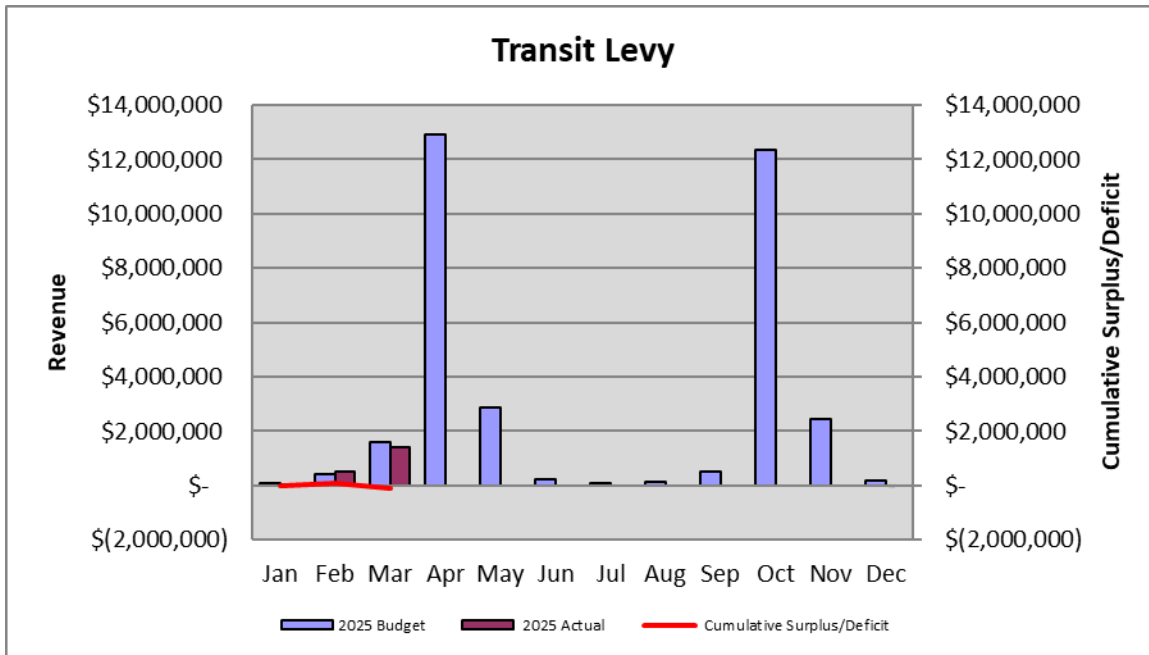
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,445,815	\$ 2,169,572	\$ (276,244)	-11.3%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct. 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

EMS Property Taxes Comparison (March 2025)

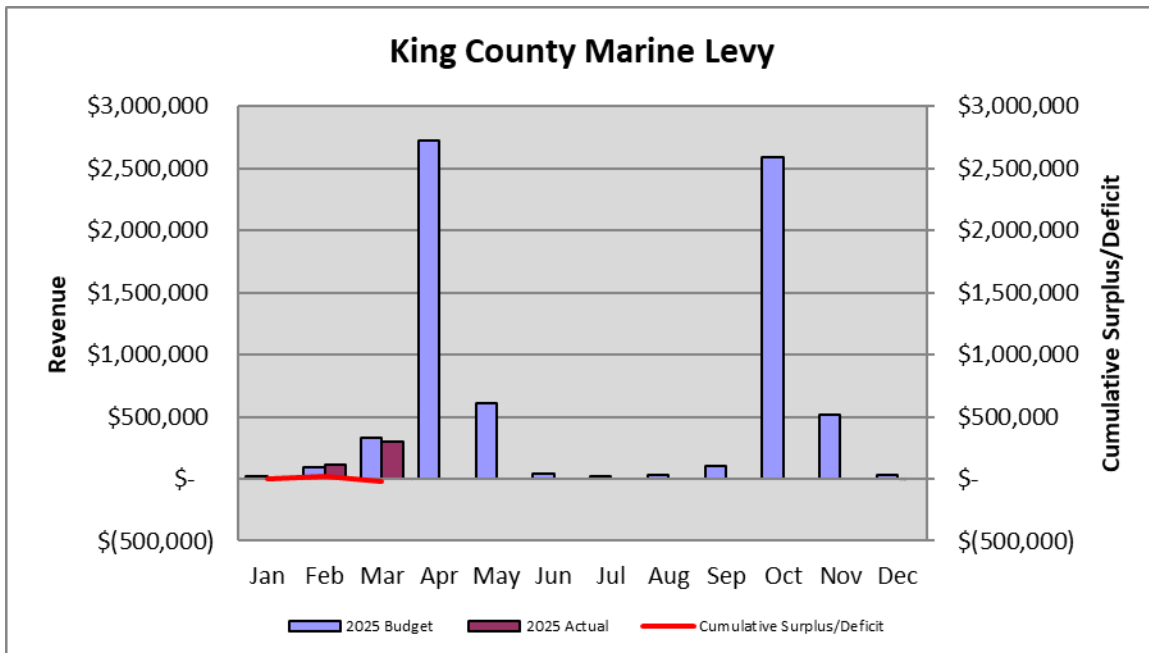
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 5,602,563	\$ 5,181,881	\$ (420,683)	-7.5%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct. 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

Transit Property Taxes Comparison (March 2025)

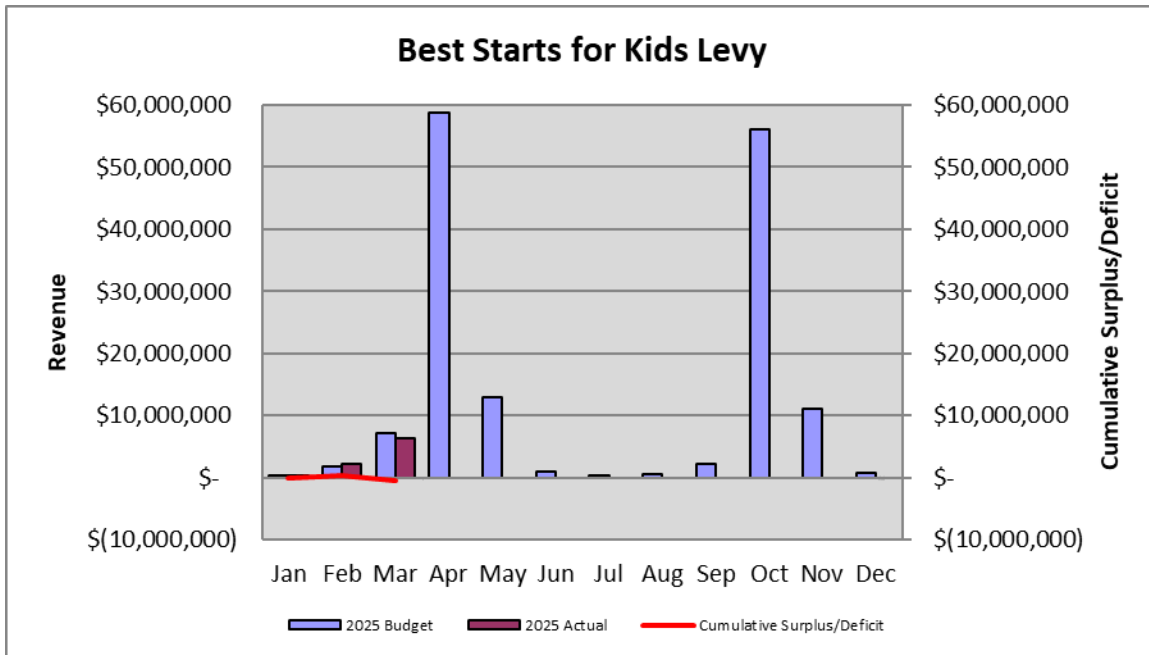
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 1,590,294	\$ 1,414,371	\$ (175,923)	-11.1%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 3641, Accts 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

King County Marine Property Taxes Comparison (March 2025)

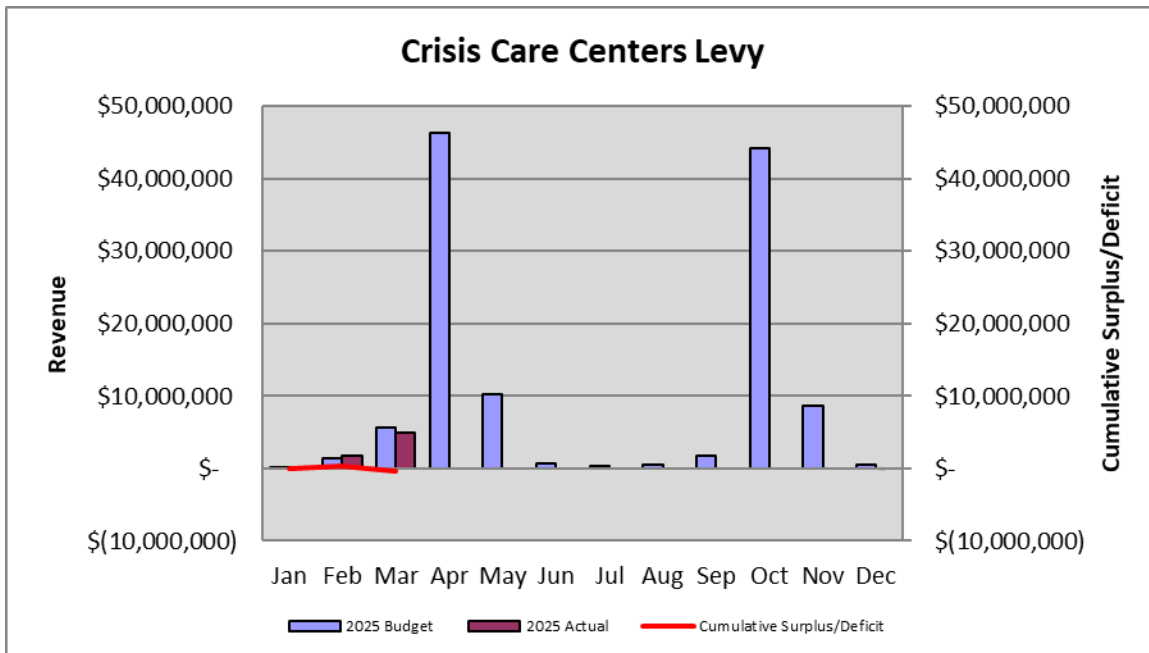
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 334,441	\$ 297,347	\$ (37,094)	-11.1%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 1480, Accts 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

Best Starts for Kids Property Taxes Comparison (March 2025)

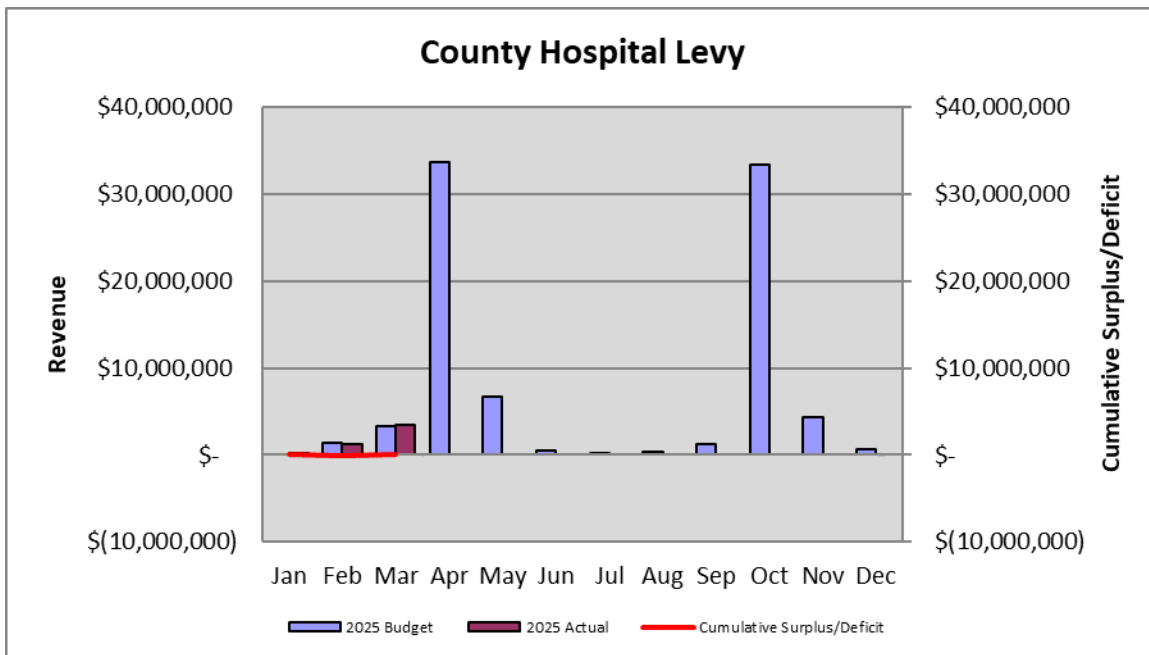
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 7,111,536	\$ 6,329,833	\$ (781,703)	-11.0%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 1480, Accts 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

Crisis Care Centers Property Taxes Comparison (March 2025)

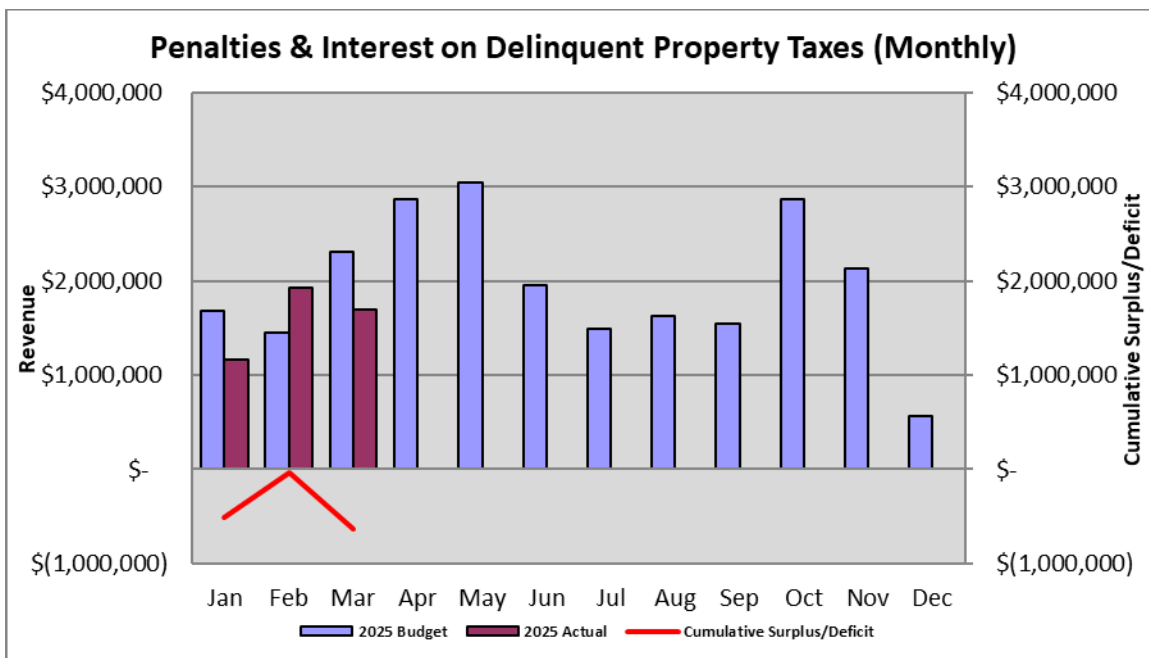
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 5,621,867	\$ 5,007,899	\$ (613,968)	-10.9%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 1700, Accts 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

County Hospital Property Taxes Comparison (March 2025)

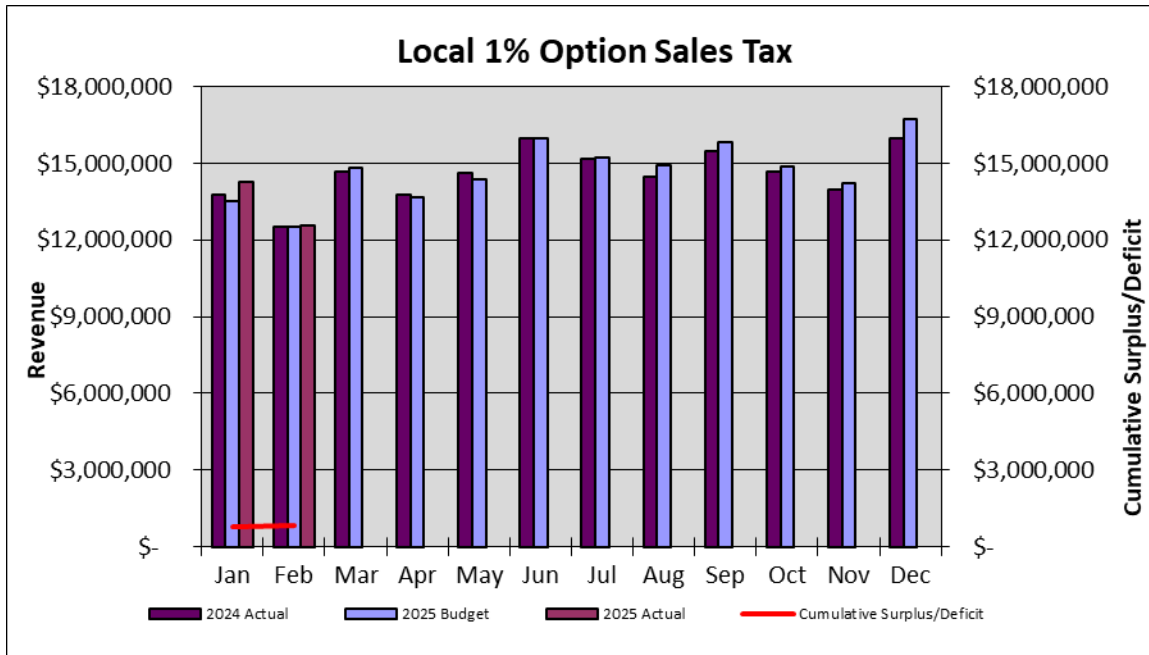
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 3,343,206	\$ 3,510,201	\$ 166,994	5.0%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 0010, Acct 31911

Penalties and Interest on Delinquent Property Taxes Comparison (March 2025)

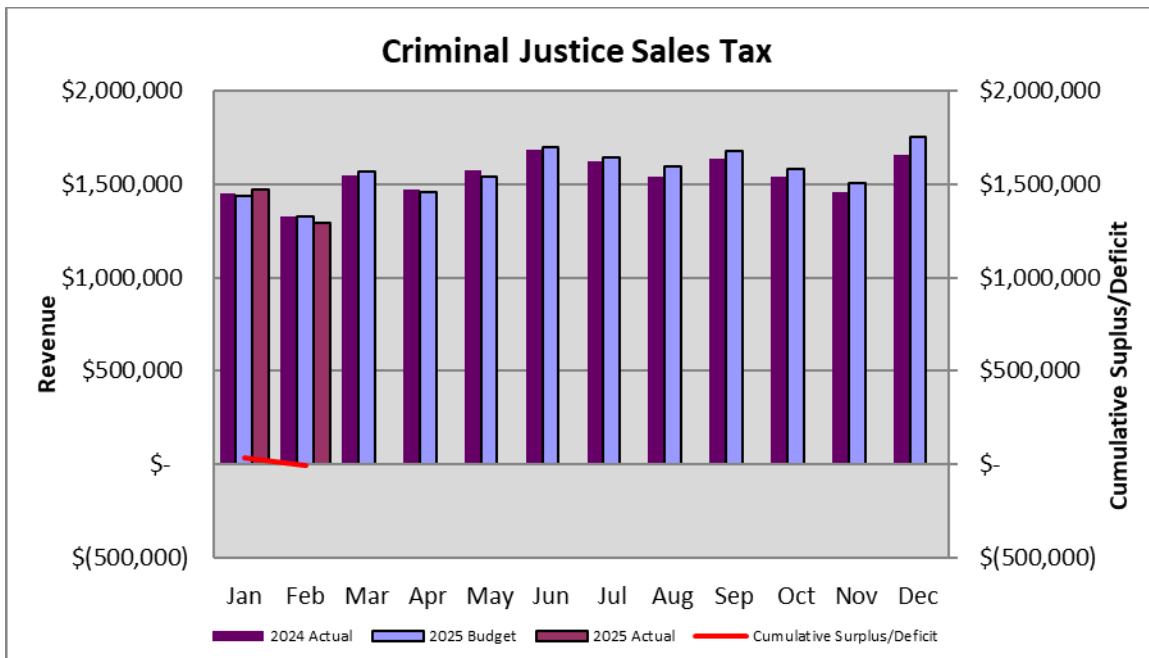
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,305,200	\$ 1,697,307	\$ (607,893)	-26.4%



Data Source: Washington State DOR through February

Local Option Sales Tax Comparison (February 2025)

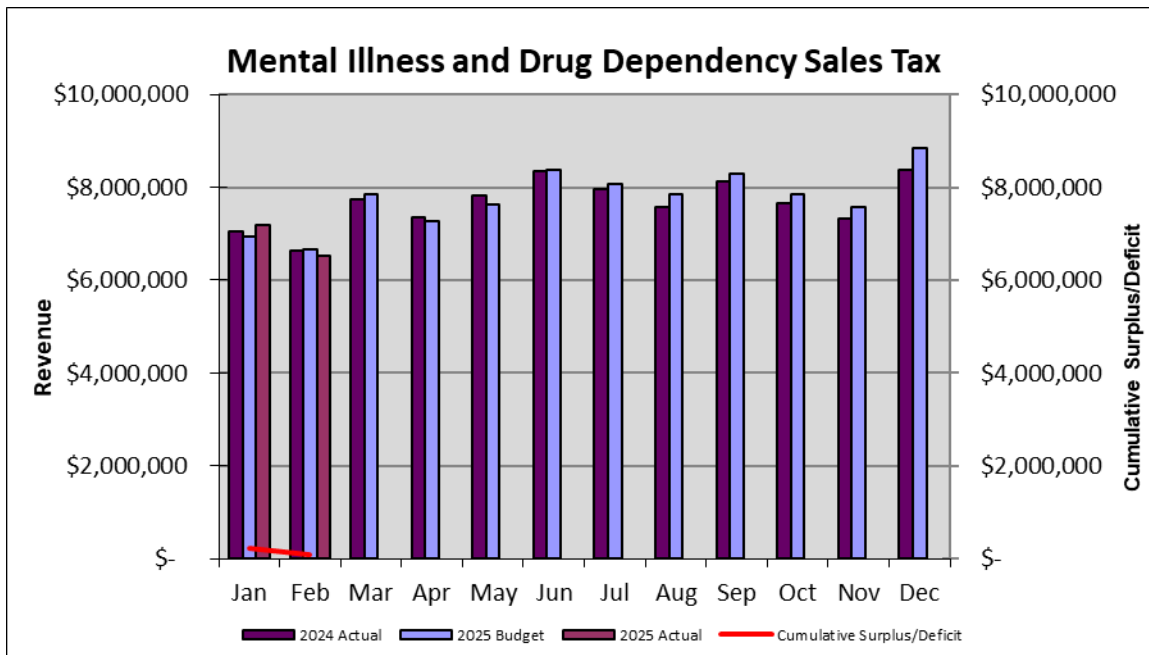
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 12,512,246	\$ 12,578,580	\$ 66,334	0.5%



Data Source: Washington DOR through February

CJ Sales Tax Comparison (February 2025)

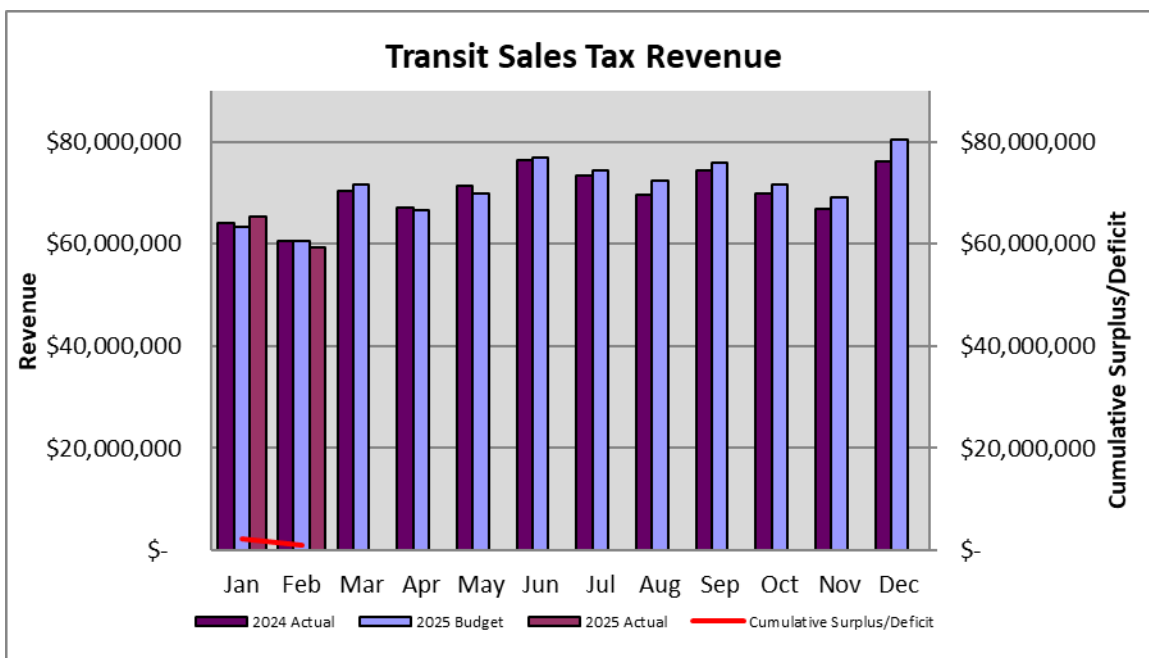
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 1,329,288	\$ 1,290,949	\$ (38,339)	-2.9%



Data Source: Washington DOR through February

MIDD Sales Tax Comparison (February 2025)

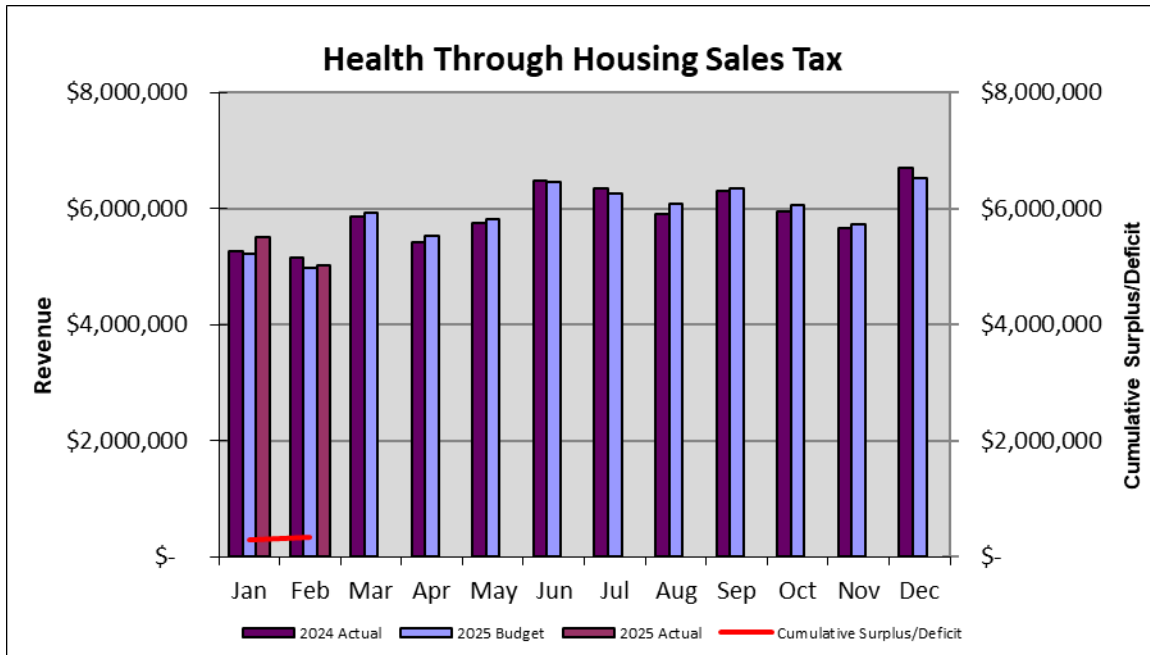
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 6,648,256	\$ 6,512,332	\$ (135,924)	-2.0%



Data Source: Washington DOR through February

Transit Sales Tax Comparison (February 2025)

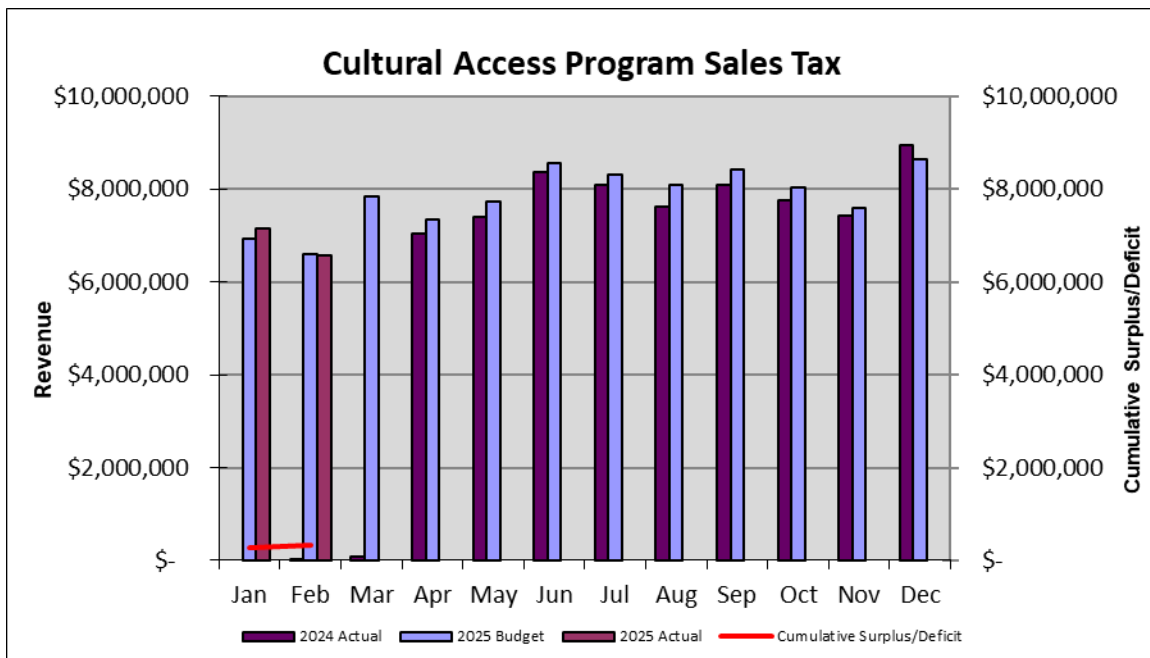
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 60,556,631	\$ 59,359,539	\$ (1,197,092)	-2.0%



Data Source: Washington DOR through February

HTH Sales Tax Comparison (February 2025)

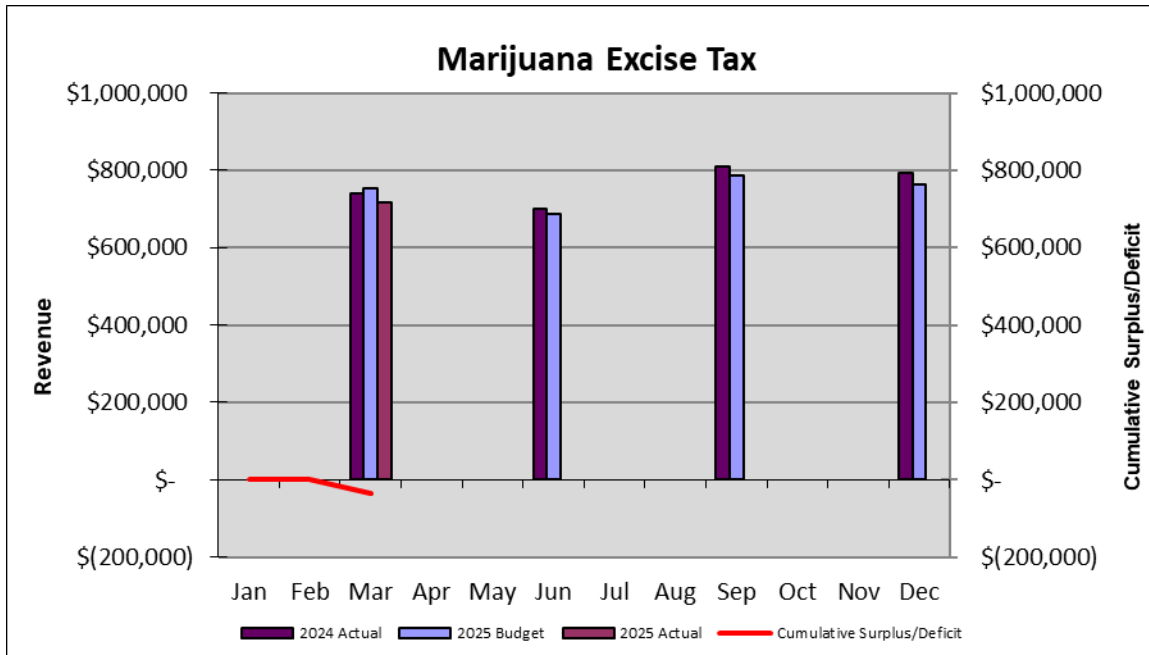
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 4,973,453	\$ 5,023,927	\$ 50,474	1.0%



Data Source: Washington DOR through February

CAP Sales Tax Comparison (February 2025)

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 6,600,003	\$ 6,565,977	\$ (34,026)	-0.5%

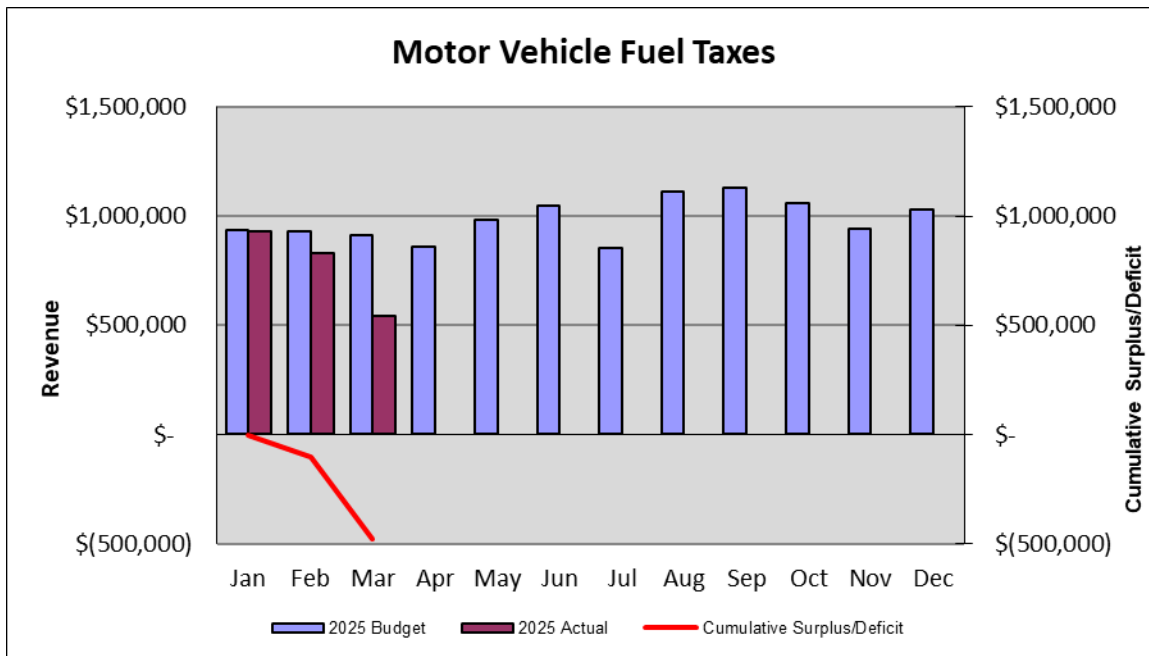


Data Source: King County EBS Fund 0010, Account 33605

Marijuana Excise Tax Comparison (March 2025)

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 752,405	\$ 716,369	\$ (36,036)	-4.8%

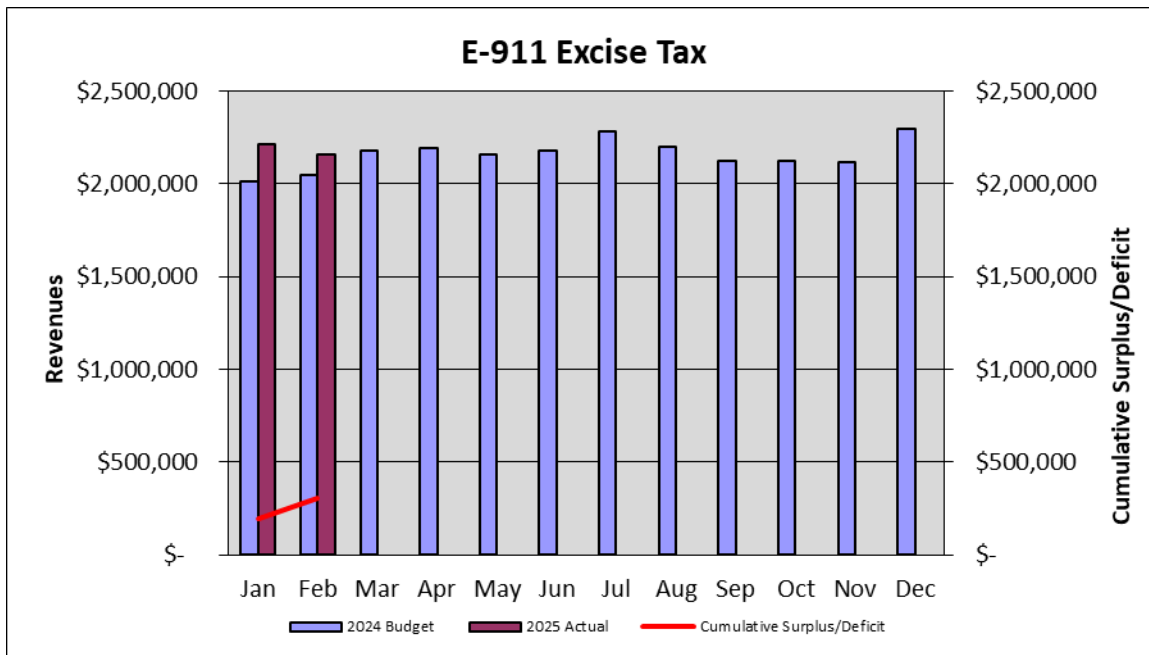
This data is received quarterly in March, June, September and December.



Data Source: King County EBS Acct. 33689

MV Fuel Taxes Comparison (March 2025)

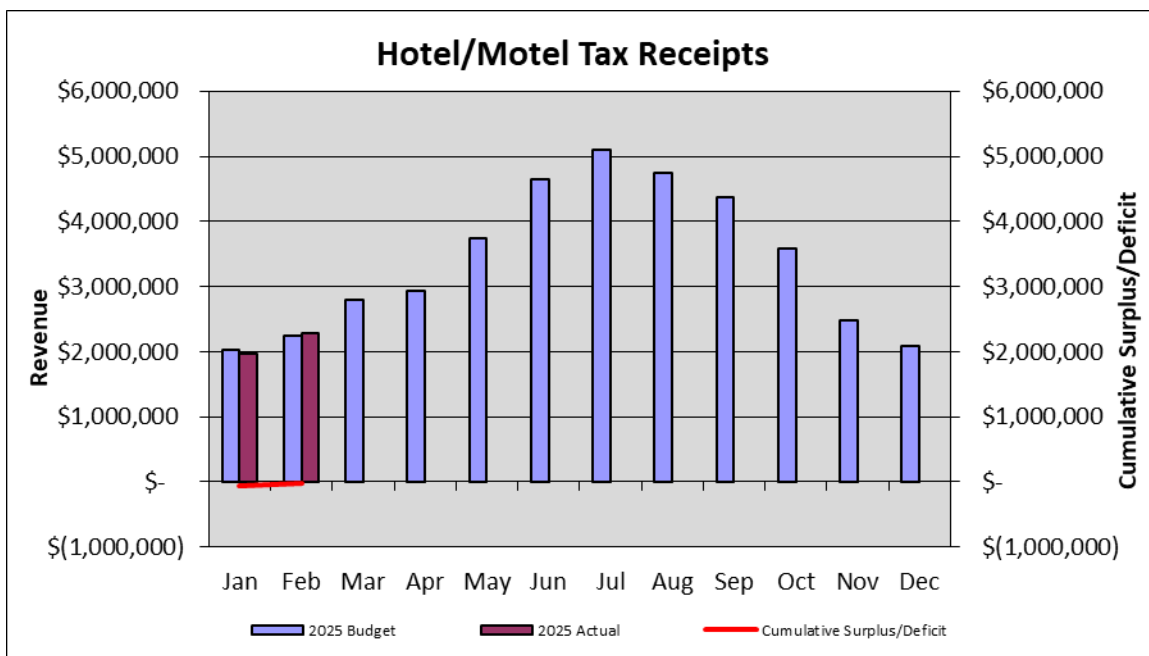
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 915,570	\$ 540,161	\$ (375,409)	-41.0%



Data Source: Washington DOR through February

E-911 Excise Tax Comparison (February 2025)

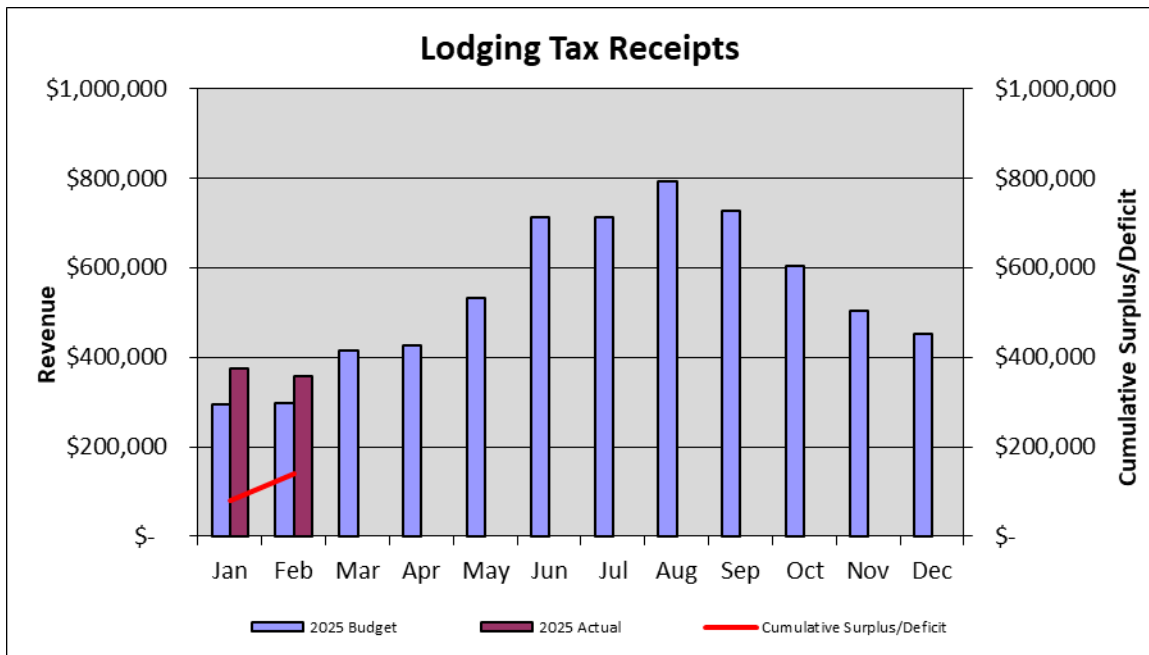
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,048,019	\$ 2,158,649	\$ 110,629	5.4%



Data Source: Washington DOR through February

Hotel/Motel Tax Comparison (February 2025)

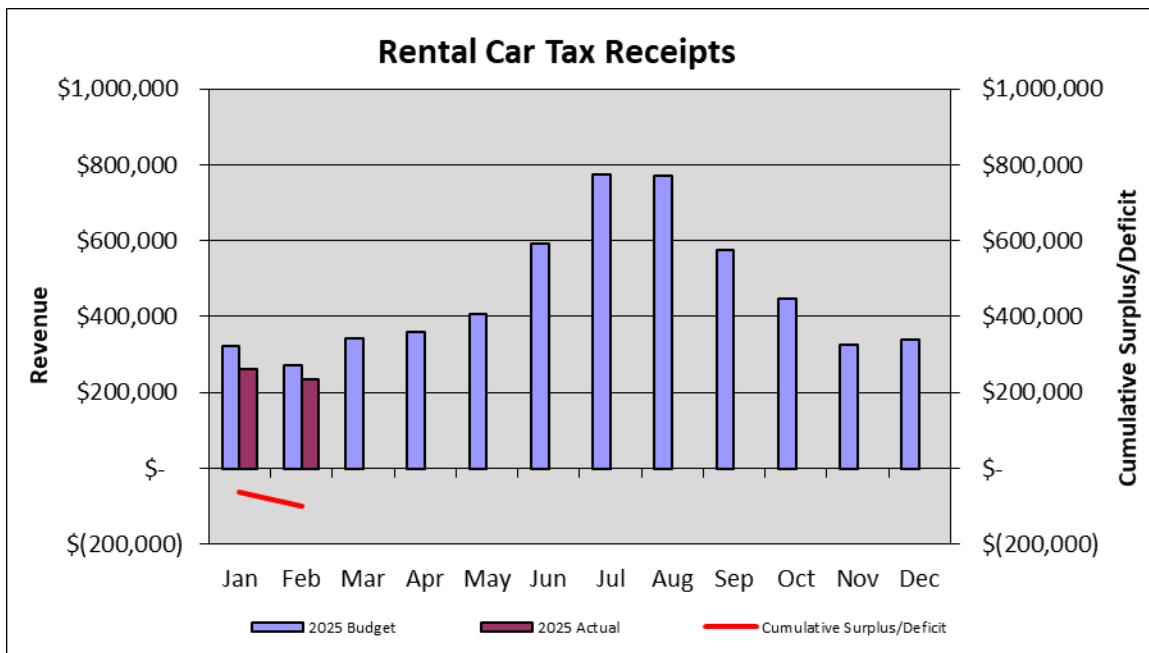
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,248,088	\$ 2,283,198	\$ 35,110	1.6%



Data Source: Seattle Convention Center through February

Lodging Tax Comparison (February 2025)

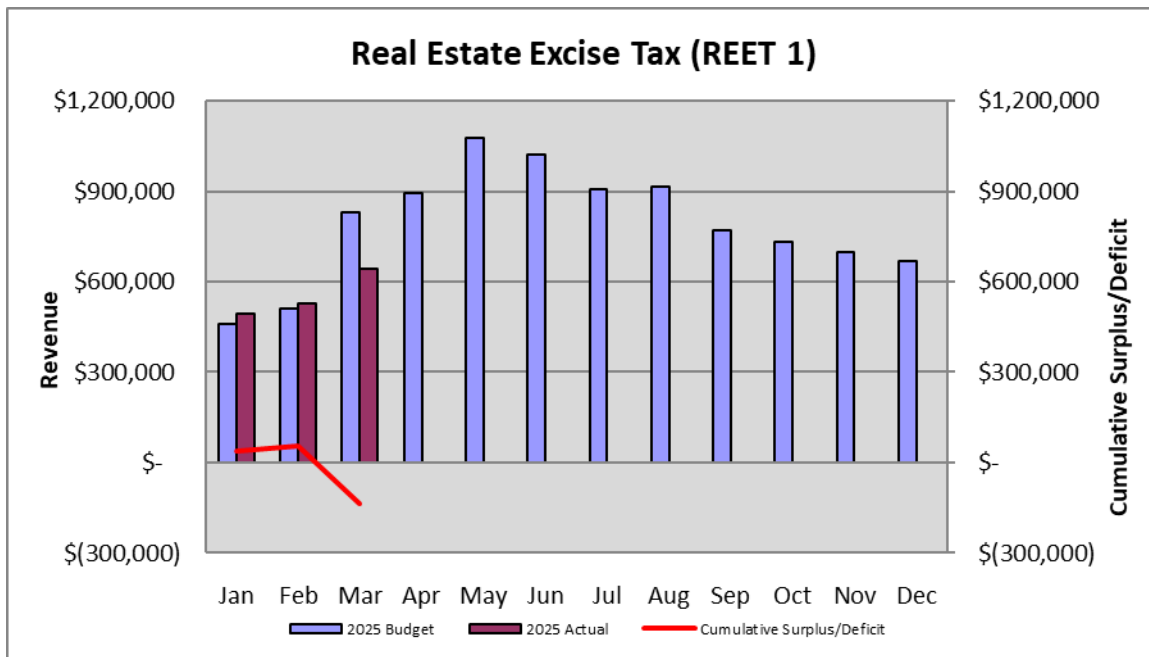
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 298,147	\$ 356,205	\$ 58,058	19.5%



Data Source: Washington DOR through February

Rental Car Tax Comparison (February 2025)

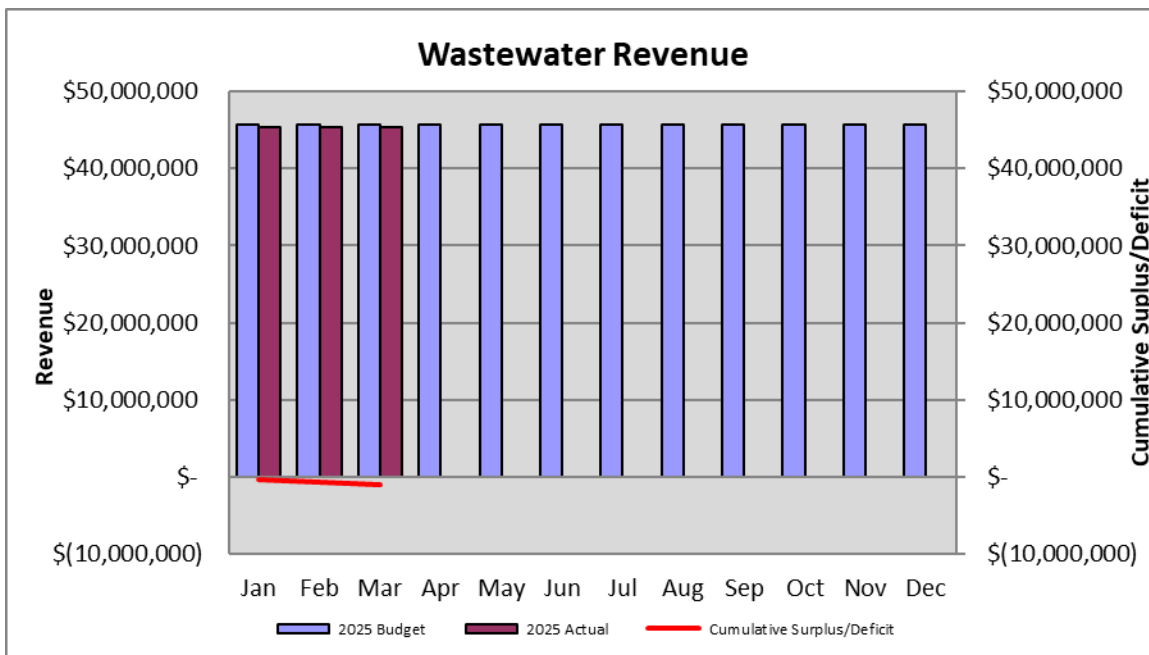
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 270,953	\$ 233,838	\$ (37,115)	-13.7%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct 31734

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET 1) Comparison (March 2025)

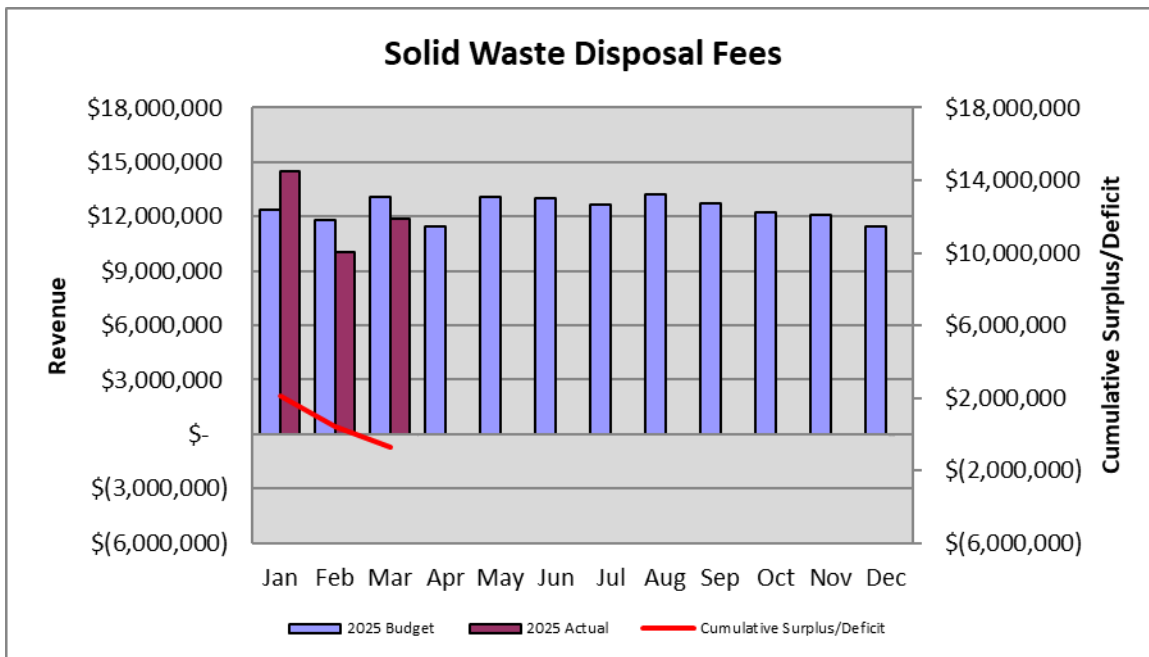
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 829,459	\$ 641,984	\$ (187,475)	-22.6%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct 44192

Wastewater Revenues Comparison (March 2025)

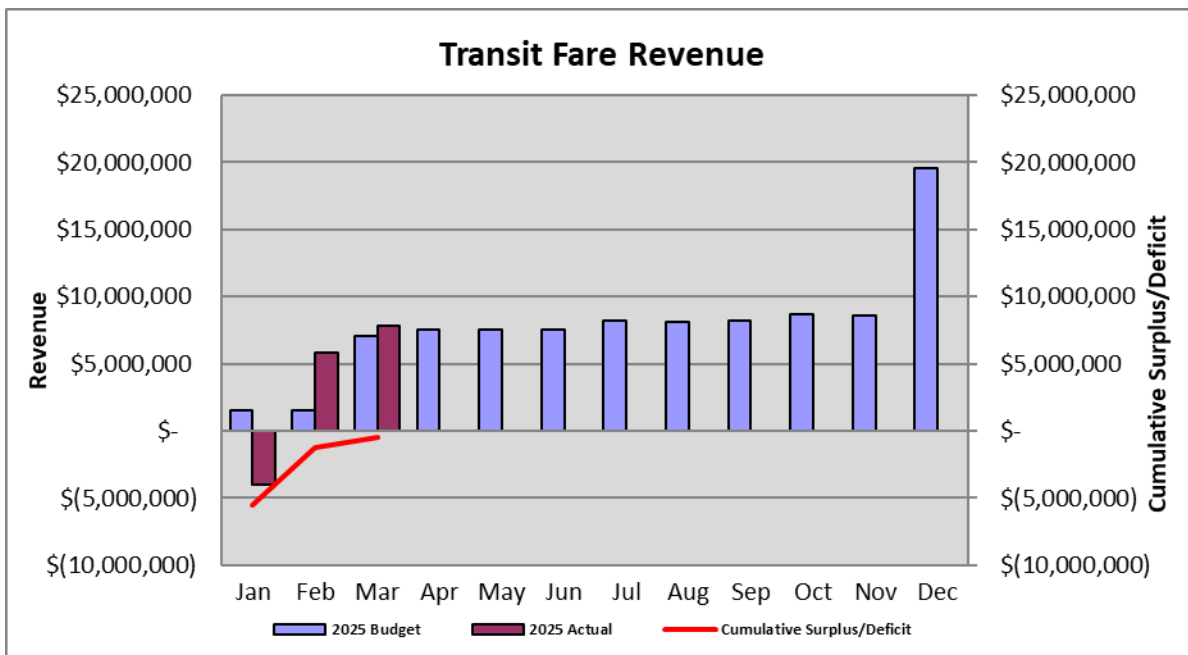
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 45,706,210	\$ 45,369,698	\$ (336,512)	0.7%



Data Source: EBS acct. 34371

Solid Waste Net Disposal Charges Comparison (March 2025)

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 13,076,378	\$ 11,913,096	\$ (1,163,281)	-8.9%



Data Source: King County EBS Accts 44233, 44234, 44235, 44237, 44249, 44253, and 44269

Transit Fare Charges Comparison (March 2025)

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 7,013,417	\$ 7,781,583	\$ 768,166	11.0%

Appendix
King County Taxable Retail Sales by Industry
(Current obligations: February 2024 – February 2025)

NAICS Category	2-digit NAICS	Feb-24	Feb-25	Percent change (2024-2025)
Agriculture	11	\$ 1,408,536	\$ 1,596,333	13.3%
Mining	21	364,395	234,074	-35.8%
Utilities	22	12,707,797	6,244,394	-50.9%
Construction	23	1,469,047,396	1,361,165,985	-7.3%
Manufacturing	31-33	176,693,319	144,438,737	-18.3%
Wholesale	41-42	389,169,143	382,357,168	-1.8%
Retail Trade	44-45	2,264,806,641	2,119,243,418	-6.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	119,076,513	104,402,053	-12.3%
Information	51	329,182,001	431,929,500	31.2%
Finance & Insurance	52	56,848,059	58,986,574	3.8%
Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	53	155,952,687	155,571,195	-0.2%
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	54	280,769,601	289,674,096	3.2%
Management, Education and Health Services	55-62	469,155,905	470,751,733	0.3%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	71	87,203,882	84,141,606	-3.5%
Accommodations, Food Services	72	671,240,358	657,404,328	-2.1%
Other Services	81	161,219,543	149,870,634	-7.0%
Public Administration/DOL Monthly	92	91,612,255	39,143,861	-57.3%
Other		-	-	0.0%
Total-All Industries		\$ 6,736,458,029	\$ 6,457,155,688	-4.1%
NAICS Category	3-digit NAICS	Feb-24	Feb-25	Percentage change (2023-2024)
Construction				
Construction of Buildings	236	\$ 1,003,052,517	\$ 883,741,700	-11.9%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	237	81,342,258	93,342,983	14.8%
Specialty Trade Contractors	238	384,652,621	384,081,302	-0.1%
Retail				
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	441	462,630,862	438,427,530	-5.2%
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	444	146,571,983	132,328,435	-9.7%
Food and Beverage Stores	445	134,165,789	138,387,906	3.1%
Furniture, Home Furnishings, Electronics, and Appliance Retailers	449	284,567,637	314,390,405	10.5%
General Merchandise Retailers	455	239,234,989	245,423,258	2.6%
Health and Personal Care Retailers	456	89,638,064	76,303,258	-14.9%
Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers	457	44,833,597	44,707,656	-0.3%
Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Shoe, and Jewelry Retailers	458	167,657,193	159,841,056	-4.7%
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument, Book, & Misc. Retailers	459	695,506,527	569,433,914	-18.1%
Wholesale				
Wholesale: Durable Goods	423	319,815,716	314,129,785	-1.8%
Wholesale: Nondurable Goods	424	64,666,196	63,141,761	-2.4%
Wholesale: Electronic Markets	425	4,687,231	5,085,622	8.5%
Food Service and Accommodations				
Accommodation	721	130,322,461	133,979,844	2.8%
Food Services and Drinking Places	722	540,917,897	523,424,485	-3.2%
Note: NAICS values were updated & consolidated in 2022				
NAICS Category	4-digit NAICS	Feb-24	Feb-25	Percentage change (2023-2024)
Sporting Goods, Hobby, and Musical Instrument Retailers	4591	\$ 78,260,881	\$ 78,011,419	-0.3%
Book Retailers and News Dealers	4592	6,790,679	7,593,805	11.8%
Florists	4593	4,319,321	3,537,369	-18.1%
Office Supplies, Stationery, and Gift Retailers	4594	20,478,647	18,700,559	-8.7%
Used Merchandise Retailers	4595	10,366,170	10,027,977	-3.3%
Other Miscellaneous Retailers	4599	575,290,828	451,562,783	-21.5%