



COVINGTON PRIORITIES



TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Highway 18

The City of Covington joins the South East Area Legislative Transportation Coalition (SEAL TC) to request that \$285 million be included in the next transportation package to widen Highway 18 from the Issaquah Hobart Road to Raging River. This stretch of Highway 18 experiences lane reductions causing increased congestion and safety concerns, including an increased likelihood of head-on collisions. The current Transportation Budget appropriates \$8.9 million in 2019-21 and \$18 million in 2021-23 for a total of \$25 million allocated to advance the project to “construction ready” status. However, construction remains unfunded. WSDOT estimates that construction will cost approximately \$285 million.

State Route 516

State Route 516 bisects Covington’s downtown, and carries regional traffic from Maple Valley, Black Diamond, and Covington to Highway 18. As these communities continue to grow, this two-lane regional arterial has reached capacity. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, SR 516 has become increasingly popular in both pedestrian and bicycle use. The 1.7-mile section of the corridor from 185th to the east city limits at 212th remains unfunded. The City requests that \$30.8 million be included in the



next transportation revenue package in order to complete the widening of SR 516, which will improve safety for all modes of transportation.

Local Transportation Preservation & Maintenance Funding

In addition to improving the state routes that run through the City of Covington, the City is responsible for maintaining the City’s network of roads that are the first and last mile for any trip a Covington resident makes. The Joint Transportation Committee recently completed a study indicating that there is over \$1 billion in unmet local transportation needs. The City supports legislation that provides cities with the funding and tools to better meet these local needs.

CAPITAL FUNDING

SoCo Park

The City of Covington requests \$3.875 million to complete design and construction for a park and trailhead that would serve new multifamily residences that includes seniors and affordable housing and an existing single family neighborhood. This underserved area does not have a park within walking distance and the need for outdoor recreation has become even more pertinent since the impacts of COVID-19.



SOCIAL JUSTICE REFORM

The City of Covington encourages the Legislature to take action to address implicit bias throughout our state’s institutions, including advancing reforms to the state’s policing and criminal justice statutes that provide greater safety for communities that historically have not been well-served by existing systems.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City of Covington supports legislation providing more tools to cities to support economic development in downtown centers, such as the Covington Town Center. The City joins the Association of Washington Cities in advocating for increment financing tools.

*The City supports the efforts of the Association of Washington Cities and Sound Cities Association.