



CITY OF SEATAC 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

4800 South 188th Street
SeaTac, WA 98188-8605

City Hall: 206.973.4800

Indoor Air Quality Study

The City of SeaTac is cooperating with neighboring cities in contracting with the University of Washington to complete a study on indoor air quality in areas near the SeaTac International Airport. The study, to be completed by the end of the year, will recommend mitigation measures to protect the health of City residents.

Transportation: SR 509 and SR 518

The City of SeaTac is significantly impacted by regional traffic associated with these two state routes, including those accessing the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Improving SR 509 and SR 518 through the Puget Sound Gateway has been and remains the City's top transportation priority. As the Legislature scrutinizes its transportation budget, the City will continue to advocate that this project receive full funding and remain on schedule.

Human Trafficking

The City joins the efforts of many public and private partners in combatting human trafficking and will advocate for the incorporation of metrics and performance measures in these efforts.

Behavioral Health

The behavioral health system in south King County, like much of Washington State, is under considerable strain. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on our residents' behavioral health. The City of SeaTac supports enhancements to the behavioral health system for the benefit of our residents.

Mayor
Erin Sitterley

Deputy Mayor
Peter Kwon

Councilmembers
Senayet Negusse
Stanley Tombs
Clyde Hill
Takele Gobena
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City Manager
Carl Cole

City Attorney
Mary Mirante Bartolo

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CITY OF SEATAC 2021 POLICY DOCUMENT

The City of SeaTac will prioritize its legislative efforts on advancing items identified on its Legislative Agenda. However, when the Legislature initiates proposals that have the potential to negatively impact the City, or when the Legislature creates the opportunity to advance the City's interests, this policy document provides direction to City staff and lobbyists about the City's policy perspective and desired positions.

Defend State Shared Revenues: The City of SeaTac, like the State and every other government agency, is experiencing significant revenue impacts from the COVID-19 recession. Revenues that are collected by the State and distributed to the City, such as criminal justice assistance funding, liquor and marijuana revenue, and leasehold excise tax sharing are incredibly important during times of economic stress. Grant programs such as those administered by the Public Works Assistance Board, Transportation Improvement Board, and Recreation and Conservation Office are similarly vital. While the Legislature may be tempted to reduce these programs to balance its own budget, the City opposes any effort to reduce distributions to cities.

Defend Local Control: The best governmental decisions are those that are made closest to the people represented. Cities possess strong local authority to provide for the safety and welfare of their residents, and the Legislature must abstain from restricting, mandating, or otherwise interfering with local decisions. For example, the Legislature has recently considered legislation that would have mandated specific siting of accessory dwelling units. The City of SeaTac will oppose legislative actions such as this that are inconsistent with local decision making.

County Affordable Housing Funding and Projects: As King County considers implementation of the local option sales tax for affordable housing, the City of SeaTac will oppose any efforts to expand county authority to site projects within City limits. Affordable housing is an important issue for city residents, however initiatives to increase affordable housing by the County must be done in collaboration with City leaders.

Support Broadband Access for all SeaTac Residents: The Legislature will likely take action to expand access to broadband across the state. In many cases this requires infrastructure and expanded fiber optic lines, but in some areas the limiting factor is access to digital devices or knowledge of how to use digital devices. SeaTac supports efforts to expand internet access to its residents through increased internet speeds, knowledge transfer of internet availability, and access to devices.

Transportation Network Companies: SeaTac opposes legislation that removes local control to regulate transportation network companies. Furthermore, the City supports legislation that streamlines local regulation of these transportation companies, and that captures proper road impact fees for the City.

Economic Development, Infrastructure and Business

Incubator: SeaTac supports legislation to enhance State funding, tools and programs for local economic development and infrastructure that further the economic development and growth of the City through investments that attract, retain, and expand business and create living wage jobs.

Multifamily Tax Exemption: The current multifamily property tax exemption (RCW 84.14.007) is a local option that would not have any tax-shift impact on City residents without the City taking an affirmative action. The Legislature will likely consider proposals during the 2021 legislative session to expand use of the multifamily tax exemption. These efforts will likely be supported by the Association of Washington Cities and individual jurisdictions across the state. SeaTac will review these proposals carefully to determine whether they could be used by the City to encourage needed housing and what any possible impacts they would have on City residents.

Noise Mitigation Along State Route 509: The City supports noise mitigation strategies along SR 509 to protect City residents from the impacts of increased traffic when SR 509 is expanded. In 2019 the Legislature appropriated \$5 million to the Washington State Department of Transportation for noise mitigation on this corridor. The City will work with the agency as it develops noise mitigation options to minimize impacts to City residents, including construction of sound barrier walls.

Autonomous Vehicles: SeaTac requests that the State adopt a proactive approach that will protect public safety while encouraging autonomous vehicle use.

South Correctional Entity Regional Jail (SCORE): SeaTac will support ongoing efforts to ensure that the cities who own SCORE are able to provide a cost-effective correctional alternative to individual facilities.