



## **2021-22 State Legislative Agenda**

### **Amended for the 2022 Legislative Session**

#### **Transportation Funding Package**

Issaquah appreciates the work by the Legislature in the 2015 Connecting Washington package to provide resources for transportation. State funding for mobility infrastructure is critical for sustaining our region's economic vitality. As the Legislature considers a new transportation package, the City of Issaquah requests that the following two projects be included.

#### **Widen State Route 18**

The City joins the South East Area Legislative Transportation Coalition (SEAL-TC) in requesting the State fully fund the widening of State Route 18 (SR 18) from Issaquah/Hobart Road to I-90. Widening this stretch of the road is essential to alleviate both safety and capacity issues. A single lane in each direction and the lack of a median contributes to an increased likelihood of dangerous head-on collisions. In addition to safety concerns, SR 18 is a major regional connector. Many communities in South East King County rely on SR 18 to connect to Interstate 90. Because of the capacity issues of this stretch of road, portions of the traffic that could be traveling on SR 18 instead flow through Issaquah and contribute to the City's congestion. The State has already committed roughly \$175 million to this effort by contributing to two separate projects and the City appreciates the allocation of \$500 million included in the Senate "Forward Washington" and the House "Miles Ahead" transportation project lists.

#### **Interstate 90 Under/Overcrossing**

The Front Street Interchange Justification Report (IJR) was completed in 2019 and identified improvements that include an additional crossing of I-90 between SR-900 and Front Street to relieve congestion issues at the Front Street interchange and enhance the safety and flow of I-90, the State's critical connection between Eastern Washington production and Western Washington shipping. The benefits identified in the IJR, along with the Sound Transit Light Rail Station information and the City's work to envision the reconstruction of Gilman Boulevard to meet the needs of the Urban Growth Center, make this the opportune time to fund pre-design and environmental work to help resolve regional traffic issues resulting from the congestion and operations around I- 90. The City appreciates the project's inclusion in the Senate "Forward Washington" proposal and requests \$3.4 million be allocated to the 2023-25 biennium to begin the pre-design and environmental documentation process for this project.

**City of Issaquah**  
**2021-2022 State Policy Manual**

Adopted by the City Council on: December 7, 2020  
Amended by the City Council on: November 15, 2021

Transportation/Transit

- Issaquah will **support** initiatives that proactively address regional transportation solutions, especially funding for State Route 18 improvements.
- Issaquah will **support** the expansion of state grants and other funding for demand management, shuttles, transit and rideshare infrastructure to help address regional travel shed traffic impacts on the Issaquah community.
- Issaquah will **support** legislative initiatives to enhance funding for Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) programs.
- Issaquah will **support** legislative initiatives to continue expanding the use of electric vehicles in the State of Washington including incentives and investments for electrification of public and private fleets.
- Issaquah will **support** legislative proposals that provide additional revenue authority to local governments for maintenance, operations, and new construction of the local transportation system.

Affordable Housing, Health, Human Services and Homelessness

- Issaquah will **support** options to increase the supply of affordable housing in the Central Puget Sound region through investments in the Housing Trust Fund, preserving the Document Recording Fee, and providing local option funding mechanisms that preserve resources for the City.
- Issaquah will **support** initiatives that will increase the availability of resources that add services and shelter, and assist communities in addressing issues of mental health, substance use disorder, and homelessness.
- Issaquah **supports** local option tools like the multifamily property tax exemption (MFTE).
- Issaquah will **monitor** the implementation of recent and any proposed changes to the Residential Landlord Tenant Act for its impact on both landlords and tenants.
- Issaquah **supports** legislation to curb evictions following the end of the eviction moratorium and urges the Legislature to take up the issue.
- Issaquah **supports** increased investments in behavioral health resources and tools to address the structural shortage of behavioral health professionals.
- Issaquah **supports** the allocation of the state’s unanticipated marijuana revenues to youth substance abuse prevention and treatment programs administered by the state to meet the behavioral health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Budget and Fiscal Matters

- Issaquah joins the Sound Cities Association in **supporting** replacing the arbitrary 1% cap on annual property tax increases with a limit tied to inflation plus population growth.
- Issaquah **opposes** unfunded or “under-funded” mandates on local governments and urges the Legislature to **protect** local revenue authority that is critical to cities providing core services their citizens depend upon.
- Issaquah strongly **supports** Streamlined Sales Tax (SST) mitigation payments to cities that do not receive adequate Market Fairness Act (MFA) revenue and asks the Legislature to honor the promise to continue payments until at least 2026.
- Issaquah **supports** progressive revenue options like a payroll tax, provided it does not erode local taxing authority.
- Issaquah **supports** a local option to adopt a graduated Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) that mirrors the State’s graduated REET, which is a more progressive revenue source.
- Issaquah will **monitor** legislation that would modify the B&O tax apportionment to ensure it remains revenue-neutral.
- Issaquah **supports** efforts to protect state-shared revenues and existing distributions from the taxation of marijuana to help properly fund public safety.

## COVID-19 Recovery

- Issaquah **supports** tools and resources for local business recovery.
- Issaquah **supports** the Eviction Resolution Program (ERP), which facilitates early resolution of disputes over non-payment of rent and arrears during and after the state’s emergency COVID-19 eviction moratorium.
- Issaquah **supports** providing tools and resources to ensure cities are made whole from overdue utility bills during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Criminal Justice/Public Safety/Fire/Courts

- Issaquah **supports** building on the police reform policies enacted in 2021 to ensure community safety is maintained and implementation is consistent statewide.
- Issaquah **supports** sustainable funding for law enforcement training through Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) classes and policy changes that would decrease the wait time for newly hired officers.
- Issaquah will **monitor** any legislative initiative on the use of police body cameras to ensure it includes Public Records Act provisions to put reasonable limits on “body cam” video data and information requests.
- Issaquah will closely **monitor** legislation growing out of a study of how the state could potentially implement a statewide relicensing program for those who have committed Driving While License Suspended (DWLS) offenses. The City will want to ensure such a program does not cancel out successful relicensing and payment plans – or absolve drivers of insurance requirements – in individual jurisdictions.

- Issaquah will **monitor** the development of policies related to medication assisted treatment (MAT) services in city jails to ensure sufficient resources are appropriated and local logistical challenges are addressed.
- Issaquah **supports** direct funding for cities to administer diversion programs related to misdemeanor drug possession cases handled by city law enforcement and now adjudicated in municipal courts, as well as Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) services, therapeutic courts, and a diversion tracking database.
- Issaquah **supports** legislation and increased funding for Wildland Urban Interface fire prevention methods and better forest health management practices.

### Economic Development/Infrastructure

- Issaquah **supports** passage of Capital Budget funding that enables re-capitalizing of the Public Works Assistance Account, so the state retains a low-interest loan program for basic infrastructure needs throughout Washington.
- Issaquah will **monitor** any legislative initiative, growing out of a legislatively-directed study, to examine the merits of establishing a State Infrastructure Bank.
- Issaquah will **support** Capital Budget funding and grants for stormwater.
- Issaquah will **support** key Capital and Transportation budget grant programs for cities such as the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF), Safe Routes to Schools, Bicycle-Pedestrian grants, etc.
- Issaquah will **support** legislative initiatives to re-establish state funding and partnerships for economic development incentive programs such as the Local Revitalization Financing program (LRF) or the Local Infrastructure Assistance Tools (LIFT) program.
- Issaquah will **support** legislation allowing local governments expanded use of “Small Works Rosters” to do small-scale infrastructure and public works jobs in-house.
- Issaquah appreciates the Legislature’s decision to authorize tax increment financing in Washington State and will **monitor** any proposal that alters the existing authority.
- Issaquah **supports** the Main Street Tax Credit Program and the expansion of this program that provides a Business & Occupation (B&O) or Public Utility tax (PUT) credit for private contributions given to eligible downtown revitalization organizations.

### Environment/Natural Resources

- The City of Issaquah will pursue opportunities to grow and/or enhance the City’s open spaces through partnership, acquisitions and/or policy changes.
- Issaquah **supports** efforts to strengthen and clarify energy codes and work towards net zero buildings.
- Issaquah will **support** legislation to expand “Product Stewardship” programs to address the overall rising costs and increased challenges of recycling.
- Issaquah will **support** expanded investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy grant programs, such as the Department of Commerce Energy Efficiency and Solar grants.
- Issaquah **supports** protecting the core provisions of the Clean Energy Transformation Act, the

Clean Fuel Standard and the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

- Issaquah **supports** a watershed-based strategic plan to address local fish-blocking culverts along with State culverts.
- Issaquah **supports** statewide efforts to achieve meaningful salmon and orca recovery through funding of strategic action including habitat conservation and funding.
- Issaquah will **support** legislation that will facilitate the transition away from fossil fuels through the electrification of buildings and transportation systems.

#### Land-Use/Growth Management Act (GMA)/Housing

- Issaquah is supportive of the Growth Management Act in general and would **oppose amendments** to the GMA that weaken or undermine the statute.
- Issaquah **supports** the current Urban Growth Area boundary and would **oppose** any efforts to move it or additional growth that is not connected to transportation funding.
- Issaquah **supports** tools that incentivize, but do not mandate, cities within the urban growth boundary to increase their density.
- Issaquah **opposes** statewide approaches to land use decisions that should be made at the local level, such as the planning and zoning of accessory dwelling units (ADUs).
- Issaquah **supports** updates to the Growth Management Act that align with the City's Climate Action Plan, as outlined in House Bill 1099, as well as funding to implement mitigation actions.

#### Local Government in General/Miscellaneous

- Issaquah will **support** legislative initiatives that can help reduce costs for cities and counties or make service delivery more efficient.
- Issaquah will **support** legislative initiatives to enhance funding for emergency management functions of local governments.
- Issaquah **opposes** any initiatives on cybersecurity that would result in unfunded or "under-funded" mandates on local governments.
- Issaquah will **support** legislative proposals to fund local government cybersecurity initiatives such as software and professional services.
- Issaquah will **support** tools such as Alternative Dispute Resolution to settle conflicts over burdensome public records requests.
- Issaquah **supports** legislation that allows greater flexibility for local governments to hold virtual meetings without a physical location during an emergency.

#### Personnel, Pension, and other Human Resource Issues

- Issaquah joins the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and other local government and business organizations in **opposing** legislation that would add new costs and requirements to employee benefit programs without accompanying funds.
- Issaquah joins others in **opposing** legislation that would expand "presumptive disease" laws

and definitions in Workers' Compensation claims.

- Issaquah **opposes** bills or budget initiatives that would result in increased employer/employee pension rates.

#### Water/Water Resources/Water Quality

- Issaquah will **support** a legislative initiative by the Cascade Water Alliance, Seattle Public Utilities and others to ensure that reclaimed water purveyors be required to enter into agreements with water-supply utilities to address such issues as service area needs, wellhead protection, and water quality, before moving to sell reclaimed water on the open market.
- The City will **monitor** all legislation and state budget policies related to PFAS chemicals. Issaquah is actively working with regional partners to design a pilot cleanup of PFAS/PFOS chemicals in the Issaquah Valley Aquifer.