



2022 Legislative Priorities

Lake Boren Viewing Deck and Fishing Dock

The City of Newcastle requests \$60,000 in capital funding to repair the fishing dock and viewing deck at Lake Boren. Lake Boren is stocked with trout and is a valuable recreational asset for the Newcastle and King County community. Due to deterioration over the years, the dock is now slanting downward and extremely slippery, creating a safety hazard for public use. Once completed, the viewing deck will connect to the Cross-Town Trail and Lake Boren Loop, enhancing public access to the facility.

Funding for the Historic Cemetery Grant Program

The City of Newcastle encourages increased funding for the Historic Cemetery Grant Program administered by the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. In 2021, the City applied for funding through the program to fund repairs at the Newcastle Miners Cemetery. The City requested \$50,000 to replace deteriorating perimeter fencing that will protect the remaining headstones that honor the lives of early miners dating as far back as 1879, and to establish a more accessible entry to the cemetery.

May Creek Park Drive Multimodal Improvements

The City of Newcastle has identified improvements that will allow pedestrians and bicyclists to move through the community in a safe and efficient manner. As part of this effort, the City requests \$1.53 million to add a sidewalk and bike lane to May Creek Park Drive. Once completed, this will create a contiguous sidewalk connecting Hazelwood Elementary and Risdon Middle School.

Addressing Projects Along I-405/SR 167 Corridor

As a community along I-405, the City of Newcastle's residents and businesses are directly impacted by gridlock congestion on the I-405/SR 167 Corridor on a daily basis. The City asks that the Legislature advance funding solutions to allow improvements along the corridor to be constructed in a timely fashion.

Honoring Local Control

The City of Newcastle is opposed to policies that preempt local control on city regulatory issues, particularly pertaining to land use. The City encourages the Legislature to provide resources to incentivize cities to proactively pursue policy changes at the local level with robust public input.

Public Safety

The City of Newcastle encourages the Legislature to revisit the criminal justice reform proposals enacted in 2021 to address unintended impacts to public safety. As a City that contracts with King County for local law enforcement services, Newcastle is limited in its ability to directly take part in the implementation process. The City would benefit from the Legislature providing greater clarification and implementation direction, funding for implementation to encourage a more uniform approach.

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