



## **2023-24 State Legislative Agenda**

*Amended for the 2024 Legislative Session*

### **Housing Availability and Affordability**

The housing crisis facing our state is multi-faceted and requires solutions that recognize the complexity. Issaquah supports policies that provide communities with resources and tools to address their unique availability and affordability challenges. Statewide policies should establish goals and allow for locally tailored implementation to achieve those goals.

### **State Partnership for Transportation**

A safe, dependable and climate conscious transportation system is critical to sustain and enhance our region's economic vitality. Issaquah requests the state's partnership in the following areas:

- Coordination with WSDOT: To advance the City's transportation goals, we must coordinate with WSDOT. The I-90 Crossing study, ROW for the future light rail station, improved management of traffic lights at several intersections throughout Issaquah and responding to resident's concerns about the maintenance of state highways are all issues that require coordination with WSDOT. The City requests the state's investment in adequate staffing for WSDOT.
- Central Issaquah Multimodal I-90 Crossing: Interstate 90 divides the City of Issaquah between the north and south. There are four crossings of the interstate in city limits and the most popular is Front Street. Congestion at this intersection not only impacts intra-city travel but is a safety concern for vehicles traveling on I-90 due to long queues of vehicles exiting the freeway. The 2019 Front Street Interchange Justification Report (IJR) identified an additional crossing of I-90 between SR-900 and Front Street to relieve the congestion at the Front Street interchange and enhance the safety and flow of I-90. The City envisions the crossing will support multimodal transportation options and be tied into the future Sound Transit light rail stop. The City is using ARPA funds to begin the necessary planning work and anticipates the state's partnership in 2025 for preliminary engineering.
- Widening & Safety Improvements on State Route 18: The City is grateful for the state's investment of \$640 million for widening and safety improvements along SR 18. The City will closely monitor project delivery and urges the Legislature to honor the phasing of funds that provides the most expeditious completion.

### **Capital Budget Request: Cougar Mountain Zoo**

Cougar Mountain Zoo was founded in 1972 with the mission to increase the understanding and appreciation of the Earth's irreplaceable wildlife and the role of humanity in nature through education, conservation, propagation, and exhibition. The City supports the Zoo's request for \$250,000 to create an indoor exhibit space to enhance educational opportunities for students, families and the broader public.