



## City of Maple Valley 2024 Legislative Priorities

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### **Law Enforcement**

#### **KCSO Helicopter**

Support funding a new helicopter for the King County Sheriff's Office Air Support Unit. In today's policing climate it is more important than ever to provide resources such as the King County Air Support Unit. A law enforcement helicopter is often referred to as a "force multiplier." It is an indispensable part of the Sheriff's Office. Nationwide studies have shown that helicopter/car teams have higher felony arrest rates than that of car teams alone. The helicopter's aerial advantage gives it many more times the surveillance capability of a ground unit. This vantage point, plus the speed in which a helicopter can get a trained observer over a crime scene, provides containment that often essentially assures an arrest, and may be required to assist other agencies in diversified missions. It does so efficiently, without having to pull other patrol units from their areas of responsibility. Beyond law enforcement functions, the helicopter's excellent visibility and the ability to hover make it a very effective Search & Rescue (SAR) vehicle.

#### **Police Pursuit Study**

The City of Maple Valley is dedicated to laws that strike a proper balance between social equity and public safety. Changes on state law as it pertains to vehicular pursuits by law enforcement have affected the interaction of law enforcement and the pervasiveness of some crimes. The City of Maple Valley requests the legislature to formally examine the efficacy of current state law as it pertains to vehicular pursuits by law enforcement and the potential expansion of the law to include pursuits under certain conditions for auto theft and other types of property crimes.

### **Mental Health Service Funding**

Continued support for Mental & Behavioral Health initiatives including funding sources/opportunities.

Expand school-based behavioral and mental health services in Washington at all levels, and maintain funding for existing school-based behavioral and mental health programs. At a time when youth mental health challenges are at an all-time high, reducing barriers for accessing mental healthcare by providing services in schools is critical. Issues such as a shortage of mental health care providers, long waitlists, travel time and cost create barriers for youth and families to access critical care, often disproportionately impacting those who need it the most. Expanded school-based mental health funding will:

- Reduce barriers to accessing mental health care for youth and families
- Reduce ratios of students to mental health professionals
- Help recruit, train, and retain quality mental health professionals

- Increase resources to support families with children in mental health crisis
- Increase training and support for educators and administrators who work with youth in crisis.

## **Transportation**

### **State Route 169**

SR169 is the main commute route for the cities of Maple Valley, Black Diamond, Enumclaw, and portions of unincorporated King County. Given the projected growth within the region, capacity and safety conditions will continue to decline. The City is also requesting the state provide adequate funding for State Route 169 outside of our city limits, from Maple Valley limits to Jones Road.

### **Move Ahead Washington/ Pedestrian Bridge Funding:**

Include in 2026 State Budget the \$5M allocation awarded to Maple Valley through Move Ahead Washington LEAP program for the SR 169 pedestrian bridge. Maple Valley has received PSRC TAP funds for design which we plan to compete in 2025. Maple Valley will be ready to obligate the Move Ahead Washington funds in 2026 for construction.

### **State Route Maintenance**

**Amend RCW 47.24.020** to increase population thresholds that would require cities to be responsible for maintenance of state highways. Maple Valley will exceed the 2023 population threshold of 30,000 residents by 2024 or 2025. Propose the below:

**(17) The population thresholds identified in subsections (6) and (13) of this section shall be increased as follows: (a) ~~Thirty thousand on July 1, 2023~~; (b) Thirty-two thousand five hundred on July 1, ~~2028~~ 2024; and (c) Thirty-five thousand on July 1, ~~2033~~ 2029.**

*\*The financial impact is estimated at:*

- *Initial Capital Need \$1.1M*
- *Annual Operating Costs: \$516/year*

## **Land Use Issues**

### **Legislation Implementation Deadline Extensions**

Cities are grappling with challenges in meeting the legislative deadlines outlined in House Bills 1110 (Missing Middle), 5290 (Permit Review Processes), and 1337 (ADA Requirements), scheduled for June 2025. These deadlines, as written, create a position where every city is vying for the same resources. This situation is particularly burdensome for smaller cities with constrained budgets and understaffed resources. Extending these deadlines is essential to afford cities the crucial time and personnel needed to successfully implement these policies, ultimately ensuring the enactment of these bills.

### **Affordable Housing Credit Clarification**

Ask the State to require the Department of Commerce determine affordable housing credits to be applied to cities when they contribute money to SKHHP for affordable housing. Right now, Commerce is leaving it up to SKHHP and ARCH to determine the credit. It makes sense to have a centralized and consistent method for credit applied toward our affordable housing targets. It should be Commerce's responsibility to do this.

### **Trip Reduction**

Ask the state to consider incentives for single occupancy trip reduction to reduce traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, road wear and tear, and personal risk.

### **Capital Project Funding Request Ideas:**

1. Permanent message boards design and construction (\$500K)
2. Public Market Building Design (\$800K)

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