



2023 LEGISLATIVE MANUAL

Adopted by Lacey City Council on December 1, 2022



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Local Authority

The City supports preserving the authority of local governments regarding local taxation, land use planning, zoning and regulation consistent with the GMA (RCW 36.70A) and SEPA (RCW 43.21C.)

Public Records & Open Meetings

The City respects the right of the public to have access to legitimate public records and documents. The City believes its ability to recover the costs of searching for, gathering and reviewing requested documents is also in the public's interest. The City supports reasonable reforms to the Public Records Act. The City opposes requiring the recording of executive sessions or other restrictions on legitimate uses of executive sessions.

HOUSING | HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

Develop long-term funding solution to support Rights of Way Initiative housing acquisitions.

The City appreciates the state's leadership in 2022 to help respond to the homeless crisis. Last year, the legislature passed ESHB 5963 providing funding for the Rights of Way Initiative which established a grant program to transition persons residing on state-owned rights of way to safer housing opportunities, with an emphasis on permanent housing solutions. As part of this program Thurston County received \$37M to acquire a hotel and turn it into emergency housing. The long-term plan is to convert this emergency housing into needed permanent supportive housing. This conversion will require significant capital investment. In addition to future capital investments, while the State committed \$2M to operating costs for the first two years of this project, the City and other local partners are concerned with long-term operating needs. While not requesting funding this year, the City is requesting the state consider sustainable operating funding sources for the continued success of Rights-of-Way funded initiatives and other similar projects across the state.



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Other Support for Homelessness Services

The City allocates approximately 2% of its general fund to support social services in the community that benefit low-income and vulnerable community members. The City requests the state's partnership in supporting programs and services that help prevent temporary and recurrent homelessness.

Quality Affordable Housing

The City supports legislation that incentivizes developers to build affordable housing, such as the multifamily housing tax exemption, and funding allocated for public and nonprofit affordable housing, including the Housing Trust Fund.

Increasing Housing Density

Housing affordability and access is a high priority issue for Lacey and the greater Thurston County region. The City recently updated its zoning code to allow for at minimum 6 residential units per acre in all residential zones. The City supports working collaboratively between the state and local jurisdictions to create a variety of affordable housing options and tools that allow local jurisdictions to use solutions that work to increase densities for their respective communities.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Tools

The City supports robust and sustainable funding for the Economic Development Strategic Reserve Fund, Tax Increment Financing, Community Economic Revitalization Board, Public Works Assistance Account, Public Facility Districts, and other programs that assist local governments in neighborhood residential and commercial area rehabilitation. The City also supports legislation that provides optional economic development tools for cities, such as the multi-family housing tax incentive, lodging tax, the Main Street Act, complete streets grant program, community facility financing, shared state revenue for construction of convention and special event centers, additional shared state revenue for public facility improvements, etc.

Annexation

The City believes that annexation laws should encourage the logical development and expansion of the City to provide for a healthy and growing local economy and efficient provision of urban services. The City supports legislation that would help make the annexation of existing Urban Growth Areas more feasible (e.g., long-term financial incentives) for both the City and the County.



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Climate Resources & Tools

Climate change is already affecting our communities. Impacts like hotter summers, wildfire smoke, and flooding endanger our homes and affect public health and local business. Lacey, Thurston County, Olympia, and Tumwater partnered to create the Thurston Climate Action Plan to reduce climate polluting greenhouse gases while maintaining - and even improving - quality of life. The Thurston Climate Action Plan includes mitigation and action strategies that are ready for implementation. However, some of the most impactful greenhouse gas reduction projects and programs are not feasible given funding limitations. The City supports the creation of a sustainable state program using unallocated Climate Commitment Act funds, or other state resources, to fund local climate capital projects that enhance community resiliency. The City also supports the state working with local governments for future climate initiatives in the transition to green energy alternatives to ensure solutions are feasible for all parties.

The City supports building electrification programs that complements the funding in the federal Inflation Reduction Act and helps residents and building owners transition to all-electric buildings, with an emphasis on ensuring low- and moderate-income residents, multifamily housing, and small businesses are prioritized.

The City also supports Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicle electrification incentive programs that would provide vouchers that purchasers can use at participating dealers.

Airport Siting Concerns

The City joins Thurston County and the cities of Olympia, Tumwater, Rainier, Yelm, Tenino, and town of Bucoda in opposing the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Committee (CACC) from continuing to evaluate and consider a two-runway airport expansion site in Thurston County. We request your help in opposing any potential airport expansion considerations in Thurston County. An airport in Thurston County would endanger environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands, prairies, and endangered species), further decrease rapidly-dwindling agricultural lands, augment environmental health challenges and exacerbate existing health disparities, and irrevocably damage the quality of life for Thurston County community members.

Regional Request: Lacey MakerSpace

Lacey MakerSpace, currently serving members in Pierce, Thurston, Lewis, and Mason Counties, is a collaborative “innovator’s workshop” designed to support small businesses, entrepreneurs, artists, product developers and manufacturers. Lacey MakerSpace endeavors to 1) reduce barriers for community members by offering instruction and access to state-of-the-art fabrication and prototyping equipment, 2) develop new workforce training and apprenticeship programs aimed at growing advanced manufacturing businesses in the



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region, 3) foster collaboration and outreach as a hub of a larger ecosystem of business and networking services. Since opening its doors in 2019, every year Lacey MakerSpace has grown and increased its impact on our region's economic development and workforce readiness. To enhance operations over the next few years to meet future growth and workforce needs, Thurston County partners have diligently worked to obtain funding to expand the footprint of the MakerSpace to over 9500 square feet and obtain additional advanced manufacturing technologies. The Thurston County partners are requesting the creation of a grant program that would allow innovation spaces, like Lacey MakerSpace, to continue to provide and enhance workforce training and development opportunities throughout the state.

PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION | COMMUNITY SERVICES

The City has worked to create more equitable access to parks for all community members. The City's investments in local parks and requested state partnership reflect work toward this goal.

Capital Funding Request - ADA path and inclusive playground at Greg Cuoio Park

We believe that providing access to our City parks and park amenities for everyone is essential for a thriving and equitable community. The City is requesting \$500,000 to help fund the ADA path and an inclusive playground at the new Greg Cuoio Park as part of Phase 1A of the project which is currently underway and scheduled to open to the public in 2024. Over the last decade, Lacey has worked to create more equitable access to parks. The Greg Cuoio Park project will significantly advance inclusivity by providing new ADA amenities that allow all to enjoy this new community gem.

Future Project - Lacey Museum and Cultural Center

The City is developing a new museum and civic center that aims to enrich the community and engage visitors by sharing vibrant stories of the past through the preservation and celebration of Lacey and the South South's cultural heritage. The museum project will serve as the east anchor of the City's new Depot District, which is near the historically rich and significant Saint Martin's University. Design is currently 100 percent complete with an estimated cost to complete of \$15 million.

Future Project - Young Child and Families Center

There is a critical need for early learning and indoor recreation resources in Lacey. The demand for high-quality childcare programs has outpaced industry growth for several years with a nation-wide decrease in supply starting in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated this crisis. Beginning in the spring of 2020, COVID-related operating restrictions and



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decreased enrollment have caused over 30% of childcare centers to close. According to the Washington State Department for Children, Youth & Families (DCYF), most North Thurston Public Schools (NTPS) service area falls within an “extreme childcare access desert.” The City, North Thurston Public Schools, and South Sound YMCA are partnering to see the feasibility of a Young Child and Families Center. This project is estimated to cost around \$50 to \$70 million.

Park and Recreation Funding

The City supports ongoing funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Aquatic Land Enhancement Account (ALEA), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) grant programs. The City supports ongoing funding for the following:

- **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP):** If the WWRP program is funded at the WWRC recommended level, the City could receive up to \$500,000 for Greg Cuoio Park Phase 1A project.
- **Aquatic Land Enhancement Fund (ALEA):** The City supports the ALEA fund and intends to continue to complete for YAF funding in the future for other park projects that enable youth activities.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** If the ALEA program is fully funded at \$20 million, the City could receive \$2 million for Greg Cuoio Park Phase 1A project.
- **Youth Athletic Fund (YAF):** The City supports the YAF fund and intends to continue to complete for YAF funding in the future for other park projects that enable youth activities.
- **Additional State Funding:** The City supports additional funding to help local parks agencies address severe maintenance backlogs exacerbated by COVID-19. In conjunction with Washington Recreation and Park Association (WRPA), the City asks legislators to work with local parks leaders on a \$5 million allocation for backlog catchup at the local level. WRPA recently conducted a survey of local parks maintenance needs that showed a statewide backlog of approximately \$725 million. Funds would be allocated in the form of grants through the Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO).
- **Expanded Outdoor Learning Grants:** The City supports, as part of the 2023-25 Operating Budget process, to increase the amount of funding being included for OSPI and RCO to award Outdoor Learning Grants without compromising other existing outdoor learning and recreation grant opportunities.



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TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Continue to focus on Interstate 5 Corridor between Mounts Road to Tumwater and the Nisqually River Delta

The City remains committed to long-term solutions along this corridor which is essential to the state's environmental, commerce, and transportation priorities, as well joint Base Lewis-McChord's mission readiness. The Legislature allocated \$75 million in the Move Ahead Washington package specifically to the Nisqually River delta (Mounts Road to Marvin Road) segment of I-5. The City, align with other regional partners, is requesting that these funds be allocated in 2023-2025 and 2025-2027, as detailed below.

I-5 Nisqually Delta: Move Ahead Washington Package Fund Aging Proposal	21-23	23-25	25-27	Total
Preliminary Engineering		\$40M	\$10M	\$50M
Right of Way			\$6M	\$6M
SR 507 Roundabouts Construction	\$19M			\$19M
Total				\$75M
I-5 Nisqually Delta: Remaining Needed Funding (unfunded)	21-23	23-25	25-27	Total
Preliminary Engineering			\$56M	\$56M
Preliminary Engineering for Part Time Shoulder Use (Sleater-Kinney to Henderson Boulevard)			\$1.5M	\$1.5M
Total				\$57.5M

An additional \$57.5 million in federal or state funds is required to finalize engineering work in the 2025-2027 biennium. This includes \$1.5 million for preliminary engineering of part time shoulder use on southbound I-5 between Sleater-Kinney and Henderson Boulevard. This practical solutions approach would improve the transportation outcomes of the initial investment the state has made in the Nisqually River delta.

Stormwater & Culvert Funding

Cities have significant stormwater and culvert funding needs. The City joins AWC in requesting secure, ongoing and sufficient funding for city culvert repair and replacement. The City supports funding for current and new grant programs for local stormwater and culvert projects.



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Public Property & Rights of Way Control

The City opposes any efforts that would diminish the City's control of public property and rights of way.

FINANCE

Business Tax Simplification

The City supports business tax simplification across the state provided changes are, at minimum, revenue neutral for the City.

State-Shared Revenues

Cities have relied on state-shared revenues to provide critical funding for essential public services. Recognizing the state is facing a budget shortfall, it is critical that commitments to sharing revenues with local governments be honored. During the last recession, the state reduced state-shared revenues when many local governments were already struggling to maintain basic services. The City joins AWC in supporting restoration and continued appropriation of committed state shared funds, such as Liquor Excise Taxes and Profits, City-County Assistance Account, Municipal Criminal Justice Account, Annexation Sales Tax Credit, and public health funding. State shared revenues are used to support city activities, including police, infrastructure development, public defenders, municipal court, etc.

General Fund Revenue

The City supports legislation that will increase, expand, or favorably restructure its revenue-raising ability. In consideration of 1) the continued growth in demand for services that exceed revenue growth and inflation, and 2) intimate knowledge of individual community needs, the City supports unrestricted uses of all general government tax revenue. For example, restrictions on the use of real estate excise tax (REET), gambling taxes, etc.

City Financial Liability for Indigent Defense

Indigent defense is a constitutional right that should be funded by the state. The City supports state funding for indigent defense that is standardized and non-competitive in order to ensure more equitable funding.

Unfunded Mandates & Other State & Federal Budget Impacts

Mandates from the Federal and State governments are rarely accompanied with adequate new revenues or taxing authority, but instead force the City to reduce funding levels for other services. The City opposes efforts by the State Legislature to balance budgets by shifting responsibilities to cities.



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PUBLIC SAFETY

Address Law Enforcement Vehicle Pursuits

The City supports clarify the ability for law enforcement to conduct vehicle pursuits using a reasonable suspicion standard in specific circumstances. This is essential to allow for effective and safe pursuit and apprehension of suspects when there is an immediate threat to public safety. Cities will continue to support safety standards and training for officers who engage in vehicle pursuits.

Respond to the Blake Decision

The City, align with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), supports the clarification around the crime of possessing a controlled substance so that individuals, law enforcement, and treatment providers can respond appropriately. The City supports revising the current system of two referrals prior to criminal charges, so it can be more effectively administered across the state.

The City supports providing additional investments to help cities with the costs stemming from the *Blake* decision on how possession of controlled substances is handled by the criminal justice system. This includes:

- Funding to help offset the costs of vacating criminal convictions, repaying legal financial obligations, administering diversion programs, and mitigating municipal court impacts.
- Investment in alternative response teams; treatment facilities for adults and juveniles; treatment in jails; and social workers, treatment providers, and system navigators to help direct people to treatment.
- An enforcement mechanism to encourage compliance for individuals suffering from Substance Abuse Disorder (SAD) to emphasize treatment over incarceration.

Binding Interest Arbitration Reform

The City recognizes the importance of having a tool to help resolve potentially devastating strikes by essential service personnel, such as police and firefighters. However, existing binding interest arbitration statutes are out-of-date and inflexible, resulting in many unintended consequences – the City finds this particularly true in regard to disciplinary processes. The City requests that the state reform existing binding interest arbitration language to limit these types of unintended repercussions. The City opposes extending binding arbitration in any form.



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Authority to Appoint Municipal Court Judges

The City supports cities' ability to appoint a municipal court judge and to maintain courts and supports further technical and financial assistance for the administration of municipal courts.

Traffic Enforcement Cameras

The Legislature has authorized local government to use traffic enforcement cameras in limited situations, including red light enforcement at certain intersections and speed control in school zones. Traffic enforcement cameras have proven to be successful at reducing instances of speeding and violations of traffic signals. The City supports the use of traffic enforcement cameras. The City also supports legislation allowing images from traffic enforcement cameras to be used by law enforcement in criminal cases if there is probable cause.

Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA)

The City supports ongoing and enhanced funding of the Basic Law Enforcement Academy which is the sole training program for police departments statewide. With an increasing number of law enforcement officers retiring, it is imperative this program receive adequate funding to provide ample training openings for new hires. The City supports the creation of regional BLEA academies to increase critically needed training capacity for new hires and continuing law enforcement education.

Jail and Court Costs

The City supports legislative proposals that reduce jail and court costs, and maintain its flexibility in providing jail and court services. The City also supports maintaining the flexibility to select the most appropriate manner in which to provide jail services.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

South Sound Military & Communities Partnership (SSMCP) & Joint Base Lewis-McChord

The City of Lacey is a strong partner with Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) and a founding member of the South Sound Military & Communities Partnership (SSMCP), a nationally recognized organization that gives unique voice to a range of issues affecting Thurston and Pierce Counties and their cities as well as JBLM, the largest military installation in Washington State. JBLM is a regional employment hub and a major statewide economic driver. The City supports the ongoing efforts of SSMCP and supports policy and financial decisions that assist JBLM's operational readiness and sustainability.



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Lacey supports the SSMCP's Legislative Priorities, which are:

Defense Community Compatibility Account (DCCA)

The 2019 Legislature established the DCCA - a grant program to help civilian communities near military installations address compatibility challenges. SSMCP requests the Legislature fund the Commerce recommended list to include \$900,000 for the McChord Airfield North Clear Zone. SSMCP also requests the Legislature amend the statute to improve the program's long-term success. These changes will improve the likelihood that the DCCA grant program will be funded through the biennial capital budget on a recurring basis.

Occupational Licensing Improvements

WA State is making steady progress on reducing barriers for military spouses to obtain occupational licenses, but there is more work to do. SSMCP supports the adoption of additional interstate licensure compacts and policy changes to expedite and ease the occupational licensing process for military spouses. SSMCP recognizes these policy changes must strike a balance to ensure only those with proper qualifications are licensed.

Military/Defense Sector Statewide Economic Impact Analysis

SSMCP has coordinated two regional economic impact analyses over the last several years. The most recent report concluded that JBLM alone generates over \$14 billion a year in statewide economic impact. There has been no statewide analysis of impacts from all of Washington's military installations. SSMCP requests the Legislature allocate \$250,000 for a State led military/defense sector statewide economic impact analysis.

I-5 Mounts Road to Tumwater & Nisqually River Delta

The current design of I-5 restricts critical ecological functions impacting salmon survival, is at a high risk of being overtopped by a major flooding event and has limited capacity to handle the growing South Sound economy and population - a key component to national security since 30% of the JBLM workforce live south of the Nisqually River. The Legislature allocated \$75 million in the Move Ahead WA package; SSMCP requests phasing of these funds to allow timely delivery of the project. \$19 million toward the roundabouts on SR 507 is needed in 2023 and \$56 million for the Nisqually River Delta will be needed when NEPA is complete. If additional funding is available, SSMCP supports prioritizing projects along the Mounts Road to Tumwater corridor, including hard shoulder running between Sleater-Kinney Rd and Henderson Blvd.



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Maintain Active State Support for Military Affairs in Washington

SSMCP believes in a strong commitment from the State in support of military affairs. This support should include:

- Establishing a state level office to promote and coordinate state-wide activities that enhance the quality of life for military personnel and their families and support Washington's military installations.
- Increasing access to quality affordable childcare for all WA residents, including service members, veterans, and their families.
- Expansion of attainable housing opportunities in the South Sound Region for military members and their dependents.
- Evaluating alternate transportation routes and options to ensure mission readiness.

Support Military & Civilian Compatible Land Use

SSMCP was founded on and strongly agrees that collaborative partnerships are vital in identifying and resolving existing land use conflicts and preventing potential future land use conflicts. SSMCP supports joint land use strategies that do not usurp local control. Specifically, SSMCP supports:

- Designating military installations as regional centers for the purposes of regional and transportation planning
- Coordination with and investment in military-community organizations such as SSMCP, Forward Fairchild, KEDA, Greater Spokane, Inc., etc.

Support Investments in:

- Workforce development organizations to maximize military veterans experience and support transitioning service members to enhance the local economy.
- High-quality behavioral health resources that improve access to care, reduce the stigma associated with mental health treatment and encourage seeking help when needed.

Addressing the at grade rail crossing and the interchange at Exit 120 for the JBLM main gate.