



2023 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- 1 College Street Corridor Safety Improvement Project
 - 2 Emergency Operations Center Project
 - 3 Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Program
- FUTURE:** Lacey Museum and Cultural Center in Depot District
- FUTURE:** Early Child and Youth Learning Center

POLICY POSITIONS

- 4 Support I-5 Corridor from Tumwater to Mounts Road and the Nisqually River Delta
- 5 Support the Puget Save Our Sound (SOS) Act
- 6 Support Build America, Buy America
- 7 Support a National Housing and Homeless Outreach Strategy to Help Communities Address an Ongoing and Growing Crisis of Unsheltered Populations
- 8 Support the Defense Community Infrastructure Program
- 9 Continued Support of Community Programs, such as Community Development Block Grant Program, COPS Grant, and more.
- 10 Support the Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act



*Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 1, 2022
Amended on January 5, 2023*

LACEY CITY COUNCIL

Andy Ryder, Mayor
Malcolm Miller, Deputy Mayor
Lenny Greenstein, Councilmember
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COMMUNITY PROJECTS

1



COLLEGE STREET CORRIDOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The College Street corridor carries an estimated 32,000 vehicles each day and is the primary north-south link connecting the City, as well as other Thurston County communities. The corridor serves as a vital access point to local schools, services, and multimodal transportation options for many, including several low-income communities. College Street has over 130 driveways, many T-sections and inefficient four-way intersections that result in serious vehicle safety hazards. Other users of the corridor (including elementary school children traveling to school) face narrow sidewalks, the absence of bike infrastructure, and a scarcity of welcoming infrastructure that compounds these safety challenges. The House-passed INVEST Act included a Member Designated Project of \$6 million towards the College Street project, but was unfortunately removed, along with other projects, in the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act.

The City intends to apply for a RAISE grant again this year and is evaluating opportunities in the Inflation Reduction Act such as the new FHWA Program for Disadvantaged and Underserved Communities. In addition, should the City be successful in receiving a Safe Streets for All planning grant, it will explore implementation grants through that program as well.

2

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER PROJECT

The City is planning for a new police station that will include an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Like many local jurisdictions around the country, the City was underprepared for the global pandemic and remains inadequately prepared to handle other major emergency incidents. The EOC will support the community by providing resources, coordinating communications and advance warnings, prioritizing response during an emergency, and implementing recovery programs. The EOC is anticipated to include over 1,440 square feet of mission-critical equipment, including: workstations, monitors, radios, emergency generator, and more. The City currently uses a makeshift 300-square-foot meeting room in City Hall as its EOC.



The City requests federal assistance for equipment to help develop a new EOC to better serve the community in times of crisis and is evaluating funding streams.

3

SEPTIC-TO-SEWER CONVERSION PROGRAM

The City is committed to finding collaborative ways to convert aging, and in many cases failing, septic systems to the City's wastewater system. The City estimates there are 1,981 septic systems within Lacey and 7,852 within the Urban Growth Area. Eliminating these septic systems protects the environment and benefits community health by reducing effluent from entering into groundwater. Recently, the City Council approved over \$5 million for water and wastewater improvements, including septic to sewer conversions, in a neighborhood where contaminants from septic systems were impacting groundwater and aquifers in the area. The City is looking to continue investing in these types of conversions in future years.

The City urges Congress to appropriate funding to the Connections to Publicly Owned Treatment Works grant program, which was authorized in the IIJA but not funded. This program is an ideal funding stream for the City's Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Program.



LACEY MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER IN THE DEPOT DISTRICT

For over a decade, the City has worked on creating a new museum and cultural center in the Depot District where community members can meet-up, learn, connect with Lacey's rich history, and experience Lacey amenities and community events. The City has already made considerable investments to establish the Depot District, including constructing a replica of

the historic train depot with a train-themed playground, as well as adding picnic tables and public restrooms. The museum and cultural center will serve as the east anchor of the Depot District and will add significant civic value and enhance community identity in the area. To date, the City has leveraged multiple funding sources to complete the facility's design and in 2022 focused on bringing the site to a pre-development state. In the future, the City anticipates requesting federal funding to leverage its local and state investments for construction of the museum and cultural center.

FUTURE PROJECTS

4

I-5 CORRIDOR FROM TUMWATER TO MOUNTS ROAD AND THE NISQUALLY RIVER DELTA



The City remains a steadfast partner with regional communities committed to a long-term solution along the I-5 corridor between Mounts Road, exit 116 (north), and 93rd Avenue, exit 99 (south)—which includes the Nisqually Bridge. This stretch of freeway is vital to the state's environmental, commerce, and transportation priorities, as well as Joint Base Lewis-McChord's mission readiness. I-5 currently restricts critical ecological functions impacting salmon survival, is at a high risk of being overtopped by a major flooding event which would immobilize commerce and transportation, and has limited capacity to handle the growing South Sound economy and population.

While the City is committed to a long-term solution along this stretch of the I-5 corridor, it recognizes the totality of such an endeavor would cost over \$4 billion and will require significant time to fully develop. In 2022, the Washington State 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. However, an additional \$57.5 million in federal or state funds is required to finalize engineering work in the 2025-2027 biennium.

The City supports federal investments in this project that will help leverage state and local efforts and help accomplish additional work within this corridor.

5

SUPPORT THE PUGET SOUND SAVE OUR SOUND (SOS) ACT

The City is strongly committed to enhancing and preserving the natural environment. We applaud the leadership of U.S. Representatives Derek Kilmer and Marilyn Strickland crafting and championing the Puget Sound SOS Act, which will strengthen the federal government's role in the recovery of Puget Sound. The federal government is an essential partner in these efforts and enhancing their role is critical to ensuring Puget Sound is restored and protected for future generations. Passage of this Act would provide additional resources for the City to address septic systems within Lacey that are posing environmental harm to the aquifer, which directly impacts Puget Sound.



The City strongly supports passage and funding of the Puget Sound SOS Act.

6

SUPPORT BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA

While the City supports the underlining goals of the Build America, Buy America Act, it presents significant challenges for communities like Lacey that are eager to put federal investments from the Infrastructure and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act to use. Ongoing global supply chain disruptions are leaving many projects out of consideration or unable to move forward as procuring eligible components is time consuming and can become cost prohibitive.

The City urges efforts to provide BABA flexibility given the currently global supply chain disruptions.



EARLY CHILD AND YOUTH LEARNING CENTER

Research consistently shows high-quality, early-learning programs have a real, sustained impact on the life outcomes of children and families. At the same time, demand for high-quality childcare programs has outpaced industry growth for several years. COVID-related operating restrictions and decreased enrollment have caused over 30% of childcare centers to close. North Thurston Public Schools service area falls within an "extreme childcare access desert." This area is in dire need of additional recreation facilities. In a recent City study, community members clearly communicated this need. Specifically, residents ranked the addition of a public aquatic facility and more indoor recreation opportunities as two of the highest local needs. This center will combine a state-of-the-art, early-learning center with a family recreation facility focused on providing developmentally appropriate recreation activities for youth ages 3 to 5 and their families.

POLICY POSITIONS - CONT'D

7 **SUPPORT A NATIONAL HOUSING AND HOMELESS OUTREACH STRATEGY TO HELP COMMUNITIES ADDRESS AN ONGOING, GROWING CRISIS OF UNSHELTERED POPULATIONS**

The nation is confronted with a homeless crisis on a scale not seen since the Great Depression that has deepened with the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. The lack of affordable housing plays a substantial role in the rise of homelessness. For many others, behavioral health issues, such as mental illness or an addiction to drugs and alcohol, is the entry into homelessness. The lack of a consistent, coordinated strategy means the impact of homelessness is disproportionately borne by local communities and jurisdictions across the nation. Direct participation by the federal government is needed, due to the magnitude and the complexity of the problem, requiring new federal programs and solutions to affectively address homelessness.



The City strongly supports legislation like the Ending Homeless Act to provide resources programs need to effectively address the housing and homeless crisis in America, in addition to increasing the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, a critical tool to encourage private investment in the production and preservation of affordable housing. The City also believes investments in our nation's mental health systems are critical to combating the homeless crisis and supports efforts such as the Bipartisan Addiction and Mental Health Task Force.

8 **SUPPORT THE DEFENSE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (DCIP) AND ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO FUND PROJECTS THAT ENHANCE MILITARY FAMILY QUALITY OF LIFE**

The Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) is designed to address deficiencies in infrastructure for communities that support military installations in order to enhance military value, installation resilience, and military family quality of life.



An estimated 70% of the active-duty members serving at Joint-Base Lewis-McChord live off base and in communities across the South Sound. Approximately, 10% of off-base, active-duty members call Lacey home.

The City urges continuing support for the DCIP program and that the program remain eligible for needed capital investments on and off military installations that improve the mission readiness of the base and the quality of life of military families.

9 **CONTINUED SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS — COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, COPS GRANT, AND MORE LIFE**

The City urges continuing support to provide and enhance funding for community programs such as CDBG and COPS, critical funding streams for communities like Lacey seeking to enhance public safety and the community's quality of life.

10 **SUPPORT THE HOMES FOR EVERY LOCAL PROTECTOR, EDUCATOR, AND RESPONDER (HELPER) ACT**

The City strongly supports the HELPER Act which would create a home loan program within the Federal Housing Administration allowing first responders across the country to obtain a low-interest, fully insured home loan with no down payment and no monthly mortgage insurance costs. This program would make homeownership more affordable for our community's law enforcement officers, fire fighters, EMTs, paramedics, and pre K-12 teachers.

To view document online, scan:



FOR MORE INFORMATION

CITY OF LACEY

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager
SKelley@ci.lacey.wa.us | 360.412.2890

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Joel Rubin, Partner, CFM Advocates
joelr@cfmdc.com | 202.347.9171



CITY OF **LACEY**