



CITY OF LACEY

2024 LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL



Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 7, 2023



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the ancestral land we are on today as the traditional territory of the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek, signed in 1854, including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe.

We acknowledge, remember, and must not forget those Tribal People that are named but not recognized today, and who were absorbed or relocated into other tribes for survival. We recognize the ancestors and their descendants who are still here.

We acknowledge, Indigenous People who called the land home before the arrival of settlers and have been here Since Time Immemorial.

We recognize the relationship that exists between Indigenous People and their traditional territories, which include the religious significance, self-determination, identity, and economic factors. The relationship helps all people heal from the past and learn how not to inflict new wounds today.

We recognize and respect Indigenous People as traditional stewards of this land, and acknowledge the Tribal Governments and their role today in taking care of these lands. We recognize that this land acknowledgement, and the Nisqually-Lacey Accord of 2011, are small steps toward true allyship. We commit to partnering with the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek to continue to uplift the voices, experience, and histories of indigenous people of this land and beyond.

We recognize and have the responsibility to call attention to the histories of dispossession, forced removal, and abridged treaty rights that allowed our nation, state, and city to develop as it has today. We recommend that community members read the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854.

Visit www.CityofLacey.org/LandAcknowledgement for more information.



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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.

Prevent Liability Expansion, pursue crucial liability reforms

The City is a member of Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA), a risk pool made up of 165 municipal entities across the state. The civil litigation environment is bad and getting worse for public entities in the State of Washington. Multimillion-dollar verdicts, also known as nuclear verdicts, were not common against public entities and were often awarded against large for profit private corporations. Over the last several years public entities have now been hit with nuclear verdicts. Risk pools are shouldering millions of dollars of exposure that are being passed down to their members in terms of additional assessments. The additional costs mean that our community is diverting money from community priorities to fund WCIA's assessment. Our pool relies on partnering with traditional insurance to provide further coverage above their self-funded \$4 million per loss. Those traditional insurance carriers are either refusing to write any coverage or doing so at significant costs. The future outlook is that our communities will have less coverage and will need to redirect money to cover losses rather than providing valuable services, programs and much needed maintenance.

The City requests opposing any efforts to expand tort law liability and/or the remedies available under tort law. If expansions are approved by the legislature, then the State should consider creating a fund to cover those costs. Cities and their risk pools cannot be expected to shoulder the staggering costs imposed by legislative changes. At a minimum that State should provide a reinsurance fund that risk pools and individual entities could utilize. Tort reform for all public entities needs to be addressed and the balance restored between protecting harmed individuals with reasonable verdicts and appropriate defenses. Tort reform could include:



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- Caps on the amount of damages that can be collected against public entities (which is law in 33 States)
- Reinstating immunities that have been eroded by the courts and amending the law on joint and several liability which incentivizes claims against public entities as deep pockets.

Continue funding for Defense Community Compatibility Account (DCCA)

The 2023-25 Capital Budget invests \$35.8 million in defense community compatibility projects throughout the state. This investment leverages over \$126 million in local and federal funds. The City requests the State legislature prioritize ongoing investment in the grant program that supports civilian communities near military installations.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING | HOUSING SERVICES

Develop long-term funding solution to support supportive housing acquisitions.

The City appreciates the state's continued leadership in responding to the homeless crisis. With the Rights of Way Initiative, Thurston County received \$37M to acquire a hotel and turn it into emergency housing, Maple Court. The long-term plan is to convert this enhanced shelter into needed permanent supportive housing. This conversion will require significant capital investment. Although 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 and future capital investments. The City requests a sustainable operating and capital funding source(s) for the continued success of supportive housing funded initiatives and other similar projects across the state.

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.

Unfunded Social Service Mandates

While recognizing that there is a significant need for enhanced social services throughout Washington, the City strongly opposes any unfunded state mandates regarding behavioral health, crisis relief, housing and shelter, co-responder programs, and employment services. The City supports working with the State Legislature to create state-led, sustainable tools and resources.



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Wildland Urban Interface

The State Building Code Council adopted the International Wildland Urban Interface Code with amendments and maps that will significantly drive up the cost of housing in areas which are not at risk of wildfires, including most of Lacey and its Urban Growth Area. The requirements for fire rated construction materials in areas adjacent to a park or high density but vacant land will add significant costs to housing developers. The requirement for defensible spaces will serve to lower achieved densities, driving the need for more land for the same number of housing units.

The Association of Washington Cities along with the Cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater as well as Thurston County are working with the Code Council to amend the code to lessen the impacts to housing costs, but a legislative review of the intent of the code is warranted.

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 continuing to work collaboratively between the state and local jurisdictions to create a variety of affordable housing options and tools. The City supports creating consistent standards between the City and its Urban Growth Area.

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.



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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, along with Thurston County and the cities of Olympia, Tumwater, Rainier, Yelm, Tenino, and town of Bucoda, opposed the former Commercial Aviation Coordination Commission's (CACC) Thurston County two-runway airport expansion site. 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. For future study of this issue, the City supports (re)adding previously vetoed language ensuring military compatibility in consideration of increasing commercial aviation.

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.

Project Timeline Review

The City prides itself in being responsive to all forms of public service, including land use project review. The City has concerns that it will be difficult to demonstrate compliance with shortened state established project review timelines without adequate tracking tools in place. Specifically, there is no efficient and consistent portal for local staff to track the stop clocks when the delay is due to the developer and the time does not count towards the timelines.

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 Request: Regional Athletic Complex LED Replacement lights

The Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) is one of the finest outdoor sporting venues in the state. This 100-acre, regional facility features spectacular views of Mt. Rainier, five softball/baseball fields, and six regulation-size soccer/football/rugby fields, as well as picnic and outdoor event facilities, playgrounds, a concession stand, two miles of walking trails, family restrooms and much more. This project will convert 239 aging high-intensity discharging (HID) lamps to more energy efficient light-emitting diode (LED) lights. This conversion will bring the facility into alignment with the City's adopted climate plan, the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan, which calls for LED lighting installation in public-sector buildings and infrastructure. Compared to the HID lamps, LEDs are safer, produce brighter lights, provide lighting you can control, last significantly longer and do not contain mercury. The City requests \$300,000 to make these improvements and help support environmental resilience, energy conservation, youth sports, and economic development.



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Future Project: Lacey Museum and Cultural Center

The City is developing a new museum and cultural 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 Sound'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: Early Learning Access - Young Child and Families Center of Lacey

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 City supports policies and programs that increase access to affordable, quality childcare in Washington and policies that expand access to preschool. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated this crisis. Beginning in the spring of 2020, COVID-related operating restrictions and decreased enrollment 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, NTPS, and South Sound YMCA are partnering to assess the feasibility of a Young Child and Families Center, 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)
- Aquatic Land Enhancement Fund (ALEA)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Youth Athletic Fund (YAF)
- Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities program (COAF): The City supports this funding with assurances of carryforward of the \$12.5M for future biennium.
- Additional State Funding: The City supports additional funding to help local parks agencies address severe operations and maintenance issues.



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- **No Child Left Inside (NCLI):** The City supports operating funding for this initiative.
- **Expanded Outdoor Learning Grants:** The City supports increasing the amount of funding included for OSPI and RCO to award Outdoor Learning Grants without compromising other existing outdoor learning and recreation grant opportunities.

Parks Rx programs

There are currently more than 400 studies that demonstrate the numerous health benefits of spending time in nature. Park Rx programs involve health or social service providers who encourage people to spend time in nature to encourage physical activity and improve health and well-being. These programs often include collaboration between park and public land agencies, public health, healthcare providers, and community partners. The City supports the advancement of Park Rx programs.

Active Transportation Funding

The City supports the inclusion of parks in future funding allocations of “Active Transportation” components of the Move Ahead Washington package to support local trails and projects that extend out of the road right of way for safe routes to schools, parks and other business and community centers that can reduce local travel.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Interstate 5 (I-5) is the lifeline of commerce, transportation, and JBLM’s mission readiness in the Puget Sound Region. However, the current design of I-5 impedes critical ecological functions of the Nisqually River Delta critical to salmon survival, is at risk of being flooded by the Nisqually River resulting in national security concerns, and is inadequate to meet the growing commerce and transportation demands of our state.

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.

In 2022, the State Legislature allocated \$75 million in the Move Ahead Washington package specifically to the Nisqually River delta (Mounts Road to Marvin Road) and in 2023, continued advocacy resulted in programming of these funds, \$32.5 million in 2025-2027 and \$26M in 2027-2029.



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These are important steps but more work is necessary in the future.

While continuing to work with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and regional partners on a holistic approach to the I-5 corridor, the City supports planning for and implementing practical solutions, like prioritizing the design and construction of the funded State Route 507 roundabouts. The City also supports a future part-time shoulder use project on southbound I-5 between Sleater-Kinney and Henderson Boulevard.

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.

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.

Definition of Public Works

The City opposes the expansion of public works projects to include work supported in part or in whole by grants or loans of public dollars, or by tax deferral or reimbursement. This would cause significant increased costs for local governments without adding any substantial public benefit. Additionally, the proposed changes would be a disincentive to non-profits and developers looking to utilize property tax exemptions and other financial tools that were developed to specifically incentivize the construction of multi-family housing and other affordable housing options.

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) Model

As the State Legislature considers VMT, the City requests that City perspectives be included in future stakeholder discussions.

FINANCE

Business Tax Simplification

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



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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.

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 (general)

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.

PUBLIC SAFETY

CAPITAL REQUEST: Emergency Coordination Center

The City is currently planning for a new police station that will include a fully equipped Emergency Coordination Center (ECC). Like many local jurisdictions around the country, the City was underprepared for the global pandemic. Currently, the City is also inadequately prepared to handle other major emergency incidents, natural or human-made. The ECC would support the community by enabling multi-agency coordination which ensures the City is more efficient at providing resources, coordinating communications and advance warnings, prioritizing response during an emergency, and implementing recovery programs.



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The ECC is anticipated to include over 1,440 square feet of mission-critical equipment, including: workstations, monitors, radios, emergency generator, emergency management software, and more. This project will break ground in Winter of 2024 and open in the Fall of 2025. The City requests \$500,000 to help develop a new ECC to better serve the community in times of crisis.

FUTURE: Joint Animal Services: Regional Animal Facility

Joint Animal Services (JAS) is the animal shelter and control agency for the cities of Lacey, Tumwater, and Olympia, and unincorporated Thurston County. JAS serves over 303,976 community members in 774 square miles of urban and rural terrain. JAS provides humane law enforcement, sheltering and medical care of strays (intake of over 2,600 animals in 2022), impounded and surrendered animals, adoption services, licensing, temporary emergency housing, and more. In 1996, JAS moved into their existing facility which was formerly a warehouse. A recent study found that the facility is failing and requires significant investment to maintain. In addition, the facility was not purpose built and the spaces do not meet current industry stands of care. Finally, JAS operations have outgrown the space. JAS partners, Lacey, Tumwater, and Olympia, and Thurston County, are starting efforts to construct a new JAS shelter facility, estimated to cost around \$20 to \$25 million.

Expand Behavioral health access and funding

With AWC, the City supports greater access to the entire continuum of behavioral health services and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment for adults and juveniles, including crisis treatment, inpatient, intensive outpatient, and ongoing behavioral and mental health treatment and SUD treatment. This includes, but is not limited to, support to improve workforce and staffing issues at community treatment centers, and additional state funding for establishment and expansion of treatment facilities.

Address Law Enforcement Vehicle Pursuits

The City supports further expanding crimes eligible for pursuit to include auto theft and some property crimes to include all crimes consisting of serious felony crimes including crimes of sexual assault, violence, commercial and residential burglary, and auto theft. Cities will continue to support safety standards and training for officers who engage in vehicle pursuits.

Non-moving Traffic Stops

The City opposes any effort to restrict or eliminate the ability of local law enforcement to conduct traffic enforcement for non-moving violations. This would remove the ability of the City to ensure that all vehicles operating on our public roadways are mechanically safe, as well as, being properly registered and licensed. Further, the City has a public safety interest to reduce injuries from traffic collisions by confirming that drivers are wearing their seatbelts and are not operating vehicles while distracted. The City is committed to protecting the



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environment and has a vested interest in ensuring that vehicles operating upon its public roadways are not producing excessive audible or climate altering exhaust pollution due to vehicle operators bypassing manufacturer installed pollution control systems.

Auto-theft prevention and enforcement programs

The City supports additional tools to address auto theft and property crime including additional investment in auto-theft prevention and enforcement programs, regional property crimes task forces, and prosecution, public defense, and judicial resources.

School Resource Officers

The City supports legislation that would allow for (not mandate) School Resource Officers (SRO) at school campuses. The City supports state funding that would fully cover SRO salaries and benefits.

Binding Interest Arbitration

The City recognizes the importance of having a tool to help resolve potentially devastating strikes by essential service personnel, such as police and firefighters. The City opposes expanding binding arbitration and supports revising the current arbitration system, including creating a system to review the qualifications, standards, and performance of appointed arbitrators to reduce bias, enhance equity, and achieve objective decision making.

Public safety – Officer recruitment and retention

The City supports additional funding tools and resources to support officer recruitment and retention, including but not limited to pursuing changes to eligibility requirements to allow those in DACA status to serve as police officers.

Future Request: Thurston County Regional BLEA Training Academy & Training Center
Police departments across Washington state are experiencing significant police staffing shortages. The City supports ongoing and enhanced funding for Basic Law Enforcement Academies (BLEA). As communities continue to grow and increasing numbers of law enforcement personnel retirement, it is imperative this program receive adequate funding to provide training opportunities for new hires. The City supports the creation of more regional BLEA academies and requests future funding be allocated to provide a training center and two BLEA classes in Thurston County to expedite the training of police officers once hired.



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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 way 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.

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

Military Family Quality of Life

One of the greatest challenges facing military families in the South Sound are access to housing, childcare and spousal employment. SSMCP is working regionally to remove barriers to these necessities and supports state level action through 1) incentives, 2) increased investment and/or 3) reduction in administrative burdens that drive up costs.

Military/Defense Sector Statewide Economic Impact Analysis

SSMCP is grateful the Legislature has directed the Legislative Committee on Economic Development and International Relations (LCEDIR) to conduct a statewide analysis on the military/defense sector's impact. SSMCP has coordinated two regional economic impact analyses over the last several years and is working closely with the Lieutenant Governor's office to support this statewide study. The report is due to the Legislature in September 2024. SSMCP requests the report be used to inform future regional and statewide policy decisions

Defense Community Compatibility Account (DCCA)

The 2023-25 Capital Budget invests \$35.8 million in defense community compatibility projects throughout the state. This investment leverages over \$126 million in local and federal funds. The City requests the State legislature prioritize ongoing



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investment in the grant program that supports civilian communities near military installations.

I-5 Mounts Road to Tumwater & Nisqually River Delta

SSMCP appreciates the Legislature's commitment of \$75 million over the next 6 years to address the challenges along I-5 from Mounts Road to Tumwater and through the 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. Additional state or federal funds are required to finalize engineering work. 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.

CITY OF LACEY ALSO SUPPORTS THE TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF:

Association of Washington Cities

Thurston County Shared Legislative Agenda

Regional Housing Council – Top Three legislative priorities:

Increase funding to meet the continued need for rent assistance for low-income renters in Thurston County.

Thurston County awarded approximately \$53.5 million in rent assistance from late 2020 through mid-2023 primarily with COVID-related funding under the CARES and American Rescue Plan Acts. These programs have exhausted the funding and permanently closed. Just over 70% of 541 respondents to a survey of Thurston County households who received rent assistance from this program indicated that they are currently in need of additional rent assistance. The Eviction Prevent Rent Assistance program currently funded by document recording fees at less than \$1.5 million for Thurston County in 2023-2024 is woefully inadequate to meet the current demand. Thurston Regional Housing Council recommends that the Legislature provide increased funding for rent assistance programs.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 7, 2023

Provide long-term operational funds for programs established and paid for by the Governor's Rights of Way Initiative.

In Thurston County, Rights of Way Initiative funds have supported operations at an existing continuous stay shelter, a new enhanced shelter, a tiny home village, and hoteling and rent assistance for those fleeing domestic violence and for families. Current funding is only secured through June 30, 2025. Securing operational funding after this date is critical to ensure that residents of temporary housing are not displaced when funding ends. Thurston Regional Housing Council recommends that the Legislature identify long-term funding to continue Rights of Way-supported projects.

Increase capital funding through the Housing Trust Fund for the development and preservation of affordable housing.

There is a substantial need and demand for affordable housing in Thurston County. Under the analysis of affordable housing needs developed under HB 1220-Housing Amendments to the Growth Management Act, Thurston County needs to develop over 51,000 units of net new housing between 2020-2045. This affordable housing will not be created by the private sector on its own. Thurston Regional Housing Council recommends that the Legislature identify substantial and sustainable state resources to develop significant number of new affordable housing units.