

Funding local infrastructure systems

2024



Continue funding for the Public Works Assistance Account and expand state funding opportunities to help maintain and operate city infrastructure.

Background:

City infrastructure is a critical part of a larger network that provides safe and equitable access to clean drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems to all Washingtonians. Cities support development, respond to climate change, and serve their communities by building and maintaining this vital infrastructure.

However, more than **80% of cities** say their aging infrastructure systems need significant repair. Washington infrastructure continues to suffer from inadequate investment. The American Society of Civil Engineers recently graded Washington's infrastructure:

Overall: **C** grade
Wastewater: **C-** grade
Stormwater: **D+** grade

Nearly **60% of cities** say they need state assistance with infrastructure funding, and **more than 25%** report significant challenges in meeting grant and loan fund match requirements, in addition to public contracting and bidding requirements.

Small cities and towns have limited tax bases and feel the impact of chronic underinvestment the most.

Robust state investments in city infrastructure are critical to the health of the state's economy, improving climate resiliency and sustainability, and creating equitable outcomes for the people of Washington.

Public Works Assistance Account: Essential support for cities

Cities use a diverse range of financing options to fund their local infrastructure projects, but they rely on the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA) the most for state-level funding.

In the latest PWAA construction cycle:

Total requested: 85 projects at	\$312+ million
Total funded: 61 projects at	\$221+ million
Left unfunded: 24 projects totaling	\$91 million

Strong cities need:

- **Ongoing, robust investments** in the Public Works Assistance Account.
- **Direct and meaningful state investments** for the operation and maintenance of local infrastructure systems.
- **Access to Climate Commitment Act funding**, including direct distributions, for city priorities that support carbon reduction and climate resiliency.

Strong investments in the PWAA and direct distributions of Climate Commitment Act funding will best situate cities to improve their infrastructure systems and respond to the impacts of climate change.

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