



# Local Infrastructure Issue Brief

**State investment in local infrastructure creates more sustainable communities and a stronger state**

City infrastructure systems (like water, sewer, and stormwater) are a critical part of a larger network that serves and benefits the entire state. Previously, the Legislature diverted funds from infrastructure programs to address operating budget shortfalls. The result is a pent-up need for infrastructure investment. State investment that supports basic local infrastructure means that communities can more affordably maintain and build water, sewer, and other basic infrastructure to meet the needs of our residents and our environment.

## Strong cities need:

### **Ongoing investment in the Public Works Trust Fund**

Fund the \$217 million investment generated from loan repayments and 2% of Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) revenues scheduled for this iconic and successful infrastructure revolving loan program. End the continued diversion of REET funds now instead of waiting until 2023. These funds can help with other high priorities like supporting housing development.

### **Stable and reliable infrastructure investment**

Help cities overcome the financial challenges of building and repairing local infrastructure systems that support our economy, the environment and benefit the entire state. Fully fund the various state programs designed to support local infrastructure. Reinvestment in key programs now allows the investments to be realized sooner.

## More details

City infrastructure systems are a critical part of the larger network that serves and benefits the entire state. City streets move traffic seamlessly from one place to another. Businesses relying on city water and sewer systems create a positive impact on the entire region. Cities take on major toxic cleanup efforts to enhance our communities and bring new economic development opportunities to the state. Collectively, the strength of Washington's local infrastructure systems creates a stronger and healthier state, better positioned for continued economic growth and development.

### **All infrastructure assistance programs are important**

In order to build essential infrastructure systems, cities rely on state and federal assistance. Assistance programs include the Public Works Trust Fund, toxic cleanup accounts, Centennial Clean Water Fund, and federal revolving funds. However, diversion from these programs that support basic local infrastructure leaves communities unable to affordably maintain and secure new infrastructure.

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## Contact:

### **Candice Bock**

Government Relations Director  
candiceb@awcnet.org

### **Andrew Pittelkau**

Legislative & Policy Analyst  
andrewp@awcnet.org

## Cities need the state to be a partner on local infrastructure

AWC is focused on maintaining and enhancing state infrastructure support because cities are:

- **Behind on the basics** – The core infrastructure systems such as streets, water, sewer, and stormwater that residents and businesses depend on are aging costing more to operate and falling behind in environmental standards.
- **Making tough choices** – Cities are forced to choose between funding basic city services like police and fire, and building and maintaining capital assets while trying to keep these basic services affordable for all residents.

- **Struggling to accommodate a growing population** – The cities of today are building the infrastructure systems to support the next generation. We need to make smart designed infrastructure decisions to meet environmental standards and respond to our communities' needs well into the future.
- **Supporting critical development** – Infrastructure investment is necessary to leverage needed private investment in housing and commercial development.

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