



CITY OF PORT ORCHARD

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2023 Legislative Priorities

Address Local Transportation Needs

Though the Legislature made significant investments in the Move Ahead Washington package, much of this funding did not address ongoing transportation needs for local governments, including maintenance and preservation, fish passage, and projects improving highway safety and congestion relief. Sedgwick Road (State Route 160) and State Route 16, traverse the City and serve as both regional and local thoroughfares. To mitigate congestion along these state routes the City proposes two compact roundabouts at the SR-16 and SR-160 interchanges. Prior to current inflation rates, the project was estimated to cost \$6 million. Until state transportation resources at this level are available, the City proposes the modification of the existing traffic signals at these State owned intersections and an existing City signal to coordinate the timing of all the signals which will provide short-term relief. This option requires a \$250,000 state investment.

Foster Pilot Program

The City of Port Orchard was chosen by the state for a water resource mitigation pilot project to address municipal water supply challenges after the Foster decision. The Foster legislative task force has been directed to review the results of these pilot projects and provide legislative recommendations responding to these challenges by the 2023 legislative session. As the state considers task force recommendations, the City asks the state to consider the City's significant investment (over \$1 million) in the pilot project which to-date has not resulted in Ecology-approved water supply. The Legislature must adopt solutions providing municipalities a path to sustainable water permitting and usage, as required to accommodate growth under the Growth Management Act, and if necessary provide a pathway for approval of the City's mitigated water supply project.

Vehicular Pursuits

The City supports tools, training, and resources to enhance community safety, including adopting legislation clarifying that officers may engage in vehicular pursuits under certain circumstances using a reasonable suspicion standard.

Port Orchard Community Events Center Plaza Design

The City received \$1.2 million in the 2021 capital budget to begin work on the Port Orchard Community Events Center. With this state investment and local match, the City has made significant headway on the project, which is now into the design phase. In addition to indoor events center space, this master-planned project will feature a flexible community plaza allowing for outdoor concerts, events, and other community gatherings centered around a revitalized waterfront. Completion of designs will allow the City to better assess the total cost of the project and the impact of inflation on construction costs. In future sessions, the City is likely to request additional state investments in this transformative project.

Port of Bremerton Marina Breakwater

The City of Port Orchard supports the Port of Bremerton's capital budget request to replace the breakwater at the Port Orchard Marina. The breakwater is well past the end of its physical lifespan and must be replaced. The marina is in the heart of Port Orchard and is a significant draw to the City.

Public Records Reform

Cities lack the staffing and resources to respond to public records requests aimed at bringing municipalities into suit. The City supports legislation reforming the Public Records Act to prevent serial/vexatious litigants.

Defend Against Housing Mandates and Defend Local Control

The City respectfully asks the Legislature to adopt housing solutions that incentivize investment in housing stock while retaining communities' statutory authority over land use decisions.

Homelessness, Substance Use Disorder, Mental Health

We support additional State funding for housing, substance abuse, and mental health treatment so that local governments can address the needs of the homeless in our communities.

The City of Port Orchard supports the Association of Washington Cities' legislative agenda.