



# 2024 State Legislative Agenda

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## FUNDING REQUESTS

### Spokane Valley Cross Country Complex

The City of Spokane Valley asks the state to contribute \$600,000 to a cross country/cyclocross course that can host events for youth, middle school, high school, collegiate, post-collegiate and master athletes. Cross country would serve as the primary use, and cyclocross, a form of bicycle racing, would be a secondary use. The project is in partnership with Spokane Sports.



Located at Flora Park, the over 60-acre course will have the capacity to host premier events, attracting visitors to Spokane Valley and supporting the City's tourism sector. The greater community will also be served through new programming, clinics, and practice opportunities. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$7 million including amenities. The City is contributing \$4.4 million in lodging tax funds. City and state funds are anticipated to be sufficient to construct a functioning course. The City is seeking additional funding sources to complete complimentary amenities.

### Sullivan/Trent Interchange

The City of Spokane Valley requests the state's partnership in rebuilding the Sullivan/Trent Interchange. The Sullivan Road Bridge over State Route 290 (Trent Avenue) was built in 1960 and is rated today as "structurally deficient, high risk, and in poor condition," Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) lowest rating. Further, the failing interchange creates extensive congestion for one of the region's busiest freight corridors.



Sullivan Road between I-90 and SR 290 is home to 9,000 jobs, 85% directly related to freight. Large employers, including Spokane Business Park, Kaiser Aluminum, Mercer Mass Timber and Amazon, move their goods and employees via Sullivan Road and Bigelow Gulch Road. The Sullivan-Bigelow corridor connects to Spokane's Northeast Public Development Authority and WSDOT's Future US 395 (North Spokane Corridor). Freight and commuter traffic causes chaotic half-mile backups and traffic operations have a Level of Service "F" during rush hour, the worst rating. The City is actively seeking federal funding for this project but will need state

assistance in future years. Project design and right-of-way are fully funded. The construction phase is estimated at \$36.5 million.

## SUPPORT REQUEST

### Performing Arts Center

The City of Spokane Valley supports ongoing efforts by the Idaho Central Spokane Valley Performing Arts Center to utilize state and federal grants to fund a state-of-the art 59,000 square-foot performing arts center housing a 475-seat main stage, 200-seat flexible studio theater, acting conservatory for area youth and event and business meeting space.

# POLICY STATEMENTS

## Public Safety

Public safety is the City Council's highest priority. The Spokane Valley City Council and its residents support a commonsense and meaningful approach to public safety policies that protect lives and property and do not erode trust in government. Examples include:

- Enacting increased penalties for the possession of controlled substances, especially fentanyl, and allocate the necessary funding to ensure the policy can be implemented with readily available treatment services and swift and meaningful consequences for those who fail or lack a willingness to complete treatment.
- Enacting policies and increased penalties to address rising retail theft and property crimes.
- Encouraging the state to fully fund and support a comprehensive behavioral and mental health system to serve all areas of the state.
- Ensuring that the state's policy on possession of controlled substances can be implemented with readily available treatment services and swift and meaningful consequences for those who fail or lack a willingness to complete treatment.
- Re-establishing a reasonable suspicion standard for when officers engage in vehicular pursuits.
- Increasing investments in alternative response teams, such as the City's behavioral health unit and homeless outreach that pair an officer with either a social worker or a mental health professional in a co-responder model.
- Increasing resources to hire, train, retain, and protect law enforcement officers.
- Supporting efforts to reduce traffic fatalities at no additional cost to residents, including increased driver's education.

## Remove Barriers to the Construction of Housing

The City calls on the state to remove barriers to the construction of housing to make it more affordable. These include, but are not limited to:

- Continuing to revise condominium liability regulations.
- Evaluating the impact of the state energy and building codes on the cost of construction.
- Providing tax incentives.

## Tax Relief

The City of Spokane Valley calls on the Legislature to provide relief to Washington's taxpayers, as has occurred in other states.

## Local Decision-Making Authority

A foundational belief for the Spokane Valley City Council and the citizens they represent is that the most effective level of government is the one closest to the people. As such, the Council urges the Legislature to respect local decision-making. Some examples include management of right-of-way and land use decisions.

## Protect and Restore Local State-Shared Revenues

The City requests that the Legislature protect and enhance local state-shared revenues to allow the City to deliver vital services to its residents. These funds include the Liquor Excise Tax Account, Liquor Board Profits, Municipal Criminal Justice Assistance Account, City-County Assistance Account, and Marijuana Revenues.

## Growth Management Act Policies

The City of Spokane Valley will explore proposals making changes to the Growth Management Act, including making it easier to complete an urban growth area (UGA) swap. The City encourages the state to allocate adequate funding to cities to effectively implement planning directives from the state.

## Reducing Costs Through Reform

Like many in Washington State, the City of Spokane Valley is facing rising project costs amid an influx of state and federal funding and limited contractors. The City supports legislative efforts that aim to reform regulations that are causing project costs to rise, including implementing Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goals that take into consideration the availability of DBE's regionally rather than state-wide.

**The City supports AWC legislative agenda items that serve the best interests of Spokane Valley.**