

Funding local infrastructure systems



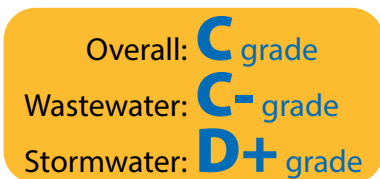
2023

Fully fund the Public Works Assistance Account and expand state funding opportunities to help maintain and operate local infrastructure.

Background:

City infrastructure systems are a critical part of the larger network that serves the entire state. Cities support development by building and maintaining needed infrastructure to keep pace with a growing population that demands safe and equitable access to public services.

The American Society of Civil Engineers recently graded Washington's infrastructure:



More than **80% of cities** say their aging water and wastewater infrastructure requires critical repair, which presents steep administrative costs.

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.

Investing in infrastructure pays back

Infrastructure is the foundation of a strong, competitive economy and thriving communities. **Every dollar** invested in public infrastructure produces up to **\$2.2 dollars** in economic activity.

Cities own a significant share of Washington's critical infrastructure and are home to the majority of the state's residents.

Investing in city infrastructure helps local leaders care for the system, which is vital to the health of the state's economy, the environment, and the people of Washington.

Strong cities need:

- **Full funding** of the Public Works Assistance Account;
- **The return of diverted revenue streams** to the Public Works Assistance Account; and
- **Direct and robust state investment** in local infrastructure to maintain and improve aging systems.

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.

Due to ongoing state diversions and sweeps, and the Legislature's lack of investments in the account, the PWAA hasn't been fully funded since 2009. As a result, nearly **\$1 billion** worth of infrastructure projects have gone unfunded.

Before these sweeps and revenue diversions, the PWAA provided a regular and sustainable source of affordable, low-interest infrastructure financing to cities.

In the latest PWAA construction and pre-construction cycles, applicants requested funding for **65 projects**:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Total funding request: | \$205 million |
| Total funding available: | \$118.5 million |

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Unmet need: | \$86.5 million |
|-------------|-----------------------|

Contact:

Brandy DeLange
Government Relations Advocate
brandyd@awcnet.org

Brianna Morin
Legislative & Policy Analyst
briannam@awcnet.org