



City of Bellevue 2026-2027 Federal Agenda

Bellevue welcomes the world. Our diversity is our strength.
We embrace the future while respecting our past.

Key Federal Priorities

Transportation and Mobility

Bellevue supports a transportation system that is sustainable, reliable and predictable where mode choices are abundant and safe. As Congress considers a surface transportation reauthorization and associated legislation, Bellevue supports stable, long-term federal investment in safety, multimodal mobility and infrastructure modernization. Bellevue supports policy that strengthens federal safety investments, improves regional funding certainty, preserves critical discretionary programs and streamlines pathways for advancing locally prioritized safety projects.

- **Safer Signals Program:** In 2024, Bellevue was awarded a USDOT Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Program Stage 1 grant to help deploy pedestrian-focused technology treatments. To ensure delivery of that pilot, Bellevue requests federal appropriations funding for its Safer Signals Program, which will further deploy intelligent sensor-based infrastructure with smart technology traffic signals to improve safety for all travel modes at signalized intersections.
- **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A):** Reducing fatal and serious injury collisions on city streets is a top priority for Bellevue. The City seeks federal partnership through an SS4A grant application. Bellevue's proposal will implement data-driven infrastructure improvements and deploy innovative safety technologies along Bellevue's High Injury Network, targeting investments where they are needed most.
- **RapidRide K Line:** King County Metro's RapidRide K Line will connect Bellevue College, downtown Bellevue, and Kirkland with fast, frequent, and reliable transit service. Bellevue supports Metro's request for Small Starts funding for this project which recently received a "medium-high" rating from the Federal Transit Administration.
- **Railbanking and Eastrail:** Bellevue supports efficient management of railbanked properties and reducing barriers to railbanking new properties. Bellevue supports King County's BUILD award for \$25 million for Eastrail, an essential connector which will provide a safe travel option between the fast-growing, regional economic centers of Bellevue and Renton.

Essential Water Infrastructure

The health, safety and economic vitality of Bellevue's growing community depend on continued federal investment in essential water infrastructure. These investments support local jobs, strengthen economic stability and ensure the reliable systems that residents and businesses depend on. As Congress considers reauthorization of key water infrastructure programs, Bellevue supports policies that ensure safe, reliable and affordable drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services.

- **Funding for utility infrastructure:** Bellevue supports federal grant and low-interest loan funding for critical water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure to reduce the burden on local ratepayers, including expanded opportunities through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).
- **Water quality and emerging contaminants:** Bellevue ratepayers are facing untenable rate increases due to state and federal regulatory requirements. Bellevue supports federal policies that ensure cities and utilities are designated as "passive receivers" of contaminants of emerging concern, and receive a narrow exemption from liability and adequate resources to address local needs.
- **Fish passage and culverts:** Bellevue urges Congress to invest in local barrier culvert correction for both state and local governments to reduce flooding and improve fish passage.

Housing and Safety Net Programs

Bellevue strives to be a community in which every individual has access to necessary resources, housing and supportive services. We seek partnership in creating an equitable and caring community where everyone can thrive.

- **Affordable housing supply:** Bellevue supports a comprehensive federal housing policy that preserves local decision making while making substantial federal investments in housing. Investments should include direct capital investments, support for keeping people housed through existing programs, expanded access to rental assistance and homeownership opportunities that include more first-time buyer programs, and financial tools such as the low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC).
- **Safety net and pass-through programs:** Bellevue urges Congress to provide full and reliable funding for programs that improve affordability and reduce poverty, including a permanent program for household utility assistance, nutrition assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Section 8 housing and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). Reliable funding is essential to prevent individuals and families from requiring more costly interventions and to ensure stability for vulnerable populations.

Bellevue thanks our congressional delegation members for their project funding support:

Grand Connection: I-405 Crossing: Funding supports final design and community engagement for the project — part of a broader pedestrian-oriented corridor stretching from Lake Washington through downtown Bellevue to the regional Eastrail in Wilburton.

Lake Washington Sanitary Sewer Lake Lines Program: Funding will help Bellevue identify solutions for replacing the nearly 15 miles of sewer lines along the shorelines of Lake Washington.

Federal Policy Statement

The City of Bellevue's vision is organized around six strategic target areas: High Performance Government, Vibrant Economy, Safe & Efficient Transportation System, High Quality Built & Natural Environment, Community Safety & Health, and Thriving People & Communities. As federal budgets and proposed legislation evolve, Bellevue encourages a strong local-federal partnership, protecting the ability for cities to make decisions that reflect our growing community.

■ **Immigrant and refugee community support:**

- Bellevue is committed to ensuring all community members feel safe accessing services and participating in civic life, regardless of immigration status. The city supports federal policies that maintain access to essential government services, protect public safety and enable local governments to effectively serve diverse communities.
- Bellevue supports comprehensive immigration reform that strengthens asylum and refugee systems, improves application processing timelines, protects key visa programs such as H-1B, and reduces federal barriers to employment for newly arrived asylum-seekers. Expanding lawful work opportunities supports local economies and promotes community stability.

■ **Public safety and first responders:**

- Bellevue urges Congress to support resources for recruiting, hiring, training, and retention efforts of first responders.
- Bellevue supports strengthening public safety operations through innovative technologies to improve efficiency, effectiveness and accountability.
- Bellevue supports partnerships to enhance data-sharing, real-time intelligence capabilities and community engagement to enhance public trust and transparency.

■ **Innovation, emerging technologies and cybersecurity:**

- Bellevue supports funding and policies that advance artificial intelligence (AI) and smart technologies in ethical and transparent ways while protecting privacy, building public trust, and expanding equitable access to digital tools. Continued federal investment in broadband, cybersecurity, digital upskilling, and workforce development — as well as aligned policies that support responsible AI in government — are essential to ensure residents, workers and small businesses benefit safely and fairly.
- Bellevue encourages increased funding to local governments to strengthen the protection of critical government functions, systems and services from cybersecurity threats. The City supports fully funding the State and Local Cybersecurity Grants (SLCGP) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program to enhance local resilience and safeguard essential operations.

■ **Fiscal sustainability and governance:**

- Bellevue supports expanded access to federal credit assistance tools, tax incentives and other financing mechanisms that strengthen a city's ability to finance major public works and diversify local infrastructure funding.
- Preserve and protect tax-exempt municipal bonds, a critical tool for enabling affordable, low-cost financing of local infrastructure and housing projects.
- Bellevue supports simplifying grant applications and compliance processes to reduce barriers and improve project delivery.

■ **Economic and workforce development:**

- Bellevue supports investments and policies that foster public-private partnerships, attract international visitors, deliver transit-oriented development, support small businesses and microbusinesses, and promote innovation.
- Bellevue supports expanding the capacity of our region's education, training, and workforce partners — including higher education institutions, trade and apprenticeship programs, and skills-development providers — to offer work-based learning opportunities, upskilling pathways, and industry-recognized degrees and certifications.
- Bellevue supports increased federal investment in childcare to expand access for working families and help reduce child poverty.

■ **Resilient infrastructure and clean energy:**

- Bellevue supports sustained investment in preparedness and resilience for the built and natural environment to reduce risk, minimize disruption and protect critical infrastructure from extreme weather.
- Bellevue recommends continued federal support for reliable and diversified energy sources, including renewable energy, energy-efficient buildings, EVs and charging infrastructure.
- Bellevue supports expanding federal funding tools, including energy tax credits, Conservation Block Grants and building retrofit incentives that help local governments deliver cost-effective projects and maximize existing assets.
- Bellevue supports investments that improve environmental and community health, including programs that protect open space, restore and protect habitat and expand transportation options that reduce congestion and improve mobility.
- Bellevue supports federal investment that reduces long-term costs and improves air quality by leveraging grants, rebates and tax incentives that help lower emissions.

■ **I-405/SR 167 corridor:**

- Bellevue supports infrastructure improvements to maximize the effectiveness of the I-405 and SR 167 corridor, update and implement the I-405 Master Plan, and upgrade the efficiency of state highways and regional corridors. Key segments that need investment include interchange improvements at SR 520 and 124th Avenue NE; I-405 Improvements at I-90 and SR 520; and South Downtown I-405 Access/Lake Hills Connector.