



City of Bellevue

2018 State Legislative Agenda

TRANSPORTATION

The strength of our region's economy depends upon a multimodal, well-integrated transportation system that reliably moves people and goods within and between significant job centers. The success of this system is predicated on the local and regional highway networks performing effectively. The addition of the Express Toll Lanes (ETLs) to the I-405 Corridor has furthered this goal, and Bellevue supports maintaining the toll lanes between Bellevue and Lynnwood as well as authorizing toll implementation for new improvements between Bellevue and Renton. The ETLs lay the groundwork for future investments by Sound Transit in Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along the entire I-405 Corridor. Bellevue supports adjustments to the phasing of the "Connecting Washington" transportation package to deliver projects sooner to meet the needs of SOV, HOV, transit and non-motorized users. Bellevue also supports:

- Funding the NE 8th Street to SR 520 southbound braided ramp and the NE 2nd interchange;
- Constructing interchange improvements on SR 520 at 124th Avenue NE;
- Developing the NE 6th Street extension project and beginning discussions with legislators about funding opportunities for the City's Grand Connection project across I-405 that connects growth corridors in Wilburton and Bel Red with Downtown Bellevue;
- Addressing traffic congestion on I-405 at SR 522;
- Developing a multi-modal regional trail system that provides north/south connectivity on the Eastside Rail Corridor, including funding for the Wilburton Trestle rehabilitation; and
- Ensuring \$14 million is approved for the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail project as part of the Legislature's Supplemental Budget for the 2018-2019 biennium.

TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY

Bellevue supports efforts to ensure that the regional transportation system uses new and smart technologies that increase overall system efficiency, including the exploration of new technology-related funding mechanisms. The City urges state and regional transportation agencies to work in close collaboration to get maximum benefit from public investment in the region's transportation system. The City supports incentives to accelerate the sales and use of electric vehicles as well as incentives for commuter parking and commute trip reduction programs to increase the use of public and private vanpool, carpool and shuttle services.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Tools for Affordable Housing: Bellevue supports legislation to provide tools that jurisdictions could consider adopting to add affordable housing units, including but not limited to: increasing funding for the Housing Trust Fund; expanding state and local funding tools; a sales tax exemption on construction of units affordable to 30% of Area Median Income (AMI); and an affordable housing preservation tax exemption for existing multi-family properties. Bellevue also supports legislation to resolve the construction warranty provisions in state law that are preventing the development of condominiums, which provide affordable housing ownership opportunities for moderate-income households.

Homelessness and Human Services: Bellevue supports legislation to: regulate homeless encampments that do not disproportionately impact the safety, security and well-being of residents of the encampments and surrounding neighborhoods by clustering and excessively long stays; ensure the rights of religious organizations to host safe parking for the homeless on property owned/controlled by the religious organization; and invest in the human services sector, including better access to mental health and substance use disorder services.

ECONOMIC VITALITY

Support for the Technology Sector: The combined technology sector in Bellevue generated an estimated \$4 billion in taxable gross receipts in 2017. Bellevue supports initiatives that enhance competitiveness of the technology sector through investments in infrastructure and education, specifically STEM, K-12, higher education, vocational-technical education, advanced manufacturing for technical specialties and apprenticeships. The City also supports reinstating the research and development tax incentives and providing tax incentives for technology sector start-up companies.

REVENUE/FISCAL ISSUES

Safeguard State-Shared Revenues and Provide Revenue Tools to Better Enable Cities to Address Community

Needs: Bellevue strongly supports safeguarding state-shared revenues and retaining programs and authority benefitting local government, including restoring funding for the Public Works Trust Fund or establishment of an equivalent stable revenue source for infrastructure funding; removing the cap on state-shared revenues for liquor profits; and increasing state revenue from non-regressive sources to support K-12 education funding, maintaining local control of education programming, safeguarding the human services safety net and the ability of state and local government to provide quality services.

Maintain Local Business and Occupation (B&O) Tax and

Licensing Authority: Bellevue supports the continued goal of streamlining administration and reporting of local B&O taxes through the single multi-city business license and tax portal - FileLocal - now being used by Bellevue businesses. The City opposes state administration of the local B&O tax as it would reduce local flexibility to tailor the tax to local conditions and reduce revenues that fund critical services.

WATER RESOURCES

Reclaimed Water: Bellevue supports regulatory authority to require reclaimed water providers to: obtain City approval prior to the sale and use of reclaimed water within the City's water service area; ensure that the City's customers will not be financially harmed by additional costs that result from using reclaimed water in place of the City's potable drinking water supply; and integrate and coordinate plans for reclaimed water with municipal watershed and water supply system plans.

Water and Storm Water Funding: Bellevue supports continued funding for municipal storm water capacity grants that provide flexibility for cities to implement NPDES requirements as well as continued funding for the Storm Water Financial Assistance Program that funds projects with direct water quality benefits. Additionally, the City seeks to ensure

that any proposed infrastructure investment package for water supply, storm water, and/or flood control provides equity between where taxes and fees are collected and where they are invested.

ENERGY/TECHNOLOGY

Clean Energy Tools: Bellevue supports an accelerated transition from coal to clean, renewable energy provided the transition does not result in negative economic impacts to ratepayers. The City supports the transition to cleaner energy sources, including: electric cars; "smart city" technologies; green building technologies that save energy; comprehensive science-based limits on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases; and infrastructure that supports renewable power and storage.

Small Cell Wireless Facilities Siting: Bellevue supports the deployment of wireless technology. The City supports legislation that protects its authority and ability to control use of its rights-of-way when siting small cell wireless facilities and associated equipment. The City strongly opposes legislation that would impact its ability to control costs, permitting and land use processes in the siting of these facilities. The City further strongly opposes legislation that would encroach upon its rights as a property owner to negotiate any and all terms of leases of its property for use by other parties, including for the siting of small cell wireless facilities.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Clarify Recreational Immunity: Bellevue supports clarifying recreational immunity for multi-purpose pedestrian and bicycle trails. Recent court cases (Camica and Lockner) in conflict with long-established precedent have created new uncertainty over whether recreational immunity exists for these types of multi-purpose facilities as it does for other recreational facilities such as parks.

FUND THE CITY'S 2018 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Highland Village Apartments: Continue to support state request for \$2 million for acquisition costs.

Men's Homeless Shelter: Continue to support \$2 million request for Congregations for the Homeless for construction of a men's homeless shelter in Bellevue.

Grand Connection: Support Bellevue's request for \$1 million to develop a gateway to the Downtown Park and Inspiration Playground from Downtown Bellevue as part of Bellevue's Grand Connection project. The Grand Connection is a pedestrian corridor that will stretch from the waterfront at Meydenbauer Bay Park through the Downtown, across I-405 and connect to the Eastside Rail Corridor in the Wilburton area.