

# **2025-2026 Federal Agenda and State Legislative Session Wrap Up**

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# Direction

Discuss and consider potential adoption of a 2025-2026 Federal Agenda for federal level policy and budget advocacy



# Agenda

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## **State Legislative Wrap Up**

- Session in Review
- City's Legislative Priorities
- Next Steps – 2025 interim work

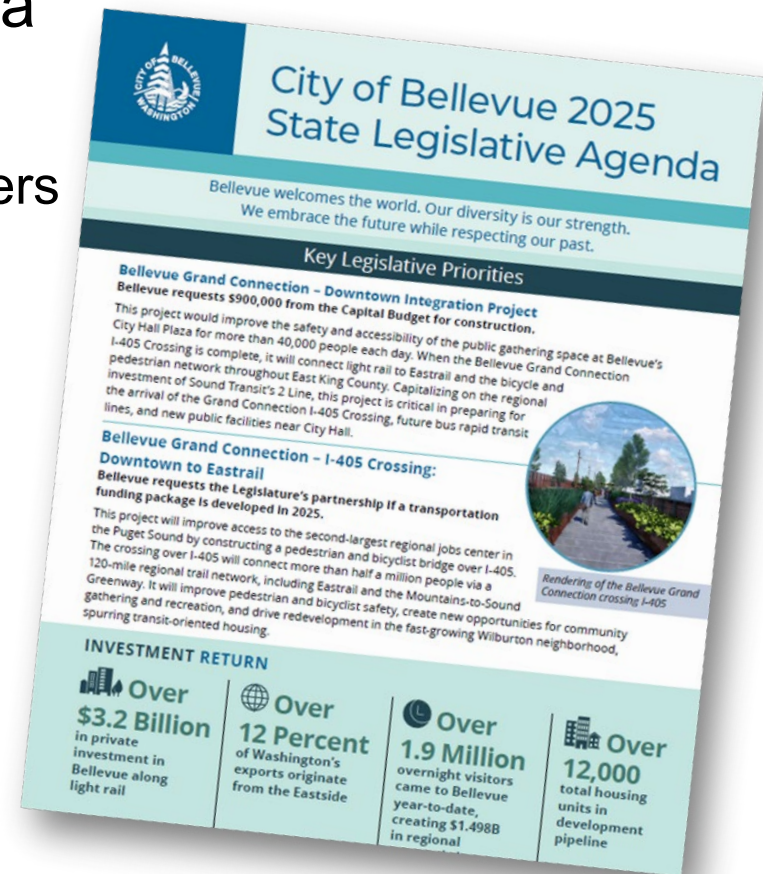
## **Federal Legislative Agenda**

- Current Context
- 2025-2026 Draft Federal Agenda
- Next Steps – federal affairs



# 2025 State Session In Review

- City's 2025 State Legislative Agenda
- First year of the biennium
  - New governor & 24 “freshman” members
  - Democrat majority (House, Senate)
  - 105-day session, budget year
- By the numbers
  - State:
    - 2,387 bills introduced → 423 passed
  - Bellevue:
    - 361 bills monitored/reviewed
    - 111 bill sign-ins/testimony



# 2025 Session Budget Outcomes



- Budgets
  - Operating
  - Capital
  - Transportation
- Revenue Proposals
- Role of the Governor





# Key Legislative Priority: Bellevue Grand Connection

## Downtown Integration Project

Improve safety and accessibility of City Hall Plaza

- ✓ \$250,000 included in Capital Budget (\$900,000 requested)

## I-405 Crossing: Downtown to Eastrail

Requested partnership to improve access, safety and spur development

- ✓ Tax Increment Financing (TIF) authorized for Bellevue-specific project



# Other Legislative Funding Priorities

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## **I-405/SR 167 Corridor**

\$94.1 million funding gap for four projects currently in construction

✓ Included in Transportation Budget

## **SR 520/124th Avenue NE Interchange**

Funding requested for construction of interchange, fish passage, and multimodal realignment

❑ Not funded in six-year transportation budget

## **eCityGov Alliance budget request**

Funding requested (\$2.7 million) to modernize MyBuildingPermit

❑ Not funded in 2025 given the significantly constrained Operating Budget



# Housing & Land Use Policies - Passed

Policy (Bill Number)	Short Description
<b>Lot-splitting</b> (HB 1096)	Administrative lot splitting to expand middle housing and affordable ownership opportunities
<b>Condo Liability Reform</b> (HB 1403)	Simplifies condo construction and warranty requirements
<b>Transit-Oriented Development</b> (HB 1491)	Promotes TOD and affordable housing in station areas
<b>Local Real Estate Excise Tax</b> (HB 1791)	Harmonizes allowable uses of real estate excise tax (REET) 1 and 2 revenues
<b>Housing Accountability Act</b> (SB 5148)	State-level review process of housing elements and development regulations
<b>Minimum Parking Requirements</b> (SB 5184)	Residential parking caps for multifamily dwelling, single-family home, and commercial





# Other Notable Policy Bills

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## **Passed**

- Extended Producer Responsibility (SB 5284)
- Public Safety Funding (HB 2015)
- Rent Stabilization (HB 1217)
- Crisis Co-Response (HB 1811)
- Childcare Services and Facilities (SB 5509, SB 5655)

## **Did Not Advance**

- Transit Lane Access (HB 1980)
- Artificial Intelligence Regulation (HB 1622)
- Public Camping Ordinances (HB 1380)



# Next Steps: 2025 Interim Work

- Thank legislative delegation
- Understand impacts of new policies
- Implement legislative authority (ex. TIF)
- Interim planning activities (ex. tours, AWC State Priorities Committee)
- Consider legislation that did not pass in 2025 and could be reconsidered in 2026
- Develop and adopt 2026 State Legislative Agenda (Fall 2025)

2026 Legislative Session begins January 12, 2026  
(60-day Session)



# Bellevue's Federal Legislative Agenda

- Refresh in Q2 annually
- This is our federal compass
- Used as the primary lens to assess both funding opportunities as they arise, as well as develop strategies to make progress and get results on important priorities



## City of Bellevue | 2024-2025 Federal Agenda

Bellevue champions the programs, projects, and opportunities that position our city to thrive for today and for tomorrow. This federal agenda advances the City Council's vision, values, and priorities to get us there. Bellevue is the city where you want to be.

### PRIORITY ISSUES

#### TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

Investment in mobility and transportation infrastructure is a top priority for the City and its growing residential and business community. We appreciate the opportunity created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for cities to apply directly for competitive grants and not necessarily await additional process at state and regional bodies. Bellevue's mobility, land use, equity, and climate goals depend on a robust and integrated transportation network.

- **Eastrail:** Bellevue supports King County and other regional partners in the 42-mile north-south rails-to-trails corridor, where there is a critical funding gap for the segment crossing I-90 toward Renton. The city supports King County, the City of Renton, and community partners in seeking federal funding, including a 2024 RAISE application pending at USDOT.
- **Grand Connection Crossing:** Bellevue will create a multimodal, active transportation crossing from downtown Bellevue to Wilburton, creating a critical east-west crossing over I-405. The project is in early design, intending to reach the 30% design milestone the end of 2024. Alongside private partners and community supporters, the city sought design support in fiscal year (FY) 2025 and will seek federal competitive grants support for construction in coming years.

# Washington, DC – Current Context

- New Administration
- Earmark requests: FY 25 erased by Continuing resolution, FY 26 recently submitted
- NLC in March and November; City-led visit in June; Bellevue Chamber fly-in early December
- Meetings and tours for Congressional staff in Bellevue, year-round



# Federal Legislative Agenda

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Key components:

- Key priorities for 2025-2026
- Federal policy statement
- Reference to City Council Vision & Strategic Target Areas

# Key Priorities for 2025-2026

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## Transportation and Mobility

- *Highlights:* Grand Connection Crossing (including Eastrail), Smart City technology

## Essential and Sustainable Infrastructure

- *Highlights:* Funding for utility infrastructure, Lake Washington Sewer Lake Lines, Reducing climate pollution, Affordable internet access and connectivity

## Housing and Safety Net Programs

- *Highlights:* Safety net and pass-through programs, Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), Childcare and resources for working families



# Next Steps

- City officials in DC June 10-11
- Appropriations process through summer and fall
- August recess visits in district (and year-round)
- NLC in March and November; City-led visit in June; Bellevue Chamber fly-in early December
- Ongoing engagement with delegation and partners





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