



Developing a Successful Legislative Agenda/Funding Request

- Legislative agenda should be a **biennium agenda**. The Legislature operates on a two-year cycle; the legislative agenda needs to match that cycle.
- Legislative agenda needs to be **focused**. Legislators only have so much bandwidth. Pick 2-3 things that you want the delegation to take seriously. It's okay for the city to take positions/express support or concerns on multiple pieces of legislation, but the requests to the delegation should be very focused. (Sometimes this distinction can be accomplished w/ two different documents (legislative agenda and policy manual).
- If possible, legislative agenda needs to **convey a story/theme**. What is the 5-second one-line story? And, how does each legislative agenda item fit with the City's main goals.
 - o Examples:
 - Kenmore: Not a drive through City, we need a sense of place (agenda items: SR 522 funding to add sidewalks and address traffic, signage into the city, funding for a town green).
 - Port Orchard: City's main goal: Revitalize a downtown waterfront (agenda items: legislation for r/w of navy-owned property along water, funding for a waterfront boardwalk).
- It's important that legislative agenda items have **full support** of the council, executive, and the community. Don't air dirty laundry in Olympia.
- Capital Funding Requests:
 - o Make funding requests during odd-numbered years.
 - o Project needs to be **visible** and it needs to have **community support**. Legislators do not want to fund a project that their constituents will oppose or don't know about.
 - o The state prefers to be a **partner** in funding projects, **not the sole funder**. Have other funding sources (grant programs) been pursued? Is the City willing to make a local contribution?
 - o Is there a **benefit/nexus to the state**? Not necessary, but helps.
 - o Does it create **jobs**? Or accomplish another state policy goal (**environment cleanup?**)
- Transportation Funding Requests
 - o Is there a **nexus to the state**? Is it a state highway or did the state previously own the road?
 - o Are there **safety concerns**. The project becomes more imminent if it a dangerous condition.
 - o Will completing the transportation project open up an area to economic development?
 - o It is important for a large transportation funding request to have **regional support**.