

CITY OF LONGVIEW

2017-2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

DRAFT

The City of Longview is very appreciative of the historic partnership between the City and the State of Washington.

Many State initiatives directly benefit Longview and help us to meet the challenges we face on a regular basis. Looking forward, we call upon our legislative delegation to support some specific funding requests and other policy issues that will further enable us to meet the ongoing challenges we face in providing quality infrastructure, complying with State and Federal mandates, and keeping pace with the demands for services

For more information

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Agenda Summarized

★	Industrial Way/Oregon Way (SR432/433) intersection project
★	Community projects funding
★	Public Facilities District sales tax credit extension
★	Heritage Grant funding
★	Local infrastructure assistance
★	Criminal Justice Training Center funding
★	Regional Mobility Grant funding
★	Transitional housing notices
★	Storage of tenant's property
★	Preemptions and unfunded mandates
★	Review of cost drivers
★	Association of Washington Cities priorities

Longview City Council

Don Jensen, Mayor
Mike Wallin, Mayor Pro-Tem
Ken Botero
Chet Makinster
Mary Jane Melink
Steve Moon
Scott Vydra



Legislative Agenda



Industrial Way/Oregon Way (SR 432/433) intersection project funding.

The City is supporting a joint request from the local project partners to accelerate the IWOW project funding schedule in the “Connecting Washington” package to ensure that the project can move forward on a timely basis and that there are no interruptions that would compromise project completion.



Community projects funding.

- Seeking direct financial support through the Capital Budget for the following local projects:
- R.A. Long Park Plaza Reconstruction project, \$288,000 request for reconstruction of the plaza in the center of R.A. Long Park. This project will include a fountain in the center of the plaza and other site improvements. The City has already spent \$100,000, has committed an additional \$300,000 in funding, and is seeking a minimum of \$75,000 from private sources.
 - Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts Enhancement project, \$500,000 request for air conditioning and other improvements to the Theatre’s HVAC system. This will allow for year-round use.
 - Training Range Improvements, \$263,000 request for improvements to construct a law enforcement training shooting range to serve jurisdictions throughout the region.
 - Downtown Streetscape Improvements, \$356,000 request to help pay for the final portion of a multi-year streetscape improvement project in downtown Longview. Total project costs for the final portion are over \$1 million.



Public Facilities District sales tax credit extension.

The City is supporting efforts of the Washington State Public Facilities Districts to extend by 15 years the current state sales tax credit. This will allow improvements at both the Columbia Theatre and the Cowlitz Regional Conference Center.



Heritage Grant funding.

The City supports adequate funding in the Capital Budget to ensure that the \$60,000 Shay Locomotive Plaza Heritage Grant application will be funded.



Local infrastructure assistance. The City is supporting efforts to protect the fund balance in the Public Works Assistance Account, to authorize loans to be issued in the coming biennium, to provide assistance to jurisdictions that have challenges getting into the private loan market, and to convene a task force to examine the PWAA program and other State infrastructure and economic development programs to bring recommendations forward at the end of 2018.



Criminal Justice Training Center funding.

The City of Longview will be hiring new law enforcement personnel who will need to attend the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission Basic Law Enforcement Academy. We support the \$2.8 million supplemental Operating Budget request by the CJTC to add eight additional classes to their biennial curriculum.



Regional Mobility Grant funding. The City supports adequate funding in the Transportation Budget to ensure that the RiversCities Transit Regional Mobility Grant applications for new buses and for transit center construction will be funded.



Transitional housing notices. Provide more time under RCW 72.09.285 for local governments to respond (with community impact statements) to Department of Corrections notices about potential new transitional housing locations.



Storage of tenant’s property. Modify the provision in RCW 59.18.132 that allows landlords to place a tenant’s property on public property.



Preemptions and unfunded mandates. The City is strongly opposed to any preemptions of local control and the imposition of unfunded and underfunded mandates.



Review of cost drivers. The City supports a comprehensive review of State-imposed cost drivers like mandatory binding arbitration and prevailing wage laws.



Association of Washington Cities priorities.

The City also generally supports the legislative priorities of the Association of Washington Cities, including reforming the Public Records Act and initiatives to increase affordable housing, decrease homelessness, improve mental health, and decrease substance abuse.

January 2017

