City of Lake Forest Park
State Legislative Agenda 2027-2028

Maintenance of State Route 104

State Route 104 is a critical corridor that divides the city, yet it is in poor condition and poses safety risks for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. With more than 7,200 vehicles traveling the route each day and 57 crashes over the past five years, the need for investment is clear. WSDOT estimates pavement rehab, including ADA and Complete Streets improvements, will cost $7.5 million, though basic maintenance is estimated at roughly $2 million. The project is not yet on WSDOT's 6 year plan meaning relief is more than 6 years away. Because SR 104 is a state facility, the city cannot undertake the work itself. We urge the state to prioritize funding for this highway and the residents who depend on it every day.

Park Restrooms

Parks are among the most heavily used public assets but all of LFP's parks lack a basic amenity that determines whether visitors can comfortably stay and fully enjoy them: restroom access. Research consistently shows that access to clean public restrooms extends visitation, improves accessibility for families, seniors, and people with disabilities, and helps ensure parks can be fully utilized by the public. To remedy this, the City proposes installing single-occupancy restrooms at three of the most utilized park facilities: Animal Acres Park, Horizon View Park, and Five Acre Woods Park. The total project cost is $775,000, and the City requests a $600,000 state capital budget investment to help ensure these parks serve residents of all ages and abilities.

City Financial Challenges

LFP is confronting a growing fiscal crisis as the cost of providing essential public safety services far outpaces the revenue tools available to fund them. Over the past four years, inflation has increased costs by 24%, while expenses outside the city's control have risen by $284,000 for 911 dispatch, $281,787 for jail services, $122,269 for mental health crisis response, and $106,488 for prosecution services. Yet the city's property tax revenue growth is limited to just $35,141. We urge the state to provide sustainable fiscal support and modernize local revenue tools so cities can continue delivering the essential services residents rely upon.

Policy Positions

Affordable Housing: LFP supports the expansion of tools and resources for development of affordable housing at the 30-50% AMI range.

Fish Culverts: LFP requests reappropriation of the previously awarded $1.2 million to complete the Lyon Creek Fish passage project and supports state policies that lower project costs and to aid in timely removal of fish blocking barriers.

Neighborhood Cafes: LFP supports establishment of statewide standards related to the establishment of neighborhood cafes.

Route Jurisdiction Transfer: LFP supports improving the process to transfer state highways from WSDOT to local ownership and control when requested by and mutually agreed upon with the receiving jurisdiction.

Utility Costs: LFP supports policies that reduce utility costs for residents, including but not limited to authorizing the use of porch solar programs.

Lake Forest Park supports those elements of the Association of Washington Cities' Legislative Agenda, Sound Cities Association Agenda, and SeaShore Transportation Forum that best serve the interests of the City.

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