

City of Lake Forest Park State Legislative Agenda 2025-2026



Lakefront Park

Despite the City's name, there is currently no public access to the lake in Lake Forest Park. The City is proudly advancing development of the Lakefront Park which is 3.3 acres on the shores of Lake Washington, near the city center and Burke Gilman Trail. The total project is estimated to cost \$12 million and will be implemented in phases, as funding is available. The City has already applied to several grant programs and requests \$1 million from the state capital budget to advance Phase 1.

State Route 104 Roundabout

State Route 104 is a two-lane highway that runs through the heart of Lake Forest Park. The intersection of 40th Place NE is a four-legged, skewed juncture that has several safety and traffic challenges. The City has taken the initiative to facilitate construction of a roundabout to improve the safety and mobility of the area. The total project costs a little over \$7 million. The City has committed its own resources, applied for funding from TIB and PWAA and there is still a funding gap of \$1.05 million. Recognizing resources are limited, the City requests the state prioritize funding to complete this project.

State Route 104: Complete Streets & Multimodal Connections

Complete Streets is an approach that enables safe access along and across streets for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Beginning in 2022, state law requires WSDOT to incorporate Complete Streets principles into any project on a state route that costs more than \$500,000. WSDOT has identified SR 104 as requiring maintenance but limited resources continue to push the necessary work further into the future. The City requests \$16 million for WSDOT to perform the necessary maintenance along SR 104 through city limits and complete the pedestrian, bicyclist and transit rider enhancements needed to adhere to the Complete Streets law.

City Financial Challenges

To develop a 2025-26 balanced budget, the City will have to use several million dollars of unallocated reserves, essentially the City's savings account. LFP has taken advantage of every revenue stream granted by the state for general fund purposes. It is critical that the Legislature amend the property tax cap and tie it to inflation. However, every 1% increase in property tax yields ~\$34k per year for LFP so that alone will not address the dire financial condition. The cost of delivering basic city services like public safety and infrastructure maintenance are far outpacing 1%. The City requests the state amend the property tax cap, increase direct distributions to cities and provide new revenue tools.

Policy Positions

Affordable Housing: LFP supports the expansion of city tools and resources including incentives for development of affordable housing at the 30-50% AMI range and new revenue options for cities.

Fish Culverts: LFP continues to work its way upstream addressing fish blocking culverts. The City supports state policies that lower project costs and state investments to aid in timely removal of fish blocking barriers.

Traffic Safety Cameras: LFP supports legislation clarifying the use of traffic safety camera revenue to support public safety, both operating and capital costs.

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.