



City of Lynden 2021 Legislative Agenda

Priority #1: Jim Kaemingk Trail Connection (Capital)

Perhaps the most treasured asset in Lynden and northern Whatcom County is the City's Jim Kaemingk Trail. It currently is two miles long and provides safe student access to six schools and four public parks. Two existing sections of Trail (in green) now need to be connected (in red). The cost to build this ½-mile link is **\$1.1 million**.



Priority #2: West Front Infrastructure (Capital)

The City requests \$3.2 million to make sewer and stormwater infrastructure improvements to West Front street to facilitate the development of nearby industrial land. The project is shovel-ready and will provide family-wage jobs as our economy begins to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Line & Bradley (Transportation)

Line and Bradley roads link Lynden High School and the Lynden Middle School. As such they are major connectors for cars, bikes, and children walking to school. Line road is 24' wide with no bike or pedestrian facilities and Bradley Road has an unprotected widened shoulder on one side, offering limited protection to pedestrians. Only a small section of Line Road, directly in front of the Middle School, has been improved. The total cost to improve this critical ¾ mile link between the two schools for bikes, pedestrians and vehicles is \$3 million.



Local Culvert Replacements to Align with WSDOT

Under a recent Washington Supreme Court decision, WSDOT must replace all state-owned culverts. To maximize these investments and ensure that the state culvert replacements improve fish habitat, locally-owned culverts downstream of the WSDOT culverts also need to be addressed. In Lynden, WSDOT is planning to replace two culverts, SR 539 (Guide Meridian) and SR 546 (Duffner Ditch), in 2021-23. Downstream of these two improvements is a city-owned culvert at Duffer Ditch (Site ID 1280095). The City requests \$700,000 to replace this culvert and improve habitat to support chum, coho, steelhead, SR cutthroat, and resident trout. The County is also planning to replace a culvert downstream of the WSDOT improvements, making this City culvert part of a State-City-County continuum to improve fish habitat.

City of Lynden 2021 Legislative Agenda Policy Statements

Managed Aquifer Recharge: Lynden received a \$4.7 million grant from the Department of Ecology to conduct an innovative pilot program to recharge the Nooksack River's aquifer. This project will not only increase minimum water flows in the Nooksack during critical low time periods, but will at the same time grant Lynden more municipal water

Nooksack Basin Water Rights: Lynden encourages the State and the Washington State Department of Ecology to pursue alternatives to adjudicating water rights in the Nooksack Basin. Adjudication would be time consuming and costly compared to other alternatives that would ensure water rights are available to all interests in the basin.

Growth Management Act: Lynden will monitor legislative proposals that propose reforms to the Growth Management Act (GMA), and will support reform proposals that address the impacts that the GMA has had on smaller communities. Lynden has experienced a significant amount of growth as people leave Bellingham and other urbanized areas to live in a setting with single-family homes. Meanwhile, areas of the City's UGA are in environmentally sensitive flood-prone areas that are challenging and costly to develop.

Affordable Housing: Lynden is very aware of the rising cost of homes and is concerned that affordable housing will no longer be available to its residents, and its future generations. The City will support proposals that remove regulations to make housing more affordable, including those stemming from the Growth Management Act, new energy-based building code requirements and other regulations driving up the costs of housing development.

COVID-19 Response: Lynden encourages the Legislature to develop consistent statewide policies that facilitate the re-opening of our statewide economy, including the return of our students to school, in a safe and practical manner. Lynden also encourages the state to explore innovative solutions to monitor coronavirus outbreaks, such as sewage monitoring.

Public Records: Lynden will monitor proposals to amend the Public Records Act and will support proposals that prevent malicious requests and increase cost recovery to the City while maintaining transparency.

State-Shared Revenues: Lynden supports ongoing and enhanced funding for state-shared revenues, including the state allocating a share of any federal funds to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.