

Date



Dear Legislators,

The 21 member jurisdictions of the [Eastside Transportation Partnership \(ETP\)](#) are pleased to present our **2026 State Legislative Priorities**. For decades, ETP has provided a forum to coordinate regional transportation priorities and to advocate for transportation improvements to better serve East King County. Although most of our member jurisdictions pass legislative agendas that speak to their individual needs, we firmly believe in the over-arching vision of developing a regional transportation system that serves the needs of all Eastside residents.

Thank you for the difficult decisions last session to enact a balanced transportation budget that honors the commitments of Move Ahead Washington and makes other important investments to our jurisdictions. We recognize that it's a very challenging fiscal time and appreciate the investments in our shared transportation infrastructure. ***We urge the state to maintain these investments and shared revenue with counties and cities.***

We look forward to meeting with you during session and working in partnership to address our shared transportation goals now and into the future. Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing the Eastside Transportation Partnership's 2026 Legislative Priorities.

Sincerely,

Chair Vanessa Kritzer  
Redmond City Council President  
[vkritzer@redmond.gov](mailto:vkritzer@redmond.gov)

Vice Chair James Randolph  
Woodinville Deputy Mayor  
[jrandolph@ci.woodinville.wa.us](mailto:jrandolph@ci.woodinville.wa.us)

On behalf of the 21 member jurisdictions of Eastside Transportation Partnership  
Beaux Arts, Bellevue, Bothell, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Duvall, Hunts Point, Issaquah, Kenmore, King County, Kirkland, Medina, Mercer Island, Newcastle, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Snoqualmie, Woodinville, Yarrow Point

## EASTSIDE TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Eastside Transportation Partnership (ETP) is a collaborative organization representing 20 Eastside cities and King County. After a thorough process of deliberations and review by all ETP members, we recommend the following objectives and actions to the 2026 Legislature:

### **Maintain Funding for Transportation and Explore New Revenue for Critical Needs at the Local Level**

Cities and counties need direct funding and flexible revenue options. Transportation needs include maintenance and preservation of roads of statewide significance, regional connections, ADA improvements, pavement management, and first/last mile solutions. We ask the Legislature to consider an array of equitable and sustainable funding sources including:

- **Implement a funding mechanism by which all road users contribute to the cost of the system**, which could include a transition from ***gas taxes to road usage charges or other possible funding*** maintaining the local share of the gas tax and giving cities an additional local option. Allow funds to be used for multimodal improvements.
- **Preserve full funding** for the Public Works Fund.
- **Incentivize public-private partnerships** to advance transportation and transit- oriented development projects.
- We urge the Legislature to **preserve shared revenue** which is being used for critical preservation and maintenance.

### **Protect Ongoing Investments in Local Transportation Needs**

- **Critical state funding for transit infrastructure**: Cities and counties are making land use decisions in compliance with recent legislation. The state asks cities and counties to prioritize housing near transit as well as transit-oriented developments. The state must help boost statewide transit capacity as a means of further accelerating development of affordable housing, meeting climate action goals, increasing access to transportation, reducing traffic congestion, and providing equitable opportunities for all.
- **Infrastructure improvements to maximize the effectiveness of the I-405 corridor**: ETP asks the legislature to address forecasted WSDOT and Sound Transit funding shortfalls for the I-405/SR 167 Corridor improvements, including the Stride I-405 Bus Rapid Transit Project. Support these improvements by keeping these promised investments on schedule.
- **Funding for rural corridors and infrastructure**: ETP requests attention be paid to the deteriorating rural road systems of East King County especially unincorporated roads between cities affected by development. As population grows, they provide essential transportation networks between densifying cities. Rural transportation needs are currently a utility that is not properly addressed.
- **Culverts**: Provide funding support to address fish passage barriers for local jurisdictions.
- Fund grants for **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliant projects** that support transportation improvements while also advancing the region's water quality goals. Transportation projects are seeing increased scope because of greater mitigation for pollutants such as tire rubber.
- **Graffiti**: ETP supports enhanced graffiti removal services by the Washington State Department of Transportation that are necessary to prevent property damage, maintain property values, and deter criminal activity. ETP supports funding for art alternatives.

## Ensure Investments in New Technologies, Alternative Modes, and Environmental Stewardship

- **Safety Projects:** ETP urges the Legislature to make continued progress on Target Zero and the Strategic Highway Safety Plan to reduce deaths on Washington's roadways and to prioritize safety improvements for bicycles, pedestrians, and other non-motorized modes.
- **Multimodal Transportation Improvements:** Continue to appropriately use Climate Commitment Act funding in the transportation budget to support improved transit service, pedestrian and bike safety initiatives, e-bike rebates, electrification infrastructure, and similar investments.
- **E-Mobility:** Provide guidance to cities on local regulation of e-bikes, e-scooters, and e-motorcycles/e-dirt bikes, such as a model ordinance. Enact state regulations to address the rising popularity of e-bikes and e-motorcycles/e-dirt bikes among youth to ensure safe use while promoting sustainable transportation.
- **Multi-modal Corridors:** ETP urges the Legislature to strengthen funding for bicycle and pedestrian segments and crossings of regional multi-modal corridors such as Eastrail and the 520 trail.
- **First/last mile:** Due to land use patterns on the Eastside, access to transit is critically important, including flexible transit options, and the state should partner in helping cities to find solutions to address this concern.
- **Vehicle Electrification:** ETP appreciates Move Ahead Washington language and Department of Ecology rulemaking actions that move Washington toward more comprehensive use of electric vehicles and zero-emission standards. To support adoption of greener vehicles by both the public and private sector, ETP recommends the Legislature prioritize electric vehicle infrastructure, including for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. Special attention should be paid to encouraging funding from the Climate Commitment Act to be invested for Vehicle Electrification and EV charger infrastructure throughout Washington State.