



City of Medina 2025 Legislative Priorities

The City of Medina will advocate for the following issues and will align its support for the priorities of its partners, including the Association of Washington Cities

MODEL EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH WSDOT

Our strong partnership with WSDOT will enhance public trust and advance both local and regional priorities.

Emphasize Medina's role as a vital gateway from Seattle to major Eastside tech employers, providing seamless access for cars, transit, cyclists, and pedestrians. Medina is the welcoming municipality and the critical link to current and future regional pathways and circulation systems. Medina will work with WSDOT to deliver safe, accessible, and efficient public projects while continuing to provide and demand transparency, prudence and radical accountability on behalf of taxpayers to protect and maintain our infrastructure.

We need WSDOT and lawmakers to recognize potential for losing public trust by not demanding contract accountability -- we paid for quiet expansion joints; we accepted a flawed product, and this might be perceived as an imprudent use of public funds and a lack of transparency by not framing the problem as such. We should get what EVERYBODY paid for. Resolving the flawed joint installation is not a gift to Medina or the Points communities, instead it is an opportunity to demonstrate financial responsibility and radical accountability for the use of public funds. We must get what we paid for, not what we will settle for. It sets a bad example for all future projects and makes a mockery of contractual obligations.

WSDOT is efficiently situated to best manage lid maintenance. They have a large staff at the WATERFRONT facility sited conveniently adjacent and convenient to the lid parks. Additionally, this large, gated parcel could be utilized to remove the at grade crossing while providing another needed public amenity: restrooms for users of the SR520 trail, as this spacious gated facility can be periodically and remotely monitored and secured (open during daylight hours for example).



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MANAGE REGIONAL GROWTH THROUGH MIDDLE HOUSING

Medina recognizes our regional housing crisis and has invested deeply to identify and achieve density goals through proven and creative housing solutions proportionate to our small city, while maintaining Medina's historic charm and diverse populace.

Small cities face disproportionate operational burdens and expenses in trying to meet the blanket Housing Bill deadlines. Medina believes we can achieve an even greater vision and outcome with adequate time to use our valuable local expertise to craft policy to successfully achieve the goal of adding gentle density. We have made significant progress defining methods, and identifying means to meet new housing mandates, however we need more time for implementation (along with clarification and consistency around options for tier 3 cities to partner, innovate and comply.) We ask the legislature to consider the unintended consequences and potential negative transformational impacts continued revisions to these mandates can have on small municipalities struggling to comply in a manner reflective of their community character.

EXPAND REVENUE OPPORTUNITIES TO ALLOW BUDGET STABILITY FOR SMALL CITIES

Current property tax limits place an undue burden on small cities, threatening their economic stability.

Medina is largely residential with limited commercial zoning restricts our revenue opportunities. Small cities must be allowed to revisit property tax caps to meet the service and infrastructure demands of regional growth on our limited resources and finite land capacity. We will work with AWC and other small cities to find responsible solutions such as expanding the use of Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) to fund long and short-term planning needs.