



# AB 6360: Review 2024 Draft Legislative Strategy

October 17, 2023



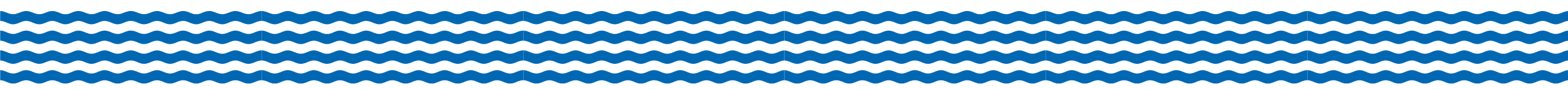


# Agenda

- Recap of 2023 Legislative Session
- Draft 2024 State Legislative Priorities
- Transit Oriented Development Bill
- Climate Commitment Act Funding
- Partner Agency Legislative Priorities

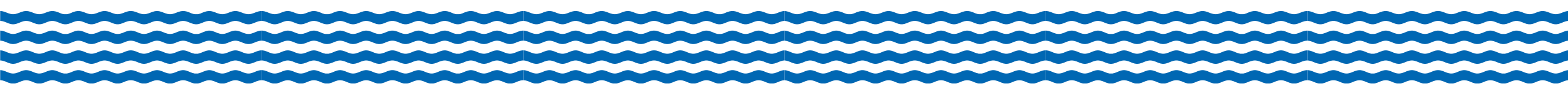
# 2023 Legislative Session Recap

- The 2023 State Legislative Session was unprecedented in terms of the volume of bills introduced for consideration.
- The primary focus of the session was housing, with several pieces of legislation enacted related to land use and permitting.
- The City secured \$3.5 million in grant funding for waterfront improvements at Luther Burbank Park.



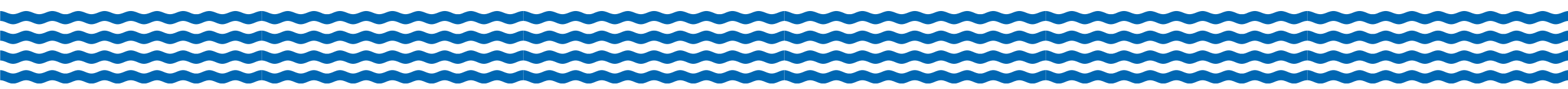
# 2024 Session Logistics

- The 2024 legislative session will be a “short” session, meaning a 60-day session rather than the “long” 105-day session that occurs in odd years.
- Short sessions occur during the mid-biennium of the State’s two-year budget cycle.
- While the exact dates of the session are not finalized, staff anticipate the session will run from January 8 to March 8, 2024.



# Early Prep for 2024 Session

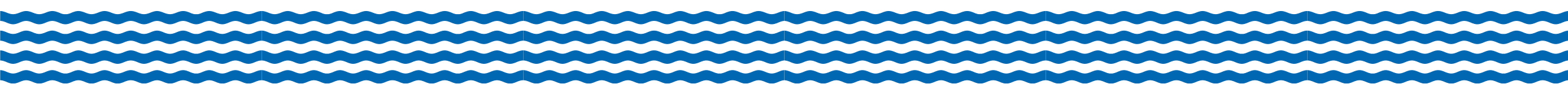
- Council leadership, the City's lobbyists, and senior staff leadership staff held the 2024 legislative kick-off planning meeting.
- City staff met with the Governor's transportation and finance policy advisors to discuss Marine Patrol request.
- The City Manager has transmitted a letter to the Governor's office for Marine Patrol request.
- Mayor Nice participated in AWC's Fall Mayors Exchange discussion of 2024 Legislative Session.



# Draft 2024 Legislative Priorities

The City's draft 2024 State Legislative Priorities are included as Exhibit 1 and the proposed priorities are categorized as follows:

- Maximize Resources for Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Prevention
- Support for Affordable Housing
- Capital and Grant Support for Essential Public Services
- Preserving and Protecting the Environment
- Support Public Safety Measures on Auto Theft and Property Crime
- Support for WCIA Municipal Tort Law Liability Reform
- Revising the Arbitrary Property Tax Cap



# Partner Legislative Priorities

- The City collaborates with other organizations when developing legislative asks. Staff included for reference the legislative priorities from the following partner agencies in the agenda material:
  - Association of Washington Cities (AWC)
  - A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH)
  - Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA)

The collage features several documents:

- Legislative Talking points for WCIA Members**: A document with a green and blue header.
- Who is WCIA**: A document with a vertical list of names on the left and text on the right.
- A Regional Coalition for Housing**: A document with a blue header and the text "Celebrating 30 years of bringing cities together to house East King County".
- 2024 City Legislative Priorities**: A document with a blue header and a list of priorities for Washington's 281 cities.
- ARCH MEMBERS**: A document with a list of member cities.

**2024 City Legislative Priorities**

Strong cities make a great state. Cities are home to 65% of Washington's residents, drive the state's economy, and provide the most accessible form of government. Cities' success depends on adequate resources and local decision-making authority to best meet the needs of our residents.

**Washington's 281 cities ask the Legislature to partner with us and act on the following priorities:**

- Help recruit and retain police officers for public safety**  
Provide additional funding tools and resources for officer recruitment and retention to improve public safety. This includes updating the existing local option Public Safety Sales Tax to allow implementation by councilmanic authority and greater flexibility for using the funds to cover increased officer wages and related programs like behavioral health co-response teams.
- Continue investing in infrastructure**  
Continue strong state investments in infrastructure funding to support operations and maintenance of traditional and non-traditional infrastructure like drinking water, wastewater, and broadband. Expand funding options that support state and local transportation needs with emphasis on preservation and maintenance to prevent expensive replacement and repairs. Improve access to Climate Commitment Act funding, including direct distributions, for city priorities that support carbon reduction and climate resiliency.
- Revise the arbitrary property tax cap**  
Revise the arbitrary 1% property tax cap that has been in place for more than 20 years. Tie the tax to inflation and population growth factors with a new cap not to exceed 3%. This allows local elected officials to adjust the local property tax rate to better serve our communities and keep up with the costs of providing basic services like police, fire, streets, and valued community amenities like parks. The current 1% cap has created a structural deficit in cities' revenue and expenditure model, causing reliance on regressive revenues and artificially restricting the ability of property taxes to fund critical community needs.
- Provide behavioral health resources**  
Create greater access to behavioral health services to include substance use disorder treatment and dual diagnosis treatment facilities. Support continued state funding for cities to help communities establish alternative response programs like co-responder programs, diversion programs, and others that provide options beyond law enforcement to assist individuals experiencing behavioral health challenges.

**AWC's advocacy is guided by these core principles from our Statement of Policy:**

- Local decision-making authority
- Fiscal flexibility and sustainability
- Equal standing for cities
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Strong Washington state partnerships
- Nonpartisan analysis and decision-making

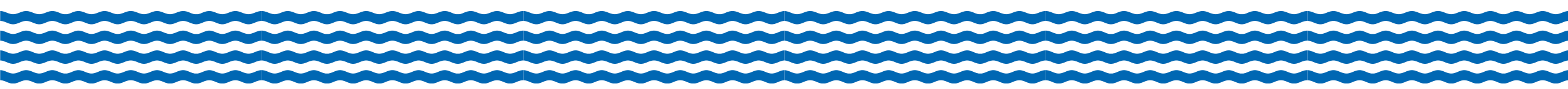
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AWC ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES

# Potential TOD Bill

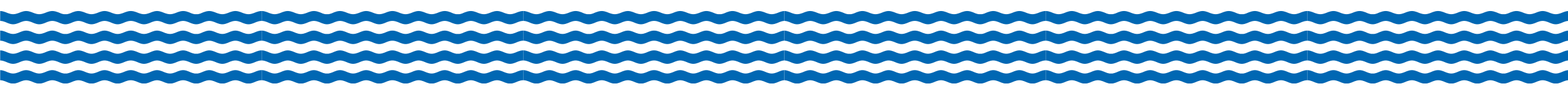
- Staff anticipate the legislature will again attempt to pass a “transit-oriented development” bill. Last year’s version would have increased housing capacity around the light-rail station on Mercer Island.
- Council leadership, staff, and the City’s lobbyists remain engaged with key stakeholders shaping the bill. In recent weeks:
  - Council leadership and staff met with Governor Inslee’s King County liaison to discuss the TOD bill and upcoming legislative session.
  - Mayor Nice and staff attended a roundtable of King County mayors hosted by Governor Inslee focused on transit-oriented housing development.
  - Staff and City Council plan to participate in the stakeholder meeting on the TOD bill hosted by AWC on October 25.





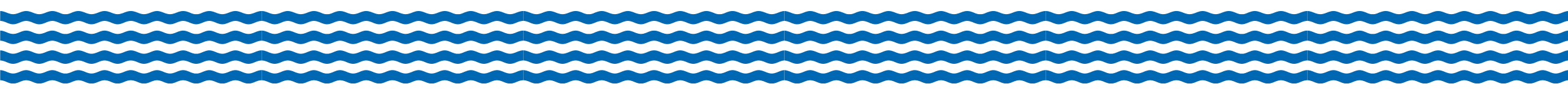
# Climate Commitment Act Funding

- In 2021, the State Legislature passed the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), a cap-and-invest program to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions.
- The CCA sets an emissions cap, issues permits that industry can bid on at auction.
- The cap is reduced over time and proceeds from the auctions must be invested in climate projects focused on clean transportation, climate resilience, and environmental justice.
- The CCA has brought in significantly more revenue than anticipated, with potentially \$1 billion available for appropriation during the 2024 Legislative Session.



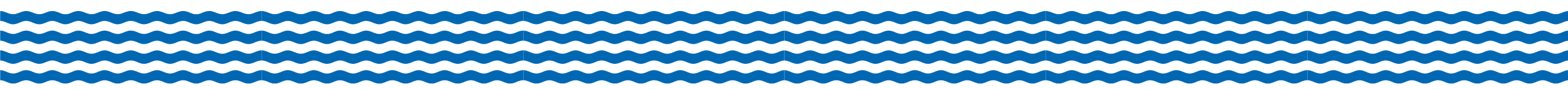
# Climate Commitment Act Funding

- The City's lobbyists and legislators have advised that there is an opportunity to leverage CCA funds for projects and initiatives that align with the City's Climate Action Plan.
- Information on the CCA funding opportunities is still being developed, staff are engaged in conversations and attending meetings to learn more.
- Staff have included two funding requests in the draft 2024 Legislative Priorities.



# Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan

- One of the priority planning projects identified in the CAP is development of an island-wide Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan.
- Early planning framework assumes the City would hire a qualified consultant to assess City, school district, and community needs, as well as current infrastructure, and develop a comprehensive strategy to expand EV charging opportunities island-wide.
- The proposed funding request is \$300,000.



# Compact Electric Sweeper

- The City identified purchase of a compact electrical sweeper as a fleet priority for the next biennium.
- This equipment will service areas that are inaccessible to our large street sweeper, such as sidewalks, paths, and park areas.
- This equipment will allow staff to reduce the use of gas-powered equipment performing maintenance on island.
- The proposed funding request is \$310,000.



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