

2022 City Legislative Priorities

Cities are home to **65%** of the state's residents, drive the economy, and provide the most accessible government. The continued success of cities depends on adequate resources and local decision-making to best meet the needs of our shared residents.

Washington's 281 cities ask the Legislature to partner with cities and take action on the following priorities—because strong cities make a great state.



Ensure basic infrastructure funding

Provide flexible state and federal dollars through programs like the Public Works Assistance Account to help cities finance basic infrastructure such as drinking water and wastewater.

Basic infrastructure is the key to our robust state economy and protecting our environment. Nearly **\$900 million** in local infrastructure projects are currently halted due to lack of funding. State investment in local infrastructure is critical to ensuring reliable, equitable, safe, and affordable service to support our residents, businesses, and environment.



Protect Transportation Benefit District funding authority

Support expanded local authority for Transportation Benefit Districts (TBDs) so cities can continue using the sales tax funding tool beyond the current time limitations.

Cities largely fund their transportation systems locally. In fact, **79%** of funding comes from local sources, such as Transportation Benefit Districts. TBDs are a crucial funding tool for critical transportation needs. TBD revenue authority must continue as a sustainable funding source for ongoing transportation needs.



Pass a transportation package

Adopt a new transportation revenue package that emphasizes maintenance/preservation funding and provides an equitable level of local funding and additional long-term, sustainable revenue options for cities.

City streets accommodate **26%** of all vehicle miles traveled and cities are responsible for many aspects of the transportation system beyond local streets. This includes sidewalks, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, some aspects of state highways, stormwater infrastructure, and other utilities. Cities largely fund these needs locally with only **13%** of funding coming from the state and **8%** from federal sources. Pass a statewide transportation package that addresses local transportation needs to keep our state moving.

AWC's advocacy is guided by the following 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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