



City of Tacoma

2023 State Legislative Session Report

June 15, 2023

Introduction

The City of Tacoma 2023 State Legislative Session Report is a summary of the legislation passed during the state legislative session. The report provides information on policy bills and budgets, as well additional discussion to provide background and context to the issues.

The City of Tacoma's Government Affairs team was tremendously active throughout the 2023 legislative session. This report contains a summary of the bills tracked and work of the team throughout the session. The City's advocacy is guided by the City's adopted legislative agenda, but also includes work on issues impacting the City that arise during the legislative session.

The report is extensive; therefore, in order to provide easier access to the information on the bills and issues, the report is divided into sections both by topic and in relation to the legislative agenda. The sections in the report may also be collapsed or expanded to assist in viewing the document. The following is an overview to assist readers in navigating this report with links to each section in order to allow readers to access the content most relevant to their interests:

[Section 1](#): **Overview of the 2023 Legislative Session** - *A high-level summary of the legislative session that provides political and process context.*

[Section 2](#): **Legislative Issues by Topic** - *A summary of legislative issues tracked by the City's government affairs team organized by topic area.*

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Section 3: Outcome of City of Tacoma Legislative Agenda - *The City's 2023 state legislative agenda with actions taken by the legislature this session that relate to each agenda item. Testimony was provided, or positions noted for the record, on many bills this session by the government affairs team and other city staff. Most testimony by City Councilmembers and staff are noted in the summary. Testimony or positions provided by the Government Affairs Team is not included for brevity.*

- I. [General Government State Legislative Priorities](#)
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Section 4: Budget Overview - A high-level summary of the 2023-25 Operating, Capital, and Transportation budgets.

Section 1: Overview of the 2023 Legislative Session

The Washington State Legislature convened on January 9, 2023 for the 105-day session. This session was the first conducted in-person since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2023 session was the first of the two-year legislative cycle, and legislators were keen to resume their policymaking work at the Capitol campus.

The 2022 November elections resulted in strong Democratic majorities in both the State House and Senate, and 25 new “freshman” legislators. The State House of Representatives had 58 Democrats and 40 Republicans, while the Senate had 29 Democrats and 20 Republicans. Being the majority party, Democrats set the agenda, calling the 2023 session “the year of housing.” Democrats also noted priorities of continuing efforts to address climate change, public safety, behavioral health workforce, and special education funding.

As the first year of the legislative biennium, the Legislature established new committee structures, committee chairs, and selected new leadership. Notably, the House of

Representatives adjusted which legislation would be considered by the Housing and Local Government Committees, directing land use policy that impacts housing construction to the Housing Committee, rather than the Local Government Committee. Several other committee adjustments were made, all of which contributed to the advancement of issues through the legislative process.

A total of 2,156 pieces of legislation were introduced this session, and the Legislature passed 485 bills. The Legislature also enacted the Capital, Operating, and Transportation budgets for the 2023-25 biennium.

One of the most debated issues of the legislative session was a statewide policy on possession of controlled substances. The issue remained unresolved through the regular 105-day session. On the final evening of the regular session, the House of Representatives debated a compromise version of [SB 5536](#) sponsored by Senator June Robinson (D- 38th LD), concerning possession of controlled substances. The bill did not pass, and Washington’s current law on drug possession is set to expire at the end of June. Governor Inslee called for a special session of the Legislature, which convened on May 16th to give lawmakers another opportunity to set forth a statewide policy before the current statute expires. The Legislature met in a one-day session and adopted a final version of the bill making possession of controlled substances a gross misdemeanor, subject to a sentence of up to 180 days, with strong encouragement for pre-trial diversion. A summary of the agreement is under the *Public Safety* section of this report.

The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) has provided a summary of legislative action related to the AWC priorities, available on the [AWC website](#).

Section 2: Legislative Issues by Topic

I. Housing:

Legislators began the 2023 legislative session declaring it the “year of housing” – expressing a strong commitment to advance funding and policies to address homelessness and housing affordability. Early in the legislative session, the Department of Commerce released a [report](#) stating that Washington State needs approximately one million additional homes by 2044 to adequately accommodate projected population growth. Of those one million homes, approximately 525,000 need to be affordable to households at or below 50 percent of area median income. Legislators cited these data points in committee hearings throughout the legislative process to underscore the urgent need for housing policy solutions and funding.

A. Housing Funding: \$1 Billion for Housing

The Legislature considered several ways to increase funding for housing. Governor Inslee introduced a proposal to ask Washington State voters to approve a bond measure to generate \$4 billion for affordable housing and other types of housing to address homelessness over a six-

year period ([SB 5202](#) and [HB 1149](#)). The Washington State Treasurer, Mike Pellicciotti criticized the proposal as potentially have a negative impact on the state's credit rating. Other legislators expressed concerns that voters may not approve a bond measure.

The Legislature also considered [HB 1628](#), which would have increased state real estate excise tax revenues and would have authorized local jurisdictions to impose a .25% real estate excise tax to fund affordable housing. Mayor Woodards authored [an article](#) in the Tacoma News Tribune in support of this proposal and the Legislature approving additional revenue for affordable housing generally. The Washington State Realtors and other stakeholders strongly opposed this proposal and lobbied heavily against it.

Both revenue concepts were given serious consideration, but the Legislature inevitably chose not to advance either proposal; Instead, legislators chose to increase its support for housing through \$1 billion in budget appropriations in the 2023-25 Operating and Capital budgets and passed several policy bills to respond to the housing shortage.

The 2023-25 Operating and Capital budgets included over \$1 billion for housing through a variety of accounts. The following is a summary of the \$1 billion that was appropriated by the Legislature:

1. 2023-25 Capital Budget:

- The Housing Trust Fund contained \$354,663,000 million in six categories, including:
 - \$163,663,000 in fully competitive funding
 - \$95,000,000 for permanent supportive housing under the Apple Health and Home program
 - \$40,000,000 for homeownership projects serving first-time low-income homebuyers
 - \$25,000,000 for housing persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
 - \$25,000,000 for preservation of existing affordable housing, to continue to serve low-income households
 - \$6,000,000 for acquisition and preservation of mobile homes
- An additional \$45,337,000 was appropriated for specific named Housing Trust Fund projects.
- Through the Building Communities Fund Grant Program and Local & Communities Projects Program, an additional \$ 8,619,000 in specific housing project allocations were appropriated.
- For shelter and housing for homeless youth and young adults, \$ 14,520,000 was appropriated for several specific projects.
- \$40,000,000 was appropriated for the Washington State Housing Finance Commission's Land Acquisition Program, to assist developers purchase land for affordable housing, of which \$17 million is intended as a match for \$50 million in private funding from Microsoft for use in King County.

- \$60,000,000 was appropriated for the Connecting Housing to Infrastructure Program (CHIP), which provides grants to local governments and public utility districts to assist in the cost of utility improvements or connections to new affordable housing projects.
- \$50,000,000 was appropriated for housing developers and public entities to complete projects designed to increase the supply and affordability of transit-oriented housing development. \$25 million of these funds are through private donations from Amazon, with no income restrictions.
- \$5,000,000 was appropriated to the Landlord Mitigation Account, to reimburse both non-profit and for-profit landlords for damages to units rented under state programs.
- \$124,000,000 was appropriated for various forms of home upgrades, including:
- \$83,200,000 million in federal authority from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to implement the Home Efficiency Rebates program to provide rebates for whole-house energy savings.
- \$35,000,000 million for weatherization and home health improvements to homes occupied by low-income households.
- \$6,000,000 million for the Low-Income Rural Rehabilitation Grant Program to provide home rehabilitation services to low-income households in rural areas.

2. 2023-25 Operating Budget

- \$111,000,000 is provided for grants to support emergency housing, shelter capacity, and associated support services. Grantees must maintain or increase their emergency housing capacity compared to levels funded through previous temporary state and federal programs, including Emergency Solutions Grant funds provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the state Shelter Capacity grant program.
- \$48,000,000 was transferred from other housing program reserves, to partially backfill the loss of funding for state homeless services and to prevent cuts due to decreases in real estate transaction volume, which caused a substantial decrease in document recording fee revenues that fund these programs. If revenues decline more than what is assumed by this budget, additional funding will need to be appropriated in future years to avoid cuts to state and local homeless services statewide.
- \$18,000,000 is also provided to help cover a portion of the local document recording fee revenue shortfall that cities and counties are experiencing for locally-funded homeless services.
- \$25,000,000 for operating and maintenance support for Permanent Supportive Housing through the Apple Health & Homes program.
- \$13,000,000 in additional expenditure authority is provided for the Office of Apple Health & Homes to provide services for individuals in Permanent Supportive Housing.
- \$150,000,000 in one-time funding for grants to local governments and non-profits to provide housing and other wraparound services for individuals who reside in encampments on state rights-of-way and other encampments on state land.
- \$6,000,000 million in the Supplemental Operating Budget from unspent Right of Way funding was appropriated to the King County Regional Homeless Authority, to prevent

individuals and families from being evicted from hotels in King County during the remainder of fiscal year 2023.

- \$26,520,000 for the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program to increase the number of individuals who can access HEN benefits. Funding is also provided for Department of Commerce to conduct an analysis of the HEN program, including potential program improvements and the amount of funding needed to provide benefits to all eligible individuals.
- \$41,979,000 in funding to increase the Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) cash grant by 8%, starting in 2024.
- \$53,700,000 to implement House Bill 1260, eliminating DSHS garnishment of a portion of the SSI lump-sum payment received by ABD participants, effective October 1, 2025.
- \$150,000,000 for implementation of House Bill 1474 to create the Covenant Investment Act, to provide homeownership opportunities for people harmed by racist real estate practices like racially restrictive covenants and redlining. The revenue for this funding is generated by a new \$100 document recording fee.
- \$500,000 is provided for one-time funding for the Department of Commerce to contract with the WSHFC to conduct a Covenant Homeownership Program Study pursuant to Second Substitute House Bill 1474.
- \$45,605,000 is provided to increase current homeless service grantee contracts. The Department of Commerce must distribute funding in a manner that will prioritize both maintaining current levels of homeless subsidies and services and stabilizing the homeless service provider workforce, reflecting a 6.5% increase from last biennium.
- \$5,000,000 for eviction prevention and increased funding for tenants' right to counsel.
- \$1,000,000 in one-time funding is provided for a grant to a nonprofit operating a refugee housing center in Spokane.
- \$250,000 in one-time funding is provided for a nonprofit to provide wraparound services for homeless families with children in Pierce County.
- \$2,000,000 for the Homeless Student Stability Program.
- \$1,000,000 for the Washington Youth & Families Fund.
- \$200,000 in one-time funding for a grant to a nonprofit that promotes affordable housing solutions to identify strategies and tools to assist cities in Whatcom County in improving access to affordable housing.
- \$400,000 in one-time funding is provided to conduct a predevelopment study of the use of surplus public land near North Seattle College and Highline Community College for affordable workforce housing.
- \$4,000,000 in one-time funding is provided for the Homeless Prevention and Diversion Fund, which serves youth and young adults experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.
- \$200,000 in one-time funding is provided for a housing supply and affordability task force of state and local elected officials and stakeholders.
- \$3,000,000 is provided for grants to provide housing assistance to survivors of human trafficking.

- \$1,700,000 in one-time funding is provided to continue existing contracts with a nonprofit organization to advance affordable housing developments that are co-located with community services on underutilized or tax-exempt land.
- \$900,000 in one-time funding is provided for planning, lease payments, and other expenses to develop community-based residential housing and services for youth at the Pacific Hospital Preservation & Development Authority Quarters Buildings #3-10.
- \$560,000 in one-time funding is provided to produce a report to the Legislature detailing the scope of work, cost estimates, and implementation timeline to create or procure an online registry of rental units in Washington.
- \$540,000 in one-time funding is provided for a grant to a low-barrier shelter located in Skagit County.
- \$400,000 in one-time funding is provided for a grant to an organization in Whatcom County to expand services to unhoused and low-income residents of Ferndale and north Whatcom County, and to provide a safe parking program.
- \$200,000 in one-time funding is provided for a grant to the City of Seattle for start-up costs of the Social Housing Developer and to meet the requirements of the City of Seattle Initiative 135, which concerns developing and maintaining affordable social housing in the city.

B. Housing Policy Bills

In addition to allocating significant funding to housing, several dozen housing bills passed into law. Those bills that exclusively touch on housing are outlined in this section. Additional bills that blend planning/land use policies are reviewed in the [planning/land use](#) section.

1. Housing Policy Bills Passed in 2023

Creating the covenant homeownership account: [2SHB 1474](#) sponsored by Representative Jamila Taylor (D-30th LD) establishes and funds the Covenant Homeownership Program to provide down payment and closing cost assistance to economically disadvantaged households. The Covenant Homeownership Program is funded through a \$100 document recording fee collected by county auditors. The Department of Commerce must contract with the Washington State Housing Finance Commission to create a Special Purpose Credit Program to provide down payment and closing cost assistance to economically disadvantaged homebuyers. An oversight committee is established in the bill and the Housing Finance Commission must complete an initial study of the new program by March 2024 and every five years after. The bill passed on party lines in both the House and Senate. Support from the real estate community for the underlying policy despite the imposition of the document recording fee was important for the bill's momentum.

Re-benchmarking area median income limits: [HB 1046](#) sponsored by Representative Amy Walen (D-48th LD) increases the area median income limits on a public housing authority-financed, low-income housing development to 80 percent.

Reducing Barriers to Condominium Construction: For several sessions, legislators have desired to enact policies to reduce barriers to condominium construction. Condominiums are seen as being an entry to homeownership, and a way for seniors to move to smaller living environments. In 2019, the Legislature adopted SB 5334 making changes to the Washington State Condominium Act; however, since then, Washington State has not experienced a significant increase in the construction of condominiums. In 2023, the Legislature passed two bills that build on the previous work in a subsequent effort to spur condominium construction. [SB 5058](#) sponsored by Senator Mike Padden (R-4th LD), exempts buildings with 12 or fewer units that are no more than two stories from several requirements specific to building enclosure regulations, and [E2SSB 5258](#) sponsored by Senator Sharon Shewmake (D-42nd LD) contains several provisions aimed at boosting construction and homeownership of condominiums and townhomes including changes to construction defect claims, deposits for purchase, warranty insurance, real estate excise taxes/down payment assistance, impact fees, and approval of short plats and short subdivisions. Notably, it requires impact fee schedules to reflect the proportionate impact of new housing units, including multifamily and condominium units, based on the square footage, number of bedrooms, or trips generated, in the housing unit and to produce a proportionally lower impact fee for small housing units.

Surplus public property for affordable housing: [HB 1695](#) sponsored by Representative Emily Alvarado (D-34th LD) updates the definition of affordable housing for a public benefit purpose in the context of local governments' authority to dispose of surplus public property for public benefit. As outlined in the legislation, affordable housing refers to rental housing, including rent and utilities, whose cost does not exceed 30 percent of the household's monthly income. For permanently affordable homeownership, the total cost of mortgage principal and interest, property taxes, homeowner's insurance, homeowner's association fees, and land lease fees must not exceed 38 percent of the household's monthly income.

Waiving municipal utility connection charges for affordable housing: [SHB 1326](#) sponsored by Representative Julio Cortes (D-38th LD) authorizes municipal utilities to establish a program to waive connection charges for properties used by a non-profit organization, housing authority, local agency, or other organization that provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, or affordable housing. Any waived connection charges must be funded through general funds, grant dollars, or another identified revenue stream.

Flexibility on affordable housing and mental health funding: [SSB 5604](#) sponsored by Senator June Robinson (D-38th LD) allows all jurisdictions to use revenue from the affordable and supportive housing sales tax for rental assistance, and allows counties to use chemical dependency and mental health services tax revenue for modifications to existing facilities to address health and safety needs. Local governments may retain up to 10 percent of the affordable and supportive housing tax for administrative costs.

Foreclosure protections: [HB 1349](#) sponsored by Representative Tina Orwall (D-33rd LD) modifies the timeline for referral to pre-foreclosure mediation to provide that a borrower may be

referred to mediation no later than 90 days before the date of sale is listed in the Notice of Trustee Sale, instead of no later than 20 days from the date the Notice is recorded. The bill makes it unlawful to seek or receive financial compensation for locating or purporting to purchase surplus funds held by a court or county resulting from a foreclosure where the fee is more than five percent of the value reasonably expected to be recovered.

Tenant Protections: Two bills concerning tenant protections were passed. [HB 1074](#) sponsored by Representative My-Linh Thai (D-41st LD), requires landlords to provide documentation substantiating the cost of any damages withheld from a tenant's deposit. The bill was passed in both chambers on party-line votes. [ESSB 5197](#) sponsored by Senator Patty Kuderer (D-48th LD) modifies several aspects of the eviction process, including allowing remote participation by any party in forcible and unlawful detainer actions, and allowing tenants who provide a pledge of financial assistance letter to satisfy an unlawful detainer judgment and have their tenancy restored.

2. Notable Housing Bills That Did Not Pass in 2023

Tenant Protections: Three proposals concerning residential rent practices were considered, but not passed, this session. [HB 1388](#) sponsored by Representative Nicole Macri (D- 43rd LD) would have prohibited landlords from charging excessive rent or higher rent based on the terms of payment or whether the lease was month-to-month or longer term. [HB 1389](#) sponsored by Representative Alex Ramel (D- 40th LD) would have prohibited landlords from increasing rent in an amount greater than the rate of inflation or three percent, up to a maximum of seven percent above the existing rent. [HB 1124](#) sponsored by Representative Strom Peterson (D- 21st LD) would have required landlords to provide at least 180 days' notice for rent increases of more than five percent. The bills were supported by low-income housing advocates, but strongly opposed by landlords.

Multifamily Property Tax Exemption Expansion to Conversions: The Legislature considered but did not advance [HB 1350](#) sponsored by Rep. Amy Walen (D-48th LD), authorizing cities to offer the multifamily property tax exemption to existing buildings that are converted to or already are residential buildings, and dedicate at least 30% of the units to affordability. The current multifamily property tax exemption is limited to new construction.

Extreme weather events: [SHB 1012](#) sponsored by Representative Mari Leavitt (D- 28th LD), would have directed the Military Department to develop and implement an extreme weather response grant program for the purpose of assisting with the costs of responding to community needs during periods of extremely hot or cold weather to severe poor air quality due to wildfire smoke. During the House committee process, the City advocated for an amendment to the bill that would have allowed jurisdictions that have budgeted for extreme weather response to still be eligible for grants. The desired amendment was not incorporated into the bill as it advanced. Ultimately, it was amended in committee to limit grant eligibility to areas with vulnerable populations and federally recognized tribes. After passage by the House, the bill moved over to the Senate where it stalled in the fiscal committee.

Housing Benefit Districts: [House Bill 1111](#), sponsored by Rep. Cindy Ryu (D), proposes to authorize housing benefit districts through a pilot program. The Housing Finance Commission is authorized to award grant funds to a participating city for a housing benefit district. The district can use the funds to acquire land near commuter rail, light rail, bus rapid transit, and other transit stops with fixed route service every 15 minutes.

3. Housing Bills Tracked in 2023

Below are all the housing-related bills that were introduced that the City tracked throughout the legislative session. All legislation introduced during the 2023 session that did not pass will carry over to the 2024 session.

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|---|------------------------------|--|------------------|-----------|
| SHB 1012 (Dead) | Extreme weather events | Addressing the response to extreme weather events. | H Rules 3C | Leavitt |
| HB 1046 | Housing dev. income limits | Expanding housing supply by supporting the ability of public housing authorities to finance affordable housing developments by rebenchmarking area median income limits. | C 133 L 23 | Walén |
| SHB 1074 | Landlord damage claims | Addressing documentation and processes governing landlords' claims for damage to residential premises. | C 331 L 23 | Thai |
| SHB 1111 (Dead) | Housing benefit districts | Concerning housing benefit districts. | H Cap Budget | Ryu |
| HB 1149 (SSB 5202) | Housing/capital expenditures | Reducing homelessness in Washington state through capital expenditures for programs that address housing insecurity. | H Cap Budget | Tharinger |
| HB 1298 (Dead) (E2SSB 5258) | Condos and townhouses | Increasing the supply and affordability of condominium units and townhouses as an option for homeownership. | H Civil R & Judi | Hutchins |
| SHB 1326 | Utility connection charges | Waiving municipal utility connection charges for certain properties. | C 249 L 23 | Cortes |
| HB 1343 (Dead) | Rent relief & housing | Providing local governments with options to grant rent relief and preserve affordable housing in their communities. | H Housing | Kloba |
| HB 1349 | Foreclosure protections | Concerning foreclosure protections. | C 206 L 23 | Orwall |

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| HB 1350 (Dead) | Multifamily unit conversion | Expanding the multifamily tax exemption program to include converting existing multifamily units. | H Housing | Walén |
| HB 1373 (Dead) | Illegal encampment removal | Funding the removal of illegal encampments near schools, child care centers, parks, and courthouses. | H Housing | Stokesbary |
| SHB 1388 (Dead) | Residential rent practices | Concerning residential rent practices. | H Approps | Macri |
| 2SHB 1389 (Dead) (SB 5435) | Residential rent increases | Concerning residential rent increases under the residential landlord-tenant act and the manufactured/mobile home landlord-tenant act. | H Rules R | Ramel |
| 2SHB 1474 (SSB 5496) | Covenant homeownership prg. | Creating the covenant homeownership account and program to address the history of housing discrimination due to racially restrictive real estate covenants in Washington state. | C 340 L 23 | Taylor |
| SHB 1596 (Dead) | Affordable housing incentive | Providing local governments with options to increase affordable housing in their communities. | H Rules C | Kloba |
| HB 1625 (Dead) (SB 5615) | Rent controls/local gov. | Enabling local governments to plan and adopt programs to stabilize and control rents. | H Housing | Pollet |
| 2SHB 1628 (Dead) | Real estate excise tax | Increasing the supply of affordable housing by modifying the state and local real estate excise tax. | H Rules R | Chopp |
| HB 1695 (SB 5674) | Surplus property/housing | Defining affordable housing for purposes of using surplus public property for public benefit. | C 301 L 23 | Alvarado |
| SB 5016 (Dead) | Homelessness | Addressing homelessness through providing emergency shelter, incentivizing employment of workers experiencing homelessness, and building homes for a better future. | S Housing | Fortunato |
| SB 5027 (Dead) | American dream homes | Promoting housing affordability by incentivizing the construction of American dream homes. | S Ways & Means | Fortunato |
| E2SSB 5045 | ADU rental/property tax | Incentivizing rental of accessory dwelling units to low-income households. | C 335 L 23 | Kuderer |

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| SB 5058 | Multiunit res. buildings | Exempting buildings with 12 or fewer units that are no more than two stories from the definition of multiunit residential building. | C 263 L 23 | Padden |
| SSB 5060 (Dead) | Rental & vacant properties | Requiring the registration of rental and vacant housing units. | S Ways & Means | Kuderer |
| SB 5118 (Dead) | Multifamily property tax ex. | Concerning modifying the multifamily property tax exemption to promote development of long-term affordable housing. | S Housing | Kuderer |
| 2SSB 5120 | Crisis relief centers | Establishing crisis relief centers in Washington state. | C 433 L 23 | Dhingra |
| ESSB 5197 | Eviction processes | Addressing landlord-tenant relations by providing technical changes to eviction notice forms and modifying certain eviction processes. | C 336 L 23 | Kuderer |
| SSB 5202 (Dead) (HB 1149) | Housing/capital expenditures | Reducing homelessness in Washington state through capital expenditures for programs that address housing insecurity. | S Ways & Means | Trudeau |
| SB 5224 (Dead) | Homelessness services/perf. | Establishing performance requirements of homelessness service providers. | S Housing | Wilson |
| E2SSB 5258 (Dead) (HB 1298) | Condos and townhouses | Increasing the supply and affordability of condominium units and townhouses as an option for homeownership. | C 337 L 23 | Shewmake |
| SB 5332 (Dead) | Homeless camps/schools, etc. | Prohibiting locating homeless encampments near schools and early learning facilities. | S Loc Gov, Land | King |
| ESSB 5334 (Dead) | Affordable housing funding | Providing a local government option for the funding of essential affordable housing programs. | S Rules 3 | Lovelett |
| SB 5413 (Dead) | Housing for essential needs | Concerning housing for essential needs and aged, blind, and disabled assistance programs. | S Human Services | Wilson |
| SB 5435 (Dead) (2SHB 1389) | Residential rent increases | Concerning residential rent increases under the residential landlord-tenant act and the manufactured/mobile home landlord-tenant act. | S Housing | Trudeau |
| SSB 5493 (Dead) | Financial instit./B&O tax | Limiting a business and occupation tax deduction for financial institutions to fund affordable housing. | S Ways & Means | Kuderer |
| SSB 5496 (Dead) | Covenant homeownership prg. | Creating the covenant homeownership account and program to address the history of housing discrimination due | S Ways & Means | Lovick |

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| (2SHB 1474) | | to racially restrictive real estate covenants in Washington state. | | |
| SB 5553 | Temporary emergency shelters | Authorizing standards for temporary emergency shelters for local adoption. | C 47 L 23 | Lovelett |
| SSB 5604 | Mental health & housing/tax | Concerning county sales and use taxes for mental health and housing. | C 101 L 23 | Robinson |
| SSB 5609 (Dead) | Housing approval | Establishing housing approval requirements that will eliminate Washington's housing shortage. | S Ways & Means | Braun |
| SB 5615 (Dead) (HB 1625) | Rent controls/local gov. | Enabling local governments to plan and adopt programs to stabilize and control rents. | S Loc Gov, Land | Valdez |
| SB 5674 (Dead) (HB 1695) | Surplus property/housing | Defining affordable housing for purposes of using surplus public property for public benefit. | S Rules X | Frame |
| SB 5707 (Dead) | Housing court pilot program | Establishing a housing court pilot program. | S Law & Justice | Kuderer |
| 2SSB 5730 (Dead) | Vehicle residences/impound | Concerning impounds of vehicles used as residences. | S Rules X | Fortunato |

II. Planning/Land Use

In recent years, the Legislature has taken a strong interest in local planning and land use. Washington State adopted the Growth Management Act (GMA) in the 1990s – since then, the GMA has served as the foundation of most legislative planning and land use discussions. In 2015, the Legislature tasked the William D Ruckelshaus Center with developing a process for a comprehensive and collaborative look at the GMA. In 2019, the Ruckelshaus Center produced a [report](#) stemming from that process. The report identified high-level recommendations on areas where the GMA could be improved. The [Department of Commerce](#) has dedicated staff to transition those high-level [recommendations](#) to specific legislative proposals to recommend to the Washington State Legislature. Several of these recommendations were approved this session, including changing the shoreline master review schedule, creating annexation incentives, and changes to accommodate additional housing types.

Additionally, the Legislature's discussion on affordable housing was inextricably linked to land use and planning, with many bills introduced that aimed to reduce local zoning regulations, design codes, or other limitations on the construction of housing being passed into law. As a result, the funding and policy bills that have a nexus to planning/land use were more significant than a typical legislative session.

A. Planning/Land Use Funding

Local governments have effectively communicated with the Legislature that changes to local planning requirements need to be fully funded to be effective. The GMA includes a provision that if the state does not allocate funding two years prior to a comprehensive plan element being

amended or added that local jurisdictions are not expected to comply with the new or changed element. Funding around changes to local planning efforts that are unrelated to specific element changes is less clear and certain. In March 2023, the Department of Commerce conducted a [planning cost study](#) to evaluate what level of funding is needed to implement the GMA and additional planning direction that the Legislature has provided.

The legislature appropriated the following funds to planning efforts:

- \$41 million for integrating new climate planning requirements into the comprehensive plans ([HB 1181](#))
- \$20 million for cities and counties to update comprehensive plans, with funding provided to incorporate new housing targets established by the 2021 Legislature in [HB 1220](#) and authorizing a SEPA exemption for housing as described in [SB 5412](#)
- \$6 million in grants and technical assistance for planning for housing supply.
- \$2 million to implement [HB 1110](#) regarding middle housing types
- \$3 million for grants to local governments to implement [SB 5290](#) on local permit reviews

The Legislature included proviso language stating that smaller cities and counties will receive proportionally more GMA grant funding and technical assistance than larger jurisdictions.

Additionally, in nearly all of the bills passed by the Legislature this session, cities are not required to comply with the new regulations until six months following the jurisdiction's next comprehensive plan update. Legislators selected this timeline so jurisdictions could save resources by rolling these changes into planning work that is already underway. Tacoma's comprehensive plan update is due December 3, 2025, meaning that the City must comply with many of the new state requirements by mid-2026.

B. Planning/Land Use Policy Bills

1. Planning/Land Use Policy Bills Passed in 2023

Middle housing types: [E2SHB 1110](#) sponsored by Representative Jessica Bateman (D- 22nd LD) requires cities to authorize minimum housing development densities in residential zones depending on their population size. Cities may apply objective development regulations currently applied to single-family residences in accordance with existing ordinances intended to protect critical areas and public health. While the bill had bipartisan backing that carried it to the finish line, local governments took varying and nuanced positions on the legislation. The prime sponsor held stakeholder discussions with the Association of Washington Cities and individual cities which resulted in key changes, including allowing the Department of Commerce to approve comprehensive plans from cities with land use regulations that are substantially similar to the bill's provisions and providing for an alternative compliance pathway. The Association of Washington Cities arrived at a supportive position in the waning weeks of the legislative session. The 2025 Operating budget appropriates \$2 million for grants to implement the bill.

Accessory Dwelling Unit: [EHB 1337](#) sponsored by Representative Mia Gregerson (D- 33rd LD) requires cities and counties planning under the Growth Management Act to allow the construction of at least two accessory dwelling units (ADUs) per lot within urban growth areas. Local governments are prohibited from imposing certain regulations or restrictions on ADU construction, including gross floor area requirements and roof height limits. The bill prohibits owner-occupancy requirements as well as off-street parking requirements within one-half mile walking distance a major transit stop. Local governments may restrict the use of ADUs for short-term rentals and prohibit the construction of ADUs on lots not served by public sewers. Of the two proposals mandating the allowance of ADU construction, local government stakeholders generally preferred the other bill, [SB 5235](#), because it was less prescriptive; however, the Legislature ultimately chose EHB 1337 as the vehicle for enacting ADU policy.

Use of existing buildings for residential purposes: [ESHB 1042](#) sponsored by Representative Amy Walen (D- 48th LD) prohibits cities from imposing certain restrictions on converting existing commercial or mixed use buildings to residential buildings. Cities must allow commercial and mixed use buildings located in areas zoned to allow residential to add housing units at a density up to 50 percent more than what is allowed in the underlying zone if built entirely within the building's envelope. Cities may not prohibit the addition of housing units in any specific part of a building except ground floor commercial retail spaces along a major pedestrian corridor. The bill advanced quickly in its house of origin despite concerns raised by local governments regarding provisions contained in the original draft. The Senate amended the bill to address many of the concerns raised.

Streamlining development regulations: [ESHB 1293](#) sponsored by Representative Mark Klicker (R- 16th LD) requires cities and counties planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to apply only clear and objective design review standards to the exterior of new development, except for designated landmarks or historical districts. The bill clarifies project review provisions and adds expedited review of project permit applications that include affordable housing.

SEPA exemption for housing: [2SSB 5412](#) sponsored by Senator Jesse Salomon (D- 32nd LD) expands the infill development categorical exemption from the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to include housing development. All project actions that propose to develop residential housing units within the incorporated portions of urban growth areas or middle housing within the unincorporated areas of urban growth areas are categorically exempt from SEPA. Before adopting the categorical exemptions, jurisdictions must satisfy certain criteria, including that the development is consistent with development regulations under the comprehensive plan and that the city or county has prepared an environmental analysis that considers the proposed use or intensity of use in the area and that analysis has been conducted regarding multi-modal transportation impacts. The AWC was a strong proponent of the legislation as it reflected a policy recommendation of the AWC Housing Solutions Work Group. The Operating budget appropriates \$20 million for grants to assist with updating comprehensive plans, including the requirements contained in this bill.

Consolidating local permit review processes: [2SSB 5290](#) sponsored by Sen. Mark Mullet (D-5th LD), requested by the Governor's Office, establishes a consolidated permit review program for local governments to issue final decisions for residential permit applications within specified time frames. Local governments are required to exempt project permits for interior alterations from site plan review under certain conditions. The bill requires local governments to refund a proportion of the permit fees if they have not issued a final decision by the established time period. The requirements take effect after January 1, 2025. A grant program is established in the legislation to support local governments' transition from paper to digital permit filing systems. The Operating budget provides \$3 million for grants to assist local governments with implementation of the bill.

Integrating Climate Change into the Growth Management Act: The Legislature passed [E2SHB 1181](#) sponsored by Rep. Davina Duerr (D-1st LD), Governor-request legislation that amends the Growth Management Act to add a goal of climate change and resiliency to the list of elements required in comprehensive plans. It requires jurisdictions to identify actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled. Jurisdictions required to review their comprehensive plans by June 30, 2025, must implement the bill's requirements. The policy for integrating climate change into the Growth Management Act has been introduced in previous legislative sessions but did not make it to the finish line. The bill's provisions were refined over time through stakeholder engagement until it reached its final form. Although the building industry still had reservations about the bill, it was able to build enough support to finally pass this session. The Operating budget provides \$41 million for grants to assist with implementation.

Shoreline Master Program schedules: [HB 1544](#) sponsored by Representative Emily Alvarado (D- 34th LD) changes the master program review and revision cycle in the Shoreline Management Act from eight to 10 years.

Single exit for residential buildings: [SSB 5491](#) sponsored by Senator Jesse Salomon (D-32nd LD) requires the State Building Code Council (SBCC) to convene a technical advisory group for the purpose of recommending modifications and limitations to the International Building Code that would allow for a single exit stairway to serve multi-family residences up to six stories. The advisory group's recommendations are due to the SBCC in time for the Council to adopt or amend codes for implementation in the 2024 International Building Code.

Incentivizing annexation of unincorporated urban growth areas: [2SHB 1425](#) sponsored by Representative April Berg (D- 44th LD) re-authorizes the credit against the state sales tax as an incentive for cities to annex unincorporated areas within their urban growth areas. The prior requirements in state statute that a city be within a county with a population of at least 600,000 and that an annexation area have a population of at least 10,000 are removed through this bill. To impose the tax, a city must have entered into an interlocal agreement with the county. The maximum levy amount that may be imposed is 0.1 percent for annexed areas with populations between 2,000 and 10,000, and 0.2 percent for annexed areas with a population size above 10,000. Cities may not begin to impose the tax after July 1, 2028.

Incorporation of small areas: [Substitute House Bill 1620](#) sponsored by Representative Jake Fey (D- 27th LD) states that the requirement that an area must have at least 3,000 inhabitants, instead of the otherwise standard 1,500, to incorporate if it is within 5 air miles of a city with a population of 15,000 or more lapses until June 30, 2028. Representative Fey introduced the bill at the request of Dash Point-area residents, who are weighing whether to incorporate or remain in unincorporated Pierce County.

2. Notable Planning/Land Use Bills That Did Not Pass In 2023

Transit-Oriented Development: [SB 5466](#) sponsored by Senator Marko Liias (D- 21st LD), would have required cities planning under the Growth Management Act to allow multi-family housing projects within transit station areas to be developed at transit-oriented density maximum floor area ratios. The bill was introduced at the request of the Governor's Office and the Seattle-area business community was the primary proponent. Local governments held mixed perspectives on the bill. Some were supportive of its policy goals while others expressed concern about the floor area ratios and potentially broad application based on the many types and frequencies of public transit service as outlined in the original draft. The Puget Sound Regional Council created a map illustrating the areas where such development would be allowed according to the availability of transit service as defined in the bill that indicated almost the entire Central Puget Sound region would be subject to its provisions, raising alarm among many stakeholders. The bill was amended late in the process to include an affordability requirement for housing development that did not receive broad support from the construction and real estate industries, which had been supportive of the legislation. A compromise to address stakeholder's diverging perspectives on the bill could not be reached by the time the Legislature adjourned.

Lot-Splitting: [HB 1245](#) sponsored by Representative Andrew Barkis (R- 2nd LD), would have required cities planning under the Growth Management Act to allow the splitting of a single residential lot into two residential lots. While there was momentum behind this legislation as a viable tool to foster more infill residential development, it was unclear how the policy would interact with the middle housing and accessory dwelling unit bills.

Minimum parking requirements: [House Bill 1351](#) sponsored by Representative Julia Reed (D- 36th LD) and [Senate Bill 5456](#) sponsored by Senator Noel Frame (D- 36th LD) proposed to remove existing minimum parking requirements near transit.

Permitting Proposals: The Legislature considered several proposals concerning development regulations and local government permitting. [HB 1401](#) sponsored by Representative Cyndy Jacobsen (R- 25th LD), would have provided that local governments could adopt expedited permitting processes for housing. [HB 1611](#) sponsored by Representative Julia Reed (D- 36th LD) and [HB 1519](#) sponsored by Representative Andrew Barkis (R- 2nd LD) would have modified the requirements for applicant notification regarding completeness of permit applications. Ultimately, none of these proposals were passed into law.

3. Planning/Land Use Related Bills Tracked in 2023

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|---|------------------------------|--|--------------|-----------|
| SHB 1026 (Dead) | Local gov. design review | Concerning local government design review. | H Rules C | Walén |
| ESHB 1042 | Use of existing buildings | Concerning the use of existing buildings for residential purposes. | C 285 L 23 | Walén |
| E2SHB 1110 (SSB 5190) | Middle housing | Increasing middle housing in areas traditionally dedicated to single-family detached housing. | C 332 L 23 | Bateman |
| E2SHB 1167 (Dead) | Residential housing | Concerning residential housing regulations. | H Rules 3C | Duerr |
| E2SHB 1181 (SSB 5203) | Climate change/planning | Improving the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework. | C 228 L 23 | Duerr |
| ESHB 1245 (Dead) (SSB 5364) | Lot splitting | Increasing housing options through lot splitting. | H Rules 3C | Barkis |
| HB 1276 (Dead) (SSB 5235) | Accessory dwelling units | Concerning accessory dwelling units. | H Housing | Pollet |
| ESHB 1293 | Development regulations | Streamlining development regulations. | C 333 L 23 | Klicker |
| HB 1296 (Dead) (2SSB 5290) | Local permit review | Concerning consolidating local permit review processes. | H Approps | Peterson |
| SHB 1304 (Dead) | Electric security alarms | Regulating electric security alarm systems. | H Rules C | Hackney |
| EHB 1337 | Accessory dwelling units | Expanding housing options by easing barriers to the construction and use of accessory dwelling units. | C 334 L 23 | Gregerson |
| SHB 1351 (Dead) (SB 5456) | Minimum parking requirements | Prohibiting the imposition of minimum parking requirements except under certain circumstances. | H Rules R | Reed |
| HB 1401 (Dead) | Housing permit process | Allowing cities and counties to create a simple, standardized housing permit process for affordable housing units in areas designated for housing. | H Rules C | Jacobsen |
| HB 1403 (Dead) | Water & sewage system access | Making it possible for more properties to have access to water, storm drains, and sanitary sewage systems. | H Local Govt | Goehner |
| HB 1409 (Dead) (SB 5416) | Building code classif. | Compelling the state building code council to expand residential building code classifications. | H Local Govt | Abbarno |

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|--|------------------------------|---|------------------|----------|
| 2SHB 1425 (Dead) | Municipal annexations | Facilitating municipal annexations. | C 351 L 23 | Berg |
| SHB 1449 (Dead) | Project permits/reports | Amending reporting requirements for the project permit application processing timeline. | H Rules R | Alvarado |
| HB 1467 (Dead) | Property infill/GMA | Concerning infill for properties uniquely situated between boundaries and existing development. | H Local Govt | Barkis |
| HB 1517 (Dead) (ESSB 5466) | Transit-oriented development | Promoting transit-oriented development. | H Housing | Reed |
| HB 1519 (Dead) | Local project review | Concerning local project review. | H Rules C | Barkis |
| HB 1539 (Dead) | Private vocational licenses | Expediting private vocational licenses to contribute to adding affordable housing to the state. | H Postsec Ed & W | Senn |
| HB 1544 (SB 5159) | Shoreline program review | Concerning shoreline master program review schedules. | C 80 L 23 | Alvarado |
| HB 1611 (Dead) | Local government permitting | Concerning local government permitting. | H Finance | Reed |
| SHB 1620 | Incorporation/population | Concerning the number of inhabitants required for incorporation as a city or town. | C 82 L 23 | Fey |
| SHB 1621 | Local government procurement | Concerning standardizing local government procurement rules among special purpose districts, first-class and second-class cities, and public utility districts. | C 255 L 23 | Ryu |
| HB 1723 (Dead) (SSB 5651) | GMA/equity and env. justice | Concerning equity and environmental justice in the growth management act. | H Local Govt | Duerr |
| SHB 1735 (Dead) | GMA/net ecological gain | Adding net ecological gain as a voluntary element of comprehensive plans under the growth management act. | H Approps | Lekanoff |
| SB 5159 (Dead) (HB 1544) | Shoreline program review | Concerning shoreline master program review schedules. | S Rules X | Torres |
| SSB 5190 (Dead) (E2SHB 1110) | Middle housing | Increasing middle housing in areas traditionally dedicated to single-family detached housing. | S Ways & Means | Trudeau |
| SSB 5203 (Dead) (E2SHB 1181) | Climate change/planning | Improving the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework. | S Ways & Means | Lovelett |
| SSB 5235 (Dead) (HB 1276) | Accessory dwelling units | Concerning accessory dwelling units. | S Rules 3 | Shewmake |
| SB 5289 (Dead) (HB 1476) | Impact fees/law enforcement | Concerning allowing the use of impact fees for law enforcement. | S Loc Gov, Land | Shewmake |

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|---|------------------------------|--|------------------|----------|
| 2SSB 5290 (HB 1296) | Local permit review | Concerning consolidating local permit review processes. | C 338 L 23 | Mullet |
| SSB 5364 (Dead) (ESHB 1245) | Lot splitting | Increasing housing options through lot splitting. | S Rules X | Frame |
| 2SSB 5412 | Land use permitting/local | Reducing local governments' land use permitting workloads. | C 368 L 23 | Salomon |
| SB 5416 (Dead) (HB 1409) | Building code classif. | Compelling the state building code council to expand residential building code classifications. | S State Govt & E | Braun |
| SB 5456 (Dead) (SHB 1351) | Minimum parking requirements | Prohibiting the imposition of minimum parking requirements except under certain circumstances. | S Loc Gov, Land | Frame |
| ESSB 5466 (Dead) (HB 1517) | Transit-oriented development | Promoting transit-oriented development. | S Rules 3 | Lias |
| SB 5473 (Dead) | Project permit timelines | Concerning project permit timelines. | S Loc Gov, Land | Gildon |
| SSB 5491 | Residential building exits | Allowing for residential buildings of a certain height to be served by a single exit under certain conditions. (REVISED FOR PASSED LEGISLATURE: Concerning a technical advisory group to study single stairway residential buildings.) | C 372 L 23 | Salomon |
| SSB 5651 (Dead) (HB 1723) | GMA/equity and env. justice | Concerning equity and environmental justice in the growth management act. | S Ways & Means | Lovelett |
| SSB 5657 (Dead) | Kit home permitting | Concerning city and town permitting of kit homes. | S Rules X | Wilson |

III. Transportation/Public Works/Infrastructure

In 2022, the Legislature adopted the 16-year [Move Ahead Washington package](#). However, the package as adopted did not delineate when projects would receive funding over the 16-year package. Much of the discussion on transportation focused on identifying that project phasing. Additionally, the House and Senate Transportation Committees paid special attention to addressing traffic safety.

A. Transportation/Public Works/Infrastructure Funding

The Legislature focused its Transportation budget on implementing the 2015 15-year Connecting Washington package and the 2022 16-year Move Ahead Washington package. The 2023-25 Transportation Budget allocated out the funding for that package for the first six of the 16 years, and all of Tacoma’s projects were included in the early years of the package:

| Project | 2023-25 | 2025-27 | 2027-29 | Future |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| SR 167 | \$873,505 | \$866,520 | \$216,456 | \$17,899 |
| I-5 JBLM Corridor | \$206,917 | \$61,398 | | |
| I-5 JBLM 38 th St to JBLM | | | | \$206,478 |
| Puyallup Ave Corridor | \$3,000 | \$6,000 | | |
| Fife to Tacoma Pedestrian Access (i.e. T2P Trail) | \$2,500 | \$10,000 | \$13,100 | |
| Schuster Parkway (CW) | \$1,000 | \$3,000 | | |
| Schuster Parkway (MAW) | | | | \$15,000 |
| Tacoma Dome Link Light Rail Access, Fife to Tacoma | | | \$2,400 | \$17,600 |
| Tacoma Rail – Zero-Emission Locomotives and Charging | \$5,000 | | | |

The Legislature did not fund new projects, including the City requests for the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge and the funding needed for Phase II of the Access Revision Report into the South Tacoma Mall area. Transportation budget writers have indicated that additional revenue will need to be generated to fund new projects and have alluded to a potential transportation package in 2025.

For several sessions, the City of Tacoma has joined other cities in requesting increased funding for maintenance and preservation of local roads. In 2019, the Joint Transportation Committee released a [study](#) indicating that there is over \$1 billion in unmet city street maintenance needs statewide. When the Legislature adopted the Move Ahead Washington package in 2022, it was disappointing that limited funding was allocated to local maintenance needs. At the time, transportation budget writers committed to address city and county road maintenance in future legislative sessions. In 2023, the Legislature did not significantly increase funding for local preservation and maintenance; however, \$9 million was allocated to the Transportation Improvement Board for preservation grants to cities. Budget writers indicated that significant maintenance and preservation funding would need to be connected to the next transportation package, which could come as early as 2025. In the vein of looking toward future years, the Legislature allocated \$300,000 for the Joint Transportation Committee to convene a study on a statewide retail delivery fee on orders of taxable retail items delivered by motor vehicles within the state. The study is due to the transportation committees by June 30, 2024.

One of the challenges surrounding the next transportation package will be identifying a revenue source that can replace the declining gas tax. The [Washington State Transportation Commission](#) has been tasked with researching and piloting a road usage charge. The Legislature considered [HB 1832](#) sponsored by House Transportation Committee Chair Jake Fey (D- 27th LD) which would have implemented a voluntary road usage charge beginning in 2025,

with a mandatory program set to begin in 2030. The Transportation Committee heard public testimony on the proposal over the course of two days in February but did not advance the bill. The final Transportation budget included language directing the State Transportation Commission to do the next phase of feasibility study of implementing and administering a per-mile fee program. However, the Governor vetoed this section because the language presupposes that such a program will be adopted despite the need to consider broader options for alternative funding sources for transportation.

Beyond transportation, in the broader infrastructure dialogue, the Legislature considered legislation, [SJR 8201](#) sponsored by Senator Mark Mullet (D- 5th LD), that would have created a Public Works Revolving Trust Account in the State Treasury to be used for loans or grants to local governments for financing public works projects through the Public Works Board. If the legislation had been approved, the measure would have gone before the voters to amend the state Constitution. The policy did not receive enough support to advance this session. However, the enacted 2023-25 Capital and Transportation budgets appropriated significant funding for infrastructure needs. Highlights include:

- \$400 million for the Public Works Assistance Account
- \$68 million for the Stormwater Financial Assistance program
- \$115 million for Remedial Action Grants
- \$670 million for the Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan program
- \$25 million for the Community Economic Revitalization Board
- \$200 million for broadband grants and loans
- \$120 million for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation program
- \$48.4 million for the Fish Barrier Removal Board
- \$287 million for the Transportation Improvement Board
- \$70.8 million for Safe Routes to Schools grants
- \$72.2 million for Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety programs
- \$45.7 million for the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board

B. Transportation/Public Works/Infrastructure Policy Bills

The largest policy discussion within the transportation arena focused on traffic safety. The Washington Traffic Safety Commission recently released [reports](#) stating that traffic fatalities increased 6.7 percent in 2020 and 15.5 percent in 2021, and the number of traffic fatalities in 2022 was on track to reach the highest number recorded since the 1990s. Further, active transportation user deaths have reached the highest number in Washington's history, including a 31.8 percent jump from 110 to 145 pedestrian fatalities in 2021, compared to 2020.

1. Transportation/Public Works/Infrastructure Bills Passed in 2023

Reducing Traffic Injuries and Fatalities: The Legislature considered several proposals designed to improve traffic safety due to the historic high rate of traffic fatalities in the state in the past year. However, only one of those proposals was enacted. [SB 5272](#), sponsored by Sen.

Marko Lias (D-21st LD), authorizes the use of speed cameras on state highways when workers are present in a state highway work zone.

Driver's Education for Ages 18 to 24: The Legislature passed [SB 5583](#) sponsored by Sen. Marko Lias (D-21st LD), directing the Department of Licensing to develop a comprehensive implementation plan for the expansion of the current driver training education requirement to obtain a driver's license between the ages of 18 and 24. The plan must be provided to the relevant transportation committees by October 1, 2024. The bill also modifies nighttime driving restrictions for intermediate license holders.

Apprenticeship utilization requirements: [ESHB 1050](#) sponsored by Representative Marcus Riccelli (D- 3rd LD) requires public works contracts awarded by a municipality estimated to cost more than \$2 million to include specifications that no less than 15 percent of the labor hours be performed by apprentices beginning Jul 1, 2024. Beginning July 1, 2026, until July 1, 2028, apprenticeship utilization requirements apply to public works contracts estimated to cost over \$1.5 million. Beginning July 1, 2028, apprenticeship utilization requirements apply to public works contracts estimated to cost over \$1 million.

Small works roster requirements: [2SSB 5268](#) sponsored by Senator Bob Hasegawa (D- 11th LD) requires state agencies or authorized local governments establishing a small works roster to require contractors who desire to be placed on the roster to indicate if they meet the definition of women- and minority-owned business, veteran-owned business, or small business. At least once per year, the state agency or local government must publish a solicitation of contractors for the roster.

Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board: [SHB 1084](#) sponsored by Representative Jake Fey (D- 27th LD) changes the primary duty of the Freight Mobility and Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB) to providing guidance to the Governor and Legislature on the highest priority freight mobility needs in the state. It requires the Board to recommend a six-year investment program of the highest priority projects and identify emerging freight mobility issues. Project sponsors must demonstrate a plan for sufficient engagement with overburdened communities for projects to be included in the six-year investment program.

2. Transportation/Public Works/Infrastructure Bills that Did Not Pass in 2023

Per-mile charge on vehicle usage of public roadways: [HB 1832](#) sponsored by Representative Jake Fey (D-27th LD) would have established a voluntary road usage charge program that places a per-mile fee of 2.5 cents per mile on motor vehicle usage of public roadways. This proposal is part of an ongoing dialogue on future revenue sources for the state's transportation needs given that the current fuel tax is a declining revenue source.

Right-Turn on Red: [HB 1582](#), sponsored by Rep. Cindy Ryu (D-32nd LD) and [SB 5514](#), sponsored by Sen. John Lovick (D-44th LD), eliminates the ability for driver's to make a right-turn-on-red within 1,000 feet of schools, child care facilities, public parks, libraries, public transit center, hospitals, senior centers, and other like facilities.

Lower Blood Alcohol Content: [2SSB 5002](#), sponsored by Senator John Lovick (D- 44th LD) proposes to lower the blood alcohol concentration limits for operating a motor vehicle from .08 to .05.

Jaywalking: Companion bills, [HB 1428](#), sponsored by Representative Emily Alvarado (D-34th LD), and [SSB 5383](#) sponsored by Senator Rebecca Saldana (D-11th LD) were introduced to remove the infraction of “jaywalking.” The bill made several changes related to pedestrians crossing the roadway including allowing individuals to cross the street at any point so long as it does not impede traffic, exempting pedestrians from following the requirements of certain traffic control devices or from yielding the right-of-way to vehicles in certain cases, and requiring drivers to stop to allow a pedestrian to cross the roadway at any point.

Public Works Assistance Revolving Account: [SSB 5303 / SJR 8201](#) sponsored by Senator Mark Mullet (D- 5th LD) is the legislation necessary to submit to the voters a constitutional amendment establishing a Public Works Assistance Revolving Account in the State Treasury and protecting the account from future diversions to other purposes.

3. Transportation/Public Works/Infrastructure Bills Tracked in 2023

Below are the transportation, public works, and infrastructure related bills that were introduced that the City tracked throughout the legislative session. All legislation introduced during the 2023 session that did not pass will carry over to the 2024 session.

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|--|-----------------------------|--|------------------|----------|
| ESHB 1050 | Apprenticeship utilization | Expanding apprenticeship utilization requirements. | C 342 L 23 | Riccelli |
| SHB 1084 | Freight mobility priority | Concerning freight mobility prioritization. | C 167 L 23 | Fey |
| HB 1099 (Dead) | Public works wages | Requiring certain wages in public works contracts to be at least the prevailing wage in effect when the work is performed. | H Cap Budget | Berry |
| EHB 1125 (Dead) (SSB 5162) | Transportation budget | Making transportation appropriations for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium. | H Passed 3rd | Fey |
| HB 1651 (Dead) | Infraction debt | Concerning debts arising from infractions for standing, stopping, and parking violations, and violations captured by safety cameras. | H Transportation | Reeves |
| HB 1832 (Dead) | Vehicle per mile charge | Implementing a per mile charge on vehicle usage of public roadways. | H Transportation | Fey |
| SSB 5133 (Dead) | Responsible bidder criteria | Modifying the responsible bidder criteria for public works projects. | S Ways & Means | Keiser |

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|--|------------------------------|---|------------------|----------|
| SSB 5162 (Dead) (EHB 1125) | Transportation budget | Making transportation appropriations for the 2021-2023 and 2023-2025 fiscal biennia. | S Rules 2 | Lias |
| 2SSB 5268 (SHB 1306) | Public works procurement | Addressing equity and efficiencies in public works procurement including modifying small works roster requirements. | C 395 L 23 | Hasegawa |
| ESSB 5272 | Speed safety cameras | Concerning speed safety camera systems on state highways. | C 17 L 23 | Lias |
| SSB 5303 (Dead) | Public works trust account | Creating the public works revolving trust account. | S Rules 3 | Mullet |
| SB 5418 (Dead) | Definition of public work | Expanding the definition of public work. | S State Govt & E | Conway |
| SB 5430 (Dead) | Driver training/low-income | Providing support for low-income novice drivers to receive driver training. | S Transportation | Shewmake |
| SB 5509 (Dead) | Public infrastructure bank | Creating the Washington state public infrastructure bank. | S Business, Fin | Kuderer |
| SB 5563 (Dead) (HB 1667) | Prevailing wage | Concerning how the prevailing wage for public works is determined. | S Labor & Comm | King |
| SB 5594 (Dead) | Fully autonomous vehicles | Concerning the operation of fully autonomous vehicles. | S Transportation | Boehnke |
| SSB 5722 (Dead) | Traffic cameras, photo tolls | Concerning photographs, microphotographs, and electronic images from traffic safety cameras and toll systems. | S Rules X | Kuderer |
| ESSB 5726 (Dead) | Prevailing wage/public works | Concerning the prevailing wages on public works. | S Rules 3 | King |
| SJM 8001 (Dead) | National infrastructure bank | Concerning a national infrastructure bank. | S Filed Sec/St | Hasegawa |

IV. Public Safety/Behavioral Health

Since 2021, the Legislature has engaged in robust dialogue around public safety policies and reforms. The 2023 Legislature continued that conversation and grappled with controversial policies stemming from policies put in place during the 2021 legislative session. Among the issues discussed were peace officer vehicular pursuits and new legislation in response to the *State v. Blake* Supreme Court decision, which struck down Washington’s law on possession of controlled substances as unconstitutional.

In addition to these issues, the Legislature also prioritized policies and funding to support local law enforcement's ability to recruit and train police officers. The Legislature also considered, but did not advance, proposals to legalize jaywalking, limit officers' authority to conduct traffic stops for nonmoving violations, and to establish a civil cause of action for officer misconduct.

Behavioral health and public safety have become intertwined as law enforcement officers find themselves increasingly interacting with individuals in behavioral health crises stemming from substance use or mental health needs. For several legislative sessions, the Legislature has made significant investments in transitioning Washington State's behavioral health system away from a handful of state-operated facilities, such as Western State Hospital, to a community-based behavioral health system. Additionally, the Legislature has aimed to capitalize on the federal government's deployment of the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline to direct individuals into treatment. The Legislature continued funding and implementing the implementation of this 988 structure, including approval of a 23-hour facility that can accept individuals from law enforcement.

Additionally, The Legislature continued to prioritize policies and investments in response to the *Trueblood* decision. Washington State entered into a [settlement](#) in 2018 under *Trueblood et al v. Washington State* that requires the Department of Social and Health Services to increase how quickly individuals who are incarcerated are provided with competency and restoration services. The percentage of timely competency evaluations can be significantly increased if fewer people with mental illness enter the criminal court system. The *Trueblood* settlement supports improved access to appropriate behavioral health services that are designed to dramatically reduce the number of people entering the criminal court system — enabling the state to meet the constitutional competency evaluation and restoration services timelines. In short, the Legislature's response to the *Trueblood* case is creating more behavioral health access in Washington State. Each session, including the 2023 session, the Legislature has allocated funding as required by the settlement.

A. Public Safety/Behavioral Health Funding

The Legislature allocated funding in several areas of the budget to address law enforcement staffing shortages, increase recruitment and retention of officers, and to promote alternative response models:

- \$3.4 million for six additional classes through the Basic Law Enforcement Academy for a total of 23 classes in both 2024 and 2025, with at least three classes in Spokane each year and the remainder at the Burien campus.
- \$11.3 million for six additional Basic Law Enforcement Academy classes located at three new regional training academies; one in Pasco, one in Skagit County, and one in Clark County.
- \$3 million to the Criminal Justice Training Commission to provide grants to local law enforcement agencies for wellness programs, and an additional \$2 million for a wellness app.

- \$3 million was to fund a law enforcement technology grant program for modern vehicle pursuit management technology.
- The Office of Independent Investigations was allocated \$34.2 million for ongoing implementation and operations.
- \$5.3 million to cities and counties to assist with alternative response, including \$4 million to the Association of Washington Cities to provide funds to cities for reimbursing the cost of creating alternative response team programs around the state.
- \$1 million grant program for drug and gang prevention.
- \$29.6 million for therapeutic courts; \$9 million to the Health Care Authority to maintain funding for new therapeutic courts created or expanded during 2021, and \$20.6 million to the Administrative Office of the Courts for therapeutic court programs.
- \$69.8 million to support the ongoing implementation of the 988 crisis hotline.

Additionally, below are investments made in behavioral health:

- \$211 million for behavioral health capacity grants, including \$133 million for 18 projects across the state that will provide regional behavioral health and substance use services
- \$108.7 million for forensic mental health and continued implementation of the *Trueblood* settlement
- \$21.5 million for crisis triage, relief, or stabilization centers
- \$44 million for the recovery navigator program
- \$44.4 million for behavioral health mobile crisis response teams
- \$69.3 million for 988 crisis response

B. Public Safety/Behavioral Health Policy Bills

1. Public Safety/Behavioral Health Bills Passed in 2023

Peace officer vehicular pursuits: In 2021, the Legislature passed legislation requiring probable cause, rather than reasonable suspicion, to believe that a person in the vehicle has committed certain offenses for an officer to engage in a vehicular pursuit. Law enforcement agencies expressed concern about this higher threshold and continued to do so, prompting follow-up legislation in the 2022 session to restore the standard of reasonable suspicion. The policy was not supported by police reform advocates and did not pass during the short session.

Policy dialogue around the vehicular pursuits issue continued to be contentious this session. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs and many local governments advocated for restoration of the reasonable suspicion standard, citing examples of individuals who had eluded police apprehension since the 2021 law went into effect. Police reform advocates held the position that vehicular pursuits represent a danger to the public and noted that the number of people injured or killed from vehicular pursuits has decreased since 2021. The Chair of the Senate Law and Justice Committee refused to hold a hearing on [ESB](#)

[5352](#) sponsored by Senator John Lovick (D- 44th LD), out of concern that reverting back to the reasonable suspicion threshold would result in more dangerous pursuits.

Senate Bill 5352 was ultimately passed by the Legislature, its forward progress aided by a suspension of the rules in the Senate that brought the bill up for floor debate just in time for the house of origin cutoff. It lowers the evidentiary threshold for engagement in vehicular pursuits from probable cause to reasonable suspicion for specific crimes: a violent offense, a sex offense, a vehicular assault offense, an escape offense, driving under the influence, or a domestic violence assault offense. The pursuit must be necessary for the purpose of identifying or apprehending the person, and the fleeing person must pose a serious risk of harm to others. Its companion bill, [HB 1363](#) sponsored by Representative Alicia Rule (D- 42nd LD), was advanced by its assigned policy committees but because the Senate version advanced out of its chamber of origin, it became the vehicle for enacting the final policy.

Proposals establishing a work group on the vehicular pursuits issue were also introduced and considered this session but did not pass. [SB 5533](#) sponsored by Senator John Lovick (D- 44th LD), would have directed the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) to convene a work group to develop a model vehicle pursuit policy and establish a grant program for modern vehicle pursuit technology. [HB 1586](#) sponsored by Representative Roger Goodman (D- 45th LD), would have directed the CJTC to convene a work group to develop legislative policy recommendations on vehicular pursuits and establish a grant program similar to what was proposed in SB 5533.

State v. Blake/possession of controlled substances: The Senate took the lead on introducing policy approaches to the possession of controlled substances issue. Four proposals were introduced, and all would have repealed the current statute classifying drug possession as a misdemeanor and requiring law enforcement to make referrals to substance use assessment and treatment on two occasions before charges may be filed. Aside from that common thread, the four bills differed in their perspectives on how the offense should be classified and handled through the justice system.

[SB 5035](#) sponsored by Senator Mike Padden (R- 4th LD) would have classified possession of a counterfeit substance as a class C felony. Possession of controlled substances, possession of legend drugs, and possession of 40 grams or less of cannabis would have remained classified as misdemeanors. [SB 5467](#) sponsored by Senator Jesse Salomon (D- 32nd LD) would have classified drug possession as a gross misdemeanor and required a deferred sentence for individuals who agree to treatment. [SB 5624](#) sponsored by Senator Manka Dhingra (D- 45th LD) would have enacted the recommendations of the Substance Use and Recovery Services Advisory Committee, decriminalizing possession of a personal amount of controlled substances.

[SB 5536](#) sponsored by Senator June Robinson (D- 38th LD), was ultimately the bill that advanced in the legislative process. As passed by the Senate, the bill classified possession of controlled substances as a gross misdemeanor and contained provisions outlining the procedure for pretrial diversion and vacation of convictions. The bill passed the Senate by a

narrow margin of 28-21, with a bipartisan mix of votes on both sides of the tally. In the House, the bill was amended to reduce the crime of possession down to a misdemeanor, which carries a sentence of up to 90 days in jail, rather than the gross misdemeanor sentence of up to 364 days. The House version also added the crime of drug use in a public place as a misdemeanor. The House passed the bill 54-41, with a few Democrats joining the Republicans in voting against it. The Senate refused to concur with the House's amendments, so the bill then went to conference.

The conference committee's recommendation returned to classifying possession as a gross misdemeanor as passed by the Senate, with the addition of classifying use in a public place as a gross misdemeanor as passed by the House. The bill was brought up for floor debate in the House on the final evening of the legislative session. The conference committee's recommendation was defeated by a vote of 43-55, with 15 Democrats joining the Republicans in opposing the bill. Governor Inslee called the Legislature back for a special session, which convened on May 16, 2023, to address the drug possession issue. The Legislature approved, with bi-partisan support, a version of the bill that does the following:

- Possession is a gross misdemeanor. Use in a public place is a gross misdemeanor and use is defined as ingesting, inhaling, injecting, or introducing a substance to the human body by any other means. Both are subject to a sentence up to 180 days, a fine no more than \$1,000, or both. If a defendant has 2 or more prior convictions, they may be sentenced up to 364 days, fined up to \$1,000, or both.
- Diversion by prosecutors and law enforcement is encouraged, not required. The bill is ambivalent on diversion method – law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD), recovery navigator program (RNP), or an arrest and jail alternative program.
- The Court may only grant motions for diversion if the prosecuting attorney agrees. The prosecuting attorney may divert additional charges related to substance use disorder for nonfelony offenses that are not crimes against people.
- If the prosecutor agrees, the court must approve the defendant's request for diversion if they (1) have no criminal convictions after the effective date of the bill; and (2) are only charged with possession or use, and not charged with other crimes. Unless this criterion is met, the court has discretion as to whether to approve the pre-trial diversion (even if the prosecutor agrees to it).
- Individuals must substantially comply with treatment for 12 months or by completing recommended treatment/services, whichever comes first.
- Local governments are preempted from regulating drug paraphernalia outside of harm reduction programs. Selling, delivery, and use of drug paraphernalia for certain purposes remains a misdemeanor under RCW 69.50.412.
- Opioid treatment programs, recovery residences, substance use disorder treatment facilities, and harm reduction programs, including safe injection sites, are added to the list of essential public facilities.
- Grant program for LEAD is established and funded at \$5 million for the biennium.

As part of approving a new statewide policy on possession of controlled substances, the Legislature allocated significant funding to substance use treatment programs and alternative response programs.

Firearm Regulations: Democrats in the Legislature collaborated with the offices of the Governor and Attorney General to advance firearms safety measures this session in response to the increase in gun violence seen across the nation. [SHB 1240](#) sponsored by Representative Strom Peterson (D- 21st LD), by request of the Governor and Attorney General, prohibits the sale of assault weapons. [E2SHB 1143](#) sponsored by Representative Liz Berry (D- 36th LD), by request of the Governor, requires gun buyers to undergo training on proper storage and handling of firearms, along with risk awareness regarding children and individuals with suicidal thoughts. [SSB 5078](#) sponsored by Senator Jamie Pedersen (D- 43rd LD), by request of the Governor and Attorney General, clarifies legal liabilities for gun dealers and manufacturers for knowingly creating a public nuisance by promoting conversion to illegal products, marketing products to children, selling weapons to people prohibited from purchasing firearms, and other prohibited actions.

Impounding vehicles used in street racing: [SB 5606](#) sponsored by Senator John Lovick (D- 44th LD) clarifies that the current street racing statute includes “drifting” driving maneuvers and includes racing on any off-street facility. The bill creates a greater deterrent by allowing vehicles used in street racing to be impounded for 72-hours on first offense, and subject to forfeiture post-conviction on second offense. A person may be charged at the initial time and location where the efforts were initiated or at the time and location where a completed racing crime occurred. The bill is effective on January 1, 2024.

23-hour crisis relief centers: [2SSB 5120](#) sponsored by Senator Manka Dhingra (D- 45th LD) requires the Department of Health to license 23-hour crisis relief centers, facilities that are open 24 hours per day, seven days a week, offering behavioral health to adults for no more than 23 hours and 59 minutes at a time. The centers will accept walk-ins and drop-offs from first responders and individuals referred through the 988 system and have a no-refusal policy for individuals dropped off by law enforcement.

Northwest ICE Processing Center: [2SHB 1470](#) sponsored by Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self (D- 21st LD), requires the Department of Health to adopt standards on sanitary, hygienic, and safe living conditions at private detention facilities. It directs the Departments of Health and Labor and Industries to conduct routine, unannounced inspections and specifies operating conditions for private detention facilities. The bill also creates a private right of action and authorizes the Office of the Attorney General to enforce violations.

Implementation of 988: [ESHB 1134](#) sponsored by Rep. Tina Orwall (D-33rd LD) continues implementation of the 988 system. The bill establishes an endorsement for mobile rapid response crisis teams and community-based crisis teams that meet staffing, vehicle, and training standards; establishes liability projects for activities related to dispatching decisions of 988 crisis hotline staff and the transfer of calls between 911 and 988; and directs the

Department of Health to promote the 988 crisis hotline. The Legislature appropriated \$69.8 million to support 988.

Trueblood settlement- Competency evaluations and restoration services to persons suffering from behavioral health disorders: [E2SSB 5440](#) sponsored by Senator Manka Dhingra (D- 45th LD), establishes diversion and behavioral health treatment pathways to attempt to reduce caseload for forensic cases needing restoration in a state-owned behavioral health hospital. The bill requires courts to determine if there is genuine doubt as to competency before ordering a competency evaluation and requires jails to allow access for clinical intervention specialists to provide direct services for defendants waiting for competency restoration services. It requires courts to dismiss non-felony charges and refer the defendant for services recommended in a diversion program recommend by a forensic navigator if the defendant is amenable and can safely receive services in the community.

Contracting and procurement requirements for behavioral health services in medical assistance programs: [E2SHB 1515](#), sponsored by Representative Nicole Macri (D- 43rd LD), requires the Health Care Authority (HCA) to adopt network adequacy standards and an annual network adequacy review process for managed care organization (MCO) behavioral health provider networks within the Medicaid program. The HCA is further directed to seek approval to amend the State Medicaid Plan to support direct payments to agencies to support 24/7 crisis system capacity.

Psilocybin access: [2SSB 5263](#) sponsored by Senator Jesse Salomon (D- 32nd LD) establishes an advisory board within the Department of Health to provide recommendations to the Liquor and Cannabis Board and Department of Agriculture and creates and interagency work group to provide recommendations to the advisory board. Further, the Health Care Authority is required to establish a Psilocybin Task Force, which will produce a report on psilocybin use and regulatory structures for clinical use in Washington. The report is due to the Governor and the Legislature on December 1, 2023.

2. Notable Public Safety/Behavioral Health Bills that Did Not Pass in 2023

Lawful permanent residents as officers: [SB 5274](#), sponsored by Sen. Javier Valdez (D-46th LD), would have allowed law enforcement agencies to hire lawful permanent residents who are not citizens.

Expanding employment eligibility for law enforcement officers: [HB 1530](#) sponsored by Representative Julio Cortes (D- 38th LD) would have allowed law enforcement agencies to consider applications of United States citizens or lawful permanent residents for employment. It further provides that deputy prosecutors do not have to be qualified electors in the county in which they serve, but must be citizens or lawful permanent residents.

Civil asset forfeiture: [HB 1385](#) sponsored by Representative David Hackney (D- 11th LD) would have established a new chapter governing civil asset forfeiture under laws relating to specified criminal activity as well as standard procedures and requirements for seizure and forfeiture proceedings. It also established reporting requirements applicable to all seizing agencies. The bill’s provisions applied to seizures and forfeitures under statutes related to money laundering, theft of metal, impaired driving, felony forfeiture, among others.

Law enforcement agency misconduct: [HB 1445](#) sponsored by Representative Drew Hansen (D-23rd LD) would have authorized the Attorney General to investigate and bring an action against a law enforcement agency or local corrections agency for a violation of the Washington State Constitution or state law. The Attorney General could have initiated investigations on its own initiative or in response to investigations or reports from independent oversight bodies. It also directed the Attorney General to develop and publish model policies for law enforcement agencies. The House Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee adopted amendments to require the Attorney General to confer with the Office of Independent Investigations (OII) when conducting an investigation, and to consult with the Criminal Justice Training Commission and the OII when developing model policies. The bill did not pass the House.

Non-moving violations: [SHB 1513](#) sponsored by Representative Chipalo Street (D-37th LD), and [SB 5572](#), sponsored by Senator Javier Valdez (D-46th LD), would have limited officers’ use of stops and detentions for non-moving violations as a primary offense. The House Community Safety, Justice, and Reentry Committee passed a substitute bill clarifying that officers retain the authority to enforce non-moving violations and that officers may stop or detain vehicles for non-moving violations that are based on improper use of warning lights or license plates that do not match the vehicle. The bill did not advance out of either chamber.

Private right of action for harm from violations of the state Constitution or state law by peace officers: [SHB 1025](#) sponsored by Representative My-Linh Thai (D- 41st LD) would have created a civil cause of action under state law for individuals who are injured when a peace officer violates the state Constitution or state law. Plaintiffs could also name the officer’s employer as a defendant, and employers were also independently liable if a proximate cause of the injury was the employer’s failure to use reasonable care in hiring, training, supervising, or disciplining the officer. The House Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee approved a substitute bill. One of the defenses available to the officer’s employer was that the training provided was consistent with the Criminal Justice Training Commission or other model policies. For a jurisdiction like Tacoma that has policing policies that vary from the statewide standard, the City would not have been able to assert this defense. Additionally, under current law, if an individual is in the process of committing a felony, they are barred from bringing a civil cause of action. The amended version of the bill removed that restriction. The bill did not advance out of the House but is likely to be reconsidered in 2024.

3. Public Safety/Behavioral Health Bills Tracked in 2023

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|--------|---------------|-------------------|--------|---------|
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| 2SHB 1025 (Dead) | Police/private actions | Creating a private right of action for harm from violations of the state Constitution or state law by peace officers. | H Rules C | Thai |
| HB 1053 (Dead) | Vehicular pursuits | Concerning vehicular pursuits. | H Community Safe | Robertson |
| HB 1062 (Dead) | Law enf. officers/deception | Concerning deception by law enforcement officers during custodial interrogations. | H Community Safe | Peterson |
| E2SHB 1134 | 988 system | Implementing the 988 behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention system. | C 454 L 23 | Orwall |
| E2SHB 1143 (SB 5211) | Firearms/purchase & transfer | Concerning requirements for the purchase or transfer of firearms. | C 161 L 23 | Berry |
| HB 1178 (Dead) (SB 5446) | Firearms/local government | Concerning local government authority to regulate firearms. | H Civil R & Judi | Hackney |
| HB 1179 (SB 5119) | Nonconviction data/auditor | Authorizing the state auditor to receive nonconviction data. | C 26 L 23 | Ramos |
| HB 1195 (Dead) | Weapons/parks & hospitals | Prohibiting the open carry of certain weapons in public parks and public hospitals. | H Civil R & Judi | Senn |
| HB 1198 (Dead) (SB 5402) | PTBA/limited law enforcement | Authorizing public transportation benefit areas to become limited authority Washington law enforcement agencies. | H Community Safet | Bronoske |
| SHB 1363 (Dead) (ESB 5352) | Vehicular pursuits | Concerning vehicular pursuits. | H Rules R | Rule |
| HB 1380 (Dead) | Law enf. officer funding | Providing funding for the recruitment, retention, and support of law enforcement officers. | H Approps | Stokesbary |
| SHB 1385 (Dead) | Civil forfeiture proceedings | Concerning seizure and forfeiture procedures and reporting. | H Approps | Hackney |
| ESHB 1387 (Dead) | Law enf. applicant pool | Requiring the criminal justice training commission to establish a program. | H Rules 3C | Ramos |
| SHB 1413 (Dead) (SSB 5424) | Flexible work/peace officers | Concerning flexible work for general and limited authority Washington peace officers. | H Approps | Shavers |
| 2SHB 1445 (Dead) | Law enf. misconduct | Concerning law enforcement and local corrections agency misconduct through investigations and legal actions. | H Rules C | Hansen |
| HB 1446 (Dead) (SSB 5361) | Law enf. officers/increase | Incentivizing cities and counties to increase employment of commissioned law enforcement officers. | H Local Govt | Stokesbary |
| HB 1476 (Dead) (SB 5289) | Impact fees/law enforcement | Concerning allowing the use of impact fees for law enforcement. | H Local Govt | Shavers |
| HB 1530 (Dead) | Law enf. employ. eligibility | Expanding eligibility for employment of certain law enforcement and prosecutor office positions. | H Rules 3C | Cortes |
| 2SHB 1579 (Dead) | Independent prosecutions | Establishing a mechanism for independent prosecutions within the office of the attorney general of criminal conduct arising from police use of force. | H Rules 3C | Stonier |

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| 2SHB 1586 (Dead) | Vehicular pursuits work grp. | Requiring the criminal justice training commission to establish a work group and grant program related to vehicular pursuits. | H Rules R | Goodman |
| HB 1631 (Dead) (SB 5606) | Illegal racing | Deterring illegal racing. | H Civil R & Judi | Hackney |
| SB 5034 (Dead) | Vehicular pursuits | Concerning the authority for a peace officer to engage in a vehicular pursuit. | S Law & Justice | Padden |
| SB 5035 (Dead) | Controlled sub. possession | Concerning possession of controlled substances. | S Law & Justice | Padden |
| SB 5108 (Dead) | Law enf. training/regional | Concerning a regional training model for basic law enforcement training. | S Law & Justice | Padden |
| SB 5193 (Dead) (HB 1180) | Firearms/assault weapons | Establishing firearms-related safety measures to increase public safety. | S Law & Justice | Kuderer |
| SB 5211 (Dead) (E2SHB 1143) | Firearms/purchase & transfer | Concerning requirements for the purchase or transfer of firearms. | S Law & Justice | Lias |
| 2SSB 5263 | Psilocybin | Concerning access to psilocybin services by individuals 21 years of age and older. | C 364 L 23 | Salomon |
| SB 5265 (Dead) (SHB 1240) | Firearms/assault weapons | Establishing firearms-related safety measures to increase public safety. | S Law & Justice | Kuderer |
| SB 5274 (Dead) | Public employ. eligibility | Expanding eligibility in certain public employment positions for lawful permanent residents. | S Rules 3 | Valdez |
| SB 5289 (Dead) (HB 1476) | Impact fees/law enforcement | Concerning allowing the use of impact fees for law enforcement. | S Loc Gov, Land | Shewmake |
| SSB 5299 (Dead) | Law enf. officer protection | Concerning law enforcement officer protection. | S Rules X | Braun |
| ESB 5352 (SHB 1363) | Vehicular pursuits | Concerning vehicular pursuits. | C 235 L 23 | Lovick |
| SSB 5361 (Dead) (HB 1446) | Law enf. officers/increase | Incentivizing cities and counties to increase employment of commissioned law enforcement officers. | S Ways & Means | Holy |
| SSB 5424 (Dead) (SHB 1413) | Flexible work/peace officers | Concerning flexible work for general and limited authority Washington peace officers. | S Rules 3 | Lovick |
| E2SSB 5440 | Competency evaluations | Providing timely competency evaluations and restoration services to persons suffering from behavioral health disorders. | C 453 L 23 | Dhingra |

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| SB 5446 (Dead) (HB 1178) | Firearms/local government | Concerning local government authority to regulate firearms. | S Law & Justice | Nguyen |
| SB 5467 (Dead) (HB 1613) | Controlled sub. possession | Encouraging treatment for possession of certain counterfeit drugs or controlled substances. | S Law & Justice | Salomon |
| SSB 5533 (Dead) | Model vehicle pursuit policy | Concerning the creation of a model vehicle pursuit policy. | S Ways & Means | Lovick |
| 2E2SSB 5536 (Dead) | Controlled substances | Concerning controlled substances, counterfeit substances, and legend drug possession and treatment. | C 1 L 23 E1 | Robinson |
| SB 5606 (HB 1631) | Illegal racing | Deterring illegal racing. | C 283 L 23 | Lovick |
| SB 5624 (Dead) | Substance use recovery serv. | Implementing the recommendations of the substance use recovery services advisory committee. | S Law & Justice | Dhingra |

V. Climate Justice/Environmental Services

During the 2023 legislative session, climate advocacy focused on implementation of the Climate Commitment Act, the Clean Fuel Standard, and the Clean Energy Transformation Act – all enacted within the last three years. Additionally, the Legislature engaged in robust discussion around appropriate recycling programs and ended up advancing a small proposal related to the recycling of batteries, but not advancing a holistic producer responsibility model.

A. Climate Justice/Environmental Services Funding

The Legislature largely continued this climate work through significant investments in the 2023-25 Operating and Capital Budgets. Highlights include:

- \$60 million for the Clean Energy Fund Program for clean energy research, development, demonstration, and deployment projects.
- \$120 million incentive program to fund zero-emission medium and heavy duty vehicles and associated charging infrastructure for businesses, schools, transit agencies, local governments, independent owner-operators, and others.
- \$163 million, consisting of \$80 million in CCA funding and \$83 million in federal authority from the IRA, to implement the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) Program to provide scaled rebates to low and moderate-income households, adult family homes, and small commercial businesses to purchase and install high-efficiency electric equipment.
- \$50 million for the Tribal Climate Adaptation Pass-Through Grant program to provide tribes with assistance to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

- \$20 million for a grant program to reduce carbon emissions in hard-to-decarbonize sectors such as aviation, maritime, and other industries.
- \$50 million for energy retrofits and solar power for public buildings.
- \$20 million for state match for the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association’s application to the United States Department of Energy for a regional hydrogen hub grant.
- \$16.8 million for local emission reduction projects.
- \$5 million for the Community Energy Efficiency Program administered by the Washington State University Extension Energy Program.
- \$39 million for large scale solar innovation projects.
- \$6 million is allocated to provide assistance to local communities to increase their capacity for urban forestry activities and programs.

B. Climate Justice/Environmental Justice Policy Bills

1. Climate Justice/Environmental Justice Bills Passed in 2023

Updating the state’s integrated climate response strategy: [E2SHB 1170](#) sponsored by Representative Chipalo Street (D-37th LD) directs the Department of Ecology to update the Integrated Climate Change Response Strategy by September 30, 2024, and every four years after. Several new requirements are added for the strategy, including actions to address the highest climate vulnerabilities and risks to the state’s communities and ecosystems, among others.

Plastic pollution: [SHB 1085](#) sponsored by Representative Sharlett Mena (D- 29th LD) prohibits the sale, distribution, and installation of certain plastic foam overwater structures, including foam blocks and floats. It further prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal health or beauty products in certain plastic containers or wrappers. It requires any construction in which a drinking fountain is required under the International Building Code to also require the provision of bottle filling stations.

Responsible environmental management of batteries: [E2SSB 5144](#) sponsored by Senator Derek Stanford (D- 1st LD) requires each producer selling or distributing covered batteries in Washington to participate in and fund an approved battery stewardship organization. Each battery stewardship organization must submit a plan for covered portable batteries to the Department of Ecology for approval by July 1, 2026, or within six months of program rules. Battery stewardship programs must provide for the collection of all covered batteries. Local government facilities may collect batteries at their own expense and must process them in a manner that meets the same standards as those implemented by battery stewardship organizations.

Clean Energy Siting: [E2SHB 1216](#) sponsored by Representative Joe Fitzgibbon (D- 34th LD) establishes an Interagency Clean Energy Siting Coordinating Council to improve siting and permitting of clean energy projects. The bill creates a designation for clean energy projects of

statewide significance and a coordinated permitting process for clean energy projects. It amends the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) processes for clean energy projects, including limiting environmental impact statement (EIS) preparation to 24 months. Additionally, the bill requires preparation of non-project EIS for certain types of clean energy projects.

Preventing Utility Shutoffs for Non-payment During Extreme Heat: [ESHB 1329](#) sponsored by Representative Sharlett Mena (D- 29th LD), by request of the Attorney General's Office, prohibits utilities from involuntarily terminating water or electric service to a residential user during days for which the National Weather Service has issued certain heat-related alerts. Utilities are required to promptly make a reasonable attempt to reconnect service to a dwelling upon receipt of a reconnection requests for a day in which there are heat-related alerts in effect. Utilities are authorized to require a payment plan prior to reconnecting service. The Attorney General's Office was amenable to amending the bill's provisions as the bill progressed through the legislative process to address concerns from utilities regarding the technical details on temperature readings, repayment plans, and other items. The bill was generally supported by utilities upon final passage.

Water systems' notice to customers of public health considerations: [ESHB 1251](#) sponsored by Representative Monica Jurado Stonier (D- 49th LD) requires a public water system considering commencing or discontinuing fluoridation of its water supply to notify its customers and the Department of Health of its intentions at least 90 days prior to a vote or decision on the matter. It provides that a public water system that violates the notification requirements must return the fluoridation of its water to its prior level until the notification requirements have been satisfied.

Drought preparedness: [SHB 1138](#) sponsored by Representative Mike Chapman (D- 24th LD), requested by the Department of Ecology, provides that projects funded by grants issued to address drought conditions no longer need to be completed while a drought emergency order is in effect. It establishes the Emergency Drought Response Account and directs the State Treasurer to transfer funds needed to bring the balance of the account up to \$3 million upon the issuance of a drought emergency order. It also allows the Chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought to convene the committee when a drought advisory is in effect.

Workforce for climate-ready communities: [2SHB 1176](#) sponsored by Representative Vandana Slatter (D- 48th LD), requested by the Office of the Governor, enacts the Washington Climate Corps Network to support and grow climate-related service opportunities for young adults and veterans. It establishes the Clean Energy Technology Workforce Advisory Committee to review workforce issues within the clean energy sector and make recommendations to prevent workforce displacement and support job creation. The bill also directs the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board to evaluate clean energy workforce needs and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

2. Notable Climate Justice/Environmental Services Bills that Did Not Pass in 2023

Biosolids: [Senate Bill 5245](#) sponsored by Senator Jeff Wilson (R-19th LD) would have required the Department of Ecology to establish pollutant limits for PFAS chemicals in biosolids based on the results of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s risk assessment. It directs the Biosolid Management Program to ensure that biosolids are tested for PFAS chemicals for which a pollutant limit has been established. The City expressed concerns that the proposal could negatively impact the City’s popular TAGRO program. The City was able to successfully amend the bill to ensure that the TAGRO program would not be impacted. However, the bill did not advance to final passage.

Extended producer responsibility (WRAP Act): [House Bill 1131](#) sponsored by Representative Liz Berry (D- 36th LD) and, [Senate Bill 5154](#) sponsored by Senator Christine Rolfe (D- 23rd LD), the *Washington Recycling and Packaging Act*, would have required producers of certain products and packaging to participate in and fund the operations for a producer responsibility organization to collect and manage the packaging from consumers. The bill is a holistic, statewide approach to recycling. The bill did not advance this session, facing opposition from producers and waste haulers. The bill will likely be revisited in 2024.

3. Climate Justice/Environmental Services Bills Tracked in 2023

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|---|------------------------------|---|----------------|---------|
| SHB 1078 (Dead) | Urban forest management | Concerning urban forest management ordinances. | H Approps | Duerr |
| 2SHB 1131 (Dead) (SSB 5154) | Solid waste management | Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes. | H Rules C | Berry |
| HB 1193 (Dead) | Greenhouse gas/building code | Affirming that the legislature has not provided authority for the state building code council to use greenhouse gas emissions as a consideration in residential building codes or energy codes. | H Env & Energy | Dye |
| 2SHB 1391 (Dead) | Energy in buildings | Concerning energy in buildings. | H Rules 3C | Ramel |
| HB 1553 (Dead) | Batteries/envir onment | Providing for responsible environmental management of batteries. | H Env & Energy | Street |

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|--|-----------------------------|--|----------------|----------|
| SSB 5057 (Dead) | Energy standards/commercial | Creating a work group to evaluate the costs of the state energy performance standard for covered commercial buildings. | S Rules X | Mullet |
| SSB 5093 (Dead) (E2SHB 1170) | Climate response strategy | Improving climate resilience through updates to the state's integrated climate response strategy. | S Rules X | Rolfes |
| E2SSB 5144 | Batteries/environment | Providing for responsible environmental management of batteries. | C 434 L 23 | Stanford |
| SSB 5154 (Dead) (2SHB 1131) | Solid waste management | Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes. | S Ways & Means | Rolfes |
| ESHB 1033 | Compostable product usage | Evaluating compostable product usage in Washington. | C 236 L 23 | Walen |
| SHB 1365 (Dead) | Puget Sound water quality | Improving Puget Sound water quality. | H Rules C | Dye |
| SHB 1381 (Dead) | Salmon-safe communities | Concerning salmon-safe communities. | H Rules C | Dye |
| SSB 5245 (Dead) | Biosolids | Concerning biosolids. | S Rules X | Wilson |

VI. Community and Economic Development

A. Community and Economic Development Funding

The Legislature appropriated the following funds to support community and economic development:

- \$8.6 million for ongoing operation of Associate Development Organizations (ADOs)
- \$2.5 million for grants to local jurisdictions to support pre-development activities to attract new manufacturing facilities
- \$1.5 million to Associate Development Organizations for grant writers
- \$5.966 million for statewide tourism marketing
- \$1 million to begin development of a state-funded innovation cluster accelerator program
- \$7 million for a Small Business Innovation Fund
- \$125 million for the Community Economic Revitalization Board

B. Community and Economic Development Policy Bills

1. Community and Economic Development Bills Passed in 2023

Technical corrections to the local tax increment financing (TIF) program: [HB 1527](#) sponsored by Representative Sharon Wylie (D- 49th LD) makes several technical changes to the [Tax Increment Financing](#) (TIF) legislation passed in 2021. It defines “real property” as it relates to local TIF areas and clarifies that an increment area takes effect on June 1st following the adoption of the ordinance designating the increment area. The legislation provides local taxing districts the authority to increase their property tax levy capacity for increases in assessed value in certain situations. The bill is effective May 9, 2023.

2. Community and Economic Development Bills Tracked in 2023

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|--|------------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------|
| HB 1527 (SB 5539) | Tax increment financing | Making technical corrections to the local tax increment financing program. | C 354 L 23 | Wylie |
| HB 1680 (Dead) | Rural library districts | Protecting intercounty rural library districts' ability to fund public library services through exclusion from tax increment financing apportionment. | H Finance | Kretz |
| SHB 1717 (Dead) (SB 5379) | Associate development orgs. | Supporting innovation at associate development organizations. | H Rules 3C | Rule |
| SB 5379 (Dead) (SHB 1717) | Associate development orgs. | Supporting innovation at associate development organizations. | S Rules X | Frame |
| SB 5461 (Dead) | WSDOT graffiti removal order | Requiring the removal of graffiti on department of transportation property. | S Law & Justice | Fortunato |
| SB 5539 (Dead) (HB 1527) | Tax increment financing | Making technical corrections to the local tax increment financing program. | S Ways & Means | Cleveland |

VII. Fiscal

VIII. Workforce

A. Workforce Policy Bills

1. Workforce Bills Passed in 2023

Mental health counselor compact: [HB 1069](#) sponsored by Representative Mari Leavitt (D-28th LD) adopts the interstate mental health counselor compact to provide opportunities for interstate practice by licensed professional counselors who meet uniform certification requirements and eliminate the need for licensure in multiple states.

Military spouse employment: [House Bill 1009](#) sponsored by Representative Mari Leavitt (D-28th LD) directs certain professional licensing authorities to issue a temporary license within 30 days of submission of a completed application to individuals who hold a license or certification to perform a professional service in another state, including military spouses.

2. Workforce Bills Tracked in 2023

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|---|------------------------------|---|-----------------|---------|
| HB 1001 (SB 5021) | Audiology & speech compact | Concerning the audiology and speech-language pathology interstate compact. | C 53 L 23 | Leavitt |
| 2SHB 1009 | Military spouse employment | Concerning military spouse employment. | C 165 L 23 | Leavitt |
| HB 1021 (Dead) (SB 5354) | Social worker licensing | Aligning social worker licensing requirements. | H Rules R | Thai |
| SHB 1069 | Mental health counselor comp | Adopting the mental health counselor compact. | C 58 L 23 | Leavitt |
| SB 5021 (Dead) (HB 1001) | Audiology & speech compact | Concerning the audiology and speech-language pathology interstate compact. | S Health & Long | Wagoner |
| SB 5219 (Dead) | Counseling compact | Enacting the interstate counseling compact for licensed mental health counselors. | S Health & Long | Muzzall |
| SB 5354 (Dead) (HB 1021) | Social worker licensing | Aligning social worker licensing requirements. | S Health & Long | Trudeau |

IX. Administration/Legal

A. Administration/Legal Policy Bills

1. Administration/Legal Bills Passed in 2023

Self-Insured Employers: [SHB 1521](#) sponsored by Representative Dan Bronoske (D-28th LD) establishes a duty of good faith and fair dealing for workers concerning all aspects of workers' compensation for self-insured municipal employers and self-insured private sector firefighter employers and their third-party administrators. The bill provides penalties for violations and authorizes the Department of Labor and Industries to enforce the standard of good faith and fair

dealing. Self-insured municipal employers' certification as a self-insurer may be revoked if the employer violates the self-insurer's duty of good faith and fair dealing three times within a three-year period. Throughout the legislative process, the City expressed concerns with this proposal due to the impacts to the City.

Employee-union legislation: [ESHB 1187](#) sponsored by Representative David Hackney (D- 11th LD) designates any communication between a union representative and union employee as privileged from examination and disclosure. Effective date: July 23, 2023; [SHB 1200](#) sponsored by Representative Emily Alvarado (D- 34th LD) requires employers subject to the Public Employees' Collective Bargaining Act to provide contact information, date of hire, salary, and job site locations for employees to exclusive bargaining representatives.

Employees' paid family or medical leave data: [SSB 5586](#) sponsored by Senator Curtis King (R- 14th LD) authorizes certain interested parties, including the employee's current employer, a current employer's third-party administrator, or an employee, to access specified information relating to an employee's paid family or medical leave claim for the purpose of administering internal employer leave or benefit practices under established policies.

Procurement rules: [SHB 1621](#) sponsored by Representative Cindy Ryu (D- 32nd LD) changes contracting rules and thresholds for which bids must be solicited for certain public agencies. A first-class city may have its own regularly employed personnel perform work which is an accepted industry practice under prudent utility management without a contract. For second-class cities, the amount for which a city may contract for public works that involve more than one trade without a competitive bidding process is increased from \$116,155 to \$150,000. Any purchase of supplies or equipment for public works estimated to cost over \$40,000 must be by contract. Second-class cities may also have its own employed personnel perform work which is an accepted industry practice under prudent utility management without a contract. The bill also contains several provisions related to public utility districts, water-sewer districts, and fire protection districts.

Employment of individuals who lawfully consume cannabis: [ESSB 5123](#) sponsored by Senator Karen Keiser (D- 33rd LD) prohibits employers from discriminating against a person in hiring based upon the person's use of cannabis off the job and away from the workplace or an employer-required drug screening test that identifies non-psychoactive cannabis metabolites. The bill does not prohibit employers from basing hiring decisions based on testing for other drugs or testing for controlled substances after an accident or because of suspicion of impairment. Several exceptions are made in the bill, including law enforcement, fire department personnel, and other first responders.

Washington Voting Rights Act: [ESHB 1048](#) sponsored by Representative Sharlett Mena (D- 29th LD) provides that individuals or organizations who file a notice of intent to challenge an election system under the Act may recover costs up to \$50,000 incurred in conducting the necessary research, if the notice causes the political subdivision to adopt a remedy that is approved by the court. Standing is granted to organizations whose membership includes a voter who resides in the political subdivision and tribes located at least in part of the political

subdivision. The legislation was carried by Democratic majorities in both chambers of the Legislature and was largely opposed by Republicans.

2. Notable Administration/Legal Bills That Did Not Pass in 2023

Washington Future Fund program: [SHB 1094](#) sponsored by Representative Monica Jurado Stonier (D- 49th LD), and [SSB 5125](#) sponsored by Senator Yasmin Trudeau (D- 27th LD) would have established the Washington Future Fund Program, to be administered by the Office of the State Treasury. The proposal was informed by the work and recommendations of the Washington Future Fund Committee, which was funded and established through legislative action in 2022. A person who is a member of a funded cohort, aged 18 through 35, or the person’s legal guardian, may apply for a disbursement from the Washington Future Fund Account to a designated institution to be used for eligible expenditures, which include higher education, purchase of a residence in Washington, or creation or purchase of a business in Washington. Both versions of the legislation stalled in their respective fiscal committees.

Prejudgment interest: [Senate Bill 5059](#) sponsored by Senator Patty Kuderer (D- 48th) provided that judgments founded on the tortious conduct of a public agency would bear interest from the date the cause of action accrued, rather than the date of the judgment. This would have resulted in increased liability to cities.

Public comment notice: [House Bill 1105](#) sponsored by Representative Shelley Kloba (D- 1st LD) would have required that whenever a public agency is mandated by law to provide notice that it is soliciting written public comment, the notice must specify the last date by which such public comment must be submitted.

Ticket Regulations: [House Bill 1648](#) sponsored by Representative Kristine Reeves would have regulated ticket sales, including requiring the disclosure of data related to admission tickets, limiting the use of “dynamic pricing” for admission ticket sales, and prohibiting the resale of admission tickets that were obtained using software to evade a ticket seller’s security. Tacoma Events and Venues indicated that the bill as introduced would have negatively impacted Tacoma Dome operations and, if enacted, could have resulted in making it harder to recruit artists and acts to the event venue. The bill was amended in the policy committee to address many of the City’s concerns, but did not advance to final passage. It’s likely the bill will be discussed again in 2024.

3. Administration/Legal Bills Tracked in 2023

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|---|----------------------------|--|-----------|---------|
| SHB 1045 (Dead) | Basic income pilot program | Creating the evergreen basic income pilot program. | H Approps | Berry |
| ESHB 1048 (SSB 5047) | Voting rights act | Enhancing the Washington voting rights act. | C 56 L 23 | Mena |

| | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|------------|----------|
| SHB 1080 (Dead) | Body worn cameras | Concerning body worn cameras. | H Rules 3C | Taylor |
| SHB 1094 (Dead) (SSB 5125) | Future fund program | Creating the Washington future fund program. | H Approps | Stonier |
| SHB 1097 (Dead) | Cosmetics tested on animals | Concerning the sale of cosmetics tested on animals. | H Rules R | Walén |
| SHB 1105 (Dead) | Public comment notice | Requiring public agencies to provide notice for public comment that includes the last date by which such public comment must be submitted. | H Rules 3C | Kloba |
| ESHB 1187 (SB 5706) | Employee-union privilege | Concerning privileged communication between employees and the unions that represent them. | C 202 L 23 | Hackney |
| SHB 1200 (SB 5273) | Employee information/unions | Requiring public employers to provide employee information to exclusive bargaining representatives. | C 204 L 23 | Alvarado |
| E2SHB 1320 (Dead) (SSB 5061) | Personnel records | Concerning access to personnel records. | H Rules 3C | Reed |
| ESHB 1329 (SSB 5366) | Utility shutoffs/heat | Preventing utility shutoffs for nonpayment during extreme heat. | C 105 L 23 | Mena |
| ESHB 1335 (SB 5321) | Personal identifying info. | Concerning the unauthorized publication of personal identifying information. | C 381 L 23 | Hansen |
| SHB 1521 (SSB 5524) | Industrial insurance/duties | Concerning the duties of industrial insurance self-insured employers and third-party administrators. | C 293 L 23 | Bronoske |

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|------------------|----------|
| HB 1575 (SB 5612) | Cultural access programs/tax | Modifying the sales and use tax for cultural access programs by allowing the tax to be imposed by a councilmanic or commission authority and defining timelines and priorities for action. | C 179 L 23 | Reed |
| HB 1597 (Dead) (SB 5571) | Public records act requests | Limiting frivolous claims by modifying administrative and judicial review processes for public records request responses. | H State Govt & T | Springer |
| 2SHB 1648 (Dead) | Ticket sales | Concerning ticket sales. | H Rules R | Reeves |
| HB 1649 (Dead) | Prejudgment interest | Concerning prejudgment interest. | H Civil R & Judi | Hackney |
| HB 1666 (Dead) | Fee and debt collection | Making changes to certain fee and debt collection practices. | H ConsPro&Bus | Reeves |
| HB 1718 (Dead) (SB 5095) | Parks/health & wellness | Creating the "parks Rx" health and wellness pilot programs. | H HC/Wellness | Rule |
| HB 1790 (Dead) | Cannabis social equity | Expanding and improving the social equity in cannabis program. | H Reg Subst & Ga | Entenman |
| SSB 5047 (Dead) (ESHB 1048) | Voting rights act | Enhancing the Washington voting rights act. | S Rules X | Saldana |
| SB 5059 (Dead) | Prejudgment interest | Concerning prejudgment interest. | S Ways & Means | Kuderer |
| SSB 5061 (Dead) (E2SHB 1320) | Personnel records | Concerning access to personnel records. | S Ways & Means | Kuderer |
| E2SSB 5080 | Cannabis social equity | Expanding and improving the social equity in cannabis program. | C 220 L 23 | Saldana |
| SB 5095 (Dead) (HB 1718) | Parks/health & wellness | Creating the "parks Rx" health and wellness pilot programs. | S Rules X | Nobles |
| ESSB 5123 | Cannabis/employment | Concerning the employment of individuals who lawfully consume cannabis. | C 359 L 23 | Keiser |
| SSB 5125 (Dead) (SHB 1094) | Future fund program | Creating the Washington future fund program. | S Ways & Means | Trudeau |

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|------------------|-------------|
| SB 5273 (Dead) (SHB 1200) | Employee information/unions | Requiring public employers to provide employee information to exclusive bargaining representatives. | S Labor & Comm | Valdez |
| SB 5321 (Dead) (ESHB 1335) | Personal identifying info. | Concerning the unauthorized publication of personal identifying information. | S Law & Justice | Valdez |
| SB 5324 | Defense compatibility acct. | Concerning the defense community compatibility account. | C 438 L 23 | Conway |
| SSB 5366 (Dead) (ESHB 1329) | Utility shutoffs/heat | Preventing utility shutoffs for nonpayment during extreme heat. | S Rules X | Nguyen |
| SB 5402 (Dead) (HB 1198) | PTBA/limited law enforcement | Authorizing public transportation benefit areas to become limited authority Washington law enforcement agencies. | S Law & Justice | Randall |
| SSB 5524 (Dead) (SHB 1521) | Industrial insurance/duties | Concerning the duties of industrial insurance self-insured employers and third-party administrators. | S Rules X | Van De Wege |
| SB 5571 (Dead) (HB 1597) | Public records act requests | Limiting frivolous claims by modifying administrative and judicial review processes for public records request responses. | S State Govt & E | Rivers |
| SSB 5586 | Paid leave data | Concerning employees' paid family or medical leave data. | C 375 L 23 | King |
| SB 5612 (Dead) (HB 1575) | Cultural access programs/tax | Modifying the sales and use tax for cultural access programs by allowing the tax to be imposed by a councilmanic or commission authority and defining timelines and priorities for action. | S Loc Gov, Land | Lovelett |
| ESSB 5614 (Dead) | Adult entertainment | Concerning adult entertainment establishments. | S Rules 3 | Saldana |
| SSB 5723 (Dead) | Even-numbered year elections | Giving cities and towns the freedom to switch their general elections to even-numbered years. | S Rules X | Valdez |

Section 3: Outcomes of City of Tacoma Legislative Agenda

The City of Tacoma adopted a 2023 state legislative agenda that identified the City's top legislative priorities; support of community partners' efforts; and a list of topics that the City would support, oppose, and monitor. The agenda is outlined below in **black**. Notated in **red** is the action that the Legislature took on items covered within the City's Legislative Agenda. If there is no action noted in red, the City's government relations team is not aware of any legislative activity on the topic during the 2023 legislative session or the item is too broad to correlate with a specific legislative action. Those items where the City testified on the topic are highlighted in **blue**.

I. General Government State Legislative Priorities

Affordable Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Shelter:

The City of Tacoma is working fervently to increase the availability of affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and shelter space within the Tacoma community. We currently operate 1,140 shelter beds. By 2025-26, the City anticipates needing funding for an additional 425 shelter beds. The City has adopted an Affordable Housing Action Strategy, enacted a sales tax increase, sales tax credit, progressive land use code to increase density, worked with community partners to secure Housing Trust Fund and Rapid Acquisition Housing funds, and more. The City of Tacoma asks for the Legislature's continued partnership on the following requests:

- \$1.95 million to acquire and preserve a .48 acres property for affordable housing near 13th and Tacoma Avenue, near the Main Library, hospitals, and transit. Once acquired, the City would issue an RFP to identify a nonprofit housing provider to construct a mixed-use commercial property of between 200 and 250 units for individuals making 60-80% of the area median income. **The 2023-25 Capital Budget appropriated \$1.5 million to this project through the Local and Community Project fund.**
- Ongoing funding for the partnership between WSDOT and the City of Tacoma to remove homeless encampments from right-of-way, place individuals within shelter, and undertake reclamation activities (including but not limited to abating graffiti). **The 2023-25 Transportation Budget allocates \$1,015,000 between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2025 for the ongoing partnership.**
- Increased state funding for programs supporting the acquisition, construction, and operation of shelters, permanent supportive housing, and affordable housing, such as the Housing Trust Fund, rapid acquisition funding, and more. The City is currently operating 400 temporary shelter beds, with the goal of transitioning many of these slots to permanent supportive housing as it is constructed. **The Legislature considered but did not advance proposals to increase funding. As the Legislature engaged in that discussion, Councilmember John Hines testified in support of**

House Bill 1628, which would have increased state real estate excise taxes for housing. The 2023-25 Capital Budget appropriated \$400 million to the Housing Trust Fund. Funding was allocated to additional programs, including \$60 million for Connecting Homes to Infrastructure Program (CHIP) grants, \$40 million was allocated to the Housing Finance Commission's Land Acquisition Program, \$50 million was allocated for housing near transit, and more. See the above Housing Section for additional funding details.

- A statewide policy to allow and incentivize middle housing types in a manner consistent with Tacoma's Home in Tacoma ordinance, such as pre-approved construction plans. **The Legislature approved [E2SHB 1110](#) sponsored by Representative Jessica Bateman (D- 22nd LD), requiring cities to authorize minimum housing development densities in residential zones depending on their population size. **Councilmember John Hines has planned to testify on the bill but was unable to due to technical issues.** The legislature also considered SB 5466, mandating density near transit-oriented development. **Deputy Mayor Kristina Walker testified on that proposal as it advanced through the legislative session.****
- Expand the multifamily property tax exemption to allow market-rate commercial and residential buildings to be converted into quality affordable housing units. **The Legislature considered but did not advance [HB 1350](#) sponsored by Rep. Amy Walen (D-48th LD), authorizing cities to offer the multifamily property tax exemption to residential buildings that dedicate at least 30% of the units to affordability.**
- Rental assistance and tenant protections to continue to keep individuals housed. The Legislature approved regarding tenant protections [SHB 1074](#) sponsored by Representative My-Linh Thai (D- 41st LD), requires landlords to provide documentation substantiating the cost of any damages withheld from a tenant's deposit. The bill was passed in both chambers on party-line votes. [ESSB 5197](#) sponsored by Senator Patty Kuderer (D- 48th LD) modifies several aspects of the eviction process, including allowing remote participation by any party in forcible and unlawful detainer actions, and allowing tenants who provide a pledge of financial assistance letter to satisfy an unlawful detainer judgment and have their tenancy restored. The Legislature considered but did not advance several other proposals. See the above Housing Section for additional details
- Enhance homeownership opportunities among BIPOC communities through assistance to homebuyers, modifications to existing programs to support homeownership, and reductions in legal liability for condominium developers and clarity to condominium-ize duplexes and triplexes. **The Legislature approved [2SHB 1474](#) sponsored by Representative Jamila Taylor (D- 30th LD) and allocated \$150 million to fund establish and Covenant Homeownership Program to provide down payment and closing cost assistance to economically disadvantaged households. The Covenant Homeownership Program is funded through a \$100 document recording fee**

collected by county auditors. **Councilmember Daniels and Mayor Woodards testified in support of this proposal.** Additionally, The Legislature approved [E2SSB 5258](#) sponsored by Senator Sharon Shewmake (D-42nd LD) contains several provisions aimed at boosting construction and homeownership of condominiums and townhomes including changes to construction defect claims, deposits for purchase, warranty insurance, real estate excise taxes/down payment assistance, impact fees, and approval of short plats and short subdivisions. **Councilmember Rumbaugh testified in favor of this proposal.**

- Support for policies that provide opportunities for those on limited incomes to remain housed, including allowing senior residents to age in place.

Behavioral Health System & Vulnerable Populations: The City supports creating greater access to community-based behavioral health services to include substance use disorder treatment and dual diagnosis treatment facilities. This includes supporting build out of infrastructure, facilities and systems to support the new 988 system and associated crisis response. The Legislature approved [ESHB 1134](#) sponsored by Rep. Tina Orwall (D-33rd LD) which continued implementation of the 988 system. The bill established an endorsement for mobile rapid response crisis teams and community-based crisis teams that meet staffing, vehicle, and training standards, established liability projects for activities related to dispatching decisions of 988 crisis hotline staff and the transfer of calls between 911 and 988, and directed the Department of Health to promote the 988 crisis hotline. The Legislature appropriated \$69.8 million to support 988.

Additionally, the City supports funding for programs that serve our most vulnerable populations, including Housing & Essential Needs (HEN) and Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD) Cash Assistance Program. The 2023-25 Operating Budget allocates \$26.5 million to the Housing & Essential Needs Program, and an 8% grant increase was approved for those receiving assistance through the Aged, Blind, and Disabled program. An additional \$53 million is allocated to implement [HB 1260](#), which eliminates Department of Social and Human Services' garnishment of a portion of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) lump sum payment received by Aged, Blind, and Disabled participants.

The City also encourages the Legislature to advance policies and funding that support a behavioral health work force. This includes reducing the barriers posed by regulations/certifications on workforce entry into behavioral and medical health fields without improperly impacting quality of care, and investing in local workforce development systems to directly support upskilling and reskilling workers on behalf of behavioral healthcare providers. The Legislature approved [HB 1069](#) sponsored by Representative Mari Leavitt (D- 28th LD), which adopts the interstate mental health counselor compact to provide opportunities for interstate practice by licensed professional counselors who meet uniform certification requirements and eliminate the need for licensure in multiple states. The Legislature also approved [House Bill 1009](#) sponsored by Representative Mari Leavitt (D- 28th LD) directs certain professional licensing authorities to issue a temporary license within 30 days of

submission of a completed application to individuals who hold a license or certification to perform a professional service in another state, including military spouses.

Police Transformation & Public Safety:

The City recognizes that alternative response programs are an integral component of fully meeting community and public safety needs. The City is committed to implementing alternative response programs and requests state support to help communities establish programs such as co-responder, diversion and other programs that provide options beyond law enforcement for responding to situations involving individuals suffering from behavioral health issues. The City also supports increased funding for community court, an alternative problem-solving court program designed to address the underlining challenges leading to criminal activity through access to services. The Legislature appropriated \$5.3 million to cities and counties to assist with alternative response, including \$4 million to the Association of Washington Cities to provide funds to cities for reimbursing the cost of creating alternative response team programs around the state.

The City appreciates the work of the State to establish independent investigations of police use of force and asks that the Legislature continue efforts by establishing independent prosecutions for incidents involving fatal use-of-force and deaths occurring in police custody. The Legislature considered but did not have advance [2SHB 1579](#) sponsored by Representative Monica Jurado Stonier (D- 49th LD), which would have established the Office of Independent Prosecutions, led by an independent counsel, as a separate division within the Office of the Attorney General. Mayor Woodards testified on this proposal several times as it advanced through the legislative process.

Additionally, the City supports legislative solutions to address illegal street racing, including the impound or forfeiture of vehicles used in illegal street racing. The City will monitor the Legislature's efforts to clarify and educate around policing policies, including when officers engage in vehicular pursuits. The City will monitor proposals related to the possession of controlled substances to ensure that dual needs of community safety and honoring substance abuse as a disorder requiring treatment. The Legislature approved [SB 5606](#) sponsored by Senator John Lovick (D- 44th LD), which clarifies that the current street racing statute includes "drifting" driving maneuvers and includes racing on any off-street facility. The bill creates a greater deterrent by allowing vehicles used in street racing to be impounded for 72-hours on first offense, and subject to forfeiture post-conviction on second offense. A person may be charged at the initial time and location where the efforts were initiated or at the time and location where a completed racing crime occurred. Mayor Woodards testified on this proposal several times as it advanced through the legislative process.

(Added to the Agenda Mid-Session): The City supports legislation that makes possession of a controlled substance a criminal offense with seriousness category of no greater than a gross misdemeanor. The City supports possession of a controlled substance being a criminal offense only so long as the individual who is charged has the ability to avoid the conviction if they are able to complete substance use disorder treatment. The City supports state funding to ensure access to treatment and opposes the total removal of local land use controls related

to the siting of treatment type facilities. In a one-day special session on May 16th, the Legislature approved [2E2SSB 5536](#) sponsored by Senator June Robinson (D- 38th LD), establishing a statewide policy on possession of controlled substances. The bill makes possession of controlled substances a gross misdemeanor. For the first two offenses, the maximum sentence is 180 days. For subsequent offenses, the maximum sentence is 364 days. Prosecutors are encouraged to utilize pre-trial diversion.

Multimodal Transportation System:

The City of Tacoma is dedicated to building out a local transportation network that supports all modes, is well maintained, and safe. As such, the City supports:

- Increased funding to maintain and preserve local roadways and trails. The City’s street maintenance backlog for pavement alone is approximately four times its annual budget. The Legislature did not significantly increase funding for local preservation and maintenance; however, \$9 million was allocated to the transportation Improvement Board for preservation grants to cities. Additionally, the Legislature allocated \$300,000 for the Joint Transportation Committee to convene a study on a statewide retail delivery fee on orders of taxable retail items delivered by motor vehicles within the state.
- Policies and investments that facilitate accessible transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure. The 2023-25 Transportation Budget allocated \$70.8 million for Safe Routes to Schools grants, and \$72.2 million for Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Programs and Grants.
- Timely delivery of projects funded in the 2022 Move Ahead Washington transportation package, including the Puyallup Avenue Complete Streets Project, HOV lanes on I-5 from 38th to Joint Base Lewis McChord, the Tacoma to Puyallup Trail, and Schuster Parkway Promenade. Below is a summary of the project phasing for Tacoma’s 2022 Move Ahead Washington projects. **Public Works Director Josh Diekmann testified on the 2023-25 Transportation budget proposals advocating for the City’s preferred project phasing.**

| Project | 2023-25 | 2025-27 | 2027-29 | Future |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| SR 167 | \$873,505 | \$866,520 | \$216,456 | \$17,899 |
| I-5 JBLM Corridor | \$206,917 | \$61,398 | | |
| I-5 JBLM 38 th St to JBLM | | | | \$206,478 |
| Puyallup Ave Corridor | \$3,000 | \$6,000 | | |
| Fife to Tacoma Pedestrian Access (i.e. T2P Trail) | \$2,500 | \$10,000 | \$13,100 | |
| Schuster Parkway (CW) | \$1,000 | \$3,000 | | |
| Schuster Parkway (MAW) | | | | \$15,000 |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---------|----------|
| Tacoma Dome Link Light Rail Access, Fife to Tacoma | | | \$2,400 | \$17,600 |
|---|--|--|---------|----------|

Additionally, the City requests funding for the following projects:

- **\$650,000** to complete phase two of an access revision report to improve access from I-5 into the Tacoma Mall subarea, envisioned to become an urban center for housing and mixed-use development. **The Legislature did not allocate funding to this project.**
- **\$4 million** to assist the City in applying to federal grant programs to complete Phase II of Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge replacement– a deteriorating bridge that provides access to the west side of the Port of Tacoma. **The Legislature did not allocate funding to this project.**

Climate Action:

Tacoma has declared a climate emergency and adopted a local climate action plan. The City asks that the state continue to take bold steps to advance transformative climate policies and funding to decarbonize the economy, including but not limited to transitioning to zero emission medium- and heavy- duty vehicles, increased funding for transitioning homes and buildings to clean energy through heat pumps, and advancing local tree canopy policies. As the state leads the nation in making this transition, the City encourages the state to recognize that historically underrepresented, underserved, and vulnerable communities that are expected to experience the first and worst impacts of climate change. The state should equitably uplift these communities by allocating state funding to ensure parity in accessing new technologies. **The 2023-25 Operating and Capital Budgets appropriated \$120 million incentive program to fund zero-emission medium and heavy duty vehicles and associated charging infrastructure for businesses, schools, transit agencies, local governments, independent owner-operators; and \$163 million to implement the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) Program to provide scaled rebates to low and moderate-income households, adult family homes, and small commercial businesses to purchase and install high-efficiency electric equipment.**

Downtown Tacoma Main Library:

The City requests full funding to the Library Capital Improvement Program to allow the City to receive a \$2 million grant to renovate the Main Library in downtown Tacoma. Through the remodel, there will be space dedicated to in-person library services as well as four partner spaces for local non-profits to occupy. Co-locating with non-profits that offer programming and public services that are non-traditional but complementary to library spaces will increase traffic for all organizations. The total cost of the renovation is \$7 million. **The 2023-25 Capital Budget funded a \$2 million grant through the Library Capital Improvement Program for this project.**

Equitable Fiscal Structure:

The City encourages the Legislature to reform the tax code and identify revenue sources that are fair, adequate, and stable to meet the needs of state and local government. As part of this

work, local jurisdictions should be allowed the option to increase property tax levies with inflation, instead of the current 1% annual growth limit. The City asks for the state to increase revenue sharing with city governments to accomplish shared objectives. **The enacted 2023-25 Operating budget fully funded and slightly increased state-shared revenues:**

- Liquor Revolving Account (liquor profits): \$98.9 million (same as current biennium)
- Liquor Excise Account (liquor taxes): \$89.4 million (increase of \$2.1 million over current biennium)
- Cannabis Excise Tax: \$50.5 million (increase of \$4.9 million over current biennium)
- Municipal Criminal Justice Assistance Account: \$51.2 million (increase of \$6 million over current biennium)

Additionally, three proposals were introduced this session that would have lifted the one percent limit factor on property tax for local governments, but none were passed. [SB 5618](#) sponsored by Senator Patty Kuderer (D-48th LD), revised the property tax cap for local governments to account for inflation and population growth up to three percent. The bill was heard, but not advanced out of committee. [HB 1670](#)rd LD), would have revised the property tax cap for local governments from one percent to three percent, but did not contain provisions related to inflation or population growth. The bill did not advance out of the House Rules Committee. [SB 5770](#) sponsored by Senator Jamie Pedersen (D-43rd LD) was introduced late in the session and took a similar approach to Senate Bill 5618, adjusting the property tax limit to account for inflation and population growth up to three percent. The bill did not receive any action in its referred fiscal committee.

Northwest ICE Processing Center:

The City supports policies that limit transfers into the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC) and any other proposals to further regulate the facility. The City also supports funding and policies to assist those within NWIPC, including providing funding to assist those within the facility to make calls to report sexual assaults. **The Legislature approved [2SHB 1470](#) sponsored by Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self (D- 21st LD), which requires the Department of Health to adopt standards on sanitary, hygienic, and safe living conditions at private detention facilities. It directs the Departments of Health and Labor and Industries to conduct routine, unannounced inspections and specifies operating conditions for private detention facilities. The bill also creates a private right of action and authorizes the Office of the Attorney General to enforce violations. [Deputy Mayor Kristina Walker and Councilmember Catherine Ushka submitted written testimony on this proposal.](#)**

Cheney Stadium Improvements:

The City joins communities around the state to request \$24 million to improve baseball stadiums that also serve as community gathering locations. If this joint request were funded, Cheney Stadium would receive \$3 million to make improvements to the stadium. These improvements are needed to meet community needs and retain minor league baseball teams. **The 2023-25 Capital Budget fully funded this request which will result in \$3 million being directly allocated to improvements at Cheney Stadium.**

South Tacoma Fire Station:

The City requests \$2 million to replace Fire Station #7, currently located on South 56th Street. The current fire station lacks the ability to support modern firefighting activities. \$2 million in state funds would be matched with \$2 million in city real estate excise tax revenues to fund property acquisition, final design, and begin construction of a new fire station to serve the South Tacoma community. **The Legislature did not allocate funding to this project.**

II. Community Partners

Metro Parks Tacoma: The City supported Metro Parks' participation in a multi-year pilot project that directs the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to explore the creation of a "parent" childcare license for organizations that operate multiple sites.

Tacoma Housing Authority: The City supported ongoing operations funding for THA's Arlington youth campus. **The enacted Operating budget includes \$4.25 million for operations at Arlington.**

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department: The City supported the public health system's budget request to provide an additional \$50 million to help the system prepare for emerging diseases and the expansion of Potentially Preventable Hospitalizations work in the communities with the highest rates of preventable hospitalizations. **The 2023-25 Operating budget appropriates \$51.9 million for Foundational Public Health Services statewide. \$500,000 is allocated to Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department for a pilot health care program to serve the unique needs of the African American community, including addressing diabetes, high blood pressure, low birth weight, and health care for preventable medical, dental, and behavioral health diagnosis. An additional \$1.5 million in ongoing funding is provided to Pierce County to reduce potentially preventable hospitalizations**

Pierce Transit: The City joined Pierce Transit in supporting new opportunities to enhance public safety and community well-being by elevating public transportation's role in the behavioral health continuum of care for the riding public. **The Operating budget provides Pierce Transit with \$250,000 in fiscal year 2024 to administer a public transit and behavioral health co-responder pilot program.**

Port of Tacoma: The City supported the Port of Tacoma in advocacy efforts to streamline the awarding of Remedial Action Grants through the Department of Ecology. **The Legislature awarded \$115 million in [remedial action grants](#) for clean up projects.**

Sound Transit: The City supported Sound Transit's efforts to seek state funding to support the target delivery dates for the agency's projects and services.

South Sound Housing Affordability Partners: The City of Tacoma is a member of South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHAP), a coalition of elected officials representing Pierce County, various South Sound cities, and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. The City

supports SSHAP's efforts to create housing stability, increase affordable housing subsidies, and facilitate housing supply.

South Sound Military and Communities Partnership: The South Sound Military and Communities Partnership (SSMCP) is a collaborative partnership of more than 50 members to issues impacting the communities surrounding Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM). The City supports SSMCP's efforts to fund and improve the Defense Community Compatibility Account, secure state funding for a statewide economic impact analysis of the defense and military sector and construct improvements on I-5 from Mounts Road to Tumwater & Nisqually River Delta. **The Legislature passed [SB 5324](#) sponsored by Senator Steve Conway (D- 29th LD), which moves the deadline for DCCA grant applications and modifies the program priorities to better leverage federal funding. The Capital budget provides \$35.8 million for the DCCA project list which promote land-use compatibility between communities and military installations, including \$900,000 to the City of Lakewood for the McChord North Clear Zone. Additionally, the Operating budget includes the requested \$250,000 for the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to complete the economic impact study of the military and defense sector, which is due to the Legislature by September 2024. Finally, the Transportation budget appropriates \$32.5 million in the 2025-2027 biennium and \$26 million in the 2027-29 biennium for improvements on I-5 from Mounts Road to Tumwater and the Nisqually River Delta.**

United Way: The City welcomes additional funding from the state to bolster Tacoma's program in partnership with United Way for a guaranteed income pilot programs in Washington State. **The Legislature considered [HB 1045](#) sponsored by Representative Liz Berry (D- 36th LD), which would have established the Evergreen Basic Income Pilot Program in Washington state, similar to the guaranteed income pilot program in Tacoma. **Mayor Victoria Woodards testified in support of the bill.** The legislation did not advance out of the House Appropriations Committee; however, the 2023-25 Operating budget provides \$950,000 in each fiscal year of the biennium (\$1.9 million total) for the Growing Resilience in Tacoma (GRIT) guaranteed basic income program.**

Tacoma Public Schools: Fully Fund Special Education: The City supports TPS in advocating for fully funding programs and personnel, including: special education and McKinney-Vento (homeless) liaisons/social workers, psychologists (mental health), nurses (IEP supports), technology staff, custodians, security personnel, transportation services and parent involvement coordinators. **The 2023-25 Operating budget increases appropriations for salaries and health benefits for school employees in the K-12 education system, including \$544.3 million that is allocated in addition to the \$734 million appropriated for salary inflation at maintenance level. Additionally, \$371 million is appropriated for special education enhancements, and \$46.5 million is allocated for expansion of the free school meals program.**

Higher education: The City supported preserving funding for community and technical colleges and UW-Tacoma's Capital funding request for \$7.7 million to acquire properties

within its campus mater plan to accommodate projected growth. **The enacted 2023-25 Capital budget includes the requested \$7.7 million for UW-Tacoma's land acquisition efforts.**

Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce: The City supports the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce in supporting the protection of the Puget Sound Gateway Package, timely delivery of transportation funds, and funding to complete the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge project.

The final Transportation budget phases funding for the Puget Sound Gateway project as follows:

- \$403,471,000 - 2021-23
- \$873,505,000 - 2023-25
- \$866,520,000 - 2025-27
- \$216,456,000 - 2027-29
- \$17,899,000 - 2029-31

The Legislature only funded a small number of projects outside of those that were included in the Connecting Washington and Move Ahead Washington transportation packages due to revenue constraints. Accordingly, no funding was allocated for the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge project.

Joint Municipal Action Committee: Members of the Joint Municipal Action Committee (JMAC) continue efforts to align common community initiatives under three strategic themes: 1) Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI); 2) public health and safety; and 3) community wealth building. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, leveraging the collective impact of local purchasing, removing barriers to government contracts, connecting youth pipelines to careers, ending homelessness, and dismantling systems that perpetuate systemic racism. Leverage legislative opportunities to advance these priority issues with community partners in a collaborative, open manner that supports and respects our collective efforts to benefit our city and region.

Rebuilding Hope! Sexual Assault Center of Pierce County: The City joins advocates and social service providers to support a request for \$131 million to protect and strengthen crime victims' services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, trafficking, immigrant victims of crime and other vulnerable populations in our community. **The 2023-25 Operating Budget includes \$52.2 million for crime victims' services programs through the Departments of Commerce, Labor & Industries, and Children, Youth, and Families. Additionally, \$15.5 million is allocated to victims of domestic violence.**

State of Washington: The City supports funding for housing assistance for children and families in the state child welfare system, including potential collaborations between the Washington State Department of Children and Family Services and public housing authorities (PHAs) and non-profit housing organizations. **The 2023-25 Operating Budget includes \$22 million to support housing supports and homeless services for children and youth who are currently or at risk of homelessness through the Departments of Commerce and Children, Youth, and Families.**

Pierce County: The City supports Pierce County in many of its legislative priorities that align with the City's priorities. Additionally, the City supports Pierce County's funding request for permanent supportive housing in the Pierce County Village, and increased funding for the Pierce County ferry.

III. Support/Oppose/Monitor

Environmental Stewardship

Culvert and Stormwater Funding: The City **supports** state investments in local culvert and stormwater projects to improve fish passage and water quality. **The final 2023-25 Operating Budget provides \$48.4 million for the Fish Barrier Removal Board, an increase of \$21.6 million over the current biennium. The Transportation budget appropriates \$1 billion for state-owned fish passage barrier correction and retains language to coordinate with the Fish Barrier Removal Board on a watershed approach that includes local culverts. Additionally, the Capital budget appropriates \$68 million for the Stormwater Financial Assistance program.**

Extended Producer Responsibility: The City **supports** legislation that helps prevent waste and creates opportunities for reuse and recycling markets, including extended producer responsibility and product stewardship models. **The Legislature considered but did not approve the [Washington Recycling and Packaging Act](#) sponsored by Representative Liz Berry (D- 36th LD) and Senator Christine Rolfes (D- 23rd LD), which would have required producers of certain paper products and packaging to participate in and fund the operations of a producer responsibility organization to collect and manage the packaging from consumers. **The City's Recycle Reset Project Lead, Preston Peck, testified in support of the proposal.** Neither the House nor Senate version was advanced out its chamber of origin. However, the Legislature did pass [E2SSB 5144](#) sponsored by Senator Derek Stanford (D- 1st LD), which requires each producer selling or distributing covered batteries in Washington to participate in and fund an approved battery stewardship organization. **Mr. Peck also testified in favor of [HB 1264](#), sponsored by Rep. Amy Walen (D-48th LD), which would have encouraged equitable treatment for different categories of solid waste utility customers under local solid waste collection rates.****

Biosolids: The City's TAGRO "Tacoma Grow" products, a blend of pasteurized wastewater byproducts called biosolids, have been awarded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's highest rating for use in landscaping, vegetable gardens and indoor container gardens. The City **opposes** any legislation regulating biosolids that would impede the success of the best biosolids program in the country. **The Legislature considered but did not advance [SB 5245](#) sponsored by Senator Jeff Wilson (R-19th LD), which would have directed the Department of Ecology to establish pollutant limits for PFAS chemicals in biosolids. The proposal advanced out of its referred policy committee but did not receive a vote by the full Senate. Prior to advancing the bill, the City successfully amended the bill to reduce its impact on the City's TAGRO program.**

Asarco clean-up efforts: The City supports ongoing appropriation for the Department of Ecology's program to address legacy contamination from the Asarco smelter plume in Tacoma. Additionally, the City supports increased notification to homebuyers purchasing a property within the area impacted by the smelter plume. **The 2023-25 Capital budget provides the Department of Ecology with close to \$20 million for continued clean-up efforts related to the Asarco smelter plume in Tacoma.**

Clean Buildings: The City supports policies and investments that reduce the carbon intensity of new and existing buildings, including expanding energy efficiency, green building standards, upgrades to public buildings, and other measures. **The 2023-25 Capital budget includes \$150 million for various clean energy and energy efficiency efforts. The Operating budget also appropriates \$20.5 million for grants to assist owners of public buildings with conducting energy audits.**

Wastewater Treatment Plants: The City supports funding to make improvements to its wastewater treatment plants and will engage on any legislative proposals impacting wastewater treatment plant operations, such as Ecology's nutrient general permit.

Community and Economic Development

Small Business Support: The City supports funding and policies that support small businesses, including subsidies and incubators to support disadvantaged businesses struggling with rising market-rate rents, and workforce challenges. **The Legislature appropriated \$1 million to begin development of a state-funded innovation cluster accelerator program, and \$7 million for a Small Business Innovation Fund.**

Economic Development Tools: The City supports expanded and new economic development tools, including expanding commercial office space development tools and other proposals. **The Legislature approved [HB 1527](#) sponsored by Representative Sharon Wylie (D- 49th LD) making several technical changes to the TIF legislation passed in 2021.**

Workforce Development: The City supports efforts to establish career pathways to jobs in the community, including identifying apprenticeship opportunities to support the public sector.

Workforce Development Boards: The City joins community partners to support a \$50 million allocation for a Workforce Impact Fund to empower local workforce development boards with flexible funding that brings solutions to job seekers and employers. This includes significantly expanding employer engagement, expanding investment in highly-skilled job ready individuals, intensifying focus on and outreach to priority at-risk and underserved populations, and expanding work-experience and earn-and-learn opportunities.

Occupational Licensing Improvements: The City supports the adoption of additional interstate licensure compacts and policy changes to expedite and ease the occupational licensing process for military spouses. **The following bills addressing interstate licensure compacts were passed into law this session:**

- [HB 1001](#) sponsored by Representative Mari Leavitt (D- 28th LD) enters Washington into the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.
- [HB 1069](#) sponsored by Representative Mari Leavitt (D- 28th LD) establishes the Counseling Compact for licensed professional counselors.
- [HB 1576](#) sponsored by Representative Michelle Caldier (R- 26th LD) enacts the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.
- [SB 5499](#) sponsored by Senator Mark Mullet (D- 5th LD) enacts the Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact.

Additionally, the Legislature passed [2SHB 1009](#) sponsored by Representative Mari Leavitt (D- 28th LD), which requires licensing authorities to issue a license to a qualified military spouse within 30 days of receipt of a completed application. Licensing authorities must issue a temporary license to qualified military spouses within 30 days of receipt of a completed application.

Green Economy and Growth: The City [supports](#) legislation that will develop green jobs including in urban forestry growth, renewable energy growth, natural storm water infrastructure, urban farming, and green technology development, making sure that these jobs are promoted within highly vulnerable communities. **The Legislature appropriated \$6 million in urban forestry grants.**

Social Equity in the Cannabis Industry: The City [supports](#) legislation establishing greater equity within the cannabis industry, including providing technical and financial assistance to social equity applicants to reduce barriers to entry in the industry and help these new businesses thrive. [E2SSB 5080](#) sponsored by Senator Rebecca Saldaña (D-37th LD) extends the Cannabis Social Equity Program and allows the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) to issue or reissue licenses that were forfeited or revoked under the program until July 2032. The LCB may issue up to 100 cannabis processor licenses immediately, and up to 10 producer licenses beginning January 2025. The LCB may increase the number of retailer and producer licenses based on population data with legislative approval every three years until the program expires in 2032. A retail license may not be awarded if the LCB receives a written objection from a local legislative authority based on a pre-existing ordinance limiting outlet density in a specific geographical area. **Councilmember Keith Blocker testified and submitted written testimony on this proposal as it advanced through the legislative process.**

Transfer of Development Rights: The City [supports](#) state policies and funding that support and enhance transfer of development rights programs.

Public Works

Wheelchair Accessible Rideshare Opportunities: The City [supports](#) alternative funding sources be identified to restore revenues to support accessible rideshare solutions. When the Legislature adopted statewide regulation of transportation network companies, the per-ride fee that Tacoma imposed to fund accessible rideshare solutions was eliminated.

Vision Zero: The City **supports** policy proposals and funding that improve traffic safety and have shared goals with Vision Zero, including but not limited to supporting the Washington Traffic Safety Commission's proposal to establish a scholarship to provide low-income students with driver's education. **The Legislature approved [SB 5583](#) sponsored by Sen. Marko Liias (D-21st LD), directing the Department of Licensing to develop a comprehensive implementation plan for the expansion of the current driver training education requirement to obtain a driver's license between the ages of 18 and 24. The plan must be provided to the relevant transportation committees by October 1, 2024. The bill also modifies nighttime driving restrictions for intermediate license holders.**

I-5 System Partnership: The City **supports** advancing the work of the I-5 System Partnership, and asks that I-5 crossings, especially pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, be prioritized as part of the partnership. The City of Tacoma has allocated funding to establish crossings over I-5 and is seeking funding through the federal reconnecting communities' program.

Road Usage Charge: The City **supports** efforts to replace the fuel tax with a new revenue source, such as a road usage charge, to support the maintenance and operation of the state and local transportation network. In recognition that the transportation system is a state and local responsibility, funds from a new revenue source should be shared between state and local governments. **The Legislature considered but did not advance [HB 1832](#) sponsored by Representative Jake Fey (D- 27th LD) would have established a voluntary road usage charge program that places a per-mile fee of 2.5 cents per mile on motor vehicle usage of public roadways. Under this proposal, a mandatory road usage charge would have been implemented on January 1, 2030. The House Transportation Committee held public hearings on the bill over the course of two days in February, but the proposal did not advance out of committee. It is anticipated that further discussion on a road usage charge program will take place as the Legislature works to identify funding to replace declining tax revenues from petroleum fuel sales. Upon signing the enacted Transportation budget bill, Governor Inslee vetoed the section directing the Department of Licensing and State Transportation Commission to study the feasibility of implementing a per-mile fee program. The Governor noted that the work outlined in this section presupposes that a per-mile fee will be adopted despite the need to consider broader options for alternative funding for transportation.**

Right-of-Way Management: The City **opposes** legislation that infringes on the city's ability to manage and maintain the right-of-way, such as proposals mandating micro trenching and preempting local authority on the siting of small cell network facilities.

Transportation Grant Programs: The City **supports** ongoing and increased funding for transportation and freight mobility grant opportunities that have historically been offered through the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB), WSDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, and the Safe Routes to Schools Program. **The 2023-25 Transportation budget funds the following grant programs of importance to the City:**

- \$287 million for the Transportation Improvement Board, including \$14.6 million for Complete Streets grants and \$9 million in preservation funding for cities
- \$70.8 million for Safe Routes to Schools grants
- \$72.2 million for Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety programs

Public Safety/Criminal Justice

Basic Law Enforcement Academy Capacity: The City **supports** the Criminal Justice Training Commission's request for increased funding to offer additional Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) classes and establish regional offices to reduce barriers to training. The Legislature included provisions in the 2023-25 Capital and Operating budgets to respond to the shortage of peace officers by increasing BLEA classes at the Burien campus and by creating new regional academies.

- \$3.4 million for six additional Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy (BLEA) classes, for a total of 23 classes in both 2024 and 2025
- \$11.3 million for six additional BLEA classes beginning in 2024 at three new regional training academies (Pasco, Skagit County, and Clark County)
- \$500,000 for pre-design work for future Criminal Justice Training Commission training facilities
- \$2.7 million for regional training facility capital needs

Curbing Theft of Catalytic Converters: The City **supports** measures that address the increasing trend in catalytic converter theft, such as making it more difficult to sell stolen catalytic converters for scrap.

Firearms: The City supports proposals that regulate firearms to curb gun violence. Democrats in the Legislature collaborated with the offices of the Governor and Attorney General to advance firearms safety measures this session in response to the increase in gun violence seen across the nation. [SHB 1240](#) sponsored by Representative Strom Peterson (D- 21st LD), by request of the Governor and Attorney General, prohibits the sale of assault weapons. [E2SHB 1143](#) sponsored by Representative Liz Berry (D- 36th LD), by request of the Governor, requires gun buyers to undergo training on proper storage and handling of firearms, along with risk awareness regarding children and individuals with suicidal thoughts. [SSB 5078](#) sponsored by Senator Jamie Pedersen (D- 43rd LD), by request of the Governor and Attorney General, clarifies legal liabilities for gun dealers and manufacturers for knowingly creating a public nuisance by promoting conversion to illegal products, marketing products to children, selling weapons to people prohibited from purchasing firearms, and other prohibited actions.

Finance

State-shared Revenues: The City **supports** efforts to protect and enhance state-shared revenues, including but not limited to liquor taxes, marijuana taxes, and the criminal justice assistance account, including supporting efforts to increase the local share revenues collected by the Washington State from legal cannabis taxes, license fees, and penalties

particularly legislation aimed at benefitting historically underfunded communities. **The enacted 2023-25 Operating budget fully funded and slightly increased state-shared revenues:**

- **Liquor Revolving Account (liquor profits): \$98.9 million (same as current biennium)**
- **Liquor Excise Account (liquor taxes): \$89.4 million (increase of \$2.1 million over current biennium)**
- **Cannabis Excise Tax: \$50.5 million (increase of \$4.9 million over current biennium)**
- **Municipal Criminal Justice Assistance Account: \$51.2 million (increase of \$6 million over current biennium)**

Local Tax and Licensing Authority: The City **opposes** legislative proposals that restrict the City's authority to impose a local business and occupation (B&O) tax and business license requirements. Additionally, the City supports legislation that clarifies that the city can collect B&O tax on royalties.

Retirement Investments: The City operates its own retirement program for city employees, as well as the city's LEOFF 1 retirement program, and will **oppose** any proposals that requires the City to cede these operations to the Washington State Investment Board, or that transfers reserves out of the programs.

Planning

Local Control: The City **supports** the state honoring local decision-making authority and the public process that supports local decision-making.

Growth Management Act (GMA) Reform: The City **supports** reforms to the GMA that further facilitate annexations, growth within urban centers, integrates planning for climate change, and provides dedicated planning funding to local jurisdictions to implement any new policies or responsibilities. Additionally, the City encourages the state to consider policies that address the financial challenges limiting annexations, including the funding needed to upgrade infrastructure in newly annexed areas. **The Legislature approved [E2SHB 1181](#) sponsored by Rep. Davina Duerr (D-1st LD), at the request of Governor Inslee, amending the Growth Management Act to add a goal of climate change and resiliency to the list of elements required in comprehensive plans. It requires jurisdictions to identify actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled. The 2023-25 Operating budget provides \$41 million for grants to assist with implementation.**

Systems Transformation

Equity and Empowerment: The City hopes to work together in partnership with the Legislature to advance reforms that address the disparate impacts of systems and institutions on communities of color. The City **supports** statewide policies that bolster gender and racial equity in hiring and contracting.

Washington Future Fund: The City **supports** programs and funding that close generational wealth gaps. **The Legislature considered but did not approve [SHB 1094](#) sponsored by Representative Monica Jurado Stonier (D- 49th LD), and [SSB 5125](#) sponsored by Senator**

Yasmin Trudeau (D- 27th LD), which would have established the Washington Future Fund Program, to be administered by the Office of the State Treasury. The proposal was informed by the work and recommendations of the Washington Future Fund Committee, which was funded and established through legislative action in 2022. A person who is a member of a funded cohort, aged 18 through 35, or the person's legal guardian, may apply for a disbursement from the Washington Future Fund Account to a designated institution to be used for eligible expenditures, which include higher education, purchase of a residence in Washington, or creation or purchase of a business in Washington. Both versions of the legislation stalled in their respective fiscal committees.

Election Reform: The City **supports** legislation that increases voter participation, including supporting the option for jurisdictions to choose whether local elections are conducted on odd or even years, and the option to choose whether to utilize ranked choice voting.

Neighborhood & Community Services

Housing Justice Act: The City **supports** legislation that would ban discrimination against renters based on a prior criminal record.

Homeless Encampments: The City will **monitor** any legislation to change or enforce policies addressing homeless encampments on public right-of-way.

Extreme Weather Protection: The City **supports** funding for cities to establish extreme weather protection for our most vulnerable populations. The Legislature considered but did not approve [SHB 1012](#) sponsored by Representative Mari Leavitt (D- 28th LD), would have directed the Military Department to develop and implement an extreme weather response grant program for the purpose of assisting with the costs of responding to community needs during periods of extremely hot or cold weather to severe poor air quality due to wildfire smoke. **Deputy Mayor Kristina Walker testified in support of the bill.** During the House committee process, the City advocated for an amendment to the bill that would have allowed jurisdictions that have budgeted for extreme weather response to still be eligible for grants. The desired amendment was not incorporated into the bill as it advanced. Ultimately, it was amended in committee to limit grant eligibility to areas with vulnerable populations and federally recognized tribes. After passage by the House, the bill moved over to the Senate where it stalled in the fiscal committee.

Graffiti: The City **supports** policies and funding for graffiti and tag removal, including allowing artistic graffiti in permitted areas.

Tacoma Public Libraries

Challenges to Intellectual Freedom: Tacoma Public Libraries **opposes** legislation that restricts intellectual freedom.

Protecting Library Workers: Tacoma Public Libraries **supports** protecting library employees in the same manner as all public sector employees (RCW 9A.36.031).

Section 4: Budget Overview

2023-25 Biennial Operating Budget. The state's Operating budget funds all state agency operations, including K-12 education, higher education, human service programs, and more. The 2023-25 biennial Operating budget appropriates \$69.8 billion, a net increase of \$2.4 billion. Approximately \$412 million in Climate Commitment Act revenues are budgeted for policy-level items in the budget. An ending fund balance of \$1.4 billion in general funds is projected for the 2023-25 biennium, and total reserves are projected at \$3.6 billion.

The Legislature considered the changing fiscal environment in developing the biennial Operating budget. Federal funding streams that were temporarily enhanced due to the COVID-19 pandemic are beginning to phase out as the declaration of federal public health emergency expired on May 11th. Inflation and forecasts indicating slower than average revenue growth over the next two biennia also factored into the budget considerations.

The Operating budget makes significant investment in the K-12 education system, higher education, behavioral health, health care, long-term care, child welfare, carbon reduction, public safety, and housing and homelessness supports. Highlights of investments related to local governments include:

Public safety:

- \$3.4 million for six additional Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy (BLEA) classes, for a total of 23 classes in both 2024 and 2025
- \$11.3 million for six additional BLEA classes beginning in 2024 at three new regional training academies (Pasco, Skagit County, and Clark County)
- \$3 million for grants to local law enforcement for vehicle pursuit management technology
- \$5.3 million for cities and counties to assist with alternative response team programs
- \$115.8 million to assist with vacating and resentencing under the *State v. Blake* decision and refunding legal financial obligations
- \$29.6 million for therapeutic courts

Behavioral health:

- \$108.7 million for forensic mental health and continued implementation of the *Trueblood* settlement
- \$21.5 million for crisis triage, relief, or stabilization centers
- \$44 million for the recovery navigator program
- \$44.4 million for behavioral health mobile crisis response teams
- \$69.3 million for 988 crisis response

Housing and homelessness:

- \$150 million for the new Covenant Homeownership Program
- \$150 million to transition individuals living in encampments to housing
- \$130 million for the Housing and Essential Needs program
- \$111 million for emergency housing and rental assistance

Climate and Energy

- \$138 million for community electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- \$10 million to support municipalities in siting and permitting clean energy projects
- \$6 million to increase capacity for urban forestry programs
- \$35 million for utility assistance through the existing low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP) network

Operating budget appropriations specific to the Tacoma community include:

| Project/Program | Final Budget |
|--|---------------------|
| Tacoma Housing Authority Arlington Youth Campus | \$4.25 million |
| Grant to a nonprofit organization with offices in Seattle and Tacoma to provide criminal law and civil rights cases for underserved populations focusing on black gender-diverse communities | \$700,000 |
| Tacoma nonprofit to provide social services and educational programming to assist Latino and indigenous communities in honoring heritage and culture | \$426,000 |
| Grant to a nonprofit biotech incubator and science research center located in the City of Tacoma | \$250,000 |
| Grant to nonprofit to continue the operation of the guaranteed basic income program in Tacoma | \$1.9 million |
| Pre-law pipeline and social justice program at UW-Tacoma | \$400,000 |
| BS programs in mechanical and civil engineering to support local employer demand for graduates in this field at the UW-Tacoma campus | \$3.628 million |
| UW-Tacoma school of nursing and healthcare leadership | \$546,000 |
| Computing and engineering programs at the UW-Tacoma campus | \$2.85 million |
| Development and implementation of program to support pathways from prison to the UW-Tacoma campus | \$800,000 |
| Workforce funding for increased student support services at UW-T | \$1,397,000 |
| COVID-relief business assistance for the LeMay Museum | \$200,000 |
| Hilltop Community Hub (funds appropriated to City of Tacoma) | \$270,000 |

2023-25 Biennial Capital Budget. The Capital budget funds brick-and-mortar construction, excluding transportation. The 2023-25 biennial Capital Budget authorizes total expenditures of \$9 billion. Of this amount, \$4.7 billion is financed with general obligation bonds. Additionally, \$95.4 million in bond capacity is reserved for a Supplemental Capital budget. The Capital

budget reappropriates \$7.6 billion for projects that were previously authorized but not yet completed.

Housing, behavioral health, and infrastructure are key areas of investment in the enacted Capital budget.

Housing

- \$400 million for the Housing Trust Fund
- \$60 million for Connecting Homes to Infrastructure program (CHIP) grants to local governments
- \$50 million to match private investment for grants to support transit-oriented development

Behavioral health

- \$211 million for behavioral health capacity grants, including \$133 million for 18 projects across the state that will provide regional behavioral health and substance use services.

Infrastructure and built environment

- \$400 million for the Public Works Assistance Account
- \$68 million for the Stormwater Financial Assistance program
- \$115 million for Remedial Action Grants
- \$670 million for the Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan program
- \$25 million for the Community Economic Revitalization Board
- \$200 million for broadband grants and loans
- \$95 million for Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants and \$25 million for riparian area grants
- \$120 million for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation program
- \$48.4 million for the Fish Barrier Removal Board
- \$150 million for various clean energy and energy efficiency efforts

Capital budget appropriations specific to the Tacoma community include:

| Project | Final Capital Budget |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Affordable Housing Land Acquisition | \$1.5 million |
| Downtown Tacoma Main Library | \$2 million |
| Cheney Stadium | \$3 million |
| Tacoma Arts Live Renovation Grant | \$2 million |
| The Grand Cinema | \$500,000 |
| Cora Whitley Family Center | \$2.5 million |
| Sea Mar Community Health Center – Dental | \$3.5 million |
| Bridge Meadows | \$515,000 |
| Lincoln District Family Housing | \$5.05 million |

| | |
|--|---|
| Shiloh Baptist Church New Life Housing | \$1 million |
| Asian Pacific Cultural Center | \$2 million in LCP |
| Portland Avenue Park Sprayground | \$500,000 |
| Youth Assist Program Skills Training Center | \$500,000 |
| Maritime 253: South Puget Sound Maritime Skills Center | \$8 million |
| UWT Land Acquisition | \$7.7 million |
| Asberry Home – Heritage Grant | \$203,000 |
| Aviva Crossing Sanitary Sewer Upgrades | \$2 million |
| Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat Affordable Housing | \$14 million |
| Chinese Reconciliation Project | \$1 million |
| School Based Health Care Facility | \$515,000 |
| Slavonian Hill | \$472,000 |
| United Way Elevator and Disability Access | \$129,000 |
| TCC – Innovative Learning and Engagement | \$40.3 million |
| Latino Arts and Culture Community Center | \$90,000 |
| CLR Certified Behavioral Health Center | \$2.446 million |
| Multicultural Youth Recreation Facility | \$226,000 |
| Removal of Dickman Mill | \$9.65 million was appropriated to DNR to remove aquatic structures, including this one |
| Ashley House | \$500,000 |

2023-25 Biennial Transportation Budget: The Transportation budget funds capital facilities investments as well as operating programs for the transportation system in the state. The budget includes total appropriations of approximately \$13.5 billion, including approximately \$970 million in Climate Commitment Act funding. CCA funds are appropriated to support carbon-reducing projects and programs, such as multi-modal facilities, public transit, and transportation electrification efforts.

Highlights of importance for local governments include:

- \$1 billion for fish passage
- \$287 million for the Transportation Improvement Board, including \$14.6 million for Complete Streets grants and \$9 million in preservation funding for cities
- \$70.8 million for Safe Routes to Schools grants
- \$72.2 million for Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety programs
- \$45.7 million for the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board

- \$11.5 million to address homeless encampments within state-owned rights-of-way in coordination with local governments

The 2023-25 Transportation budget also modified the phasing for many projects included in the 16-year Move Ahead Washington transportation package passed by the Legislature in 2022. The updated project list can be viewed [here](#).

The Transportation budget also contains the following appropriations aligned with Tacoma’s legislative priority for an enhanced multi-modal transportation system.

| Project | 2023-25 | 2025-27 | 2027-29 | Future |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| SR 167 | \$873,505 | \$866,520 | \$216,456 | \$17,899 |
| I-5 JBLM Corridor | \$206,917 | \$61,398 | | |
| I-5 JBLM 38 th St to JBLM | | | | \$206,478 |
| Puyallup Ave Corridor | \$3,000 | \$6,000 | | |
| Fife to Tacoma Pedestrian Access (i.e. T2P Trail) | \$2,500 | \$10,000 | \$13,100 | |
| Schuster Parkway (CW) | \$1,000 | \$3,000 | | |
| Schuster Parkway (MAW) | | | | \$15,000 |
| Tacoma Dome Link Light Rail Access, Fife to Tacoma | | | \$2,400 | \$17,600 |
| Tacoma Rail – Zero-Emission Locomotives and Charging | \$5,000 | | | |

Additionally, the Legislature continued to allocate funding to the City of Tacoma to continue its partnership with WSDOT to remove encampments from state right-of-way.

For additional detail on aspects of the three biennial budgets relevant to local governments, refer to the Association of Washington Cities [budget matrix](#).