



# CITY OF TACOMA 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

### **POLICE TRANSFORMATION**

The City expresses its sincere gratitude to the Legislature for demonstrating great leadership in adopting significant legislation in 2021 to transform policing throughout Washington State. In 2022, the City asks that the Legislature continue this transformation by establishing independent prosecutions for incidents involving fatal use-of-force and deaths occurring in police custody. The City supports the Legislature building on the policies enacted in 2021 to ensure community safety is maintained and statewide implementation consistency.

### **TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS**

The City urges the Legislature to adopt a revenue package to make much needed investments in transportation. Below are the City's transportation priorities:

- On-time delivery of key regional investments, including the extension of light rail from Federal Way to Tacoma and the completion of the Puget Sound Gateway (SR 509/167).
- Local funding and/or enhanced local option tools for cities to meet local street maintenance needs. The City's street maintenance backlog for pavement alone is approximately four times the size of its annual budget.
- \$180 million to complete the replacement of Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge, a deteriorating bridge that provides access to the west side of the Port of Tacoma. The new bridge will improve safety, freight movement, bicycle and pedestrian access, and fish habitat.
- \$9 million as a state match to the Puyallup Avenue Complete Streets Project to better accommodate vehicles, freight, bicycles, pedestrian, and transit.
- Funding for HOV lanes on I-5 from 38th to Joint Base Lewis McChord to provide a completed HOV system through Tacoma.
- \$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.
- Funding for trail investments, including additional funding for the SR 167 Tacoma-Puyallup Trail and Schuster Parkway Promenade.

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## **AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT**

The City respectfully requests that the State authorize automated speed enforcement to improve public safety, especially for vulnerable users. Automated enforcement presents an unbiased and consistent method of enforcing speed limits, calming traffic, and maintaining safety.

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS**

The City adopted an Affordable Housing Action Strategy that has an ambitious goal of creating 6,000 new units of affordable housing by 2028. The City supports grant programs and funding tools for projects that support all income levels, including shelters, permanent supportive housing, and workforce housing. The City is grateful for the Legislature's recent work on preventing evictions in the state, and respectfully request a continued focus on efforts to reduce barriers to accessing housing and promote housing stability, including:

- Funding rental and utility assistance.
- Additional funding to cities for rapid acquisition of hotels or other buildings that can be used to provide sheltering and housing.
- Increase resources to the Department of Social and Health Services to address homelessness in Department of Transportation right-of-way, including conflict resolution with individuals experiencing homelessness, flexible funding for incidental expenses necessary to assist individuals, and provide supplemental funds for city outreach workers and clean-ups.

## **TRANSFERS TO THE NORTHWEST ICE PROCESSING CENTER**

The City appreciates the Legislature's bold action to ban privately operated detention centers. The City supports policies that limit transfers into the Northwest ICE Processing Center.



## TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

### TPU-WIDE

**TPU supports programs to assist limited-income residents:** TPU supports policies and additional funding for programs that provide assistance to limited-income residents.

### TACOMA POWER

**Carbon reduction policies:** Washington lawmakers have indicated that they will continue to focus on legislative solutions aimed at decarbonizing Washington State's economy. TPU will actively engage in and seek to support proposals that decarbonize the economy at reasonable costs to customers and that appropriately acknowledge and credit hydropower as a carbon-free generating resource and align with existing and emerging regional organized markets.

**Building decarbonization policies:** TPU will support reasonable policies to decarbonize the state's residential and commercial building sector, including proposals to provide municipal electric utilities the authority to adopt beneficial electrification plans. Any comprehensive building decarbonization policy must be based on sound cost/benefit analysis to understand the impacts on energy capacity and reliability.

**Support investment in zero-emission transportation infrastructure and programs that advance the development of clean fuels:** TPU will support additional funding for zero-emission transportation infrastructure and policies that advance the development and production of clean fuels, including electrolytic hydrogen.

**Support equal treatment of hydropower:** Tacoma Power customers have invested in renewable, carbon-free hydroelectric generating facilities for decades. These facilities will continue to require significant reinvestment to ensure their future safe and reliable operation. During the 2019 Legislative Session, other renewable generating resources were given special tax treatment. TPU will continue to advocate for consistent tax treatment or alternative approaches that support equal treatment of all renewable, carbon-free resources.



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## TACOMA WATER

### Support the Public Works Trust Fund:

Tacoma Water supports funding for the Public Works Trust Fund (P WTF). It is a critical program for many public water systems by providing low-interest loans to maintain and preserve their infrastructure. TPU supports public water systems and city partners in their request to restore and protect the existing funding of the P WTF.



## TACOMA RAIL

### Explore opportunities for infrastructure

**funding:** Tacoma Rail intends to pursue funding opportunities to make investments in rolling stock, track, and other infrastructure.



City of Tacoma  
W A S H I N G T O N

