



2017 Legislative Agenda

The following is the City of Spokane Valley's 2017 legislative agenda adopted by Council at their September 6, 2016 Council meeting; and subsequently amended (item #3) December 20, 2016:

Support Legislation Clarifying Valley Water Providers' Water Rights

The City of Spokane Valley residents and businesses receive water through multiple regional water providers. To ensure adequate water supply for the growing Valley community, current law needs to be changed to clarify these water providers' water rights are for municipal water supply purposes and are not subject to relinquishment. The water providers are using water rights currently designated for agricultural irrigation and dairy purposes, rather than for municipal water supply. The Department of Ecology has indicated that agricultural irrigation and dairy water rights held or acquired by a municipal water supplier cannot be considered municipal water supply water rights without filing for a change of use permit. A change of use permit process is slow, costly, and may diminish the overall water right. The City supports legislation that clarifies that the water rights held by water providers serving the Spokane Valley region can be changed to municipal water supply purposes without going through the change of use permitting process.

Transportation Funding Request – Barker Road / BNSF Grade Separation Project

The City of Spokane Valley respectfully requests that the state invest in Phase 1 of Bridging the Valley by allocating funds to the Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation project. The Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation Project replaces an at-grade crossing with an overpass of BNSF's railroad tracks and Trent Avenue (SR 290). The project will eliminate two at-grade crossings, eliminating train/vehicle crash risks. The project will improve train travel through the Spokane region, which is a bottleneck of the Great Northern Corridor. The total project cost is \$36 million. The City has already secured \$9.8 million. The City is seeking \$26.2 million in future funding for the Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation.

Funding Appleway Trail Park Amenities

The City of Spokane Valley requests \$540,100 in the 2017-2019 Capital Budget for park amenities for the first mile of the Appleway Trail. These amenities include a restroom, topsoil, limited turf and dryland seeding, trees, drinking fountain and benches. The City previously funded, designed and constructed the paved portion of the first mile with over \$1 million without these amenities. The state has allocated funding for the remaining 3.25 miles (including amenities), scheduled over the next two years. This funding will bring amenities to the entire 4.25-mile trail, realizing the full conceptual plan and orienting future economic development.

Protect the Local State-Shared Revenues

The City of Spokane Valley requests that the Legislature preserve and restore local state-shared revenues. These funds include the Liquor Excise Tax Account (\$303,724 in 2015), Liquor Board Profits (\$806,570 in 2015), Streamlined Sales Tax Mitigation (\$572,577 in 2015), Municipal Criminal Justice Assistance Account (\$273,160 in 2015), City-County Assistance Account, and Marijuana Revenues (\$37,912 in 2015). Specifically, the City supports legislation that removes the 2011 cap on Liquor Profit revenues to restore the 50/50 revenue sharing relationship between the state and local governments.

Protect Businesses by Reforming State Regulatory Burden

The City of Spokane Valley strongly supports small and large businesses in our City and across the state, because they are the lifeblood of our economy. Unfortunately, these businesses are forced to compete in a state regulatory environment that is increasingly burdensome, making it difficult to compete with businesses in neighboring states. Of most urgent concern is the regressive state business & occupation tax, with the current Labor & Industries program close behind, and both need significant reform before they do irreparable damage to commerce in Washington. Spokane Valley supports rebalancing the statewide regulatory framework to encourage and support business development and retention.

The City supports the Association of Washington Cities' legislative agenda items that serve the best interests of Spokane Valley.