



2022 State Legislative Agenda – Adopted November 16, 2021

FUNDING REQUEST

Pines Road Grade Separation Project

The City requests \$19.3 million to construct the Pines Road Grade Separation project. Pines Road is one of the region's key transportation corridors, carrying residential, commercial, and industrial traffic from Trent Avenue (SR 290) across the Spokane River to I-90. This project will provide grade separation at a crossing that 60 trains travel through each day, blocking traffic movements for nearly four hours. The project also improves the intersection of two state highways, Pines Road (SR 27) and Trent Avenue (SR 290). Pines Road is the primary access to almost 230 acres of undeveloped mixed-use, commercial and industrial land.

Total project cost is estimated at \$29 million. Thus far, the City has secured \$9.7 million and project design and right-of-way acquisition are underway. The project will be shovel ready this year. The City requests \$19.3 million to construct this ready-to-go project.

Procurement Guidance and Assistance

The City requests that the state provide greater assistance and guidance to public agencies when bidding large projects and selecting contractors to ensure that contractors have adequate experience to successfully complete the project. Specifically, the City asks that the Legislature direct an update to guidelines provided to local agencies on supplemental bidding criteria, provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions, and examine other changes to state bidding laws so that public agencies can meet the twin goals of a quality project and low price.

Defend Local Control

A foundational belief for the Spokane Valley City Council and the citizens they represent is that the most effective level of government is the one closest to the people. As such, the Council urges the Legislature to respect local decision-making. Examples include providing local jurisdictions with control over land use issues relating to density and intensity of use in urban and suburban areas.

Protect and Restore Local State-Shared Revenues

The City requests that the Legislature protect and restore local state-shared revenues to allow the City to deliver vital services to its residents. These funds include the Liquor Excise Tax Account, Liquor Board Profits, Municipal Criminal Justice Assistance Account, City-County Assistance Account, and Marijuana Revenues.

Amend State Law Regarding Municipal Utility Taxing Authority

The City requests that the Legislature clarify the conditions under which it is legal for a municipality to impose utility taxes on revenues from a county wastewater treatment system.

Support Clarifying Legislation to Maintain Public Safety

The City requests that the Legislature consider amendments or clarifications to several law enforcement related bills enacted during the 2021 legislative session to ensure there aren't unintended consequences negatively impacting the delivery of law enforcement services, including the critical community caretaking function law enforcement performs to maintain public safety.

Amend Growth Management Act relating to addressing significant population fluctuations

The City of Spokane Valley will monitor proposals making changes to the Growth Management Act and supports proposals that honor local democracy and enhance the City's role in the planning process. The City encourages the state to allocate adequate funding to cities to effectively implement planning directives from the state.

The City supports AWC legislative agenda items that serve the best interests of Spokane Valley.