

DRAFT - Spokane County Legislative Agenda 2023

General Legislation/Operating Budget – The County’s legislative agenda is developed in coordination with the Board of County Commissioners, regional city partners, County Departments, and is adopted by the Board of County Commissioners before the start of the legislative session.

- **County Fiscal Health** – There are numerous instances in which counties rely on state support to deliver state mandated services. Counties are united in the request for the state to provide financial assistance for those services in criminal justice and public health.
 - Specific to criminal justice services is the topic of indigent defense funding. Spokane County supports the request by the WA State Association of Counties to provide adequate funds to provide these services. Many of the people in Spokane County who need these services come from underserved populations.
- **Blake Decision** – Fully Fund the costs associated with the Blake Decision. While the state did allocate funds to local governments as part of the 21-23 biennial budget the costs associated with Blake are still growing. While the costs are difficult to finalize, estimates from superior courts and associated services anticipate costs to reach at least \$200 million statewide to fund Legal Financial Obligations. The Administrative Office of the Courts has data that costs could reach \$700 million. Efforts to exact more accurate numbers are ongoing, but the need will be substantial under any scenario.
- **Growth Management Act** – The Legislature has entertained several concepts pertaining to the Growth Management Act. Counties have always maintained a willingness to accept changes to the GMA and the County planning processes, as long as those changes are made on sensible timelines and come with financial support. Planning requirements or new elements to the GMA, including Climate Change, will necessitate additional resources in order for the County to meet the conditions for compliance.
 - Condo Development Regulations
 - Riparian Legislation
 - Support legislation from Cheney and Medical Lake allowing UGA swaps
- **Natural Gas Prohibition Legislation** – The Legislature is anticipated to consider legislation in 2023 that could prohibit the use of Natural Gas in certain circumstances. Spokane County is concerned about limiting the access to Natural Gas in a climate that experiences consistently colder temperature throughout the winter.
- **Public Building Energy Standards** – Seek legislative relief from House Bill 1257 – Clean Buildings. Request a delay in implementation if Counties have shown a good faith effort to reach compliance.
- **Vehicular Pursuit** – Legislative relief from legislation passed in 2021. Modify the governing RCW more discretion

WSAC Legislative Priorities

- Federal Transportation Fund Exchange Program - this legislation will reduce administrative burdens on counties enabling more federal dollars to flow to county projects.
- Adoption of Behavioral Health Advocacy Standards – request new network adequacy standards to be developed and are in place before the Health Care Authority enters a procurement process to select Medicaid eligible managed care organizations.
- County Jail Costs – Explore opportunities to partner with the state for the cost of County Jail construction.

Capital Budget Requests - Spokane County is bringing forward the following Capital Budget Requests to the 2023 Legislature.

- Minor League Baseball Stadium Fund – support statewide effort to fund repairs and upgrades to minor league baseball stadiums. Spokane County is requesting \$5.8 million of the \$25 million fund.
- Spokane Fairgrounds Roof Replacement - \$1.5 million to replace the roof over Bays two and three, in addition to HVAC system upgrades. Spokane County has committed \$3 million in local funds to this project.
- Continue state support for Fairchild AFB mobile home mitigation.
- Spokane Regional Emergency Communications - \$3 million state request. The current Combined Communications Building (CCB) was constructed in 2003 and is not configured in a way to allow for industry best practices. The current building, owned by the City of Spokane, is not conducive to the long term needs for the region's emergency communication center. A new building also could serve as the State 911 Backup Center.
- Spokane Regional Health District Building - In 2022, Spokane County invested \$1.39 million in window replacement and roof repair, for Phase 1, for Spokane's Regional Health District building as we work to meet the State's new Clean Buildings Act regulatory requirements. Initial estimates indicate \$7.5 million will be needed to bring the building into full compliance with new state regulations. Energy usage upgrades, for Phase 2, will cost \$3.75 million.

Transportation Requests – Spokane County joins many regional partners in support of several requests for transportation funding.

Craig Road I-90 to US2 & I-90/SR-904 Interchange Revision: (\$34M, 5.75 miles) Craig Road is an important north/south Urban Major Collector connecting Fairchild Air Force Base and Airway Heights to US-2, SR-902, and ultimately I-90 and Cheney to the south. The project consists of new alignment, rehabilitating deteriorated pavement, and roadway widening from the I-90/SR-904 interchange to US-2 to provide a growing area with a reliable road to travel. Additionally, this project includes revising the existing I-90/SR-904 interchange to allow for the direct connection of Craig Road from the north.

Argonne Rd / Upriver Drive Intersection: (\$6.5M, Intersection) Reconstruction of the Argonne Road and Upriver Drive intersection to increase the performance of one of the busiest intersections in Spokane County. Argonne Road links key industrial areas, inter-modal facilities, and commercial centers on the east side of the City of Spokane to industrial and business hubs in the City of Spokane Valley. This corridor plays a vital role connecting freight east to State Route 290 (Trent Avenue), State Route 53, accessing Idaho, Burlington Northern Santa-Fe (BNSF) and Union Pacific (UP) railroads, and significant trans-loading facilities within Spokane County.

Glenrose Corridor – 57th Avenue to City of Spokane Valley City Limits: (\$24M, 3.5 miles) This project proposes a road reconstruction, realignment, and addition of sidewalks where feasible on Glenrose Road from 57th Ave and up Carnahan Road to the City of Spokane Valley limits. A realigned road will provide a more direct route and improve sight distance and roadside safety will be improved with new pavement, widened shoulders, and clearing or shielding of roadside hazards.

Sullivan Rd / 32nd Ave Intersection & 32nd Avenue to City of Spokane Valley City Limits at Barker Road Corridor: (\$18M, 5.0 miles) This project is approximately 5.0 miles in length composed of road reconstruction, realignment, and anchored at both ends of the project with roundabouts. The west end of the project starts at Sullivan and 32nd and creates a new alignment of 32nd up to a connection with existing 32nd Avenue and continues along 32nd Avenue onto the new Barker alignment and then continues south on Barker to the City of Spokane Valley City Limits

Wall Street Safety Improvements – Greta Road to Whitworth Drive: (\$8M, 1.5 miles) This project would restore deteriorating pavement, increase intersection capacity, improve signal operations and safety, improve safety of those walking and biking this stretch of road.

Rural:

Elk Chattaroy – US2 to Tallman Road: (\$22m, 5.5 miles) Elk Chattaroy Road is proposed to be reconstructed from a 20' wide road to two 12' wide travel lanes with 5' wide paved shoulders on both sides of the roadway, an additional 1' gravel shoulder, guardrails will be installed where appropriate, and improvements at the intersections of Big Meadows Road will be made. Elk Chattaroy Road is an important route that links northeast Spokane County to the more urban areas vital for connecting rural living to jobs, education, health care, and other essential services.