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2023 SVGA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SVGA OVERVIEW

Snoqualmie Valley Government Association (SVGA) is a cooperative association that represents key stakeholders in the Snoqualmie Valley. Our main association is made of four cities and the Tribe. We are also inclusive to social services that support our Valley and two school districts.

SVGA provides opportunities for collaboration by increasing awareness, advocacy, mutual support, ideas, and projects that benefit the Snoqualmie Valley.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

WSDOT conduct a full-corridor study to identify traffic patterns, safety concerns and clarify the need for future capacity and mobility investments by cities, counties, and the state. This study should be in coordination with PSRC, King County, Snohomish County and the cities of Monroe, Duvall, Carnation, North Bend and Snoqualmie. The eastside routes of SR203, SR18, SR202, SR522, SR2 and the county roads of Preston Fall-City, Duthie Hill, Tolt Hill, NE124th, Novelty Hill, Woodinville Duvall Rd, Ames Lake Rd, and Carnation Farms Rd have become a major road system that transports commuters and freight traffic to four counties and multiple major cities. This traffic has impacted the Snoqualmie Valley tremendously. Commuters and freight traffic use these roads to bypass I-5 and 405, resulting in heavy traffic, safety concerns, and congestion in the valley.

Fund capacity improvements for regional corridors in eastern King County that are experiencing increasing congestion and delays, specifically SR 202, SR 203, and SR 522.

Increase transit services in the Valley. This is a key component in alleviating some congestion. Many of our residents would like to be able to use Metro to get to main transit connection hubs including light rail service. There is also a need for Metro bus service across SR18 for those that commute to the Valley each day.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Provide behavioral health resources

Create greater access to community-based behavioral health services to include substance use disorder treatment and dual diagnosis treatment facilities. Support continued state funding to help communities establish alternative response programs like co-responder programs, diversion programs, and others that provide options beyond law enforcement for responding to situations that involve individuals suffering from behavioral health issues.

Health and human services

Health and human services are essential to our residents and should be considered critical human infrastructure. We support government human service contract reform that provides funding for contracted services that cover actual costs, including livable wages and adequate overhead costs.

POLICE REFORM

Respond to the *Blake* decision

Support clarification around the crime of possessing a controlled substance so that individuals, law enforcement, and treatment providers can respond appropriately. Support additional investments to help cities with the costs stemming from the *Blake* decision on how possession of controlled substances is handled by the criminal justice system.

- Reimbursable funding to help offset the costs of vacating criminal convictions, repaying legal financial obligations, administering diversion programs, and mitigating municipal court impacts.
- Investment in alternative response teams; treatment facilities for adults and juveniles; treatment in jails; and social workers, treatment providers, and system navigators to help direct people to treatment.

Address vehicle pursuits for public safety

Clarify the ability for law enforcement to conduct vehicle pursuits using a reasonable suspicion standard in specific circumstances. This is essential to allow for effective and safe pursuit of suspects when there is an immediate threat to public safety. Cities will continue to support safety standards and training for officers who engage in vehicle pursuits.

Fix ESHB 1140

Positive intervention by addressing the juvenile access law. Need to provide more thought about when youth require lawyers to be present, otherwise it becomes mandatory to put them in the system.

BROADBAND IMPROVEMENTS

Broadband is vital to social and economic functions as we look at the need to keep households connected, add businesses, and continue to grow and maintain existing businesses during these unprecedented times. Greater public investment in broadband infrastructure is needed to support basic access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities for our community.

STATE-SHARED REVENUE

Continue to fully fund the State's Public Works Assistance Account, which is a critical ongoing source of low-cost capital improvement project funding for cities.

Expand state funding opportunities to assist with maintenance, operations and critical upgrades of local infrastructure sewer, water, transportation, and storm water.

Support Transportation Improvement Board funding. This funding is critical to the city efforts to maintain and rebuild our crumbling street infrastructure.

Work to increase local government shared revenues and resist cutting to fund State needs (i.e., sales tax, liquor tax, marijuana tax).

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

State funding and policy to incentivize new development to increase housing affordability through workforce housing and other affordable housing alternatives.

- Fund grants that support purchasing and holding property for attainable housing (required deed restrictions).
- Fund Impact Fee reimbursements, which would allow local government to waive impact fees for attainable housing units, while also ensuring cities are made whole.
- Improve condominium liability laws to encourage developers to build for the Missing Middle.

SNOQUALMIE VALLEY GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION

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