



## 2018 Federal Legislative Agenda City of Lake Forest Park

### Top Priorities

#### **Collaborate with the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a Culvert Corridor Study**

As a member of the Lake Ballinger/McAleer Creek Watershed Forum, the City has seen the Army Corps of Engineers develop partnership opportunities within the Forum. As the work at Ballinger Park in Mountlake Terrace proceeds, the City of Lake Forest Park seeks to use the Corps' expertise and funding to conduct a thorough study of the culverts in McAleer and Lyon Creeks that will result in a capital plan with a priority list for specific project needs.

#### **Explore federal funding for State Route 104**

The City is currently conducting a review of State Route 104 that will outline opportunities for this key regional corridor. If the study shows that federal funding programs (e.g. the Federal Transit Administration Small Starts program) are appropriate for the corridor, then the City will seek congressional support for a funding request.

#### **Support a federal tax credit for stormwater management by private property owners**

In the past, Representatives Derek Kilmer and Denny Heck introduced legislation that would provide a federal tax credit to organizations and private citizens to recoup the costs of installing and maintaining green stormwater management systems. While this legislation is not currently introduced in Congress, if passed it would incentivize water quality treatment in Lake Forest Park, improving stream health. The City seeks to jumpstart this effort once again and seek to build support federally and regionally for this legislation. When paired with the City's \$1,000 mini-grant program, this federal tax credit would make the number of stormwater projects underway within the City more affordable and align with a key municipal priority.

#### **Create a new federal program to help fund culvert replacement**

There is no federal grant program for the City of Lake Forest Park that would help the City replace failing culverts and restore habitat for threatened species. The City asks its congressional delegation to introduce legislation that would provide a competitive grant program for cities to accomplish this goal.

#### **Secure congressional support for Brownfields funding for the culvert work along SR 104**

The City is working to replace the failing culverts at the former gas station adjacent to State Route 104 and believes that the site may qualify for Brownfields designation and funding. The City seeks congressional support for funding opportunities through this program.

### Lake Forest Park Priorities - Infrastructure Bills

#### **Support a permanent authorization of the TIGER Program**

The TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) discretionary grant program is an important federal infrastructure funding program and a key priority of Senator Patty Murray. The City supports a permanent authorization of this critical program with key modifications:

#### **Designate a portion of TIGER funding for small and medium sized cities**

The TIGER program is the key federal funding program for local infrastructure investments. Yet, all cities compete within the same funding pool, putting small and medium sized cities at a competitive disadvantage for funding even as the transit and commuter challenges are similar to

those of larger communities. The City supports efforts in Congress to create funding tiers so that cities of similar size can compete for federal funds.

**Ensure that funding for transit and non-motorized travel is fully funded**

Transit funding and funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects has been under increasing threat at the federal level. The City supports maintaining basic levels of funding in both key programs; a key for City priorities along Sound Transit projects to create safe crossings and connections to the Burke Gilman Trail.

**Lake Forest Park Priorities - Tax Reform**

**Support a refundable tax credit for Green Stormwater infrastructure**

As described in the above section, this would be a refundable tax credit of at least 50% for the installation and maintenance of stormwater management systems that meet key environmental standards.

**Preserve tax-exempt municipal bonding authority**

This funding mechanism has been threatened in a tax reform package previously and ought to be vigorously defended to preserve local options to fund infrastructure and economic development initiatives.

**Protect the state and local income tax deduction**

Similar to the above section, this tax deduction is critical for communities in states like Washington without an income tax.

**Proposed Agenda – Lake Forest Park supportive**

**Support the Regional Effort to Improve 145<sup>th</sup> from Bothell Way to Interstate 5**

The City is a critical partner with its neighbors on the plan to redevelop 145<sup>th</sup> to facilitate traffic, transit and pedestrian access to the light rail station opening in 2023 at I-5 and 145<sup>th</sup>. This plan is funded through the Sound Transit 3 package but requires federal investment to be on time and on budget. Lead partners for this project are the City of Shoreline, King County Metro and Sound Transit.

**Support the federal funding commitment for Lynnwood Link Light Rail expansion**

The Trump Administration tried to rescind funding commitments to the Sound Transit 2 Link Light Rail expansion that would bring light rail from Northgate to Lynnwood. Without this pledged funding, Sound Transit would have to delay or potentially cancel the planned transit stations from Northgate to Lynnwood.

The City supports all regional efforts to preserve funding for Sound Transit through the federal government.

**Oppose any Effort to Deny Federal Funding to Compassionate or “Sanctuary” Cities**

The City of Lake Forest Park has stood up to affirm its status as a welcoming City where all of its citizens can be safe. If the Trump Administration or Congress continues to attempt to deny funding to cities that assume this stance, we should join with our delegation and our neighbor cities to fight any movement in this direction.

Currently, many State Attorney Generals have sued the Trump Administration over this proposed policy. The City will monitor and support as appropriate.

**Support the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.**

The City of Lake Forest Park could utilize CDBG funding to support a variety of local initiatives that benefit the City's vulnerable population. Projects could include housing programs, support for a Senior Center and other individual homeowner and community redevelopment projects. The City currently is awarded funding via King County on a pass-through basis.

**Support the Municipal Tax Fairness Campaign**

Currently the City of Lake Forest Park is not collecting the full portion of sales tax it is due on sales that take place online. After thirteen years of work, Congress has the opportunity to act on this issue this year, following the passage of the Municipal Tax Fairness bill through the Senate in 2016 with bipartisan support.

This bill would create a level playing field for sales tax collection and is endorsed by:

- National League of Cities
- National Association of Counties
- U.S. Conference of Mayors
- National Conference of State Legislators
- National Governors Association
- Council of State Governments
- International City/County Management Association
- Retail Leaders Industry Association
- International Council of Shopping Centers
- National Retail Federation

In Washington State, the estimate for uncollected sales tax revenue is \$650 million in local sales tax and almost \$1.3 billion over the next five years. The estimated net local sales tax gain for the City of Lake Forest Park over the 2015-2017 biennium is **\$38,408** if the municipal tax fairness bill was enacted.

**Support the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Program.**

Senator Maria Cantwell is leading a bipartisan effort in Congress to expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit) by 50 percent, while making the program more streamlined and flexible for local jurisdictions. Our state faces a tremendous housing crisis and affordable housing remains a significant concern for residents in our communities.

The Housing Credit is a proven solution to address this growing problem by increasing the supply of quality, affordable rental housing. For 30 years, it has been a model public-private partnership program, bringing to bear private sector resources, market forces, and state-level administration to give low-income families, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities access to homes they can afford.

This effort is strongly endorsed by cities across the state and the City of Lake Forest Park supports this effort.