PASSAGE OF A TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE

Fife strongly supports passage of a transportation revenue package in the 2022 session. The city has appreciated efforts and leadership by area legislators and will work toward a final package with chamber and business groups, other local governments, labor groups, contractors, etc. Fife will promote funding and inclusion of the following projects – all of which were included in “Connecting Washington” or the 2021 “Forward Washington” or “Miles Ahead Washington” lists – as well as direct distribution items, grant enhancements and local options:

PHASE II I-5/PORT OF TACOMA ROAD INTERCHANGE

The city requests $35 million toward this key interchange. This project is mission-critical to freight movement in and out of the Port of Tacoma and to the overall traffic flow and performance of the Interstate 5 mainline. This estimate is based on funding for 2024 construction.

SR 167/SR 509 GATEWAY PROJECT

Fife urges the legislature to ensure full funding for this vital project (which is short of funding in out years). This project will build important new connections to the Port of Tacoma, will improve the movement of freight and will reduce congestion on local roads and highways.

FUNDING TACOMA-FIFE-PUYALLUP SHARED-USE PATH ALONG SR 167 ALIGNMENT

Fife supports funding for the Tacoma-to-Puyallup shared-use non-motorized trail along the SR 167 alignment and funding to complete construction, about $33 million.

I-5/54TH AVENUE INTERCHANGE

The city requests a minimum of $10 million to begin design of the rebuild of this 1960s-era interchange, which was never designed with transit, pedestrian and bicycle access in mind. Those movements will become critical with the planned 2032 arrival of a regionally-significant Light Rail Station (LRT) in Fife. Full cost of this interchange rebuild is $112 million, in 2024 dollars. The project could be phased in up to six smaller projects.
DIRECT DISTRIBUTION, ENHANCED FUNDING FOR GRANT PROGRAMS, LOCAL OPTIONS
Key Components of any Transportation Package for Local Governments: Fife joins the Association of Washington Cities, individual cities, counties and others to ensure any revenue package crafted in 2022 includes a direct distribution of new gas tax to cities and counties; enhanced funding for mission-critical grant programs such as the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB); and new local options that cities and counties can evaluate to address local roadway needs, particularly maintenance-driven ones.

FISCAL MATTERS AND REVENUE NEEDS
Addressing spillover impacts from WSDOT efforts to relocate homeless camps in state-owned rights-of-way: Fife will be teaming up with Pierce County, City of Tacoma and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to seek Transportation Budget funding to help local governments address likely spillover impacts that will occur when WSDOT acts to relocate homeless encampments on state-owned rights-of-way in the vicinity of the Puget Sound Gateway Project. While the state’s initiative has merit and the legislature has directed some early funding to WSDOT, more state funding is needed for inevitable next-stage impacts that will occur when homeless populations are relocated. The impacts on a small community like Fife are overwhelming, reinforcing the need for the city to receive state assistance.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
POLICING REFORM - LANGUAGE CHANGES
Fife continues to actively support numerous bills enacted by the legislature and designed to re-imagine local policing and the conditions under which law enforcement agencies resorted to the use of force. That included bills around de-certification, duty to intervene, use-of-force databases and more. However, the city believes that in working to make a number of dramatic changes to state laws regarding law enforcement, the legislature may have created a few unintended consequences in bills dealing with police tactics and use of force. Fife supports clarifications of the civil standards for use of force in situations involving mental health crises, “Terry stops” on suspected criminal activity, use of non-lethal ammunition and conditions under which vehicle pursuits are conducted.

BASIC LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY (BLEA) TRAINING SLOTS
Fife strongly supports legislative efforts to increase funding for BLEA slots, particularly as rehiring of police post-pandemic picks up and the pressure on securing academy slots intensifies.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (DOC) POSSIBLE WORK RELEASE FACILITY IN FIFE
On this state regulatory front, Fife has expressed major concerns with a potential DOC proposal to establish a 120-bed Work Release facility in the city. The city, its county councilmember and its three 25th District lawmakers have raised significant fair-share concerns and noted that Fife is already doing far more than its share of work to host essential public facilities.