

City of Renton 2014 State Legislative Agenda

2014 Legislative Priorities at a Glance

Transportation

Renton requests that the core missions of “fixing the worst first,” finishing projects already started, investing in corridor improvements that significantly reduce congestion, and tying transportation investments to jobs and the economy play a key role in guiding legislative decisions.

The city urges the Legislature to enact a comprehensive transportation investment package including Interstate 405 and I-405/SR-167 investments, as well as direct funding and options for local governments.

- The Interstate 405/State Route 167 interchange and the I-405 segment between Renton and Bellevue rank as the state’s most congested interchange and freeway segment. Capacity upgrades to the I-405/SR-167 connector and additional lanes between Bellevue and Renton are critical investments for the economy of Renton and the entire Central Puget Sound region.
- Renton urges there be significant I-405 funding within a next transportation investment package—a funding level of \$960 million or more would allow construction timetables to be expedited. The City supports tolling and managed lanes efforts that are gradual and implemented with robust public input.
- Direct distributions to cities and counties, as well as equitably distributed “local transportation funding options” to assist with roadway and transit needs, should be a part of any package.
- Renton supports enhanced funding for the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB) and other grant programs such as the “Complete Streets” program.

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-  Budget Related
-  Bill Related

City of
Renton



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Fiscal Stability

Renton urges lawmakers to protect “state-shared” revenues that are critical for cities and counties, to avoid cuts in funding for public safety needs, and to assist cities with more flexibility in controlling their costs and providing efficient services.

- Restore full excise tax distributions for cities and counties, and restore a percentage growth in liquor profits for cities and counties.
- Provide local agencies with public records relief and cost recovery tools so they can focus their time on responding to the legitimate “sunshine” requests that the Public Records Act was designed to provide.
- Provide cities with flexibility in responding to a State Supreme Court limitation on the number of indigent defense cases (300 to 400) that any one public defender can handle in a given year. Absent funding or flexibility, this court mandate could cost several hundred thousand dollars a year.
- Provide cities and counties with sustainable revenue options for the long-term.
- Preserve the Annexation Sales Tax Credit program and Streamlined Sales Tax (SST) mitigation payments.

Economic Development, Aerospace & Infrastructure Investment

The City’s highest economic development priority is to make every effort at the local, regional, state and federal levels to ensure the current 737 NG production ramp-up and the production of the 737 MAX re-engined airplane are successful. Renton also supports economic development and infrastructure tools and aerospace training investment to help retain and create jobs, increase opportunity, and lay the groundwork for economic growth and prosperity for the long-term.

- Renton will work closely with industry and stakeholders on the construction and operating agreements for the Central Sound Aerospace Training Center (C-SAT).
- Renton will strongly support a coalition effort to restore funds for the Public Works Assistance Account, a key source of low-interest loans to help cities, counties, and utilities address their growth and infrastructure demands.

Public Safety

Renton strongly supports funding and tools that assist local efforts to provide vital public safety service to communities—particularly liquor revenues used for local law enforcement, Municipal Criminal Justice Assistance payments, auto theft prevention, Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) training, E-911 funds, gangs intervention/prevention funds, and sex offender address verification monies. Additionally:

- Renton will support efforts to ensure better reporting of liquor theft and tools to prevent the incidents in the first place.
- Renton urges the Legislature to consolidate laws and regulations on retail (Initiative 502) and medical marijuana use, and to direct more of the projected revenues from marijuana sales to the local law enforcement agencies that will be impacted by the new I-502 rules.

Enhancing Quality of Life

Renton strongly supports policies, investments, and tools that contribute to a high quality of life for its citizens.

- 2014 Supplemental Capital Budget request.

