

CITY OF REDMOND

2025 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

About Redmond

The City of Redmond has more than 80,000 residents and a daytime workforce of over 140,000. We are: one of the fastest growing cities in the state; the earliest adopter of mandatory inclusionary zoning for nearly our entire city, in support of affordable housing; home to a thriving technology, space, and satellite industry, supportive services, and business incubators. We actively partner on regional and state housing and environmental issues. Please support keeping our communities livable, walkable, safe, and sustainable.



Key Funding and Legislative Requests

Asbestos Cement (AC) Water Main Replacement

Redmond requests \$1,024,475 to replace brittle, aging asbestos cement pipes.

Many Redmond neighborhoods are served by aging asbestos cement water pipes, with 53 miles of pipe nearing end of life. Redmond has experienced 28 AC water main pipe breaks in the last five years. Breaks adversely affect resident water access, water quality, fire protection, and salmon-bearing streams. The City has actively applied to grants and recently received federal funding to replace a portion of the pipes. The City requests the state's partnership to replace pipes on Avondale Road NE.

Intercultural City Services Center in Transit-Oriented Development

Redmond requests \$618,000 to build city space in Overlake transit-oriented affordable housing project.

Redmond seeks the state's partnership to build out a city services space on the ground floor of the Bellwether's Prisma project, adjacent to an intercultural small business hub to support the area's diverse population. The Prisma Apartments will provide 333 homes for low to moderate-income households (30 - 80% area medium income) and is located across the street from the Overlake Village light rail station.

Multimodal Overlake Village Access (MOVA)

Redmond requests rescoping SR 520/148th Bike-Ped Overpass to multimodal safety & access improvements.

The legislature appropriated \$8 million in the 2022 Move Ahead Washington transportation package for the SR520/148th Ave Bike-Ped Crossing and allocated \$750,000 to be spent in 2025. The City requests rescoping this project to include multimodal safety and access improvements in the Overlake area that dovetail with the opening of the Overlake Village Pedestrian Bridge and the Redmond Technology Station Bridge, with the continued goal of increasing pedestrian safety and providing multimodal connectivity to services for residents and workers in this area.

Support for State Grant Application Funding Sources

Redmond requests funding state grant programs that support important neighborhood projects.

Support funding for state grant programs, including:

- **WSDOT Regional Mobility Grant** - Redmond applied for a \$975,000 grant for an on-demand shuttle service and parking program that will increase green mobility in conjunction with the arrival of light rail.
- **WA State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant** - Redmond applied for a \$500,000 grant for a 3.2 acre Southeast Redmond Park, which will serve a neighborhood of diverse residents and workers who lack community open space.

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REGIONAL PRIORITIES



Washington Recycling and Packaging - Extended Producer Responsibility

Redmond supports extended producer responsibility and urges passage of the WRAP Act to reduce waste and promote recycling by encouraging producers to take responsibility for the reuse and recycling of their own products. Statewide legislation is needed to create a circular economy and reduce the burden on landfills. Today, approximately 70% of what goes into King County's Cedar Hills Regional Landfill is avoidable, reusable, or recyclable/compostable. In Redmond, recycling, composting, and sustainable consumption was identified by residents as their top sustainability priority. Cities like Redmond are trying to do the right thing with an ambitious target of 70% waste diversion by 2030, but comprehensive recycling reform is critical to achieving these goals.

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing in East King County is crucial for ensuring that all residents, including lower-income families and essential workers, can live close to their jobs and communities. Redmond joins other regional partners to request that the state provide greater tools to create affordable housing, including:

- Allow cities the flexibility to utilize existing Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) to fund regional housing projects.
- Explore and pursue how best to overcome administrative hurdles to allowing cities to transition from a flat-rate Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), to a progressive tiered REET.
- Support local efforts to build more affordable housing faster, including reducing barriers, facilitating greater resources, and providing regulatory flexibility for development of affordable housing on properties owned by faith-based organizations.

Fostering Housing Stability

With over half of the Redmond community renting and facing escalating costs, Redmond supports improvements to rental living, including statewide consistency in tenant protections and rent regulation. Redmond supports affordable housing for renters and a sustainable business model for landlords that encourages growth of rental stock and home ownership.

Transportation Funding

Cities are facing a massive asset maintenance burden as our streets, sidewalks, and bridges age. The current funding gap for the City of Redmond's transportation preservation and maintenance plan is roughly \$100M. Cities cannot close this gap alone. Redmond supports sustainable state transportation revenue that provides funding for local preservation, maintenance, and operations including direct distributions to cities and towns in addition to grant opportunities.

World Cup 2026 Economic Development

Our region is preparing for a once-in-a-lifetime event. With four light rail stations, Redmond will be poised to actively participate, but also will be heavily impacted. State funding to support the 2026 FIFA World Cup will allow the region to successfully accommodate the demand that will be placed on many local systems and services, and to maximize the economic benefits of hosting a large international audience.

Asylum Seekers

Washington state cities continue to work to welcome unprecedented numbers of migrant/asylum seekers arriving in the region who need housing, legal aid, employment assistance, and other support. Redmond supports statewide coordination and financial support to meet the needs of the migrant community.

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SUPPORT ISSUES



Housing

Redmond's residential growth target anticipates 20,000 new homes between 2019 and 2044. We need 75% of those homes to serve households at 0 to 50% of area median income but need assistance with funding mechanisms to achieve that goal. Redmond supports legislation and also state funding consistent with its Housing Action Plan to preserve, improve, and expand housing stock; increase housing choices for people at all income levels and abilities; and eliminate discriminatory land use and housing practices. Resources, such as the Housing Essential Needs program, uplift vulnerable populations at risk of being unhoused. Redmond asks that the state provide adequate funding and time necessary to successfully implement recent state housing legislation.

Environment Sustainability

Redmond has an aggressive Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, including efforts to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from city operations by 2030 and communitywide by 2050. Redmond supports energy efficiency, sustainable practices, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The City supports decarbonization of buildings, electrification of fleets, grid stabilization, waste stream reduction, and climate resiliency. Redmond is a champion of clean water, as the City has a shallow aquifer as its primary water source. Home to juvenile salmon-bearing streams, the City supports culvert, habitat, stormwater, and clean water funding, and salmon recovery.

Planning and Infrastructure

Redmond consistently ranks among the fastest growing cities in the nation. The City is investing in multimodal transportation, trail connections, and will have four light rail stations to increase walkability, livability, and sustainability. Funding for the Public Works Assistance Account and financing tools, such as a state public bank, can support critical local infrastructure projects. Redmond requests increased resources for pavement preservation, funding to address road safety, and supports exploring funding options for state and local transportation needs. Redmond supports ongoing state resources for parks, trails, and recreation maintenance.

General Government

Giving cities local option flexibility with revenue streams is critical to accomplishing state priorities, such as meeting the state-provided housing targets. Redmond supports tax reforms that provide progressive, equitable, stable, and reliable revenue sources, including a local option to exceed the 1% annual property tax growth limit. When there are new state mandates, ensuring funding is critical for city financial sustainability. Redmond supports tools that protect voting rights and equitable access to voting.

Community Vitality

As the City grows, so too does its need to provide living wage jobs, employment training, and human and social services. Redmond actively engages with Eastside partners and other partners in seeking regional solutions for homelessness. Redmond supports state investments in human and behavioral services programs, workforce support, childcare accessibility and affordability, and healthcare that respects individual rights. The City encourages support for multicultural small businesses and local economic development programs to build community vitality.

Public Safety

Significant capital needs and workforce shortages continue to put pressure on the City's public safety services. Redmond supports safe neighborhoods, gun safety, and adequately resourced public safety programs, including alternative crisis response programs and training. Redmond supports funding for treatment alternatives and youth drug education awareness.