

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



Top Funding and Legislative Requests



Relocation of Evans Creek to Restore Salmon Habitat

Redmond requests \$1.761 million to rechannel Evans Creek away from industrial development where it is exposed to untreated runoff, reestablishing a flood plain, and restoring wild Coho and Chinook salmon habitat. The rechanneling will restore a riparian buffer and establish recreational trail opportunities, including the addition of two ADA-compliant pedestrian bridges. Developed in consultation with tribal groups to consider impacts on fisheries and cultural resources, this multi-million-dollar project has several project funding partners.



Phasing of 148th Ave NE Bicycle and Pedestrian Overpass Funding

Redmond appreciates Move Ahead Washington's \$8 million allocation to a 148th Avenue NE bicycle/pedestrian path over SR 520 in Overlake - the third largest jobs center in the Puget Sound region. The project will provide this growing transit-oriented neighborhood with a key multimodal connection between home and work along a roadway carrying 50,000 daily cars. The City requests that funding be delivered as follows:

- \$750,000 in 2023-2025 for alternatives analysis
- \$4.25 million in 2025-2027 for commencement of design
- \$3 million in 2027-2029 including Right of Way work, with construction beginning in 2029-2031



Transportation Impact Fee Revenue Flexibility

Transportation impact fees fund new or expanded public facilities to accommodate increased demand stemming from development. Under current law, transportation impact fees may be spent on sidewalk, bike, and pedestrian infrastructure that is connected to a roadway. Redmond requests legislation clarifying that impact fee revenue can be used for bicycle and pedestrian corridors that are separated from a roadway but serve as multimodal commute routes.

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Support/Oppose/Monitor Issues



Housing

- **Housing Affordability, Production, and Placement:** The City supports housing legislation aimed to preserve, improve, and expand housing stock; increase housing choice for people at all income levels and abilities; and eliminate racially exclusive and discriminatory land use and housing practices. Redmond supports housing legislation that is consistent with Redmond's Comprehensive Plan, Housing Action Plan, and Community Strategic Plan.

Environment Sustainability

- **Decarbonization:** Redmond has declared a climate emergency and adopted an environmental sustainability plan outlining a long-term strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Redmond encourages the State to advance proposals that decarbonize the economy through carbon reduction, including electrification, green building, renewable energy sources, and adding addressing climate change as a Growth Management Act (GMA) planning goal.
- **Culvert, Fish, and Habitat Funding:** Redmond encourages the State to invest in state and local culvert, floodplain, and fish habitat projects to open habitat for salmon and other wildlife on a watershed basis.
- **Stormwater and Clean Water Requirements:** Redmond encourages the State to invest in stormwater projects to help jurisdictions meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit obligations. Redmond will monitor proposals pertaining to PFAS and clean water standards.
- **Waste Stream Reduction:** Redmond supports proposals, such as extended producer responsibility, to reduce inputs into the waste stream.
- **Climate Resiliency:** Redmond supports statewide efforts on climate resiliency, including enhancing wildfire response and equipment.

Finance

- **Tax Reform:** Redmond encourages the State to identify reforms to the tax system that provide progressive, equitable, stable, and reliable revenue sources to meet the needs of state and local government, including allowing local jurisdictions to have the option to increase the property tax levy with inflation (CPI-W) instead of the current 1% annual growth limit.
- **Local Revenues:** Redmond supports protecting and enhancing state-shared revenues. Additionally, Redmond supports enhanced flexibility in expending local revenue streams, such as local real estate excise tax revenues.
- **Unfunded Mandates:** Redmond opposes legislation that establishes a new local mandate unless corresponding funding is provided.

General Government

- **Modernize City Operations:** Redmond supports legislation that allow city operations to modernize with advancing technologies and transition to digital/paperless systems.
- **Local Control:** Redmond urges the Legislature to honor local decision-making authority. The City serves as the government closest to the people and is most responsive to the community in meeting its needs.
- **Public Records Act (PRA) and Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA):** Redmond is committed to openness and transparency. The City will monitor amendments to the PRA and OPMA, and support funding proposals that relieve administrative burdens.
- **Conservation District Elections:** Redmond supports proposals reforming conservation district elections to address the timing of elections and supervisor terms.
- **Chinese American History Month:** Redmond supports legislation declaring January as Chinese American History Month.
- **Labor Regulations:** Redmond will monitor proposals making changes to the state Paid Family Medical Leave Act, and other labor-related regulations to ensure proper implementation.

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Support/Oppose/Monitor Issues



Community Vitality

- **Childcare:** Redmond supports funding and programs to increase opportunities for affordable childcare.
- **Homelessness:** Redmond supports programs and solutions that address root causes of homelessness and provide a path toward stability. This includes support for maintaining or increasing funding for the Housing Essential Needs Program and other subsidized housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness.
- **Human Services Programs and Funding:** Redmond supports ongoing and increased funding for programs to protect our most vulnerable populations.
- **Behavioral Health Services:** Redmond supports state investments in the full spectrum of behavioral healthcare, including crisis response resources (e.g., mobile crisis teams), recruitment and retention of high-quality mental health care providers, and sufficient facilities and behavioral health services for individuals in need of these supports.

Planning and Infrastructure

- **Planning (GMA) Implementation:** Redmond requests adequate time and funding to implement land use changes directed by the State to ensure adequate public engagement.
- **Infrastructure Programs:** Redmond supports enhanced funding for the Public Works Assistance Account for infrastructure grants and loans, including for innovative infrastructure projects, WSDOT's Bike-Ped Grant Program, Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program, and other grant and financing programs for local infrastructure.
- **Local Transportation Network:** Redmond requests direct funding to cities to meet local transportation needs such as pavement preservation and ADA improvements.
- **Park and Recreation Funding:** Redmond supports funding for parks acquisition, maintenance, and operations, including grant programs administered through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Redmond applied for a grant through the RCO Washington Wildlife Recreation Program for the Redmond Central Connector, a regional trail and linear park that fills the final gap in the east spur of the 42-mile Eastrail and provides unprecedented non-motorized recreation and transportation opportunities. Redmond supports funding for grant programs that help such projects for our communities.

Public Safety

- **Criminal Justice Reform:** Redmond supports policies that provide greater safety for communities that historically have been harmed by existing systems while maintaining public safety, and that can be implemented in a timely, reasonable, and effective manner.
- **Basic Law Enforcement Academy Funding:** Redmond supports policies and increased funding to the Basic Law Enforcement Academy to ensure officers can be trained in a timely manner.
- **Gun Safety:** Redmond supports policies to prevent violence from the use of firearms and generally increase community safety.
- **Alternative Response:** Redmond supports increased and ongoing funding to alternative response models to ensure community safety and wellbeing, such as the City's THRIVE program. This includes support for proactive homeless outreach response, community court, mobile integrated health services, and co-responding mental health professionals.

Redmond supports the Association of Washington Cities
and Sound Cities Association.

The City has adopted the following principles to guide the City's Legislative Agenda.

Promote equitable solutions and investments

The Legislature should work to identify and eliminate laws, policies, and procedures that have historical and current racist, prejudicial, biased, and discriminatory implications.

Protect home rule and local authority

The Legislature should refrain from pre-empting the authority of local cities and communities which are closest to the citizens they serve.

Refrain from imposing unfunded or "under-funded" mandates

It is important that the Legislature refrain from imposing new unfunded or "under-funded" mandates upon local jurisdictions unless there is adequate funding provided to implement them.

The State should not erode local revenues and local taxing authority

As "creatures of the State," cities in Washington have only the taxing and revenue authority directly provided to them by the State Legislature. It is vital that lawmakers refrain from making decisions that erode or eliminate those revenues and the local taxing authority that is given to cities.

The State should preserve operating, capital, and transportation budget funding that flows to cities

Redmond urges the Legislature to refrain from cutting or eliminating operational and infrastructure funding for Redmond and other cities.

The Legislature should recognize jurisdictions that step up to implement the policy goals developed by the State, as it exercises its decision-making, particularly in grant and loan programs

Redmond is an example of a city doing the right things to implement the Growth Management Act (GMA), accommodate density, ensure the urban centers of Downtown and Overlake are conducive to "transit-oriented" and pedestrian-friendly development, embrace "green building", climate-change and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) strategies, etc. As it makes funding and policy decisions regarding grant and loan programs, the State should find ways to recognize jurisdictions, such as Redmond, that carry out and embrace these policy objectives.