



December 13, 2024

Dear Legislators,

The 21 member jurisdictions of the [Eastside Transportation Partnership \(ETP\)](#) are pleased to present our **2025 State Legislative Priorities**. For decades, ETP has provided a forum to coordinate regional transportation priorities and to advocate for transportation improvements to better serve East King County. Although most of our member jurisdictions pass legislative agendas that speak to their individual needs, we firmly believe in the over-arching vision of developing a regional transportation system that serves the needs of all Eastside residents.

While ETP appreciates the commitments made in the 2022 Move Ahead Washington package, we now fear that projects will be delayed due to rising costs and additional demands for funding. We urge you to **explore solutions for ensuring all projects in the Move Ahead Washington package, including those that are in the outer years, continue to be supported and delivered in a timely manner.**

ETP members believe that **the state needs to invest in and support regional and local transit funding** if we are to achieve our transportation, climate action, and equity goals. **Local governments also need direct funding and progressive revenue options** to address critical maintenance needs and transportation improvements. Focusing on these investments will help make our streets and roads safer, develop a complete multimodal transportation system, and provide critical access to members of the workforce in a growing economy.

Finally, transportation is inextricably tied to our climate future, with vehicle, fuel, infrastructure, and land use implications. ETP asks the Legislature to **promote and incentivize technologies and infrastructure that reduce carbon emissions** and **to support environmentally responsible transportation and mobility options.**

We look forward to meeting with you during session and working in partnership to solve these collective challenges. Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing the Eastside Transportation Partnership's 2025 Legislative Priorities.

Sincerely,

Chair Barbara de Michele  
Issaquah Deputy Council President  
barbd@issaquahwa.gov

Vice Chair Vanessa Kritzer  
Redmond City Council Chair  
vkritzer@redmond.gov

On behalf of the 21 member jurisdictions of Eastside Transportation Partnership  
Beaux Arts, Bellevue, Bothell, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Duvall, Hunts Point, Issaquah, Kenmore, King County, Kirkland,  
Medina, Mercer Island, Newcastle, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Snoqualmie, Woodinville, Yarrow Point

## EASTSIDE TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Eastside Transportation Partnership (ETP) is a collaborative organization representing 20 Eastside cities and King County. After a thorough process of deliberations and review by all ETP members, we recommend the following objectives and actions to the 2025 Legislature:

### **New Revenue for Critical Maintenance Needs and Improvements at the Local Level**

Cities and counties need direct funding and flexible revenue options. Transportation needs include maintenance and preservation of roads of statewide significance, regional connections, ADA improvements, pavement management, and first/last mile solutions. We ask the Legislature to consider an array of equitable and sustainable funding sources including:

- **Implement a funding mechanism by which all road users contribute to the cost of the system**, which could include a transition from *gas taxes to road usage charges or other possible funding* maintaining the local share of the gas tax and giving cities an additional local option. Allow funds to be used for multimodal improvements.
- **Reinstate full funding** for the Public Works Fund.
- **Incentivize public-private partnerships** to advance transportation and transit-oriented development projects.

### **Corridors and Infrastructure**

- **Critical state funding for transit infrastructure**: Cities and counties are making land use decisions in compliance with recent legislation. The state asks cities and counties to prioritize housing near transit as well as transit-oriented developments. The state must help boost statewide transit capacity as a means of further accelerating development of affordable housing, meeting climate action goals, increasing access to transportation, reducing traffic congestion, and providing equitable opportunities for all.
- **Infrastructure improvements to maximize the effectiveness of the I-405 corridor**: ETP asks the legislature to address forecasted WSDOT and Sound Transit funding shortfalls for the I-405/SR 167 Corridor improvements, including the Stride I-405 Bus Rapid Transit Project. Support these improvements by keeping these promised investments on schedule.
- **Funding for rural corridors and infrastructure**: ETP requests attention be paid to the deteriorating rural road systems of East King County especially unincorporated roads between cities affected by development. As population grows, they provide essential transportation networks between densifying cities. Rural transportation needs are currently a utility that is not properly addressed.
- **Culverts**: Provide funding support to address local fish passage barriers.
- Fund grants for **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliant projects** that support transportation improvements while also advancing the region's water quality goals. Transportation projects are seeing increased scope because of greater mitigation for pollutants such as tire rubber.
- **Graffiti**: ETP supports enhanced graffiti removal services by the Washington State Department of Transportation that are necessary to prevent property damage, maintain property values, and deter criminal activity. ETP supports funding for art alternatives.

## Ensuring Investments in New Technologies, Alternative Modes, and Environmental Stewardship

- **Safety Projects**: ETP urges the Legislature to make continued progress on Target Zero and the Strategic Highway Safety Plan to reduce deaths on Washington’s roadways and to prioritize safety improvements for bicycles, pedestrians, and other non-motorized modes.
- **Multimodal Transportation Improvements**: Continue to appropriately use Climate Commitment Act funding in the transportation budget to support improved transit service, pedestrian and bike safety initiatives, e-bike rebates, electrification infrastructure, and similar investments. Provide guidance to cities on local regulation of e-bikes and scooters, such as a model ordinance.
- **Multi-modal Corridors**: ETP urges the Legislature to strengthen funding for bicycle and pedestrian segments and crossings of regional multi-modal corridors such as Eastrail and the 520 trail.
- **First/last mile**: Due to land use patterns on the Eastside, access to transit is critically important, including flexible transit options, and the state should partner in helping cities to find solutions to address this concern.
- **WSDOT Regional Mobility Program**: ETP supports fully funding this program.
- **Vehicle Electrification**: ETP appreciates Move Ahead Washington language and Department of Ecology rulemaking actions that move Washington toward more comprehensive use of electric vehicles and zero-emission standards. To support adoption of greener vehicles by both the public and private sector, ETP recommends the Legislature prioritize electric vehicle infrastructure, including for medium- and heavy- duty vehicles. Special attention should be paid to encouraging funding from the Climate Commitment Act to be invested for Vehicle Electrification and EV charger infrastructure throughout Washington State.