



## **Memo to Snohomish County Council**

**Fr: Dale Learn**

**Re: Federal Legislative Update**

**June 13, 2022**

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### **Community Project Funding (CPF)/Community Directed Spending (CDS)**

Congress completed the first step in the CPF/CDS process by submitting their final list of projects to the respective Appropriations Subcommittees. In the House, the current markup schedule is to have each of the twelve Appropriations Subcommittees pass their bills out of the full committee by the end of June. The House will then likely take them up individually or in groups of 3-4 throughout the next several months for a full vote on the House floor. The Senate may follow a less rigid process as they did last year and return all twelve bills at once instead of passing them individually out of each subcommittee.

As it's the final year for many Senators before retirement, including Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Sen. Leahy and Ranking Member Richard Shelby, we expect a complete appropriations process to fully fund the government as well as the CPF/CDS requests to be completed by December. There are too many projects and federal programs of interest for retiring Senators to leave an incomplete appropriations process to their predecessors who will be sworn into office in January of 2023.

Please see below the projects in Snohomish County that were submitted by our Congressional Delegation:

### **Congressman Larsen**

#### ***Snohomish County Culverts***

- Project Purpose: This funding would replace two culverts on Trickle Creek in Bothell and Lake Martha Creek in Stanwood to improve fish passage and repair roadway damage.
- Project Location: Snohomish County
- Amount Requested: \$3,000,000

#### ***Advanced Manufacturing Skills Center: Marine and AI Robotics Pathways***

- Project Purpose: This funding would enable Edmonds College to offer two new expedited pathways into careers in Marine and Artificial Intelligence Robotics at its Advanced Manufacturing Skills Center at Paine Field.
- Project Location: Edmonds College - Lynnwood, WA
- Amount Requested: \$1,300,000

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#### *Grove Street Overcrossing*

- Project Purpose: This funding would help the City of Marysville build a new overcrossing at the BNSF mainline on Grove Street between Cedar and State Avenues, eliminating significant congestion and lengthy traffic backups due to train traffic.
- Project Location: Marysville, WA
- Amount Requested: \$3,000,000

#### *Lynnwood Neighborhood Center*

- Project Purpose: This funding would help Volunteers of America construct a new 40,000 square foot facility which would include early learning and youth programs, medical, dental, vision and mental health services, job training and small business development, adult education classes, immigration assistance, senior engagement and socialization, veteran and military family services, cultural programs, a VOA Community Resource Center for basic needs referrals/services and other community services.
- Project Location: Lynnwood, WA
- Amount Requested: \$3,000,000

#### *44th Avenue West Underpass Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Project*

- Project Purpose: This project would replace the current existing dark and narrow 44<sup>th</sup> Ave Underpass with a 10-12' shared use pathway, providing a better connection to public transit at the Lynnwood City Center Station for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Project Location: City of Lynnwood
- Amount Requested: \$1,744,328

#### *Mother Nature's Window Park Project*

- Project Purpose: This funding would replace two culverts on Trickle Creek in Bothell and Lake Martha Creek in Stanwood to improve fish passage and repair roadway damage.
- Project Location: Snohomish County
- Amount Requested: \$1,273,561

#### **Congresswoman DelBene**

##### *Snohomish County Food and Farming Center*

- Project Purpose: it would provide access to resources for the processing, aggregation, distribution, value added production, direct and wholesale sales of locally produced agricultural products. These components were identified by the

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agricultural community as vital infrastructure for the viability of their farming businesses. The Snohomish County food and farming center will include a year-round indoor farmers market, processing, aggregation and distribution center, along with a commercial kitchen to process and sell local agriculture products.

- Project Location: Snohomish County
- Amount Requested: \$6,127,263

#### *Homage's Transportation Assistance Program*

- Project Purpose: it would expand transportation options in rural eastern Snohomish County (outside the ¾ mile DART service area), specifically to fill current transportation gaps between Snohomish and Index along US-2 and Monroe to Bothell along WA-522.
- Project Location: Snohomish County
- Amount Requested: \$250,400

#### *Mobile Mental Health and Dispatch Services*

- Project Purpose: this will fund one dedicated social worker or mental health provider for the Sky Valley area for the period of four years. Funding for this program will work to mitigate the increased impacts from COVID-19 on mental health by enhancing North Sound 211 and providing access to crisis support and mental health clinicians, tied to 211 information sharing and resource specialists.
- Project Location: City of Monroe
- Amount Requested: \$550,000

#### *City of Snohomish North Sewer Trunk Line Extension*

- Project Purpose: it would allow the City of Snohomish to complete the last segments of the north sewer trunk line project. Completing this project would allow for buildable lands to be developed, expand capacity for the sewer system while decreasing maintenance and operations for staff by eliminating two sewer pump stations, and provide the City flexibility to consider options to increase affordable housing.
- Project Location: City of Snohomish
- Amount Requested: \$550,000

#### *Sultan Water Treatment Plant*

- Project Purpose: The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because building a new wastewater treatment plant for Sultan's growing residential and commercial population would ensure its ability to keep up with demand. Clean water is essential to accommodate the residential and business growth along



with US-2 corridor travelers. Sultan needs to do its part to ensure their water processing plant is current and can manage Sultan's increasing population.

- Project Location: City of Sultan
- Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

*Environmental Career Preparedness (EnCAP): Towards a Green Economy*

- Project Purpose: The project would develop inclusive K-16 educational pathways toward environment and sustainability degree programs leading to emerging green economy careers.
- Project Location: University of Washington Bothell
- Amount Requested: \$811,061

*Emergency Coordination Center – North, Backup Power Generator*

- Project Purpose: The project would strengthen the emergency response capability of the City of Bothell and the surrounding region. The backup power generator would provide emergency power to this critical facility to ensure the continuity of government services, preservation of city-wide data, continued city services (e.g., water, sewer, storm water, streets, parks, fleet, and equipment), and a safe shelter location for up to 50 people.
- Project Location: City of Bothell
- Amount Requested: \$750,000

**Senator Cantwell**

*20th Street NE and Main Street Improvements*

- Project Purpose: To provide safety and mobility upgrades to an old intersection projected to fail in the next decade.
- Project Location: Lake Stevens, WA
- Amount Requested: \$2,500,000

*Electric Bus Purchase - Diesel Replacement*

- Project Purpose: The project will support the purchase five zero-emission buses with the charging systems and infrastructure to support them.
- Project Location: Everett, WA
- Amount Requested: \$5,525,000

*Everett Fire Station Equity Improvements Project*

- Project Purpose: To provide direct hallway access to the women's restroom and divide the common sleeping spaces into individual sleeping spaces in Everett Fire Station #6.

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- Project Location: Everett, WA
- Amount Requested: \$264,000

*Everett Link Extension Project Development*

- Project Purpose: To support early engineering, design, and environmental review of Sound Transit's expansion of its light rail system from Lynnwood City Center into Everett.
- Project Location: Lynnwood/Everett
- Amount Requested: \$4,000,000

*City of Lake Stevens for Lake Stevens Outlet Restoration*

- Project Purpose: To replace the weir on Lake Stevens, construct channel improvements and repair North Lakeshore Drive in order to improve water quality, reduce flooding, and improve aquatic habitat.
- Project Location: Snohomish County
- Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

**Senator Murray**

*Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative*

- Project Purpose: Protect and restore the marine waters, habitats, and species of the Northwest Straits region through on-the-ground projects and community engagement.
- Project Location: Snohomish, Whatcom, San Juan, Skagit, Island, Jefferson, and Clallam Counties
- Amount Requested: \$3,000,000

*Discovering Your Post-Service Identity*

- Project Purpose: To provide individualized transition assistance to veterans
- Project Location: Edmonds
- Amount Requested: \$1,500,000

*Recovery Coaching Program*

- Project Purpose: To provide individualized transition assistance to veterans
- Project Location: Everett
- Amount Requested: \$500,000

*Trojan Promise*

- Project Purpose: To increase the enrollment of youth experiencing homelessness in postsecondary education

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- Project Location: Everett
- Amount Requested: \$300,000

### **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)**

A 2022 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is moving ahead after the House version, H.R. 7776, passed by 384-37. All ten Members of the Washington State House Delegation voted in favor of passage. The package includes feasibility studies for dozens of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects and authorizations for new environmental infrastructure projects. In the Senate, the Environment and Public Works Committee on May 4<sup>th</sup> unanimously approved its version of a 2022 WRDA. Still, they have not yet indicated when the full Senate will vote on its version, but we expect the end of this month or early July.

Critically, our Members included language to provide \$200 million in funding for environmental infrastructure projects (Sec. 219) to Washington state counties, including Chelan, King, Kittitas, Pierce, and **Snohomish**. The House bill also included \$56 million specifically for Snohomish County for water and wastewater infrastructure, including water supply. Undoubtedly that came from Rep. Larsen, a senior Member of the Committee. This funding would provide a significant federal program previously not available to those in our state and across Snohomish County.

A link to the House passed and amended version of H.R. 7776 can be found here: [https://transportation.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Sus\\_01\\_xml.pdf](https://transportation.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Sus_01_xml.pdf)

### **Washington National Guard (ANG) Land Transfer**

The County is successfully moving forward with the ANG land transfer process as we negotiate details regarding an appropriate appraisal of the property, clean up mitigation responsibilities, what the County will develop for the ANG as compensation for the land transfer, and an agreed upon timeline of the entire process.

GTH developed language for the National Defense Authorization Act in order to provide the ANG with the proper Federal authority to transfer the land from ANG to the County and this will be vetted by Airport staff as well as House and Senate Armed Services Committee staff to ensure the correct and appropriate legal authority is conveyed in statute. Additionally, we are working with the Air Force in DC to ensure efficient and timely efforts on appraisal and clean up certification.

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The collaboration with our Senators and Rep. Larsen continues to reinforce our efforts with the ANG, and though this will be a long process we are finally moving forward with steady progress.

### **Municipal Waste Disposal and Rail Service**

We have continued our weekly meetings with Senate Commerce Committee staff and representatives from Sens. Murray and Cantwell, and Reps. DelBene and Larsen. After applying pressure at the Federal level and in conjunction with Republic Services, we have seen an increase in BNSF rail cars provided to the County. Currently, the backlog of waste at our transfer stations has been eliminated and we are regularly sending out the trash that comes in on a normal schedule with the increased railcar service.

Snohomish County is leading the effort in solving this problem to the benefit of the entire impacted region of Northwestern Cities and Counties. The summer months always pose a challenge of increased waste that will need to be met by the current increase in rail service, and we will continue to monitor the situation and update our federal allies as needed.

For now, weekly calls have been reduced to monthly engagements as the crisis continues to abate, but we are prepared to ramp up advocacy and engagement as needed.

### **Bridge Investment Program – Infrastructure Bill (IIJA)**

The USDOT issued the NOFO for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP), which was a new program from the IIJA. For this round the IIJA provided \$2.36 billion - \$12.5 billion over the life of the bill. It is important to note that BIP funding is separate from, and supplemental to, the \$5.3 billion in bridge formula funding distributed to states earlier this year.

They're seeking applications for three categories: planning projects, bridge construction projects under \$100 million, and large bridge construction projects over \$100 million. Each category has an individual application deadline and project sponsors may apply for funding under one, two, or all three categories. For non-planning projects, projects must be reasonably expected to begin construction within 18 months after the obligation of BIP funds for the project and preliminary engineering is complete for the project.



A brief overview of key BIP NOFO provisions below. Additional information on project and application requirements as well as selection criteria can be found in the full NOFO and supporting materials [here](#). A press release by USDOT is linked [here](#).

- **Planning Projects**
  - Application deadline: July 25, 2022.
  - Funding: \$20 million is available for planning, feasibility analysis, and revenue forecasting projects that would subsequently be eligible to apply for BIP funding under the construction project categories.
  - Award size: no minimum or maximum.
- **Bridge Projects (projects with eligible costs less than \$100 million)**
  - Application deadline: September 8, 2022.
  - Funding: bridge projects may receive phased BIP awards to complete final design and any right-of-way acquisition within 12 months and provide BIP funds for construction, which must begin within 18 months of obligation of the FY 2022 BIP funds for completion of final design and right-of-way acquisition.
  - Eligibility: projects to replace, rehabilitate, preserve, or protect one or more bridges on the National Bridge Inventory as well as bridge bundling and culvert projects.
  - Award size: minimum of \$2.5 million and maximum of 80 percent of the total eligible project cost.
- **Large Bridge Projects (projects with eligible costs greater than \$100 million)**
  - Application deadline: August 9, 2022.
  - Funding: at least \$300 million must go toward large bridge projects. Large bridge projects may be awarded multiyear grant agreements. USDOT notes it will seek to award BIP funds first for large bridge construction projects for bridges in poor condition or in fair condition and at risk of falling into poor condition within the next three years and that will benefit most from a multiyear grant award.
  - Eligibility: projects to replace, rehabilitate, preserve, or protect one or more bridges on the National Bridge Inventory as well as bridge bundling and culvert projects.
  - Award size: minimum of \$50 million and maximum of 50 percent of the total eligible project cost.
- **Other provisions**
  - Up to 5 percent of funding may go toward projects solely consisting of culvert replacement or rehabilitation.





Because it is a new program it is impossible to reference previous award winners to get a “feel” for what may be a good project. We will continue to ask questions. This s a good opportunity.

More broadly, USDOT has produced a tentative schedule for upcoming grant announcements in 2022 under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). See link below. The page will be updated periodically with new programs and dates. More information about each program can be accessed by clicking the corresponding links.

<https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/upcoming-notice-funding-opportunity-announcements-2022>

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