



City of Pullman 2019 Legislative Priorities

Adopted: 12/4/2018

Capital Funding Request: Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport Projects

The runway project is nearly complete and has been a success thanks to the support from several key partners including two state governments. The next part of the project is to add a new terminal to the facility. The current terminal is 50% undersized for the local demand. The airport is working with consultants to design and scope the project, but we already know we will need to build a new parking lot (\$2 million estimate) and run water and sewer to the facility (\$4 million estimate). The city requests up to \$5 million to support the development of parking facilities and the extension of utilities to the future airport terminal.

Transportation Funding Request: Pullman South Bypass Road Development

The City has put great effort into planning for the creation of a south bypass road that would allow freight and other large vehicles to circumvent Pullman's Downtown District, which is currently the primary truck route. This was one of the top priorities of the community when residents were recently surveyed. The future development of Pullman's Downtown District depends on re-routing freight from this core business district. The next phases in planning for this project includes road design work (\$1 million estimate) and right-of-way acquisition. In 2005, the estimated cost of design and build for this project was between \$20 million and \$25 million. Today that amount is \$26 million to \$32 million. Those costs do not include the right-of-way acquisition. The city requests \$1 million to support the design work for the Pullman South Bypass Road.

Redevelopment of the Central Business District

Pullman and its partners have begun a process to revitalize the downtown core, which is an area with two state highways running through it. The city is working to develop a first-ever master plan that will result in a need for several phases of capital projects to make the necessary improvements and positive investments in one of our most critical business districts. We ask for the support of our legislative delegation and of WSDOT in our efforts to achieve significant improvements to traffic safety and the look of Downtown Pullman.

Public Records Act (PRA)

Pullman supports and practices transparency in government. The City asks that abusers of the Public Records Act be addressed. The City would support the legislature and the governor being subject to the PRA to the same extent as cities and counties.

Liquor & Marijuana Sales

We support increasing the shared revenue from marijuana and liquor sales with city and county governments since the local jurisdictions are responsible for administration and enforcement issues.

Marijuana Research

The City is also supportive of funding for research into health impacts of marijuana use and funding for technology that would allow law enforcement to conduct accurate and timely field sobriety tests. Our police department has collaborated with WSU researchers on a major project working towards a solution for field sobriety tests. It would be outstanding if our state would be leader in this technology.

Healthcare & Pullman Regional Hospital

We support Pullman Regional Hospital as it copes with the impacts of rising healthcare costs. We also support increased funding for physician residency training programs in eastern Washington and recognize the importance of planning for elder care so that residents may age in place.

Mental Health & Homelessness

We support the development of an effective state system that provides evaluation and treatment of mental health issues for all who need it. In addition to being a social issue, this is also a public safety issue with law enforcement forced into violent confrontations with the mentally ill, and local jail beds filled with those who suffer from mental

illness. We support increased funding for a more robust mental health system that addresses the needs for both adults and children, especially in rural areas.

The City supports enhancement of the provision of much needed human service programs to address issues that drive homelessness and public safety costs. We also encourage a change in the timing of the point in time count to assess the scope of the homeless population at a time other than the coldest winter months.

Transportation Safety Projects

We would like to thank the 9th District representatives and WSDOT for accomplishing the safety improvements on Highway 195.

We strongly encourage the state to significantly shorten the timeline (now 2025) for passing lanes on State Highway 26. This project will help to save the lives of all motorists, but especially WSU students and their parents

Wastewater Treatment

Current rulemaking related to toxins and fish consumption will likely have an impact on Pullman's NPDES wastewater discharge permit by lowering the city's current discharge limit for PCBs/Dieldrin by an order of magnitude or more. There are currently no technologies available that can treat such low levels, and should they be developed will likely be terribly expensive (HDR, Treatment Technologies Review and Assessment, 2013). We encourage the legislature to support BMPs such as reducing PCBs in currently available products (EPA deems product PCB free at 50 parts per million, while the current Pullman discharge permit is 170 parts per quadrillion) and provide time for municipalities to respond through an extended compliance schedule (20 years)

Alternative Energy Requirements

Local government subdivisions of the state are required to satisfy 100% of their fuel usage from electricity and biofuel for new vehicles. Other options may be possible if an economic justification is provided. We encourage continuing to build flexibility into the definition of "extent practicable" with consideration for cost as well as geographic availability of some alternatives. The City has demonstrated its support for moving to clean energy by purchasing six hybrid busses and has recently applied for grants to assist with purchasing three electric busses (priced approximately \$200,000 more than busses using conventional fuel). The City supports adding hybrid vehicles to the allowable alternative energy fleet.

Immigration & Diversity

The City of Pullman benefits greatly from having a diverse and inclusive community. The City Council hopes that the Legislature agrees that diversity is one of the keystones and primary attributes that makes Washington State a great place to live, work, and play.

Fire Service

The City of Pullman supports making permanent the current state temporary allowance of using immediate aerial suppression of wildfires. Giving local departments the ability would prevent the disasters experienced in California. The City also encourages the Legislature to consider funding mechanisms that help offset the cost of training at the Washington State Fire Training Academy.

Parks & Recreation and Economic Development

We support increased state funding or state grant opportunities for local parks and recreation programming so that municipalities can better address the rising costs of maintenance and operations as well as preservation needs so that we can continue to enhance local economic development. Parks and recreation are outdoor, quality-of-life amenities that are highly valued by the public. Just as importantly, local parks and recreation programs enhance jobs-creation and economic development efforts and build trail networks that connect our community.