

CITY OF AIRWAY HEIGHTS 2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

US2 Alternate Route Funding

The City of Airway Heights respectfully requests \$3 million in transportation funding for a US2 Alternate Route to relieve traffic congestion on US2 and establish an important east/west connection through the City. US2 is the only highway used for east/west travel in the City and is a major commuter route for the greater Spokane area. Expected land use growth of the Fairchild Air Force Base, the Kalispel and Spokane Tribes, and the new Amazon fulfillment center (as well as other future unknown incoming developments) will also continue to add more traffic to this corridor, further impacting mobility along this stretch of highway. When there is heavy traffic on US2, the City of Airway Heights's local road network experiences the overflow. The US 2 Alternate Route will allow the state system and local network to function more efficiently –a goal consistent with and supported by identified strategies in the WA State Department of Transportation's US 2 Route Development Plan and Corridor Sketch Initiative for the area. The City has secured \$500,000 in design funds for the project and is respectfully seeking \$3 million in state transportation funding for construction.

Military Benefit Zone

Washington State has the sixth highest regional concentration of military presence in the United States. In addition to providing an integral role in national security, the state's military installations constitute a significant economic contributor. The City supports legislation that would expand financing tools for military communities to support and encourage private economic development. Military Benefit Zones would improve the viability of existing businesses in the zone, encourage new private development, reduce traffic congestion, and support the needs of housing, services, and the overall quality of life for military personnel and families.

Create A Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Option For Cities

Washington's cities need economic development tools that help maintain, expand, and modernize local infrastructure to spur local private sector investment. By investing in TIF, the Legislature can partner with cities to advance our shared goals of building a robust and diverse economy for communities around the state. For maximum impact, cities need access to both property-tax and sales-tax based TIF programs.

Industrial Employment Growth

Given the City's industrial land proximity to Spokane International Airport, FAFB, US-2 and the City of Spokane, it has a unique locational advantage as a hub for regional growth. The City recently developed an Industrial Subarea District master plan and identified priority development sites, and development strategies that focus on a targeted infrastructure phasing plan. The plan also includes an economic analysis of the region and identified target industries best suited for the subarea. The strategy includes building out 3.27 million of building square footage on 300 acres, which will employ 7,200 employees that earn 17% above the current Spokane County median wage. The sectors targeted include metals manufacturing, aerospace manufacturing, warehousing, logistics, and distribution facilities. The City respectfully requests legislative support for a phase infrastructure investment in utilities and roads to develop this 300-acre industrial district.

CITY OF AIRWAY HEIGHTS 2020 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Support for Alternative Water Source to Replace Contaminated Public Wells

In May 2017, the City's domestic water supply was found to be contaminated by Perfluoroalkyl chemicals "PFOS"/"PFOA", ingredients found in fire extinguishing foam and other materials. The chemicals are believed to have seeped into groundwater from a fire-training site on the eastern edge of Fairchild Air Force Base. The chemicals contaminated all of the city's drinking water wells. Airway Heights has spent over \$3.1 million since May 2017 on temporary water supply, but a permanent remedy is still needed.

The City has been working with the U.S. Air Force to develop a long-term solution for water supply. Both the City and U.S. Air Force have identified an alternate water supply as the preferred solution. An alternate water supply that is not contaminated is the most cost-effective option for providing the city with a safe and sustainable supply of drinking water. The city is seeking legislative support for the procurement of the new alternate water source.