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CITY OF AIRWAY HEIGHTS 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Replacing Contaminated Public Water Source

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, also known as "PFAS". The PFAS in the City's water supply included "PFOS"/"PFOA", ingredients found in fire extinguishing foam and other materials. The chemicals are believed to have seeped into groundwater from fire-training sites 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 \$4.6 million since May 2017 on temporary water supply, but a permanent remedy is still needed.

The City has been communicating with the U.S. Air Force about developing a long-term replacement water solution and funding is needed to construct the alternate water supply infrastructure. The City and U.S. Air Force have identified an alternate water supply as a solution to the well contamination. An alternate water supply is the most cost-effective option for replacing the City's PFAS impacted water supplies and providing the City with a safe and sustainable supply of drinking water. The City is seeking legislative support to help construct the alternate water supply infrastructure. The City respectfully requests an appropriation of \$16 million over a four-year period toward funding a new replacement water source.

Investing in Water & Sewer Infrastructure for Industrial Job Growth

Industrial Infrastructure Investment Phase 1A

The City respectfully requests \$741,000 to install water and reclaimed water infrastructure to support industrial development. The City has identified priority development sites and development strategies in partnership with prospective industrial businesses. These infrastructure improvements are needed to support industrial development and job creation. The City's industrial land has a unique locational advantage as a hub for regional employment growth. Industrial-oriented jobs such as manufacturing, warehousing, and transportation, wholesale, and distribution are increasing at an unprecedented pace on the West Plains. This infrastructure phase focuses on performing infrastructure improvements to support these uses. The City respectfully requests \$741,000 to complete this phase.

Industrial Infrastructure Investment Phase 7A

The City respectfully request \$1.8 million to install a sewer main and lift station service to serve 2 committed industrial businesses. Cumulatively, these businesses will create 325 new industrial jobs. The

utility improvements include the construction of .65 miles of sewer force main and a lift station. One of the two industrial developments is presently under construction with a temporary sewer service. This utility project will provide a permanent sewer service to both projects and support future industrial growth.

Reducing US-2 Congestion & Connecting West Plains Employers

West Plains Connection Phase 1B

The City of Airway Heights respectfully requests \$3 million in transportation funding for phase 1b of 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 \$3 million of design and construction funds to construct phase 1a and is respectfully seeking \$3 million in state transportation funding for construction of phase 1b.

Strengthen the Economic Development Ecosystem

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.

Airway Heights Also Supports

Association of Washington Cities 2021 Legislative Priorities

The City Council affirms its support of AWC's legislative priorities.