

2008



# City of Spokane Federal Agenda

*The City of Spokane will pursue critical funding issues, support projects sponsored by other Spokane regional interests, and monitor a wide range of issues that could impact the City and its citizens. Herein is the City's 2008 Federal agenda.*

110<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Second Session

Fiscal Year  
2009

## Appropriations Priorities – Fiscal Year 2009

### Railroad Safety Overpass/Pedestrian Bridge

The City of Spokane, with its partner Washington State University, proposes to develop a preliminary design and engineering study of a Railroad Safety Overpass/Pedestrian Bridge over the BNSF railroad. The railroad's main trunk line for its east-west operations traverses the southern border of the University District at the Riverpoint campus in downtown Spokane. The bridge will alleviate safety concerns for increasing numbers of students, faculty, employees, residents and other pedestrians commuting to and from the campus. It will amplify pedestrian and bike traffic via the bridge, and provide connectivity between the Riverpoint campus and the area south of the active BNSF railroad, and it will drive mixed-use residential, retail and commercial development both on campus and in the adjacent neighborhoods.

**The City is requesting \$500,000 from the FY 2009 Transportation and HUD Appropriations Bill from the Transportation, Community and System Preservation (TCSP) account. As an alternative, another account to be considered is the HUD Economic Development Initiative (EDI) account.**

### Fish Lake Trail Completion

Completion of the Fish Lake Trail from Spokane to Cheney, Wash., at an estimated cost of \$6 million will connect an important link in the region's expanding trail system. Fish Lake Trail will connect the Centennial Trail in Spokane to the Columbia Plateau Trail, which extends from the trailhead at Fish Lake to the City of Cheney, and subsequently connects with the John Wayne Trail which ends in Western Washington. The City purchased 10 linear miles of railroad corridor right-of-way in 1991, and subsequently paved approximately 3.5 miles of the trail. The trail completion has tremendous community support, and has received half of a \$2 million state contribution. It will be a major recreation attraction for walking, running, biking, roller blading and equestrian use. Several neighboring housing developments have trail systems that desire connection to the Fish Lake Trail, and some Eastern Washington University students use the trail as alternative transportation between Spokane and the Cheney campus. Once completed, the trail will provide additional recreational opportunities for citizens and provide another attractive destination for tourists and visitors, creating economic benefits for the region.

*Adopted by  
the Spokane  
City Council  
February 18, 2008*

**The City is requesting \$2 million from the FY 2009 Transportation and HUD Appropriations Bill, Transportation, Community and System Preservation (TCSP) account.**

### **Law Enforcement Technology**

Spokane is the regional hub for public safety intelligence/information sharing serving Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho and Western Montana, and is the site of the Inland Northwest Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). Eleven regional law enforcement agencies have formed a consortium called ARREST to share intelligence and information. ARREST will invest in hardware and software that would allow it to nearly double the population base with which it shares criminal data by expanding to Pullman and Clarkston, Wash., Moscow and Lewiston, Idaho, and allow connection via the Spokane Police Department with established networks in Tucson, Ariz., and Redmond, Ore. In addition, this funding will continue the expansion of the City's wireless infrastructure for use by law enforcement, fire departments, EMTs, public works and public health officials. Finally, it will provide funding to replace 60 mobile computers with state-of-the-art digital and video capability.

The City is requesting \$700,000 from the Judiciary Department, Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security account. This initiative previously received \$600,000, and the FY 2009 request will complete the project.

### **Other Priorities, Policy Issues**

#### **Transportation & Infrastructure**

- The City will work toward the reauthorization of the SAFETEA-LU, the highway and transit reauthorization, which expires in 2009. The City will work with the region in advancing policy ideas and agendas that improve congestion, provide mobility, ensure access, provide transportation options for all of Spokane's citizens, encourage non-vehicular transportation, invest in transit and promote sustainable energy and environmental policies.
- Support continued federal funding for the North Spokane Corridor, which will require approximately \$3 billion to complete.
- Support \$20 million WSDOT US 195 funding request to improve highway interchanges on US 195 from I-90 to Hatch Road.
- Support the Spokane Regional Transportation Council's request for rail relocation funding for Bridging the Valley.
- Support Spokane Transit Authority's \$2.1 million funding request for the difference to purchase hybrid diesel-electric coaches that are good for the environment and hedge against fuel cost increases. Each hybrid coach will use one-third less fuel and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 352 tons, an environmentally responsible improvement for our urban community.
- Monitor the proposed National Infrastructure Bank Act of 2007 (S. 1926) that addresses the needs of our nation's major infrastructure systems.

#### **Public Safety**

- Support funding for strengthened anti-gang measures and enhanced methamphetamine treatment programs.
- Support continued funding for Homeland Security requirements that allow as much flexibility as possible for local government agencies. In particular, the City supports efforts at the federal level to fully fund local interoperability efforts. First responders require the ability to communicate effectively with each other, irrespective of jurisdiction or service.
- Support Congressional-proposed level of funding for Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and the Violence Against Women Act.

- Support continued funding for the Assistance to Firefighters grant (FIRE Act) and for the Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters Act (SAFER).

## **Defense**

- Support the modernization of Fairchild Air Force Base, the expansion of its mission, Fairchild military construction priorities, construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center at FAFB, and for Fairchild to be the staging base the KC-X Tanker.

## **Community & Economic Development**

- Protect Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funding.

## **Environment & Energy**

- Continue to support Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup and advocate for \$15 million annually over next 30 years to expedite cleanup.
- Support funding for programs that help to improve the water quality of the Spokane River.
- Support the proposed Energy and Environment Block Grant Act of 2007 and the Energy Efficiency Promotion Act of 2007, which would include providing direct funds for locally determined priorities aimed at reducing energy use and increasing efficiency, helping local areas make further progress on climate protection.

## **Health Care, Human Services & Housing**

- Support the proposed National Affordable Housing Trust Fund, a dedicated source of funding to produce, rehabilitate and preserve 1.5 million units of housing for people with the lowest incomes. In 2007, the House of Representatives passed the National Affordable Housing Trust Act, which would provide \$1 billion over 10 years to be directed to local governments for these purposes. The City of Spokane urges final passage of the bill.
- Support City of Portland, Oregon's South Waterfront Veterans Housing pilot program that allows place-based vouchers through HUD VASH for affordable housing for veterans with desire to expand to Spokane in the future. Approximately 10% of Spokane's homeless are veterans.
- Support full funding of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, specifically funding for urban Indian health clinics.
- Support proposed Senate legislation that amends the Internal Revenue Code to encourage investment in affordable housing.
- Provide adequate funding of all HUD programs including Vouchers, Public Housing and Project-Based Section 8.
- Support dedicated public health funding aimed at specific public health gaps in basic local services.
- Support funding for mental health, mental health case management and substance abuse treatment.
- Support preservation of affordable housing funds, and adequate funding for all HUD programs necessary to meet the range of housing needs, including assistance to the homeless.
- Support funding for homeless service programs and improved policies focused on ending homelessness for families, individuals and youth.
- Support funding for 2-1-1 health and human services information and referral call system.
- Support Medicaid reform of the reimbursement system.
- Support funding to further develop and implement health care information technology, setting national standards to establish true continuity of care and efficient reporting systems.

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## Education & Arts

- Support the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) to fund the nation's workforce development system.
- Support funding for workforce development education and training.
- Support Community Colleges of Spokane's Magnuson Building Remodel \$470,000 funding request for allied health training and adult literacy.
- Support Washington State University's funding requests its Nursing School Library (\$3 million), Agricultural Research Station (\$45 million), Reliability and Security of the Electric Power Grid (\$1 million) and for the WSU Outreach and Research Center for the Study of Methamphetamine and Other Drugs of Abuse (\$300,000).
- Support School's Out Washington position of increased funding for after-school programs funded by the 21st Century Community Learning Center and the Child Care Development Block Grants, which addresses after school needs for school-age children with working families.
- Support fully funding the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum & Library Services and arts education in the Department of Education.



## Telecommunications

- The City will continue to advocate for local government authority in rights-of-way management, franchise fees, and public interest obligations across all telecommunications/information services/cable platforms, and a community's right to serve.

## Local Projects

The City continues to support investment in important civic and community capital projects, along with our community partners. The Fiscal Year 2009 projects are as follows:

Armed Forces & Aerospace Museum	\$ 2,000,000
Institute for Systems Medicine	\$ 5,000,000
Mobius	\$ 2,000,000
SIOA Equipment Approach/Lighting	\$ 3,500,000
YWCA/YMCA	\$ 1,000,000

## City of Spokane Elected Officials

**Mary B. Verner**  
*Mayor*

**Joe Shogan**  
*Council President*

**Michael Allen**

**Bob Apple**

**Steve Corker**

**Al French**

**Nancy McLaughlin**

**Richard Rush**

## For information on the City's federal priorities:

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February 2008