

# CITY MANAGER WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT ~ KENT MYERS

November 18, 2011

As a member of the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Legislative Committee, the City is taking an active role in both the upcoming special legislative session as well as the regular session next year. As the State faces a number of budget reductions in the special session that starts later this month, we have communicated to the Governor and the State Legislature about the attached primary budget principles. It is important to communicate these principles to our local delegation in order to preserve important state-shared revenues. Also, at the Legislative Committee meeting this week we prioritized major issues and concerns which will provide a primary focus during the next regular session. Also attached is a ranking of the Legislative Committee's priorities.

Following Tuesday's Council meeting, we received a number of comments about the work session discussion on plans for a 2012 bond election. Although most comments were very supportive, there were several suggestions on how to structure the bond election to make it more appealing to voters. I am compiling a listing of these comments for discussion at the City Council Retreat in January.

Over the past two months we had some very productive meetings with Clallam Transit staff in an effort to close out The Gateway project. This week we finalized the agreement to close out the project, which includes clearly defined responsibilities for current and future maintenance, and operation of the facility. The Clallam Transit Board will consider this agreement on Monday and the item will be on the next City Council meeting agenda for consideration.

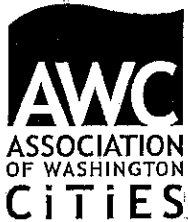
The 2012 Budget process has gone very well this year and there appears to be strong support for completing the Budgeting for Priorities process early next year. This process will be very important due to State budget reductions that might require us to reduce or eliminate certain programs in mid-year.

Based upon the comments at Tuesday's Council meeting, the only major issue that is remaining to be resolved is a final review of the 2012 Capital Projects budget. Several internal meetings and discussions are planned for the next two weeks to determine if some of the capital projects can be postponed and thereby eliminated from the 2012 Budget. While a number of projects have to be initiated in 2012 to meet federal and state mandates as well as bonding requirements, there may be some projects that can be delayed.

This week a local group met with representatives from Olympic National Park for a final planning meeting regarding the opening of Hurricane Ridge Road for the winter. We are attempting to promote the fact that the Road will be open throughout the winter season with the hope to increase those visitation numbers. A grand opening event will be next Saturday, November 26, at 10 a.m. Transportation will be provided by All Points Charter and Tours leaving from the Vern Burton Center at 9 a.m.

***Kent Myers***

City Manager



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## **AWC State Budget Principles**

AWC recognizes the difficult budget situation facing the state and understands the difficulty of prioritizing resources that are universally important. Cities face similar difficulties and have made cuts and prioritized services since 2008 and, in some cases, before then.

Unilateral elimination or significant reduction of state funding is not acceptable. When deciding where state budget cuts are made, cities ask that the following be considered:

- State revenues distributed to cities and towns are driven by decades of past decisions to deliver vital services to our citizens.
- Cities rely on these funds and without those past decisions, other local authorities would have been granted.
- If state support to cities is curtailed, the cuts in revenue should be in tandem with measures that provide cost relief to local jurisdictions - either through reduced mandates or responsibilities or expanded home rule authorities. There should be no cuts in revenue distributions without cost relief.
- Given state and local fiscal conditions, new mandates (legislative, agency rules, or permits) that add costs and responsibilities are unacceptable unless new and sufficient resources accompany such mandates.
- Cities in King and Snohomish counties already made annexation and service delivery decisions for our state's citizens based upon state support. Eliminating or reducing annexation support is breaking a commitment between our citizens, the state, and cities.
- Do not cut funds to programs that help maintain economic vitality across the state – in particular programs that create jobs, like the Public Works Trust Fund.
- Continue providing funding support to the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) – a critical, effective and decades-old source of information and ideas for cities and counties throughout the state.

## Kent Myers

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**Cc:** IGR Roster  
**Subject:** AWC Legislative Committee Meeting Voting Results

For those that could attend, thanks so much for participating in yesterday's meeting. As promised, the voting results are as below.

Regarding the new issues brought up at the meeting (municipal library districts, fire Hydrants -general fund v. utility, and clarifying GMA guidelines for cross-country annexation), we will be sending out more information on these in the next few days.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or [Dave Williams](#).

Subcommittee Recommendation	Issue	Votes
Major Priority	Ensure continued appropriation of committed state shared funds.	25
Major Priority	Local transportation funding	21
Major Priority	Preserve infrastructure funding	21
Major Priority	Pursue options for creating sustainable personnel related costs.	19

Major Priority	Enhance local revitalization financing authority	17
Major Priority	Resist transferring responsibilities from the state to cities.	16
Major Priority	Pursue pro-active public records proposals	15
Major Priority	2012 Stormwater permit requirements: New requirements in draft permits will be challenging and expensive to implement. Engage legislature to ensure that requirements will be technologically and financially feasible.	12
Major Priority	Medical Marijuana: Clarification, limits, local control, taxes, and federal reclassification.	11
Major Priority	Preserve existing local revenue authorities, including but not limited to the flexibility for cities to administer, collect and enforce the municipal business and occupation tax and business license in a manner that meets unique, local needs.	10
Major Priority	Reform of State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)	9
Major Priority	Stormwater funding to assist NPDES cities in meeting permit requirements	6
Other Significant Issue	Extend period by which you have to spend SEPA mitigation fees and Local Transportation Act impact fees	5
New Issue	Fire Hydrant issue – utility v. general fund (new issue)	4
Other Significant Issue	Commercial requests: Limit public records requests that are clearly for commercial purposes.	3
Other Significant Issue	Mitigating offender medical costs.	3
Major Priority	Additional tools for combating gang activity including funding for gang intervention and prevention activities.	2
Other significant issue	Preserve photo enforcement authority	1
New Issue	Clarify GMA Guidelines for cross-county annexation (new issue)	1
Other Significant Issue	Add flexibility on expenditure of impact fees	0
Other Significant Issue	Recording fees on utility liens: Engage in conversation regarding the impact of document recording fees on cities that utilize utility liens to promote payment of delinquent utility bills. Continue AWC support for the underlying fees (the fees support housing programs).	0
Other Significant Issue	Preserve local government's current ability to purchase health care insurance.	0

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