

City of Des Moines
2019 Intergovernmental Policies and Positions

A. State of Washington Intergovernmental Positions

1. The City supports investigations into whether or not Streamlined Sales Taxes are being properly collected and remitted to cities into which purchased items are delivered.
2. The City supports added state funding to meet local and regional transportation maintenance and capacity needs and supports providing cities and counties additional councilmanic revenue authority to fund local transportation needs.
3. The City supports restoring state-shared liquor revenues to 2011 levels.
4. The City supports legislative review of the Growth Management Act in an effort to restore local control.
5. The City supports legislation that treats City leases of DNR aquatic lands equal to Port leases and/or eliminates or reduces rental rates. The City opposes legislation that increases the City's current lease rate.
6. The City supports Association of Washington Cities' (AWC) position that the State of Washington should fund and clarify new city responsibilities from the recent changes to state laws regarding recreational marijuana and marijuana taxation.
7. The City supports restoration of and additional funding for the planning, acquisition, restoration and development of recreational and boating facilities and wildlife habitat.
8. The City opposes legislation which reduces the authority of cities to assume special purpose districts.
9. The City supports additional state funding for local criminal justice needs and training.
10. The City supports proposals that will help cities manage public records requests.
11. The City supports the restoration of historic levels of Public Works Trust Fund and Transportation Improvement Board funds and re-authorization of funding for the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) and the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT) program for local government infrastructure projects.
12. The City supports tort reform that reduces municipal liability and exposures.

13. The City opposes legislation that preempts local zoning control, including the following: siting of essential public facilities for mental health services, addiction services, and resources to respond to homelessness.
14. The City opposes personnel and labor relations legislation which diminishes its management rights or mandates additional unfunded programs and benefits. (This policy also applies at the federal level.) The City supports legislation providing civil immunity from reference checks.
15. The City supports legislation which would abolish the 1889-1890 right-of-way vacation by operation of law statutes.
16. The City supports legislation that requires either sponsors of essential public facilities or jurisdictions in which EPF's are located to fully mitigate environmental, social, and economic impacts of the EPF in neighboring impacted jurisdictions.
17. The City opposes legislation that would reduce municipal control over city streets and rights-of-way.
18. The City supports legislation to elect Port commissioners by district.
19. The City opposes mandatory requirements for affordable housing, housing growth, and residential density targets.
20. The City supports legislation clarifying the right of cities to exercise use and zoning powers with respect to gambling activities, including the power to adopt moratoria, interim zoning controls, and prohibit gambling activities.
21. The City supports legislation to increase the local share of municipal court fines and forfeits.
22. The City supports legislation to allocate any surplus LEOFF I pension funds to local government to assist in meeting LEOFF I medical and long term care obligations.
23. The City supports legislation establishing a state process for siting an additional major airport at a location at least 15 miles from SeaTac International Airport and other essential public facilities of a regional nature.
24. The City supports legislation returning to Des Moines at no cost and with no conditions any portions of the SR-509 right-of-way south of South 216th Street not used for traffic improvements.
25. The City supports legislation and legal appeals that overrule Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission decisions regarding city rights-of-way and Puget Sound Energy. Cities should not be required to purchase private easements for utilities and rules regarding utility relocates and undergrounding should be re-enacted.

26. The City supports retention of full local authority to operate municipal courts. Additionally, the City supports the position that cities may contract with another city to provide municipal court services and opposes legislation that would erode or eliminate this ability.
27. The City supports flexible use of Real Estate Excise Taxes.
28. The City opposes any legislation which directly or indirectly aids in the expansion of Sea-Tac International Airport or the lengthening of any of its runways. (This policy also applies at regional and federal levels.)
29. The City supports State tax policies that assist cities in meeting infrastructure needs for new development in airport noise impacted areas.
30. The City supports amendments to binding interest arbitration criteria that require arbitrators to have a minimum level of experience and training, particularly in public finances, and allows arbitrators to consider a city's ability to pay when making arbitration rulings.
31. The City opposes the State's proposal to streamline the collection of B&O taxes and issuance of business licenses unless the new processes are revenue neutral to cities.
32. The City supports legislation that creates a true tax increment financing mechanism to support economic development and infrastructure investment.
33. The City supports full state funding for Shoreline Management Plan updates.
34. The City supports continued implementation of court mandated K-12 funding reforms to provide adequate and equitable educational opportunities that prepare all students for college, career, and citizenship, support the unique demographic needs of Southwest King County and the state's long-term economic vitality, and do so without negatively impacting existing funding levels for higher education or health and human services programs.
35. The City supports legislation that allows all cities to impose a moorage fee and not incur any liability.

B. Federal Intergovernmental Positions

1. The City supports passage of the Maritime Goods Movement Act (S. 1509) to keep the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma competitive with west coast Canadian ports and east coast U.S ports by changing how the Harbor Maintenance Tax is assessed and what projects/activities it funds.
2. Airport – The City supports expansion of the noise mitigation program to provide insulation to all buildings within the noise contours that trigger such action for single-family homes. The City supports construction of a Ground Run-up Enclosure but only if the hours ground run-ups are allowed are not expanded. See Policy A.28.

3. Personnel – see Policy A.14.
4. The City supports continued Community Development Block Grant funding.
5. The City opposes legislation that nationalizes cable television and telecommunications franchising, reduces or eliminates cities’ ability to manage their rights-of-way, or reduces or eliminates cities’ ability to impose franchise fees and utility taxes.
6. The City supports increasing federal funding of emergency preparedness for local first responders.
7. The City supports declassifying marijuana as a schedule 1 drug, as defined by the Controlled Substances Act.

C. Metropolitan King County Intergovernmental Positions

1. The City supports continued King County funding of regional human service needs from current or future county revenues. The City should remain a provider of local human services.
2. Any King County budget or service reductions should treat residents of incorporated and unincorporated areas equally.
3. King County Metro should provide the following transit services to Des Moines residents.
 - a. Existing routes.
 - b. Metro should restore service lost to cutbacks since 2000.
 - c. Enhance and increase east-west connections for Des Moines residents to transit service provided on Pacific Highway South, and with proposed service by Sound Transit.
 - d. Provide service to the Woodmont and Redondo areas of Des Moines to include the future 272nd Street Sound Transit Station at I-5.
 - e. Provide Dial-a-Ride service to the citizens of Des Moines.
 - f. Continue to fund the Access Transit Program.
 - g. Continue to fund the Senior Services Des Moines/Normandy Park Shuttle.
 - h. Provide service from the Des Moines Creek Business Park to the Angle Lake Light Rail Station.
4. If the Legislature authorizes King County Metro to councilmanically enact a revenue stream to fund transit, then Metro should restore and enhance services in Des Moines
5. The City supports completion of the Lake to Sound Trail System in south King County.

6. The City will participate in the WRIA9 water quality improvement process. Any changes in or new sources of revenue from Des Moines residents to support projects should be subject to City Council review and authorization.
7. The City supports other suburban cities in their negotiations to have King County fund infrastructure improvements in unincorporated areas prior to annexation. New unincorporated developments should provide urban level improvements such as adequate right-of-way, curb, gutter, underground utilities, etc.
8. King County should respect previous agreements regarding regional governance.

D. Interjurisdictional and Regional Intergovernmental Positions

1. The City supports a phased approach to the extension of SR-509 and Legislative efforts ensuring the full funding and timely completion of the project. Phase I should guarantee completion of the route from I-5 to SR-509 and include the following features: the I-5 collector/distributor lanes, a grade-separated interchange at South 200th Street, the planned South Access with interchange to SeaTac International Airport and provisions for 24th/28th Avenues to continue uninterrupted beneath or over SR-509.
2. The City supports clear, transparent, planning efforts on the part of Sound Transit that create positive, cooperative relationships and result in all stakeholders having in depth knowledge of all potential Sound Transit plans, studies, and projects such that they can provide Sound Transit with timely and thoughtful input.
3. The City supports completion of the higher speed south access route from the SR-509 extension to the south end of the airport, to be funded by the Port of Seattle.
4. The City supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive regional and state Emergency Management, Response, and Communication System.
5. The City supports straightening the Kent-Des Moines boundary on Highway 99 south of Kent-Des Moines Road so that Highway 99 would be the dividing boundary between the two cities.
6. The City generally supports local, state, and regional efforts to proactively improve salmon habitat to avoid imposition of more restrictive and less flexible federal standards and efforts to continually improve and upgrade surface water capital facilities.
7. The City supports and encourages local water districts to engage in regional and local efforts to ensure adequate future water through conservation and development of new supplies.

8. The City supports retention of local control over its roads.
9. The City supports interlocal agreements with its neighboring cities to coordinate the collection of traffic impact fees and imposition of appropriate environmental mitigation for development projects near our respective boundaries.
10. The City supports continued coordination with utility and other special districts to plan for capital improvements within the City limits.
11. The City opposes any proposal extending Kent's cross-valley connector (South 228th Street) any further west than the south bound I-5/SR 509 proposed right-of-way.

General Policies

1. Any new law, regulation, or requirement from the county, state, or federal levels should be matched with ongoing secure sources of revenue sufficient to fund the mandate.
2. Decisions affecting Des Moines are best made at the local level. Therefore, county, state and federal legislation or mandates should not erode or curtail local authority.
3. The City opposes any federal, state or regional actions which reduce the fiscal capacity of the City to provide services to its citizens.

Adopted by the
Des Moines City Council
At an open public meeting
January 24, 2019