

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, WASHINGTON, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING INCLUDING THE ADOPTION OF A NEW TRANSPORTATION REVENUE PACKAGE.

WHEREAS, while Covington's population is approximately 20,000, the retail trade within the community serves a population of about 100,000. Visitors from surrounding areas travel to Covington to shop at retail outlets, to enjoy dining in the downtown core, and to take care of their medical and healthcare needs all in one location; and

WHEREAS, an accessible, complete, multimodal, and well-maintained transportation system is foundational to Covington's growing community, economy, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS the impacts of COVID-19 are still being felt throughout the community and the long-term economic impacts of the pandemic remain uncertain; and

WHEREAS, Washington State faced transportation funding gaps prior to the pandemic and those challenges have only been exacerbated in the wake of the pandemic, with disproportionate impacts on low-income communities and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, Washington State now projects a transportation budget shortfall of \$758 million for the next three years, and the state's transportation revenue streams—including gas tax, tolling, and fees for transit agencies and the ferry system—have eroded in response to the pandemic, but the needs of Washington State families and the economy cannot wait; and

WHEREAS, Washington has a significant backlog of deferred maintenance projects that threaten the reliability and safety of the state's transportation system. The Washington State Department of Transportation estimates that the cost to preserve the state transportation system in a state of good repair is \$8.1 billion over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive statewide infrastructure package will support job creation and recovery, put people to work, move people and goods more efficiently, ensure mobility for our essential workers and freight mobility, enhance mobility and multi-modal options, and improve the state's economy and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, every \$1 spent in new construction generates \$1.97 in economic activity, increases earning by 54 cents for all households, not just those employed in construction, supports nearly 11 additional jobs across the economy, and every \$1 invested in public transportation generates approximately \$4 in economic returns; and

WHEREAS, a delay in action will mean projects will be shelved, stifling the progress begun through the 2015 Connecting Washington package and resulting in less economic activity, more job losses, and a further deteriorating of the state's transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Legislature should take action to stimulate equitable economic recovery, not cause further harm; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the continuity and completion of the multimodal systems around the state is paramount for the state's essential workers, most vulnerable populations, and the post-pandemic workforce; and

WHEREAS, state investments in transit, bike and pedestrian service, freight mobility, and capital needs will be necessary to facilitate a strong economic recovery by creating jobs and assisting workers to return to their work sites; and

WHEREAS, the City of Covington has prioritized two critical transportation investments; and

WHEREAS, the first is the investment to fully fund the widening of State Route 18 from Issaquah/Hobart Road to Interstate 90, to address safety critical issues, increase mobility of goods from Eastern Washington to the Port of Tacoma and improve tourist access to Interstate 90, Snoqualmie Summit, and Eastern Washington; and

WHEREAS, the second investment is the widening of State Route 516 from 185th to 192nd, the east city limits (approximately 1.75 miles), which will spur economic and residential development in eastern Covington, address congestion, and significantly improve bike and pedestrian facilities into the downtown core;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Covington, King County, Washington, resolves as follows:

Section 1. To address the issues set forth in the recitals, support the full reopening of the state's economy, spur economic activity, and support local job creation, the City Council of the City of Covington urges the Washington State Legislature to work collaboratively to pass a comprehensive transportation funding package in 2021.

Section 2. Severability. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution, or its application to any person or situation, be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid for any reason, or should any portion of this ordinance be pre-empted by state or federal law or regulation, such decision or preemption shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution or its application to other persons or situation. The City Council of the City of Covington hereby declares that it would have adopted this resolution and each section, subsection, sentence, clauses, phrase, or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases, or portions be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

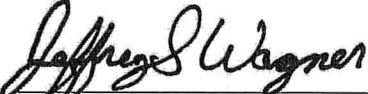
Section 3. Corrections. Upon the approval of the City Attorney, the City Clerk and the codifiers of this resolution are authorized to make any necessary corrections to this resolution including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerk errors, references, resolution numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any reference thereto.

Section 4. Ratification. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 5. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage by the City Council of the City of Covington.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Covington this 23rd day of March, 2021.

Signed in authentication of its passage this 23rd day of March, 2021.



Jeff Wagner, Mayor

AUTHENTICATED:



Joan Michaud, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ Mark Orthmann, as authorized by email on March 23, 2021
Mark Orthmann, City Attorney