

# NEWS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Transportation Funding to Benefit Lake Stevens Residents**

Lake Stevens, Wash. – Washington State legislators passed a comprehensive transportation package before the session ended on March 10, 2022. The City of Lake Stevens advocated for several projects included in the 16-year \$17 billion “Move Ahead Washington” package that residents and businesses will appreciate.

Improvements to the US 2 Trestle secured almost \$211 million. Funding will be used to increase capacity and replace sections of the westbound roadway. It also will include a focus on improving multimodal transportation, including bus rapid transit.

Lake Stevens also secured \$2.5 million for the 16<sup>th</sup> Street NE connection to Centennial Trail to form a loop with an existing path along Hartford Road. Trail use is an important recreational activity in Lake Stevens, and a significant economic driver in Washington State. Based on community input, Lake Stevens has included the importance of trails for walking and cycling in its Comprehensive Plan and recently-adopted Master Trail Plan. The proposed connection would provide a shared path for pedestrians and bikes with bike racks at both trail ends.

The South Lake Stevens Multi-Use Trail was granted \$3 million for its buildout. The extended trail will connect the southern part of Lake Stevens to other pathways around the lake, create school connections, provide safe walking routes, and add multi-modal options for cyclists and walkers. This allows the City to further a priority goal of being “One Community Around the Lake.”

Local funding options also were added for cities to make improvements to local streets and roads provided voters agree. One example is funding for a Transportation Benefit District with a small sales tax increase. State legislators increased the allowable amount from two-tenths to three-tenths of one percent which would be \$0.30 on a \$100 purchase.

The Lake Stevens City Council created a Transportation Benefit District in 2018. The City is planning to survey residents about priority projects they want by way of sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, and pavement overlays. The next step would be to ask voters to fund the TBD with a two-tenths of one percent sales tax increase (\$0.20 cents on \$100 purchase).

Sales tax funding is a fairer way to fund transportation projects because it also applies to visitors who come to Lake Stevens for shopping and recreation. Funding also will help the City qualify for grants by providing matching funds for larger projects. This proposal may be on the November 8, 2022 General Election ballot.

The Washington State Department of Transportation is improving the intersections of State Highways 9 and 204. WSDOT is planning three extended closures during construction this summer. Closing Highway 9 will impact traffic and cause delays. Detours will be provided; however, motorists are encouraged to find alternate routes or avoid SR9 altogether. Residents can receive updated information through WSDOT’s

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page on this project at <https://wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR9/SR204Improvements/default.htm>.

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*The City of Lake Stevens, Wash. (pop. 39,000) is located 36 miles north of Seattle in Snohomish County. The City shares the name of the lake it surrounds, and is nestled between the beautiful Cascade Range and Puget Sound. The City's vision is to be "one community around the lake" with a vibrant economy, modern infrastructure, and exceptional quality of life for residents and businesses alike. More information about Lake Stevens can be found at [www.lakestevenswa.gov](http://www.lakestevenswa.gov).*