**COVINGTON PRIORITIES**

**TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

**Highway 18**
The City of Covington joins the South East Area Legislative Transportation Coalition (SEAL TC) to request that $285 million be included in the next transportation package to widen Highway 18 from the Issaquah Hobart Road to Raging River. This stretch of Highway 18 experiences lane reductions causing increased congestion and safety concerns, including an increased likelihood of head-on collisions.

The current Transportation Budget appropriates $8.9 million in 2019-21 and $18 million in 2021-23 for a total of $25 million allocated to advance the project to “construction ready” status. However, construction remains unfunded. WSDOT estimates that construction will cost approximately $285 million.

**State Route 516**
State Route 516 bisects Covington’s downtown, and carries regional traffic from Maple Valley, Black Diamond, and Covington to Highway 18. As these communities have grown, this two-lane regional arterial has reached capacity. The Legislature previously recognized the need to widen this arterial and allocated $13.2 million in the 2015 Connecting Washington funding package to widen SR 516 between Jenkins Creek and 185th. However, the 1.7-mile section of the corridor from 185th to the east city limits at 212th remains unfunded. The City requests that $30.8 million be included in the next transportation revenue package to widen this regional state highway to a 5-lane urban arterial standard.

**Local Transportation Preservation & Maintenance Funding**
In addition to improving the state routes that run through the City of Covington, the City is responsible for maintaining the City’s network of roads that are the first and last mile for any trip a Covington resident makes. The Joint Transportation Committee recently completed a study indicating that there is over $1 billion in unmet local transportation needs. The City supports legislation that provides cities with the funding and tools to better meet these local needs.

**CAPITAL FUNDING: FRIENDSHIP PARK**
The City of Covington requests $250,000 to complete Friendship Park improvements to address outdated equipment, update amenities and improve infrastructure for the community that continues to grow and develop around this park.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
The City of Covington supports legislation providing more tools to cities to support economic development in downtown centers, such as the Covington Town Center. The City joins the Association of Washington Cities in advocating for increment financing tools.

*The City supports the efforts of the Association of Washington Cities and Sound Cities Association.*