



City of Burien 2024 Federal Agenda

1. Bring Federal Funding to the City of Burien for Capital Projects

- Support the \$5 million earmark for the Boulevard Park Stormwater Project.
- Develop a list of additional candidates for future earmark support.
- Explore the RAISE grant (up to \$5 million for planning and up to \$25 million for construction) for Burien's local infrastructure needs.
- Explore Infrastructure Programs funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIF) and the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Prepare for the next Transportation Authorization Bill – specific projects requests and policy changes.
- Connect City Emergency Services funding programs to Funding Opportunities.
- Highlight the work in Boulevard Park during the next Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).
- Review Grant Opportunities and Support City Applications.

2. Delegation Meetings

Build on the relationships already in place between the City of Burien and its Congressional Delegation, including meetings in Washington, D.C. between the city and its delegation as well as other federal agencies and offices. We will also meet locally with district-based congressional staff and elected officials.

3. Lobby for Policies of Importance to the Burien Community

- Lobby for Transportation and Infrastructure Policies that benefit Burien:
 - Support a Medium Sized City set aside for federal grant programs
 - Support the Boulevard Park Flood Reduction Project
 - Support the FAA Reauthorization Act with the following changes:
 - Reduce Airport Noise and Emissions
 - Conduct a new SEA-TAC Noise Study
 - Support Aviation Impacted Community priorities
 - Increased Sustainable Airport Master Plan Funding
- Lobby for Environmental and Climate Policies that Impact the Burien community:
 - Support a National Climate Action Plan
 - Culvert Replacement Program Funding
 - Army Corps of Engineers Section 206 Funding
 - Tax Credits for Stormwater Retrofits and New Development
- Lobby for Public Safety Policies that Impact the Burien community:
 - Federal Gang Prevention Funding
 - Funding for a Co-Response Model
 - Gun Violence Research Funding
 - National Police Reform

- Lobby for Housing and Homelessness Policies that Impact the Burien community:
 - Support for South County Housing and Homelessness Partners
 - Support CDBG, HOME, McKinney Vento, Section 8 Vouchers and VASH funding
- Lobby for Community, Economic and Tax Policies that Impact the Burien community:
 - Support for continuing Congressional Earmarking Authority
 - Support the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program
 - Continued Coronavirus Relief
 - Support Immigration policies that ensure families stay together and protect refugees
 - Support remitters and legislation that provides services for cannabis businesses
 - Support Opportunity Zones
 - Support Marijuana Reform policies to expunge records and create a regulatory framework for taxes

**City of Burien Proposed 2024 Federal Agenda
Detailed Version**

EXHIBIT A

TO: Adolfo Bailon, City Manager, Burien
FR: Jake Johnston, Johnston Group
Date: November 28, 2023
RE: Federal Agenda for 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to present a draft 2024 federal legislative agenda for the City's review and feedback. This memo details the proposed agenda below with relevant background.

This agenda builds on the City's established 2023 agenda and suggests a prioritized approach for our work in 2024 with the primary goal of bringing federal funding to support the City's identified priorities. As always, we can pivot to take advantage of any opportunities that come our direction without losing support for the priorities listed below. That said, we expect the federal opportunities to be limited in 2024 given the congressional election year and the split control of the House and Senate.

Congress and the Biden Administration have provided numerous funding opportunities for Burien. After making funding available for cities through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Congress has restored its earmarking authority for its appropriations and authorization bills with strict parameters around the types of projects eligible for support. Finally, Congress and the Biden Administration enacted a bipartisan infrastructure bill and an inflation reduction act that are making historic investments into transportation and infrastructure programs.

This creates a wholly unique opportunity to bring federal funds to city priorities across several policy and project areas.

Our approach will be focused on reviewing the City's Capital Improvement Plan and identified infrastructure priorities and seeing where federal funding opportunities exist. More, we will be selecting a prioritized number of projects that will actively seek federal support via lobbying for directed federal funding through congressional appropriations bills and securing delegation support for federal grants.

Our 2024 federal agenda goals are:

1. Bring Federal Funding to the City of Burien for Capital Projects through federal appropriations and federal grant programs.
2. Connect the City leadership with the congressional delegation both in Washington, D.C. and in the City of Burien to build strong partnerships in support of the City's goals.
3. Lobby for policy changes and legislation that would positively benefit the City of Burien.

WASHINGTON'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

With a variety of leadership roles, seniority in both the House and Senate and bipartisan strength in the House, our delegation is extremely well-positioned to be a partner to the City of Burien across any number of funding and policy areas.

Our delegation is well positioned on every committee of jurisdiction over transportation and infrastructure in both the House and Senate and has a powerful three members on the Appropriations Committee, including the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. In addition, the Washington State delegation has a former member of House Republican leadership as well as the Caucus Chairs of the progressives, the conservatives and the moderates in the House Democratic Caucus.

With a variety of leadership roles, seniority in both the House and Senate and bipartisan strength in the House, our delegation is extremely well-positioned to bring funding to Burien or solve other problems that arise. The Washington State delegation is poised to be one of the strongest in the country – and this strength can be levied to assist the City with its needs and goals.

- **Senator Patty Murray (WA)**
 - President Pro Tem of the Senate, 3rd in line for the Presidency.
 - Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.
 - Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.
 - Former Chair of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee with jurisdiction over transportation spending.
- **Senator Maria Cantwell (WA)**
 - Chair of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee in the Senate.
 - Third most senior Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee.
- **Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (WA)**
 - Chair of the House Progressive Caucus with 103 members (2023).
 - Member of the House judiciary Committee and the House Education and Labor Committee.
- **Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (WA)**
 - Chair of the New Democratic Coalition in the House (the coalition of moderate Democrats) with 97 members (2023).
 - Chair of the political arm of the House Democratic Caucus.
- **Congressman Rick Larsen (WA)**
 - Ranking Member of the Transportation Committee.
 - Former Member of the House Armed Services Committee with jurisdiction over defense policy, including military installations.
- **Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA)**
 - Former Member of the House Republican Leadership.
 - Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee with jurisdiction over health policy, telecommunications, energy and environment and climate change.
- **Congressman Dan Newhouse (WA)**
 - Co-Chair of the House Rural Caucus.
 - Member of the House Appropriations Committee.
- **Congressman Adam Smith (WA)**
 - Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee.
- **Congressman Derek Kilmer (WA)**
 - Member of the House Appropriations Committee.
 - Member of the House Ways and Means Committee with jurisdiction over tax policy and entitlement health programs like Medicare and Medicaid.
- **Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland (WA)**
 - Member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

- **Congresswoman Kim Schrier, MD (WA)**
 - Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.
- **Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez (WA)**
 - Co-Chair of the House Blue Dog Caucus (Conservative Democrat Caucus).

**City of Burien
Proposed 2024 Federal Agenda**

1. Bring Federal Funding to the City of Burien for Capital Projects

There are multiple funding opportunities for Burien on the short- and long-term basis. A sustained effort is strongly recommended to be successful in these approaches. The Johnston Group and the City of Burien are in the process of reviewing the City's Capital Improvement Plan and ascertaining which projects are eligible for federal funding support and which projects will be the top funding priorities for our work in 2024.

A. **Earmarks.** Also known as congressionally directed spending or community project funding, these specific funding opportunities have returned to Congress and are available for Burien to pursue. Earmarks have strict project criteria attached to them:

- Available only to public agencies and certain eligible nonprofits;
- Requires a non-federal match of at least 25-50% depending on the type of project and the corresponding federal account, and;
- Must be one-time costs and not operational funding.

The City of Burien has successfully navigated this funding opportunity already. The City has \$5 million for the Boulevard Park Stormwater Project in the pending appropriations bills. Burien has also supported the following two requests from other Burien area entities:

- South King Housing and Homelessness Partnership - \$5 million.
- Highline United Methodist Church – funds to convert the church into an unhoused persons facility with services - \$5 million.

Our work in 2024 will be to resubmit the Stormwater request should the process in 2023 not provide funding for the City. If the project successfully obtains funding in 2023, we will pursue funding for additional City priorities. The City is currently reviewing potential candidates for earmark funding, including the Public Works Maintenance Facility.

A successful earmark strategy involves building strong community support for our project and meeting the strict eligibility criteria in place for the opportunity. The formal applications will be due to Congress towards the end of Q1 2024. The Johnston Group will work in collaboration with Burien on the development of materials, identification of potential projects for support and will handle all of the submittal requirements. Additionally, we'll need to build community support for the request and brief the delegation before the projects are submitted.

The range of earmarks is between \$750,000 and \$5 million with the most competitive projects falling in the \$2.5-3 million range with a 25% match requirement and

transportation, infrastructure and energy projects falling in the upper half of the range with a 50% non-federal match requirement.

- B. Infrastructure Programs funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIF) and the Inflation Reduction Act.** Congress and President Biden enacted the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill in December 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act in August 2022. These two bills provide dozens of grant and program funding opportunities for the City of Burien. The Johnston Group and the City of Burien will evaluate these programs to determine if they are viable funding sources for the City's needs and priorities. There are substantial concerns that national grant programs disadvantage medium sized cities without a specific set aside so that cities of similar size compete on equal ground.

Several proposals in both House and Senate bills have new programs identified for competitive grant funding (see below for a selected list). Influencing how these programs are implemented by the agencies and ensuring they are set up in ways that make Burien's projects accessible and competitive will be a top priority. Each of these new programs has gone through at least one full funding cycle so far so we will have experience with the specific criteria to evaluate good fits for Burien as well as to make recommendations for program modifications to congress. Some of the recent grant programs include:

- Climate Pollution Reduction Grants
 - Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants
 - Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program
 - Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption
 - Safe Streets and Roads for All Program
 - Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program
 - Culvert Removal, Replacement and Restoration Program
 - Broadband Development and Deployment
 - Clean Heavy Duty Vehicles
 - Charging and Fueling Infrastructure
 - Bridge Investment Program
 - Carbon Reduction Program
 - Local and Regional Project Assistance Grants
- C. Preparing for the next Transportation Authorization Bill.** Following the above section, the next reauthorization of the Transportation bill is three years away. Starting the process now to identify policy changes necessary for the City to compete for funding and preparing any earmark requests for the next bill will be a long-term part of this scope of work. Starting to prep the delegation now for a large funding request in the next transportation bill is a key strategic objective of this engagement. Especially with one of Washington State's Members of Congress, Rick Larsen, being the top Democrat on the House Transportation Committee.
- D. Emergency Services.** Cities are a key part of regional disaster mitigation preparedness. The State of Washington gets annual funding from the Department of Homeland Security to cover costs identified in County-adopted Emergency Management Plans. Burien should review the County's workplan to see what is listed and what could be added.

Examples of projects that have received federal funding via this strategy include backup emergency generators, municipally operated emergency operations centers, emergency communication systems and community shelters, etc. The Johnston Group will coordinate with the city's liaison to the regional Emergency Services planning group and help identify projects for funding.

- E. **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).** The Army Corps of Engineers has a relatively new authority from Congress to partner with local governments on projects that fall within the Corps' authorities but are too small for the Corps to act as a project lead. The City of Burien is currently working within this authority for its Boulevard Park Stormwater Project. The City should look for additional opportunities within the WRDA authorization and support continued opportunities for the Army Corps of Engineers to partner with the City.
- F. **Grant Support.** Once we analyze the projects and goals of the City of Burien, we expect to have a number of potential grant programs for the City to consider. If the City elects to pursue grant programs given its internal capacity (across any and all subject areas at the federal level), the Johnston Group will work with the city to ensure that the application meets the political and policy goals of the program, assist with the drafting of the narrative components of the application, develop materials for community outreach and support and seek congressional support for any submitted grant.

Specifically, the City intends to explore the RAISE grant program in 2024 now that it is a viable funding option given the change in funding criteria for cities below 200,000 in population size. The City will also explore federal grants to address law enforcement staffing shortages.

For each of these funding opportunities, the Johnston Group will manage the workflow, coordinate with the Burien team, build support for specific requests and projects and lobby for funding.

2. Delegation Meetings to Support Burien Agenda

A key part of our engagement moving forward will be to build on the relationships already in place between the City of Burien and its Congressional Delegation. This may include meetings in Washington, D.C. between the city and its delegation as well as other federal agencies and offices. We will also meet locally with district-based congressional staff and elected officials. It is possible that some of these meetings take place via videoconference as well as in person.

The Johnston Group will manage these meetings, set up the schedule, work with the city to develop background materials for the meetings, prepare briefing documents for the city in advance of the meetings and handle any follow up. We will also prep city officials for the meetings and develop backgrounders and talking points as needed.

These delegation relationships will be key to the success of many of our strategies this year and in the years ahead.

3. Policy Areas for Burien to Lobby

We will refine and develop this section in more detail as we continue to work together but below are detailed some of the elements we would anticipate be part of the city's federal lobbying agenda based on the City's 2023 adopted federal agenda.

A. Transportation and Infrastructure

1. Support a Medium Sized City Set Aside

Most federal infrastructure spending has a rural set aside which is critical for smaller communities to be able to access federal dollars. There is no comparable medium sized city set aside. Instead, medium sized cities compete against large cities like Seattle, Portland and Los Angeles for limited resources. Medium sized cities need a defined pool to compete within so as to make federal funds available in a way that simply aren't in their current status.

The RAISE program is the key federal funding program for local infrastructure investments. Yet, nearly all cities compete within the same funding pool, putting smaller and medium sized cities at a competitive disadvantage for funding even as the challenges are similar to those of larger communities. There are efforts in Congress to create funding tiers so that cities of similar size can compete for federal funds. The City has supported efforts to designate a portion of federal transportation spending for cities between 10,000 and 75,000 in population size. In 2020, due to work led by Washington Cities and supported by our congressional delegation, the RAISE grant criteria was changed so that half of all funding in the program went to cities below 200,000 in population size. While we appreciate and support this action, it puts all but three cities in Washington State in the same competitive pool and is not a true medium sized city set aside.

The issue applies beyond the RAISE program. With dozens of new and augmented federal grant programs for cities funded in the Infrastructure and Climate bills, ensuring these funds are accessible to medium sized cities is a top priority.

The City will lobby for a portion of federal infrastructure dollars be set aside for medium sized cities between 10,000 and 75,000 in population size. This policy position is consistent with the work that other Washington State cities have been doing for years and is supported broadly by similar sized cities throughout the state. As for proof as to why this set aside is needed, since the RAISE program, formerly known as the BUILD or TIGER, was created in 2009 through 2021, not a single award was made to a city in Washington State between 10,000 and 75,000 in population size.

After the RAISE program criteria was changed in 2021 so that half of all awards had to go to communities below 200,000 in population size, there was an immediate impact in Washington State. In 2022, two awards went to medium sized cities (Lynnwood and Bothell) and in 2023, the City of Shoreline was awarded \$20 million through the RAISE program.

In 2024, the City will continue to partner with other Northwest cities to increase the set asides in additional transportation programs and climate infrastructure funding opportunities so that Burien has competitive access moving forward.

2. Sound Transit Light Rail

The City of Burien will continue to support expediting the already funded Sound Transit study for light rail extension to Burien.

3. Burien Public Works Projects

Burien will explore funding for a Public Works Maintenance Facility if a partnership with another local/regional agency materializes.

4. SR 518 and Des Moines Memorial Drive

Burien will explore funding for a SR 518 Westbound On-Ramp to Des Moines Memorial Drive.

5. Boulevard Park Flood Reduction Project

In April, Rep. Jayapal announced she would be supporting an appropriation request from Burien of \$5M for the Boulevard Park Flood Reduction Project that was authorized but not appropriated by last year's WRDA bill last year. This funding must survive the federal budget process.

The City of Burien will continue to support the FY'24 appropriation for the Boulevard Park Flood Reduction project and potentially resubmit in FY'25 if unsuccessful in the current appropriations cycle.

B. Aviation and Airport Community Concerns

1. Reduce Airport Noise and Emissions

The City of Burien will continue to work with its congressional delegation, neighboring communities, the FAA, the Port of Seattle, Burien's Airport Committee, and the StART Committee to reduce SeaTac Airport noise and emissions by the following actions:

a. Support the passage of the FAA Reauthorization Act with the following emphasis:

i. Aircraft Noise Mitigation

- Noise Metric Change: Burien supports a new noise metric(s) for use in noise impact analysis. The standard Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) of 65 dB (decibels) implemented in the late 1970's, continues to be inadequate to evaluate noise levels in airport-adjacent neighborhoods.
- Insulation Packages Changes: FAA policies restrict airports from using federal funds to upgrade or repair noise insulation in homes that received insulation packages pre-1993. Burien supports authorizing the FAA to allow airports to use federal funds to reinsulate homes whose noise insulation has failed. Rep. Adam Smith's bill, H.R. 4161, Noise Mitigation Repair & Replacement Program Act, would accomplish this goal.

- Authorize Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Collect Further Data: Burien supports allowing the EPA, whose core mission is protecting human health and the environment, to collect data and fund initiatives to mitigate airport noise and emissions. Rep. Adam Smith’s bill, H.R. 6050, the “Aviation Noise and Emissions Mitigation Act,” would accomplish this change.
- ASCENT Health Study: The Aviation Sustainability Center commenced a three-year study in December 2019, to determine the health impacts of aircraft noise on airport neighborhood residents. If this study, “Cardiovascular Disease and Aircraft Noise Exposure,” concludes before the FAA bill is enacted, Congress should consider including some of the study’s recommendations, if pertinent.

ii. Aircraft Emissions Mitigation

- Sustainable Aircraft Fuel (SAF): Burien supports including a SAF Blender's Tax Credit and a SAF infrastructure grant program. The former would help create price parity between SAF and traditional Jet fuels, while the latter would help ensure the necessary construction investments to refine, blend and transport the fuels. SeaTac could benefit from such funding by investing in additional fuel storage facilities or last mile pipeline infrastructure.
- Ultrafine Particles Federal Research: Burien supports federal research on ultrafine particles. The UW has completed an initial ultrafine particles study, but there is no federal research to date. Rep. Adam Smith’s bill, H.R. 4068, “Protecting Airport Communities from Particle Emissions Act,” would bring more federal attention and engagement on the sources, characteristics, dispersion, and health effects of ultrafine particles. Among its considerations, the study will provide recommendations on measures to reduce aviation-related emissions.

b. Additional Airport & Aviation Initiatives

i. New Airport Capacity

The Washington State Legislature created the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission to study and recommend additional major airport capacity, other than an expansion of SeaTac airport, in the Puget Sound region.

Burien supports federal funding for new or expanded airport capacity in high demand regions and dedicate resources to agency and local government collaboration on siting additional capacity.

ii. New Aircraft Noise Study at SEA-TAC

Burien supports the Port of Seattle completing another Part 150 aircraft noise study. A part 150 Noise Compatibility Study is a voluntary process initiated by an airport to develop, evaluate, and recommend actions that the airport, local municipalities,

airlines, and/or the FAA could take to help reduce the level of aircraft noise in communities surrounding an airport. Burien has consistently supported this.

The current draft FAA bill directs the Administrator to review and revise part 150 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to reflect all relevant laws and regulations, including part 161 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations. In clarifying existing and future noise policies and standards, the Administrator is required to seek feedback from airports, airport users, and individuals living in the vicinity of airports. This section also directs the Administrator to brief the appropriate Committees of Congress every six months on the review conducted under this section. The briefing requirement sunsets on September 30, 2028.

The City of Burien supports the provision in the House FAA bill (Section 485) that requires the FAA to conduct a National Academies study on the efficacy and disadvantages of the DayNight Average Sound Level (DNL) noise metric compared to alternatives, including for assessing the impacts of nighttime noise, and any changes that should be made to it. Burien further supports a revised study that addresses airframe design, engine technology, operational improvements, and alternative fuels, and a study regarding impacts of aviation noise on community annoyance, sleep, health, and children's learning.

iii. Aviation Impacted Communities

The City of Burien will continue to support H.R. 7853, sponsored by Rep. Adam Smith, known as the "Aviation Impacted Communities Act" that creates Aviation Impacted Community Boards to help citizens to better and more productively engage with the FAA.

The City of Burien supports the provision in the House FAA bill (Section 483) that requires the FAA to form an Airport Community of Interest Task Force to provide recommendations on multiple aspects of FAA community engagement with airport communities, including with regard to Federal noise abatement efforts, air traffic pattern changes, the Federal noise complaint process, development projects around airports, and improving information sharing. It also directs the FAA to convene annual engagement events in each of its regions, in conjunction with its Regional Community Engagement Officers, to focus on topics of regional interest.

The City of Burien also supports the provision in the House FAA bill (Sec. 484) that would require the FAA to establish a Community Collaboration Program to harmonize policies and procedures across the Agency relating to community engagement, including establishing the Airport Community of Interest Task Force as detailed in Sec. 483, hosting regional engagement events as specific in Sec. 483, coordinating with the Air Traffic Organization on engagement efforts related to air traffic procedure changes, oversight of Regional Ombudsmen, increasing the responsiveness of the FAA's noise compliant process, and implementing GAO recommendations related to improving outreach on noise.

iv. Airport Net Zero Emissions

Burien supports revisions to the FAA's United States Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Plan in support of achieving net-zero emissions, economy-wide by 2050.

v. Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) Mitigation Funding

The City of Burien will continue to work with the federal delegation, the Port of Seattle, and neighboring cities to identify traffic, environmental, and other appropriate mitigation funding for Burien due to SAMP impacts.

C. Environment and Climate

1. Climate Action

Burien applauds Congress and the Administration for the climate impacts from the August 2022 federal Inflation Reduction Act. However, Burien still urges the federal government to pass a national climate action plan in order to meet the risk from climate change. Burien passed its own climate action plan in November 2021 with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Burien 50% by 2030, and to be carbon neutral by 2050. Additionally, Burien supports the following federal policies:

- Burien opposes efforts to weaken the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Burien supports appropriate federal forest management in Washington's and other western federal forests, to minimize large forest fires and the accompanying poor air quality that has affected our region in recent summers.
- Burien supports strengthening aviation greenhouse gas emissions legislation.

2. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The City of Burien supports the following budget provisions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

a. Create a City Liaison for the Corps.

Burien supports the Corps' federal budget request for a city liaison and increased staffing necessary to review, assist, and process city permits expeditiously.

b. Section 206 Funding

The City is working with the Army Corps of Engineers on its Boulevard Park Stormwater Project and the Corps is using funds from its Section 206 Habitat Conservation program authority. Section 206 funding for the Corps has been able to meet between a third and half of the grants that have been submitted to it and increasing the overall budget for this account allows the Corps to further partner on additional projects that fall within this authority.

The City supports increasing funding for the Corps' Section 206 Authority so that the City has access to increased resources.

3. Culvert Replacement Program

Senator Cantwell and Congressman Kilmer led an effort to create a new Culvert Removal, Replacement and Restoration Grant program in the infrastructure bill enacted in December of 2021. This new program is authorized for \$1 billion over 5 years and creates a new grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation to enable the recovery of salmon passage and habitats. This is the first competitive grant program for culvert replacements that is available to cities. Burien supports ongoing funding for this program.

4. Tax Credits for Stormwater Retrofits and New Development

Congressman Derek Kilmer is working on a legislative proposal that would create a tax credit program for stormwater retrofits and new development. If enacted, this program would provide a 50% tax credit for individuals and developers that incorporate stormwater projects such as rain gardens, bioswales and similar projects. The City supports this proposal moving forward.

D. Public Safety

1. Federal Gang Prevention and At-Risk Youth Funding

The City of Burien will seek federal funding to further develop At-Risk Youth programs in Burien and south King County. Congresswoman Jayapal was successful in securing \$300,000 for a Burien At-Risk Youth program in the FY 2022 federal budget, but more is urgently needed.

2. Funding for Co-Response Model

There has been a push nationally to implement co-response models to better address mental health, substance use, homelessness and/or high utilizers of the 911 system that are low acuity calls. Burien is implementing two Community Response Teams (CRTs), one with a Mental Health Professional (MHP) and firefighter/EMT, and one with an MHP/Police Detective. The EMS levy pays for the firefighter/EMT, and Burien is currently paying for the MHP out of ARPA funds, so they are only funded for a few years. Burien's goal is to continue to develop a crisis continuum of care that results in the reduction of harm, arrests, and use of jails and emergency departments and that promotes the development of, and access to quality services.

Burien will seek federal funding for a Co-Response Team to assist residents seeking 9-1-1 emergency medical services. The Mental Health Justice Act of 2022, H.R. 8542, passed by the House, establishes a grant program for this co-response model.

3. Gun Violence

The City of Burien supports continued federally funded studies treating gun violence as a public health issue.

For the first time in many years, the federal government funded \$25 million in studies on gun violence as a public health issue in the FY 2022 federal budget. Burien supports increased federal funding to study gun violence.

Additionally, the City supports the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office Crime Strategies Unit's (CSU) efforts to address gun violence through a public health approach by collecting and sharing illegal gun shooting data from throughout King County. Research has consistently shown that firearm violence is intensely concentrated within small, identifiable social networks. Firearms violence spreads within these networks, meaning that the closer a person is to a victim of firearm violence, the more likely they are to be a victim of firearm violence themselves. Along with law enforcement partners, CSU is using data to understand the networks of firearm violence in King County and to identify those individuals who are most at risk of victimization.

The Crime Strategies Unit was initially funded by a federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, an office within the U.S. Department of Justice. Burien supports continued federal funding of this Unit as needed.

4. Police Reform

The State of Washington passed a police reform bill in 2021 (HB 1054) that banned neck restraints and chokeholds and prevents officers from seeking a "no-knock" warrant. Burien continues to support a federal comprehensive police reform bill that should include similar provisions as well as a federal system to report police misconduct.

E. Housing and Homelessness

1. Support for the South County Housing and Homelessness Partners (SKHHP)

SKHHP is a coalition formed by an interlocal agreement among the jurisdictions of Auburn, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Maple Valley, Normandy Park, Renton, Tukwila, and King County. The agreement allows South King County jurisdictions to work together and share resources in order to effectively address affordable housing and homelessness. To date, SHHHP receives limited funding from the state.

Burien will seek competitive grant funding or other federal funding for SKHHP in coordination with its partners.

2. Support increased Federal Funding for Housing and Homelessness Programs

- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG): The King County Consortium (of cities) uses CDBG for housing stability/homelessness prevention, affordable housing development and many other human services.
- HOME Program: HOME funds provide funding for affordable housing. Each HOME dollar invested leverages an additional five dollars for housing.

- McKinney-Vento: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants help provide shelter and services to homeless families and individuals.
- Section 8 Vouchers: Section 8 Tenant-Based and Project-Based Housing Choice Vouchers.
- VA Supportive Housing Vouchers (VASH): The VASH program has been a vital source of homelessness services for low-income veterans in King County.

F. Community Policies, Economic Development and Tax Policy

1. Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program

The City of Burien supports amendments to the LIHTC by supporting the Bipartisan Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (H.R. 2573/S.1136) sponsored by Senator Cantwell in the Senate (S.1136) with 34 cosponsors. S.1136 increases the annual housing credit allocation authority by 50%, phased in over five years. LIHTC is the largest national housing program in the U.S. These amendments will extend the credit so that the program better serves the lowest incomes including those at risk of homelessness.

2. Continued Federal Coronavirus Relief

The City of Burien continues to suffer the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Burien greatly appreciates the federal government's efforts in passing several COVID relief bills including the CARES Act (March 2020), the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 (December 2020, stimulus checks), the American Rescue Plan (March 2021) and the Inflation Reduction Act (August 2022).

However, issues like rental housing evictions, utility assistance, food insecurity, and business failures, remain. Burien supports a follow-on relief bill that focuses on these specific issues.

3. Immigration

Burien supports comprehensive immigration reform with an emphasis on ensuring that families stay together and protecting refugees. This will enhance community and economic stability for Burien's residents and citizens.

4. Municipal Broadband

The City of Burien supports funding and federal policies that would help municipalities develop public broadband networks.

5. Financial Services

a. Supporting Burien Remitters

Burien supports language in a financial services package supporting “remitters” – businesses that transfer funds to so-called “high risk” countries – to hold and maintain bank accounts in Washington.

b. Support banking services for cannabis-related businesses

The City of Burien supports passage of federal legislation that would provide banking services to the cannabis industry.

In April 2022, the House passed the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act (SAFE Banking Act), H.R. 1996 with 321 votes. The Senate has passed S. 2860, the SAFER Banking Act out of Committee.

While recreational marijuana was legalized in Washington in 2012, and 37 states have legalized cannabis for recreational or medical use, federal drug and financial laws penalize and discourage depository institutions from offering banking services to these state-legal retail cannabis businesses.

The cash-only retail cannabis business model has made these businesses vulnerable to robbery and violence, endangering the safety and welfare of workers, customers, and business owners.

The SAFE Banking Act will address this growing public safety crisis, allowing the cannabis industry access to the mainstream financial system, improving the safety and security of cannabis businesses, workers, customers, and the communities they reside in.

6. Opportunity Zones Extension

The City of Burien is seeing significant interest from investors in our Opportunity Zones. A new \$82M mixed-use redevelopment that has recently started construction was made possible by participation in the Opportunity Zone program, and interest from job creators and housing developers in our local zones has been accelerating in the past 12 months.

Burien supports and would benefit from an extension of the Opportunity Zone program beyond the present end date of December 31, 2026. Currently, funds had to be invested by December 31, 2019 in order to be held for the seven (7) year period required to receive the maximum capital gains tax benefits before the program ends. Burien has two opportunity zones, which would benefit from an extension of the program to encourage development in these zones and help drive additional jobs and housing in the community.

7. Municipal Tax Policies

Congress has adjusted various tax policies that have a direct impact on the City of Burien, including the New Markets Tax Credit, the Affordable Housing Tax Credit and the State and Local Sales Tax Deduction. These policies, in addition to policies that would negatively value municipal bonding authority, remain under debate in Congress and the City will advocate for strong municipal authority and tax credits that facilitate economic development and meet our region’s critical housing needs.

8. Support Continuing Congressional Earmarking Authority

Since Congress restored earmarking in 2021, communities and non-profit organizations have seen renewed partnerships with the federal government to fund critical community initiatives. Burien has benefitted with \$5 million for its Boulevard Park Stormwater project currently in the pending appropriations bills. With so many changes in House leadership in 2023, there is concern that earmarking may not continue in 2024. Keeping this critical federal funding tool in place is a priority for the City of Burien.

9. Marijuana Laws

Reform marijuana laws at the federal level so that local marijuana businesses in Burien can operate legally. A number of Congressional bills address Burien's concerns:

a. Support the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act

Burien supports legislation that would decriminalize marijuana and expunge records for persons convicted of marijuana related crimes.

b. Support the Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act

The City of Burien supports passage of S.4591, the Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act. This legislation would:

- De-schedule cannabis by removing it from the Controlled Substances Act.
- Allow states to craft their own cannabis policies, just as states do with alcohol.
- Expunge federal records of arrests and convictions for non-violent cannabis offenses and allow for resentencing.
- Create a regulatory framework and federal tax structure for cannabis.