



2023 PRIORITIES

In the interest of addressing critical local issues, we support the legislative efforts outlined below.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Modernizing and maintaining our aging water delivery system and streets is an increasing burden on our limited city budget. At the same time, the viability of our rural community also depends on strong **community** infrastructure: childcare, public transit, and multi-modal transit. We believe a focus on the below areas is key:

PRIORITIES

- White Salmon commends the Legislature for the passage of the **Move Ahead Washington (MAW)** package. As the Legislature begins implementation of MAW and considers future investments, the City requests that the funding provided for the **Hood River-White Salmon Bridge** be pushed forward as early as possible.

Why this bridge matters:



- Fully fund the **Public Works Assistance Account**, and expand state funding opportunities to assist with the **maintenance and operations of local infrastructure**.
- Strong infrastructure enables community growth and economic development. **Affordable access to quality childcare** is just as critical as functioning roads and water systems. We encourage increased income thresholds under the Working Connections Child Care plan, as well as new policy initiatives and **funding to support childcare providers and working families**.

White Salmon also supports the legislative priorities of the Association of Washington Cities.

OVERVIEW

A small community in a non-GMA county, White Salmon is not immune to the burdens felt by our urban neighbors, yet often struggles to access the same funding opportunities. Affordable housing, aging infrastructure, and funding for key local projects are necessary to ensure long-term resilience.

HOUSING

Our 2020 Urbanization Study showed that housing demand within western Klickitat County is expected to account for nearly 60% of the county's total demand for housing. A lack of buildable land and limited or no water/sewer infrastructure capacity in most of western Klickitat means White Salmon is confronting strong market interest & development pressure. We need diverse housing that includes affordable rental and ownership opportunities to ensure the long-term viability of our community, schools, and businesses.

- Provide additional **funding for subsidized housing** with relaxed grant requirements, and no GMA limitations.
- Provide additional funding for the **Connecting Housing to Infrastructure Program**.

WSVPMPD POOL

The City continues to partner with the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District to realize construction of a new community pool. We support their **capital funding request** to ensure our residents (of which 38% are asset limited and income constrained) have access to learning a critical life-skill.



2022 IN REVIEW

Despite significant resources and time spent on rebuilding the administration's leadership and approach to providing services, the city still realized many key goals and objectives to move us closer to the 2040 vision outlined in our comprehensive plan - especially in the areas of infrastructure and housing.

WATER SYSTEM

The city successfully pursued two major loans from the state Public Works Board to implement needed water system improvements in 2023; these projects will support needed development and address system deficiencies. These projects account for a portion of the known \$21.9M in modernization efforts needed in the next 5 years.

Phase I
\$1.85M*
Mainline
Project

N. Main St.
\$1.9M
Pressure
Zone

*Project has an additional \$3.3M in USDA RD funding.



20-yr Outlook

In addition to near-term modernization projects estimated to cost nearly \$22M, an additional \$22.8M has been identified in projects needed before 2042 to support known growth.



SCADA

Implementing a comprehensive Supervisory Control and Acquisition System (SCADA) is a priority for 2023; this will not only improve response times but enhance system safety & security.

PLANNING

The city emphasized strategic planning in 2022 to better prioritize the needed investments for improving capital and community infrastructure. This focus extended across all departments, from better emergency response considerations to parks and childcare.

01

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Plan update est. Spring 2023 completion; TIB grant for nearly \$300k in chip/seal projects; multi-modal projects to enhance the new bridge identified for pursuit of WSDOT and RAISE funds.

02

PARKS SYSTEM

New plan adopted; identifies 5 acres in needed additional green space by 2043 as well as trail/recreation enhancements.

03

EMERGENCY RESPONSE: FIRE

Formed a citizen task force with KC FD 3 to do a cost/benefit analysis of consolidated services; est. Winter 2023 completion.

04

COMMUNITY CENTER

Conducting an evaluation of existing facilities to provide community needs, especially a new youth center location.

HOUSING

- Received \$25k through Dept. of Commerce to create a Housing Action Plan; estimated completion Spring 2023.
- Implemented new short-term rental regulations to support primary homeowners while discouraging investment home-ownership solely for STR purposes.
- Partnered with Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation to realize a CDBG grant for a Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program for low-income residents.
- Code revisions for planned developments to support diverse housing; additional housing code revisions planned for 2023.