



# 2026 PRIORITIES

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



## SR 141 FUNDING

SR 141 is the primary east–west corridor serving downtown White Salmon and the main connection between White Salmon, Bingen, and SR-14. WSDOT is nearly complete with the Complete Streets pre-design work, making this a funding-ready safety and mobility project. The corridor's safety, ADA access, and multimodal needs are well documented; however, **advancement to final design and construction has stalled due to statewide preservation funding constraints**. This project—originally funded and scheduled for completion in 2020 before being delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic—is essential to regional mobility, downtown vitality, and safe access for motorists, freight, cyclists, pedestrians, and people with disabilities. We respectfully request that SR 141 be prioritized on WSDOT's funded project list so remaining funds can be scheduled and these two communities are no longer left in limbo.

## PROTECT PWAA

Gov. Bob Ferguson's supplemental budget proposal proposes an additional \$75 million sweep from the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA). If this sweep occurs, PWAA-funded projects across the state could be jeopardized. In White Salmon alone, three active infrastructure projects are currently underway with PWAA funding.

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

## OVERVIEW

As a small community in a non-GMA county, White Salmon is not immune to the pressures faced by our urban neighbors, yet we often lack comparable access to funding and resources. Investments in aging infrastructure to support housing, wildfire preparedness, and key local projects are essential to long-term resilience and community well-being.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is built on trust, preparedness, and the capacity to respond when communities need it most. The following legislative priorities advance those goals by strengthening accountability in law enforcement, ensuring equitable access to public safety funding, and protecting critical investments in wildfire resilience.

- **Restore the \$60 million cut to the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account.** These investments have delivered real results in Klickitat County, including after last summer's Burdoin Fire, and failing to restore funding would significantly reduce local grants, halt early detection efforts, and increase risk in rural, high-fire-prone communities.
- **Support SB 5855.** Knowing who is exercising government authority promotes transparency and builds public trust, especially for immigrant and mixed-status families. Supporting this bill **aligns with White Salmon's Resolution 2025-07-625** affirming that accountability and dignity are foundational to public safety.
- **Refine the implementation of HB 2015** so small and rural law enforcement agencies can realistically access the public safety funding it created. Current compliance and reporting requirements disproportionately burden small agencies. To ensure funding reaches all intended communities, **eligibility and administrative requirements should be revisited** and scaled appropriately.