



## CITY OF SEATAC 2026 TOP PRIORITIES

### **SeaTac International Village: International Plaza**

The City of SeaTac is advancing a bold vision to create a vibrant International District that reflects the city's globally diverse population and serves the millions of international travelers who visit SeaTac Airport each year. This district will offer cultural experiences, small business opportunities, and public spaces that invite both residents and visitors to stay and engage with the community, rather than simply passing through.

At the heart of this effort is the SeaTac International Market, planned for an 8-acre site recently acquired near the Angle Lake light rail station. The market will feature vendors, public gathering spaces, and cultural amenities that anchor a broader transit-oriented development strategy. It is designed to serve both residents and travelers, offering a unique experience that reflects SeaTac's role as Washington's global gateway.

To support this transformational project, the City is seeking enhanced revenue authority through state legislation, either by increasing the special lodging tax cap or securing authority to form a standalone Tourism Promotion Area (TPA).

### **SeaTac International Village: Dining District**

The City of SeaTac is taking the lead to do what the private market will not—revitalize a long-blighted property at 200th Street and International Boulevard into a vibrant Food Truck Village, the anchor of a future International Dining District. The site, a former dry cleaner near the Angle Lake light rail station, remains burdened by contamination that has deterred private investment. By stepping in, the City is turning an environmental liability into a community asset that supports housing density and transit-oriented growth. The total project cost is still in development, but the City is requesting \$2 million from the state capital budget to help make this vision a reality.

### **Airport Impact Funding**

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is one of Washington's largest economic engines, supporting over 175,000 jobs statewide and generating more than \$33 billion in business output annually. Within SeaTac, the airport drives thousands of jobs and billions in economic activity—but also creates disproportionate impacts on public safety, housing, roads, and infrastructure that the City must absorb without adequate fiscal support.

Current state revenue distribution formulas, which rely heavily on population, do not reflect the unique burdens borne by airport host cities. To address this, the City is seeking a state-level carve-out or shared revenue model that recognizes the fiscal impacts of hosting a major airport.

## SEATAC by the Numbers

**32,000+ residents live in 10 square miles**

Home to SeaTac International Airport – the **11<sup>th</sup> busiest airport in the United States** and the largest in the Pacific Northwest.

Over **144,000** airport users visit the City and over **9,000** guests stay in hotels in the City per day.

The City is located in a hub of connection between I-5, I-405, and SR 509, and is connected regionally with **three light rail stations**.

## **CITY OF SEATAC 2026 POLICY ISSUES**

The SeaTac City Council has adopted city goals to steer the city's action items. The City will engage in state legislative efforts in areas that align with the city goals as outlined below. Additionally, the City will support the efforts of the Association of Washington Cities in those areas where it best serves the interests of the SeaTac community.

### **Fiscal Sustainability**

Municipalities across Washington face structural budget challenges due to shrinking general fund revenues and rising costs, which strain the delivery of essential services. The City supports:

- Modestly increasing the property tax levy cap to allow up to 3% annual growth, enabling local governments to respond to inflation and service demands.
- Legislative measures to further adjust property tax limits to reflect inflationary pressures.
- Establishing dedicated public safety revenue streams to fund law enforcement and emergency services.
- Authorizing cities to adjust permit fees to cover costs associated with implementing state regulations.

### **Public Safety**

The City asks for the state's partnership to improve public safety. Specifically, the City supports:

- Funding to hire and train law enforcement officers to address vacancies, including but not limited to supporting the state continuing to pay 100% of the costs to train officers through the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA), grants to attract a diverse law enforcement workforce, and increased revenue or local option tools for public safety.
- Funding and training for police co-responder models, and diversion measures.
- Efforts to address the ongoing fentanyl crisis.
- State funding and policy changes to address the rising number of traffic accidents and fatalities, including funding for traffic calming measures.
- Funding and enhanced workforce support for public defense services.
- Policies and funding to address human trafficking, including emphasis efforts related to the FIFA World Cup.
- Policies to prohibit the use of masked law enforcement officers in alignment with transparency standards such as the California No Secret Police Act.

- Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) & Data Privacy: The City supports legislation that regulates the collection, retention, and sharing of ALPR data and protects personally identifiable information,

## **Housing**

The City of SeaTac seeks ongoing funding to create and preserve affordable housing. SeaTac supports:

- Expanding access to state and local funding tools, for affordable housing, including expanding authority provided under HB 1590.
- Allowing cities to assess and utilize impact fees or similar growth-related revenue sources to fund affordable housing, recognizing housing as essential public infrastructure.
- Protecting federal funding streams, including CDBG and HOME funds.
- Reforming state regulations that increase housing development costs, such as streamlining inspections and permitting.
- Sustained investment in housing stability and anti-displacement programs.
- Incentives and funding mechanisms for deeply affordable housing and community-driven development.
- Integration of housing, transportation, and infrastructure investments to advance Complete Neighborhoods and equitable growth.

## **Human Services**

The City recognizes the importance of addressing social determinants of health and providing comprehensive support services. SeaTac supports:

- State-led efforts to housing asylum seekers and provide case management, legal services, and wraparound support statewide.
- Policies and funding to expand and enhance childcare opportunities, supporting working families and early learning.
- Enhancements to the behavioral health system, including additional 9-8-8 crisis response teams, crisis triage and detox facilities.
- Wrap around services for unhoused populations
- Flexibility in the use of lodging tax revenue (RCW 67.28) to temporarily support affordable housing, public safety, and behavioral health.
- Investments in the behavioral health workforce across the entire continuum of care for youth and adults.
- Workforce development through technical education opportunities for unskilled labor

## **Community Engagement**

The City of SeaTac is committed to strong, honest, and consistent community engagement. The City conducts significant public engagement when developing local policies. The City calls on the Legislature to honor this community-driven process and allow decisions to be made locally.

## **Infrastructure**

The City calls on the state to partner with the city in building infrastructure to create a connected community. The City supports:

- Funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support climate resiliency efforts, including but not limited to electric vehicle infrastructure, building decarbonization, and green energy.
- Grant programs that expand and create multimodal connectivity and ADA accessibility, such as Complete Streets, Safe Routes to Schools, and the WSDOT Bike/Ped Program.
- Increased maintenance and preservation funding for state and local roadways.
- Investments to remove fish barriers and support habitat restoration.

- Investments in infrastructure needed to support the large influx of people anticipated to enter the state through SeaTac airport during the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- Maintaining investments made in previous transportation packages, including ensuring that toll revenue remains dedicated to constructing and maintaining the Puget Sound Gateway project.

## **Economic Development**

The City of SeaTac is committed to strengthening its commercial and industrial tax base and supporting small-scale economic activity. SeaTac supports:

- Continued investment in tourism-related infrastructure and programming, including FIFA-specific funding to support cities impacted by increased visitation.
- Protecting and maximizing lodging tax revenues for SeaTac.
- Preventing state-level sweeps of City revenues.
- Securing allocations of special event taxes, such as under HB 1882.
- Advocating for state-level travel and tourism promotion.
- Supporting small business development resources at the county, state, and federal levels.
- Support business retention and expansion efforts, reinvestment, and commercial real estate development.
- Mitigating negative impacts of existing and new “essential public facilities” near SeaTac on private investments and property values.
- Legislation to fund infrastructure near transit and job hubs.

## **Land Use**

The City of SeaTac supports:

- Mitigating negative impacts of new “essential public facilities” near SeaTac on private investments and property values.
- Legislation to fund infrastructure near transit and job hubs.
- Developer incentives to support and reinforce the City’s complete Neighborhood Policies

## **Workforce Protections**

Recognizing its diverse workforce, SeaTac supports expanding workforce opportunities and strong labor protections to ensure fair treatment and safe working conditions. The city supports:

- Pre-apprenticeship programs operated in conjunction with local labor partners and education institutions.
- Continued investment in the Running Start Summer Grant Program.
- Enforcement of fair wages and compliance with local minimum wage laws.
- Protections against workplace harassment, discrimination, and retaliation.
- Safe and healthy work environments aligned with state and federal standards.
- Worker access to paid sick leave, family medical leave, and work-life balance provisions.
- Secure scheduling and predictable work hours.
- Protection of gig economy workers’ rights, including fair pay and dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Protections for ride share drivers against job displacement due to AI.

## **Unique Parking**

Due to a large number of SeaTac’s residents are employed as drivers for airport travelers, the City faces unique parking challenges. Vehicles used to provide rideshare, shuttle, and town car services are parked at private residences throughout the City. Additionally, SeaTac has a large immigrant population that generally shares more multi-generational housing and therefore more cars per household than average. The City will express concerns with state-imposed parking restrictions that are not tailored to these local circumstances and will have a particularly burdensome impact on SeaTac’s residents.

## **Parks**

The City of SeaTac remains committed to providing open space and recreational activities for its community. The City supports:

- Funding and policy opportunities to protect North SeaTac Park as green space.
- Funding for recreational, senior, and youth sports programs.
- Policies and funding to enhance the City's tree canopy.
- Statewide and county wide park funding allocations for local SeaTac parks that accommodate regional usage.