Restore the state’s commitment to public infrastructure investment

AWC Position
Cease raids and restore funding for local infrastructure programs like the Public Works Assistance Account, Centennial Clean Water Fund and the Model Toxics Control Account.

A Critical Investment
Washington’s cities and towns provide vital public infrastructure systems for residents, businesses and visitors, including streets and bridges, sewers, stormwater, drinking water systems, and much more.

These systems are the invisible backbone of our state, essential to a vibrant economy, a high quality of life, public health and safety, and a healthy environment. The need for infrastructure funding is great.

Population growth and increasingly stringent regulatory requirements challenge local governments’ ability to adequately fund needed expansions and infrastructure improvements. Over the next 10 years Washington’s population is projected to increase by the equivalent of another Spokane, Tacoma, Vancouver, Bellingham, Kennewick and Wenatchee.

Most of this growing population will live in cities and towns. To keep Washington moving forward, we need ongoing and reliable funding for programs like the Public Works Assistance Account, the Centennial Clean Water Fund and Model Toxics Control Account to keep up with demands and regulatory requirements.

The need for local infrastructure funding is great

- Drinking water: $9.8 Billion over next 20 years
- Sewer collection and treatment: $5.3 Billion over next 20 years
- Maintenance and repair of city streets and bridges: $3.4 Billion over next 10 years
- At least 939 toxic sites awaiting cleanup

The Ugly Truth
Over the last several years, in response to the recession, the state systematically reduced investment in basic infrastructure programs benefitting cities. Most prominent diversion: $277 million in cash and $797 million in revenues from the Public Works Assistance Account.

Other critical fund sources transferred in the last several years include $250 million from the toxic cleanup accounts to the general fund, and the elimination of dedicated funding and reduction of the biennial appropriations in the Centennial Clean Water infrastructure grant program.

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