

## 2023 CHENEY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**Seek approximately \$5,000,000 to complete the city's Purple Pipe Project. The state appropriated \$11,050,000 of federal stimulus money in the 2021 legislative session, for which the city is deeply appreciative. The additional funding would allow the city to complete this project in 2024.**

### **At-Grade Railroad Crossing**

Advocate for funding a move of the at-grade rail crossing at SR-904 and Betz Road. Increase in train traffic and the potential of a blockage to the main route in and out of Cheney is a significant concern for public safety operations as delayed response time when responding to emergency situations for both police and fire personnel is detrimental to the citizens we serve.

### **Maintain project visibility of SR 904 widening**

The City of Cheney appreciates that the SR 904 Passing Lanes Project is included in the Horizon 2040 Long-Term (2025-2040) Regionally Significant Projects plan. However, *construction is not expected to begin until 2040*. This section of SR 904 has an antiquated design and is terribly unsafe, yet it is the main route to Eastern Washington University and the Cheney school district as well as a connector to other West Plains cities. Currently, 19,000-20,000 vehicles per day travel on this two-lane, no passing highway. The City is growing, increasing in resident population at a rate of nearly 2 percent annually. Widening SR 904 will address the critical safety needs of this corridor. Cheney will continue to work with legislators to determine options for addressing critical safety needs for SR 904 and seek funding to complete this project earlier if additional resources beyond those identified in the Horizon 2040 financial plan become available.

### **Ensure basic infrastructure funding**

Provide flexible state and federal dollars through programs like the Public Works Assistance Account to help cities finance basic infrastructure such as drinking water and wastewater.

### **Zoning mandates**

Actively defend against preemption of local land use authority, but support policies that help cities provide more equitable access to housing in our cities.

### **Growth Management Act (GMA)**

Engage in the GMA reform conversation and look to secure dedicated planning funding in recognition of potential new responsibilities in areas that cities can support.

### **Advocate for expanded broadband internet for rural communities**

The City of Cheney along with many other rural communities have an immediate need for reliable, fast and affordable internet access. Increasing internet access and speed will have a positive impact on Cheney's ability to grow our local economy and meet the needs of the educational, commercial and residential sectors within our City.

**Support Eastern Washington University's priorities to include \$58 Million Science Renovation Phase II, \$4.6 million for ongoing funding of the conversion of the two-year pre-nursing into the four -year Bachelor of Nursing (BSN) Program, and \$1.5 million for ongoing funding of campus security measures.**

### **Advocate against the removal of the Snake River Dams.**

Hydropower is critical to Washington State and the larger Pacific Northwest Region. Removal of the dams without alternative power generation infrastructure is a recipe for disaster as we strive to meet the demand for power in the region and especially in light of the movement toward vehicle electrification in Washington State.