

# Mayor Greg Nickels' Three-Year Report

*In Response to the Recommendations of the Economic Opportunity Task Force*



## TRANSPORTATION

- ✓ Secured \$2B in State funding for the Alaskan Way Viaduct.
- ✓ Obtained \$12.5M in State & Federal Grants for the South Lake Union Streetcar.
- ✓ Broke ground on light rail construction with first alignment in Southeast Seattle to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, with \$16M allocated for related surface street improvements.
- ✓ Invested \$28M in capital projects to keep freight moving, including \$1.8M in construction funding for the Duwamish Intelligent Transportation System Project.
- ✓ Developed recommendations to improve Mercer Street Corridor and obtained funding approval to initiate the project environmental review.
- ✓ Established the Center City Construction Coordination Office to keep downtown open and moving during construction projects.



## LAND-USE, ZONING CODES & PERMIT PROCESSES

- ✓ Reduced target times for initial plan review, from 5-10 days to 2-days for simple permits; from 10-12 weeks to 6-weeks for complex permits. Average review time is 4 days for simple construction permits and 51 days for complex development permits.
- ✓ Revised land use code to accommodate new biotech facilities in South Lake Union.
- ✓ Proposed legislation to support and encourage residential development downtown, as well as encourage jobs and vibrant neighborhoods.
- ✓ Developed legislation to encourage pedestrian-oriented, vital neighborhood business districts and simplify the City's neighborhood commercial code.
- ✓ Reduced residential parking requirement in First Hill, Pike/Pine, Broadway and the University District to be consistent with market demand and to help lower the cost of housing.
- ✓ Removed restrictions on UW off-campus leasing of office & research space.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN DISTRESSED BUSINESS DISTRICTS

- ✓ Developed Southeast Seattle Action Agenda to revitalize and target new investment in the Rainier Valley.
- ✓ Established \$50M Community Development Fund to support Rainier Valley businesses displaced/impacted by light rail construction, with \$6.2M disbursed to date.
- ✓ Implemented strategies to revitalize the Broadway Business District including a new neighborhood Farmer's Market and zoning/code amendments to encourage mixed-use redevelopment.
- ✓ Removed Northgate regulatory restrictions, allowing retail expansion and new mixed-use development.
- ✓ Provided \$11.4M in low interest financing to rehabilitate earthquake damaged historic buildings in Pioneer Square.
- ✓ Proposed legislation for 25 additional police officers for deployment across the City's five precincts to increase police presence in neighborhood business districts.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

- ✓ Maintained City Light rate structures for commercial and industrial customers since 2002.
- ✓ Invested \$8M in the Ave Project, improving the infrastructure & pedestrian environment for the University District.
- ✓ Improved the City's telecommunications infrastructure through legislation allowing fiber optic cable in city sewers.
- ✓ Established Wi-Fi pilot projects providing free Internet access in the University District and Columbia City.



## CUSTOMER SERVICE

- ✓ Established Business Advocate and Community Liaison services. To date, more than 1,100 city businesses assisted.
- ✓ Established Industrial Permit Liaison services to help manufacturing and maritime businesses with development permitting and inspection. More than 25 manufacturing and maritime businesses assisted through the permit process.
- ✓ Enhanced web access to City services through [www.seattle.gov](http://www.seattle.gov), including business license renewals, B&O tax filings, utility payments and electrical permits.
- ✓ Replaced parking meters with pay stations in eight city neighborhoods to improve customer convenience and reliability.



## KEY BUSINESS SECTORS

- ✓ Completed economic impact studies for Biotech, Manufacturing & Maritime, Information & Telecommunications, Film, Music, Sustainable Building, Healthcare and Creative Business sectors.
- ✓ Supported the attraction, retention and expansion of major businesses (e.g. Washington Mutual, Safeco, Boeing 7E7)
- ✓ Supported the expansion of the Biotech sector in South Lake Union through major infrastructure investments.
- ✓ Established the *SeattleFirst* manufacturing attraction and retention program.
- ✓ Broadened the Mayor's Office of Film and Music to promote the City's music industry in addition to the film sector.
- ✓ Reduced cost of filming in the City and established a uniform \$25 permit fee resulting in a 50% increase in film permits issued.



## HOUSING INVESTMENT

- ✓ Invested over \$49M in City Housing funding, leveraging private investment in residential development worth over \$273M containing 1,648 rental housing units.
- ✓ Renewed and expanded Multi-Family Tax Exemption Program resulting in 271 new affordable workforce units of housing.
- ✓ Generated cumulative project benefits through City housing investments:
  - \$186M in income received by construction workers & local business owners.
  - \$23M in taxes and other revenue for the City.
  - 3,098 local jobs.



## EMPLOYMENT & APPRENTICESHIPS

- ✓ Invested \$2M in the development of apprenticeship preparation training program for construction positions created by the building of Light Rail in Southeast Seattle; 80 residents enrolled to date.
- ✓ Sponsored training and placement of low-income residents through the Seattle Jobs Initiative, targeting entry level jobs with benefits and a defined career path to place more than 4,150 residents to date, with an average wage of over \$10/hr.

