



City of Seattle
Gregory J Nickels, Mayor

Mayor Greg Nickels' One-Year Report Card

In Response to the Recommendations of the Economic Opportunity Task Force

June 12, 2003

IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION

- Secured \$177 million in State funding for the Alaskan Way Viaduct.
- Secured \$3 million in State funding for the South Lake Union Street Car.

SUPPORT HIGHER EDUCATION & THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

- Introduced Legislation to remove the City's lease lid on the UW; pending Full Council vote on June 16th.

SIMPLIFY LAND-USE & ZONING CODES & IMPROVE CITY'S PERMIT PROCESS

- Issued Executive order to City Departments establishing target cycle times & goals.
- Reduced application appointment wait times from 4 weeks to 10 working days.

REVIEW THE TAXATION OF TECHNOLOGY BASED BUSINESSES

- Exempted Research & Development activity from City B&O Tax.

EXAMINE UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Introduced legislation permitting the installation of fiber optic cable in city sewers to improve City's telecommunications infrastructure; Council passed June 9th.

FOCUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON DISTRESSED BUSINESS DISTRICTS

- University District:* Secured \$250K in private funding for additional SPD presence in the U-District; completed retail and housing market analysis.
- Rainier Valley:* Started distributing supplemental mitigation payments to impacted businesses through the \$50 million Community Development Fund.
- Pioneer Square:* Established Alcohol Impact Area to restrict alcohol sales; Provided City funding for rehabilitation of three historic buildings.
- Northgate:* Proposed removing barriers to the redevelopment of Northgate Mall and moving forward on a package of community and neighborhood investments.

IMPROVE CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Launched Business Advocate Services to support businesses in navigating city regulations – call 684-BIZZ for assistance.

REDUCE OBSTACLES TO EMPLOYMENT & APPRENTICESHIPS

- Created the Contracting Development and Competitiveness Center to improve access to City construction contracts.
- Secured \$1 million federal grant to provide technology training for City and low-income workers in cooperation with the Workforce Development Council, King County and (IFPTE) Local 17.
- Established the Construction Industry Workforce Advisory Committee with the County, Port and Sound Transit to expand access to apprenticeships to women and people of color.

MARKET SEATTLE INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY

- Established the Mayor's Film & Music Office to promote music industry.
- Redesigned Office of Economic Development website with more user-friendly content for businesses.

DEVELOP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TARGETING BUSINESS SECTORS

- Invested in infrastructure in South Lake Union as a hub for biotech and life sciences industry.