

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**  
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

<b>AGENDA TITLE:</b>	Discussion of State Legislative Priorities and Issues of Shared Interest with the 32 <sup>nd</sup> District Delegation		
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Manager's Office		
<b>PRESENTED BY:</b>	Jim Hammond, Intergovernmental Relations Manager		
<b>ACTION:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	

**PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:**

Senator Jesse Salomon, Representative Cindy Ryu, and Representative Lauren Davis ("Delegation") represent the 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District in Washington State, which includes the City of Shoreline. Consequently, the Delegation and the City Council have a shared interest in maintaining a common understanding of information, interests and priorities that make a difference in the lives of Shoreline residents. Tonight's conversation will explore those shared interests, many of which are identified and summarized in this staff report.

**RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Tonight's discussion with the 32<sup>nd</sup> District Delegation is informational in nature and has no financial impact.

**RECOMMENDATION**

No action is required by the City Council. Staff recommends that the City Council discuss these issues of shared interest and provide staff direction for further action, as warranted.

Approved By: City Manager **DT** City Attorney **MK**

## **BACKGROUND**

Senator Jesse Salomon, Representative Cindy Ryu, and Representative Lauren Davis (“Delegation”) represent the 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District in Washington State, which includes the City of Shoreline. Consequently, the Delegation and the City Council have a shared interest in maintaining a common understanding of information, interests and priorities that make a difference in the lives of Shoreline residents. Tonight’s conversation will explore those shared interests, many of which are identified and summarized in this staff report.

This report will address the following:

1. The need for local funding tools, both for general revenue and Transportation Benefit District (TBD) funding;
2. The need for statewide transportation funding and the value/importance of the proposed 148<sup>th</sup> Street non-motorized bridge;
3. The ongoing importance of addressing challenges related to housing and human service needs, which has been particularly aggravated during the current COVID-19 pandemic;
4. The future of the Fircrest Campus;
5. The importance of a coordinated state/local partnership and a watershed-based approach when tackling culverts and other barriers to fish passage; and
6. State-level proposals for implementing changes to law enforcement practices.

Many of these topics are also part of the City of Shoreline’s draft 2021 State Legislative Priorities, which is also part of tonight’s Council meeting. Please refer to the accompanying staff report for additional information on these State Legislative Priorities. Also, the Council and members of the Delegation may identify and raise other issues during the course of their conversation.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Local Funding - Both General and for Transportation Benefit Districts**

Although the voter-approved Initiative 976 was ruled unconstitutional, it highlights the uncertain future of vehicle license fees as a means to fund local transportation needs, such as the street and sidewalk maintenance funded by the City’s TBD. It will be important to work with the legislature to create new revenue options for cities.

More generally, the City continues to advocate for a more self-sufficient model for local funding that allows greater city control over its revenue streams and an improved ability to plan for the future. Modifying the existing 1% property tax limit and creating greater flexibility on the use of existing sources would be strong steps in this direction.

### **Statewide Funding for Transportation and the 148<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge**

The experience with I-976 also highlights the statewide need to broaden the base of transportation funding and increase the emphasis on mass transit and non-motorized modes of transportation. The transportation sector generates a significant amount of the greenhouse gases produced in Washington State, and the City supports the use of carbon-based revenue options that would simultaneously fund transportation and help to limit the impacts of climate change. Additionally, the City’s planned non-motorized

bicycle/pedestrian bridge at 148<sup>th</sup> Street serves as a strong example of a green transportation project.

### **Housing and Human Service Needs and the Impacts of COVID-19**

Shoreline recognizes that its community and communities across the state face a crisis of affordable and available housing. The economic impacts of the current pandemic have exacerbated this greatly. While state and local governments continue to look to the federal government for lasting and comprehensive relief, the State can help by continuing to support the City's ability to attract and preserve multi-family development, including additional funding and regulatory support. However, the state must avoid mandates and allow local government to tailor the tools to the specific need within its community.

### **The Future of the Fircrest Campus**

Pursuant to legislative direction from the 2019 legislative session, the State has hired MAKERS, a respected architecture and urban design firm, to evaluate potential options for the Fircrest campus. To date, this process appears to be both comprehensive and open-minded in its approach. Shoreline has been able to fully and clearly express its interests during this work, including unlocking the economic potential of the site and ensuring that any intensification of uses on the Campus would be paired with corresponding community benefits to offset the impacts of development. Specifically, the City has articulated interest in open space that is publicly accessible for active recreation purposes.

### **A Regional Approach to Culverts**

The State is tackling its legal obligation to address fish-blocking culverts across the state. Many critical fish runs are blocked by a series of culverts that are both State and locally owned. The City advocates for a shared strategic vision and a State/local partnership that effectively addresses the need in each watershed and makes real progress toward helping our threatened fish runs.

### **State-level Reforms Related to Law Enforcement**

During the Summer of 2020, several national events, including the killing of George Floyd, brought to the forefront inequities in law enforcement that disproportionately impact people of color. National and statewide concerns were voiced locally in Shoreline as well. At the state level, legislators, including members of the Delegation, have expressed interest in making changes that would impact law enforcement practices in Washington State, ranging from providing additional support services to at-risk individuals to preempt the involvement of the criminal justice system to changes to law enforcement practices and accountability.

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