

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Adopting the 2021 State Legislative Priorities		
DEPARTMENT:	City Manager's Office		
PRESENTED BY:	Jim Hammond, Intergovernmental Program Manager		
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

Tonight, Council is scheduled to adopt the City's 2021 State Legislative Priorities ("Priorities"). For 2021, staff proposes the continuation of efforts to secure funding and/or other legislative support for a bike/pedestrian bridge at N 148th Street that would connect neighborhoods to the Shoreline South/145th Street light rail station; funding through Local/Community Project allocations for select public facilities; more secure funding sources for the local Transportation Benefit District; and a Fircrest Campus redevelopment that aligns with City goals.

In terms of policy, staff proposes to seek passage of legislation that would:

- Improve local government financial sustainability and flexibility, with secure funding sources;
- Support efforts to continue to address homelessness and affordable housing, including increased housing instability created by the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Pursue creation of a tax increment financing option for cities, particularly for high-growth neighborhoods, such as light rail station areas;
- Advocate for state/local collaboration on a watershed-based approach to tackling fish-blocking culverts; and
- Support legislation, including a statewide transportation package, that promotes sustainable investments and addresses climate change impacts, particularly in the transportation sector.

The 2021 State Legislative Priorities (Attachment A) were considered by Council on November 16, 2020. Council deliberated and directed staff to make two changes that have been incorporated.

RESOURCES/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This item has no direct financial impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the 2021 State Legislative Priorities.

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

BACKGROUND

2021 is the first year of the State's 2021-2023 biennium, or "long" legislative session, which is scheduled to last 120 days. The City's legislative priorities provide policy direction in a highly fluid and dynamic legislative environment. They guide staff in determining whether the City supports or opposes specific legislation and amendments in Olympia during the legislative session. The City actively monitors legislative proposals at the state level, as success in advancing the City's position in Olympia depends on providing accurate and timely information to Legislators and their staff that illustrates the impacts of pending legislation on Shoreline.

The legislative priorities are the general policy positions that provide staff and Council representatives the flexibility to respond to requests for information and input. Key topics of legislation that do not fall under the adopted Legislative Priorities will be presented to the Council in regular briefings. The City also continues to partner with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and Sound Cities Association (SCA), which provides a consistent voice and a strong presence for cities in Olympia.

At its November 16th meeting, the City Council reviewed and discussed the proposed 2021 State Legislative Priorities. The staff report for this November 16th Council discussion can be found at the following link:

<http://cosweb.ci.shoreline.wa.us/uploads/attachments/cck/council/staffreports/2020/staffreport111620-9b.pdf>.

DISCUSSION

During the course of the November 16th Council discussion of the draft State Legislative Priorities, Council, by general consensus, directed staff to make two modifications to the Priorities:

1. Add a fourth Shoreline-Specific Priority: "Continue to pursue a pathway for State partnership in the future development of a Community and Aquatics Center"; and
2. Insert an item, which will now be the third bullet under "Legislative Issues the City Supports", "Develop more sustainable revenue sources that are less regressive and targeted toward high-earning individuals and corporations" to the end of that item.

Pursuant to this Council direction, staff has revised the Priorities, which are attached to this staff report as Attachment A. Tonight, Council is scheduled to adopt the City's 2021 State Legislative Priorities.

RESOURCES/FINANCIAL IMPACT

This item has no direct financial impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the 2020 State Legislative Priorities.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Final 2020 State Legislative Priorities



City of Shoreline 2021 State Legislative Priorities

Shoreline-Specific Priorities:

- Maintain project visibility for the N 148th Street non-motorized pedestrian/bike bridge as a strong candidate for any state transportation package.
- Partner with State agencies to seek legislative action that supports City goals and the long-term vision of an approved Fircrest Master Development Plan.
- Seek Local/Community Project funding in the Capital Budget for important Shoreline park improvements, including construction of a pavilion at Shoreline Park, renovation of outdated public restrooms at key park facilities, and habitat restoration at Southwoods Park.
- Continue to pursue a pathway for State partnership in the future development of a Community and Aquatics Center.

Legislative Issues the City Supports:

- Pursue statewide transportation funding and policy changes, including:
 - Creation of a statewide funding package that provides new financial resources, and increases funding for transit and non-motorized transportation;
 - Transportation policy changes that address climate change, including the use of carbon-based revenue sources and increase emphasis on sustainable investments; and
 - Secure funding options for local Transportation Benefit Districts that replace the vulnerable car tab source currently in use.
- Preserve City fiscal health with secure funding sources.
 - Maintain existing shared revenues; support increase in city distribution related to any increases in marijuana or liquor taxes.
 - Provide greater flexibility to use funds from existing revenue sources to help manage the impacts of the economic crisis.
 - Remove the existing 1% property tax limitation or revise by indexing it to inflation, population growth, or some related indicator.
- Develop more sustainable revenue sources that are less regressive and targeted toward high-earning individuals and corporations.
- Continue to address homelessness and opportunities to increase affordable housing at the state and local level through incentives and support, while avoiding mandates.
- Develop additional resources to address housing instability created by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including rent assistance and foreclosure-prevention assistance.
- Pursue the creation of a tax increment financing option for cities to use in potential high-growth areas, such as light rail station areas.
- Continue to advance a watershed-based approach and strategic plan to address local fish-blocking culverts along with state culverts and provide significant local funding.
- Support legislation that addresses climate change impacts, across all sectors.
- Support for statewide policing reforms, including those identified by the Association of Washington Cities legislative priorities, that address social injustice, police accountability and promote equitable treatment for people of color.