

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

<b>AGENDA TITLE:</b>	Adopting the 2021 Federal Legislative Priorities		
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Manager's Office		
<b>PRESENTED BY:</b>	Jim Hammond, Intergovernmental Program Manager		
<b>ACTION:</b>	<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:**

Staff has drafted proposed 2021 Federal Legislative Priorities ("Priorities") for the City's ongoing advocacy efforts in Washington, DC. For 2021, staff proposes a focus on COVID-19 relief and continued advocacy for transportation funding policies that support station area investments that connect to light rail, including non-motorized access projects and the 145<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor. The City has long prioritized the success of light rail station area improvements to fully leverage the value of Lynnwood Link, which is scheduled to open in 2024.

These identified federal priorities are complementary with state and regional priorities, ensuring that the City's key messages are clear and consistent across all audiences. In addition, the proposed priorities encourage Congress to tackle pressing federal challenges that line up with Shoreline's values, such as sustainability, addressing climate change, the enhancement of community and economic development, and other important social goals.

At its March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Council reviewed and discussed the proposed Priorities. Tonight, Council is scheduled to adopt the 2021 Federal Legislative Priorities.

**RESOURCES/FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

This item has no direct financial impact.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

## **BACKGROUND**

For 2021, staff proposes a focus on COVID-19 relief and continued advocacy for transportation funding policies that support station area investments that connect to light rail, including non-motorized access projects and the 145<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor. The City has long prioritized the success of light rail station area improvements to fully leverage the value of Lynnwood Link, which is scheduled to open in 2024.

These identified federal priorities are complementary with state and regional priorities, ensuring that the City's key messages are clear and consistent across all audiences. In addition, the proposed priorities encourage Congress to tackle pressing federal challenges that line up with Shoreline's values, such as sustainability, addressing climate change, the enhancement of community and economic development, and other important social goals.

## **DISCUSSION**

At its March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Council reviewed and discussed the proposed 2021 Federal Legislative Priorities, which are attached to this staff report as Attachment A. The staff report for this March 15<sup>th</sup> Council discussion can be found at the following link: <http://cosweb.ci.shoreline.wa.us/uploads/attachments/cck/council/staffreports/2021/staffreport031521-9a.pdf>.

Council was supportive of the Federal Priorities as drafted and did not propose any changes to the proposed Priorities. Council directed staff to bring the 2021 Federal Legislative Priorities back to Council for adoption tonight.

## **RESOURCES/FINANCIAL IMPACT**

This item has no direct financial impact.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: 2021 Federal Legislative Priorities



## 2021 Shoreline Federal Legislative Priorities

### Shoreline-specific local needs:

#### *COVID-19 Relief*

- Continued support for both economic and public health recovery from the pandemic.
- Direct funding to the City of Shoreline for COVID-19 costs, lost revenue and economic recovery.
- Extension of unemployment benefits throughout the pandemic.
- Extension of housing assistance and stabilization funding throughout the pandemic.

#### *Transportation*

- Development of a new transportation funding program targeted at medium-sized cities with populations between 10,000 and 75,000 in population size.
- Expansion of funding for non-motorized projects and transit in a Federal Infrastructure bill
- Increased funding allocation to Metropolitan Planning Organizations like the Puget Sound Regional Council in a federal transportation bill.
- Direct appropriations and funding criteria changes that support the City's work on connecting communities to light rail, e.g., N 145<sup>th</sup> corridor and interchange improvements, N 148<sup>th</sup> non-motorized bridge, east-west bicycle and pedestrian connections, and station-area sidewalk networks.

#### *Community and economic development*

- Restoration of Congressionally directed spending, using a fully transparent process, that would allow public agencies to attain one-time funding for economic development, transportation, infrastructure, and human services programs.
- Increased funding for Community Development Block Grants and the Home Investment Partnership Program
- Development of municipal tax policies that support strong municipal authority, including tax credits that facilitate economic development and meet critical local housing needs and preservation of municipal authority over tax authority and local public revenue streams.

#### *Environment and sustainability*

- Passage of Green Stormwater infrastructure initiatives, including adding green stormwater treatment as scoring criteria for transportation and infrastructure projects and a tax credit program for retrofits and new development that incorporates green stormwater projects.
- Creation of a new federal program to fund culvert replacement, fish passage improvements and habitat restoration in municipal streams and creeks.
- Funding for salmon recovery and watershed restoration.

**The City of Shoreline also urges Congress to tackle the pressing policy challenges that are aligned with the City's values, including the following:**

- Immediate federal action to curtail the impact of climate change, including legislation to meet carbon reduction goals and transition our economy to a carbon-neutral future.
- Passage of the EQUALITY Act to protect LGBTQ+ citizens in all communities from discrimination
- Opposing any policies that would prevent our community from being a safe, inviting and equitable community for everyone without regard to immigration status
- Passage of significant gun control legislation to enhance the safety of our community, including universal background checks and Red Flag laws