

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Adopting the 2022 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 take action on the City's 2022 State Legislative Priorities ("Priorities"). For 2022, 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/148th Street light rail station; planning support, in collaboration with partner cities, for a regional crisis triage center; and increased investment in behavioral health and misdemeanor court diversion.

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

- Support legislation, including a statewide transportation package, that promotes sustainable investments and addresses climate change impacts, particularly in the transportation sector;
- Provide direct funding to cities to administer diversion programs related to misdemeanor drug possession cases that are now adjudicated in district and municipal courts;
- Advocate for state/local collaboration, on a watershed-based approach to tackling fish-blocking culverts, including state funding for locally owned culverts;
- Improve local government financial sustainability and flexibility, with secure funding sources that rely less on regressive revenue options; and
- Support efforts to continue to address homelessness and affordable housing, including additional funding for rapid acquisition of housing, development of policies that provide more equitable access to housing, without preemption of local control.

The draft 2022 State Legislative Priorities (Attachment A) were considered by Council on November 8, 2021. Council deliberated and directed staff to draft one potential change to those priorities, which will be considered by Council tonight.

RESOURCES/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This item has no direct financial impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council move to adopt the 2022 State Legislative Priorities.

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

BACKGROUND

2022 is the second year of the State's 2021-2022 biennium, or "short" legislative session, which is scheduled to last 60 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 8th meeting, the City Council reviewed and discussed the proposed 2022 State Legislative Priorities. The staff report for this November 8th Council discussion can be found at the following link:

<http://cosweb.ci.shoreline.wa.us/uploads/attachments/cck/council/staffreports/2021/staffreport110821-9b.pdf>.

DISCUSSION

During the course of the November 8th Council discussion of the draft 2022 State Legislative Priorities, Council directed staff to prepare a potential modification to the Priorities. Specifically, Council was interested in potentially adding a priority to seek local authority to make changes to the State's residential Energy Code.

Per the request from Council, staff drafted an additional phrase, which could be added to the legislative priority which relates to climate change. The updated legislative priority, with the addition underlined, would read as follows:

- Support legislation that addresses climate change impacts, across all sectors, including allowing local jurisdictions to modify the State residential Energy Code.

The Residential Energy Code (specifically the 2018 Washington State Residential Energy Code) states that the scope of the code "applies to residential buildings and the building sites and associated systems and equipment. This code shall be the maximum and minimum energy code for residential construction in each town, city and county...". As noted during Council discussions, there are benefits to uniformity across jurisdictional lines, and changes to this policy are likely to elicit strong responses from interests connected to the development community. Historically, this has been the case.

In the 2021 legislative session, the House considered HB 1084, around building decarbonization. It would have required that the State Energy Code, for each code cycle, provide one reach code option for increasing low-emission energy efficient homes that local jurisdictions could adopt for residential construction. Public testimony in opposition stated it would create inconsistencies around local energy codes, among other critiques. That bill will be automatically reintroduced for 2022 session. The potential addition, as drafted, would direct staff to advocate for passage of HB 1084 this session.

If Council is interested in adding this additional phrase regarding the State Residential Energy Code to their 2022 Legislative Priorities, staff recommends that Council use the following amendatory language:

I move to amend the 2022 State Legislative Priorities so that the fourth Legislative Issue the City Supports now reads “Support legislation that addresses climate change impacts, across all sectors, including allowing local jurisdictions to modify the State residential Energy Code.”

Additionally, Council discussed whether ongoing efforts by the State to develop the Fircrest Campus ought to be included as part of the Legislative Priorities. The current State activity related to Fircrest is being undertaken by executive departments, and no legislation is currently planned. Previously, in the City’s 2018-2023 Economic Development Strategic Plan, Council identified the underdeveloped land on the Fircrest Campus as having significant potential for redevelopment that created good quality, living wage jobs, such as office or light industry, and staff have been monitoring activity related to Fircrest through the lens of this policy. Given existing policy direction and the lack of legislative activity related to Fircrest, staff is not proposing that any additional language be added to the Priorities.

Tonight, Council is scheduled to take action on the City’s 2022 State Legislative Priorities.

RESOURCES/FINANCIAL IMPACT

This item has no direct financial impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council move to adopt the 2022 State Legislative Priorities.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Draft 2022 State Legislative Priorities



City of Shoreline 2022 State Legislative Priorities

Shoreline-Specific Priorities:

- Maintain project visibility for the N 148th Street non-motorized pedestrian/bicycle bridge as a strong candidate for any state transportation package.
- Support capital budget funding flexibility for feasibility studies and site acquisition for a Regional Crisis Triage Center in north King County to support the ability of the five-city North Sound RADAR program to engage in acute behavioral health interventions.

Legislative Issues the City Supports:

- Adopt a new transportation revenue package that increases emphasis on transit and non-motorized travel, prioritizes maintenance, and provides an equitable level of local funding and additional long-term, sustainable revenue options for cities to support and maintain local transportation infrastructure.
- Support direct funding for cities to administer diversion programs related to misdemeanor drug possession cases handled by city law enforcement and now adjudicated in municipal courts, as well as Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services, therapeutic courts, and a diversion tracking database.
- Preserve City fiscal health with secure funding sources.
 - Remove the existing 1% property tax limitation or revise by indexing it to inflation, population growth, or some related indicator.
 - Support efforts to review and revise both state and local tax structures so they rely less on regressive revenue options, without negatively impacting local revenue authority.
 - Maintain existing shared revenues.
- Support legislation that addresses climate change impacts, across all sectors.
- Continue to advance a watershed-based approach and strategic plan to address local fish-blocking culverts along with state culverts; seek state resources to correct locally owned culverts as a part of the state's overall resolution to the culvert injunction.

- Continue to address homelessness and increase equitable access to housing through incentives and support for local efforts, without use of mandates; seek development of new tools to accomplish this goal, such as establishment of Housing Benefit Districts.
- Realize the full resource impacts of legislative changes to law enforcement and behavioral health policies through increased funding for behavioral health treatment and response services and facilities.
- Support clarification of the civil standards for use of force requirements so law enforcement can better understand the state requirements and know when they can intervene in a situation, including a mental health crisis, where a crime is not being committed.