

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Adoption of the draft 2022-2023 Federal Legislative Agenda

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DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**ACTION**

Staff is seeking Council adoption of the draft 2022-2023 Federal Legislative Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt the draft 2022-2023 Federal Legislative Agenda.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

Staff prepared the draft agenda based on Council's adopted Vision and Priorities. The draft agenda includes Council's priorities that align with anticipated federal funding opportunities. Staff included priority projects that are "shovel-ready," which means that the projects could meet federal deadlines to expend the funds.

Infrastructure Funding

One major opportunity for Bellevue is the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), which was signed into law in November. This legislation allocates \$550 billion over five years (see attached memo for more information).

Areas of interest for Bellevue include:

- **Transportation**
 - Federal grants – some transportation infrastructure funding will be made available through federal grants. Bellevue will follow the rulemaking process and will be prepared to weigh in where necessary to ensure federal rules do not block Bellevue's eligibility and access to compete for federal grants.
 - State grants – a major portion of federal infrastructure funds for transportation will be distributed through state grants. Bellevue has a successful track record of securing grant funding from Puget Sound Regional Council, the Washington State Department of Transportation, and other agencies that will distribute IJA funds.
 - Funding to the state – several of Bellevue's transportation priorities are state projects on I-405 or SR 520. Bellevue will continue advocating for using these funds to fill in pandemic-related revenue gaps and keep I-405 projects moving on schedule.
- **Utilities**
 - Federal grants for culverts – the federal infrastructure program allocates \$1 billion for competitive grants to restore, remove and repair culverts. This funding was included with the Pacific Northwest in mind.

- State grants – most infrastructure funding for utilities projects will be made available to Bellevue through state grants.
- Community Development
 - Charging and fueling infrastructure – the BIL includes \$2.5 billion for these projects.
 - Workforce development – the federal infrastructure program allocates approximately \$40 billion for workforce development and education programs.
- Information Technology
 - State grant programs will distribute \$1.3 billion for cybersecurity improvements, \$5 billion for “middle mile” broadband infrastructure, and \$42.5 billion to expand broadband access.

In addition to grant opportunities, Bellevue also has the opportunity to seek direct federal funding through the competitive Congressional Community Projects/Designated Funding process (formerly known as earmarks).

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Congress addresses a range of policy issues of interest to the City.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the draft 2022-2023 Federal Legislative Agenda.
2. Do not adopt the draft 2022-2023 Federal Legislative Agenda and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- A. Draft 2022-2023 Federal Legislative Agenda

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A