

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

State Legislative Update

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DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**INFORMATION
ONLY**

Staff will present a mid-session update on the Washington State Legislative Session, now underway. This is for information only.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

The Washington State Legislature convened for a 105-day session on January 9. Staff will provide updates on the identified priorities that were part of the State Legislative Agenda adopted by the council in November 2022.

Affordable Housing and Land Use

Bellevue has prioritized affordable housing and land use in the current session. There are several pieces of legislation moving on related topics this session, and 2023 has been the busiest session in any recent memory on these topics. At this time, there are still bills in motion on the following topics: Accessory dwelling units (ADUs), lot-splitting, permitting timelines and processes, transit-oriented development, condominium liability, and more. Meanwhile, lawmakers are also having discussions about how to resource more housing in Washington. The chief options there are Rep. Chopp's REET Legislation (HB 1628) and Governor Inslee's Housing Bond Proposal (HB 1149). Staff will also provide a real-time update on the City's request for funding to acquire land for affordable housing development.

House Bill (HB) 1110

Council had a robust conversation about [HB 1110](#), sponsored by Representative Jessica Bateman (D-22 LD) during the January intergovernmental affairs update. Subsequently, the City articulated its concerns through a letter to lawmakers and follow-on work with stakeholders and legislators. As a result, the bill was amended both in the fiscal committee and again on the House floor to address all of Bellevue's enumerated concerns. Active references to "community amenities" were removed from the bill, and two additional alternative pathways were added to allow cities to comply with the bill's requirements. We are continuing to work with other cities on some implementation details in the bill.

Transportation

Staff are awaiting both the House and Senate Transportation Budget proposals, both due to be released within the next week. We continue to advocate for specific fund phasing for both the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail in Bellevue and the SR 520/124th Avenue NE interchange project, which the Governor's proposed budget delayed by more than ten years.

Services and Infrastructure for a Growing Community

These two projects –the Community Services Center in Crossroads and replacement of Pump Station 12 in east Bellevue—are critical to keeping pace with growth and providing services for our community. Staff will also provide a real-time update on the City's request for funding for these projects. As of packet publication, one project appeared in the House budget documents, and the other appeared in the Senate budget documents.

Next Steps This Session

With its release last week and this week, the budget process will take center stage for the remaining month of session. The next committee cutoffs come on March 29 for policy committees and on April 4 for fiscal committees. The opposite chamber floor cutoff is April 12, and on-time adjournment is scheduled for April 23.

The City's governmental relations team will call upon councilmembers during the waning weeks of session to help advocate for city priorities both in policy and in the budget.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

City Council adopted its 2023 State Legislative Agenda on November 21.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact of will be determined by the cumulative actions of the legislature at the close of session.

OPTIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

A. Bellevue 2023 State Legislative Agenda

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A