

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

Adoption of Revised Draft 2021 State Legislative Agenda

Joyce Nichols, Assistant City Manager, 452-4225  
*City Manager's Office*

**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL****DIRECTION**

Staff is seeking Council adoption of the Revised Draft 2021 State Legislative Agenda.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Move to adopt the Revised Draft 2021 State Legislative Agenda.

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

At the January 4 meeting, Council reviewed and amended the Draft 2021 State Legislative Agenda. Staff has incorporated Council comments in the attached revised draft (Attachment A). A version of the draft is shown in "track changes" for ease in viewing proposed changes (Attachment B).

**Legislative Agenda**

The issues proposed for inclusion in the Draft are those preliminarily identified by staff as the most important for the City to pursue during the 2021 legislative session or those that are likely to be pursued by others. While the City accomplished many of the items on the 2020 legislative agenda, some of the key priorities are carried over for issues that remain unresolved. In many cases, the proposed policy positions are protective of the City's authority and revenue base.

As a result of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 session of the State Legislature will be conducted almost entirely in a virtual format. Legislative leaders have stated their priorities for the session, including:

- Social and criminal justice
- Recovering from COVID-19
- Transportation investments
- Affordable housing, homelessness and human services
- Climate and environment
- Capital budget requests

The Draft 2021 State Legislative Agenda is organized with policy language reflecting the priorities above. Specific policy language is proposed regarding social and criminal justice issues and new financial tools to help address the economic recovery as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the proposed policies refine the City's transportation priorities for inclusion in a potential statewide transportation funding package. These include support for construction funds for the SR 520/124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE interchange project, funding for multi-modal projects, funding the I-405 Master Plan projects and improvements to ensure reliability on the corridor for bus rapid transit scheduled to open in 2024. In addition, the City continues to

support incentives for smart mobility technologies, including electric/autonomous vehicles and shared mobility options.

The affordable housing and homelessness section of the draft legislative agenda reflects strategies in the City's Affordable Housing Strategy and encourages state investments in treatment and prevention programs to address the root causes of homelessness, clarify the language in HB 1590 to explicitly include purchase/acquisition of existing facilities to address homelessness, and funding for human services.

### **2021 Legislative Session**

The 2021 session of the State Legislature begins January 11. This year is a "long" session that runs for 105 calendar days, ending on April 25. During long sessions, the Legislature adopts new biennial operating, transportation and capital budgets. As noted above, the 2021 session will be held in a mostly virtual format due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

### **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

The State Legislature addresses a range of policy issues of interest to the City. Council may wish to provide direction to staff regarding specific legislative proposals.

### **OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the Revised Draft 2021 State Legislative Agenda.
2. Do not adopt the Revised Draft 2021 State Legislative Agenda and provide alternative direction to staff.

### **ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

- A. Revised Draft 2021 State Legislative Agenda
- B. Revised Draft 2021 State Legislative Agenda—track changes version

### **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A