

FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS

Date: 12/21/21
Department: GAPD
Meeting Date: 1/14/22

Presenters: Tyler Frisbee, Deputy
Director and Anneliese Koehler, State and
Regional Affairs Advisor

Prepared by: Tyler Frisbee, Deputy
Director, and Anneliese Koehler, State and
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Length: 30 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

This Council meeting is for Council to adopt the 2022 Federal Legislative Agenda and the 2022 State Legislative Agenda and 2022 State Legislative Principles. Proposed legislative priorities and principles will be discussed.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Council may adopt its federal and state legislative agendas for 2022.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Support Metro's policy goals through engagement with Congress, federal agencies, and the State Legislature.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

- Does the Council wish to approve previous policy direction, updated in Council discussion in October and December, under which staff is currently operating with respect to federal issues that are likely to surface in 2022?
- Does Council wish to approve 2022 state legislative policy priorities and principles, updated in Council discussions in October and December?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

See attachments for Federal Affairs Legislative Agenda, State Legislative Principles, and State Legislative Priorities. These are final drafts that reflect Council's discussion in October and December and are here for final adoption.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

See attached Federal Affairs Legislative Agenda, State Legislative Principles, and State Legislative Priorities.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This fall, for the first time, the Metro Government Affairs and Policy Development group brought all three of our government legislative agendas to Council in order to give Council an opportunity to see the full spectrum of our government to government work. Today's adoption includes our federal and state legislative priorities; the Tribal Affairs agenda will be before Council for final approval in February.

Over the course of the fall, we met with Metro Departmental leadership to discuss our federal and state legislative agendas and our tribal affairs agenda. In addition, Metro Council held two work sessions, one in October and one in December to discuss the initial drafts of these agendas. We have incorporated all of this feedback into our presentation to you today and are here seeking final adoption of the federal and state legislative agendas for 2022.

We will continue to work with our regional governmental partners and community partners to discuss their priorities for 2022 and look for opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

Federal Affairs

Council approved Metro's first comprehensive federal agenda in February of 2021. In general, staff will intend to bring an updated federal agenda to Council every two years, in order to align with the Congressional calendar. However, given the interest in aligning all of our legislative agendas and the flurry of activity in DC, staff are bringing this updated agenda to Council.

With the passage of the American Rescue Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and possible passage of the Build Back Better bill, many of Council's urgent priorities due to the economic impacts of the pandemic have been addressed. The Zoo and the P5 Performing Arts Venues have cumulatively received \$18 million from the Shuttered Venue Grants program and the Metropolitan Planning Organization has also received increased funds to address emergency operations shortfalls. Future opportunities to pursue federal funding due to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and possibly the Build Back Better bill may include increased capital funding for transit projects, safety projects, and trail projects, and additional workforce funding programs and conservation efforts to advance climate goals. The updated document reflects the accomplishments Council has already achieved and the new landscape due to changing legislative opportunities, as well as feedback received from Council during the October worksession.

State Legislative Affairs

The 2022 Legislative session is a short session lasting roughly a month. Unlike long sessions, short sessions focus on small, necessary budgetary tweaks and passing technical fixes and a few pieces of policy legislation. It is uncommon for large, controversial pieces of legislation or significant budget changes to occur. Many parties approach the short session with only one or two minor bills, and the session is set up to be limiting: legislators are only allowed two bills.

Similar to the 2021 Legislative Session, we anticipate that COVID-19 response – both public health and economic recovery -- to be top line priorities. While the situation remains fluid, we anticipate that much of the short session will be virtual.

In addition, we anticipate that it will be a particularly political and partisan session. The combination of redistricting, an open seat for Governor, an open Congressional seat, and a new Congressional seat creates a heightened political environment over the next year, including short session. Noncontroversial bills will become instantly controversial because of their sponsors, there will be highly partisan parliamentary maneuvering in committee and on the floor, and the rumor mill will be vigorous.

While it will be a unique short session, normal preparation are already under way. Bill concepts are being discussed and circulated and people are meeting to advance policy priorities. Similar to previous short sessions, staff expects to propose a modest legislative agenda that reflects well-established Council policy and/or legislative priorities that have previously been included in the Council's agenda.

BACKGROUND

Council has previously adopted the Federal Affairs Legislative Agenda and Principles in February 2021. This updated agenda is rooted in the principles Council supported at that time and features slightly updated priorities given the new legislative landscape.

Council updates its State Legislative Agendas annually and reviews and as needed, updates its State Legislative Principles.

ATTACHMENTS [Identify and submit any attachments related to this legislation or presentation]

- Federal Legislative Affairs Agenda
- State Legislative Affairs Principles
- State Legislative Priorities

[For work session:]

- Is legislation required for Council action? X Yes No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? X Yes ☐ No
- What other materials are you presenting today? [INSERT]