

To: Metro Council
From: Randy Tucker
Re: Future legislative issues
Date: August 29, 2017

As always, I plan to schedule time to speak with you in work sessions this fall about your priorities for the 2018 legislative session. In this memo, I would like to offer a brief preview of issues discussed during the 2017 session that are likely to arise again in the future, as well as others that we know are forthcoming.

Household Hazardous Waste Stewardship

Our bill to create a statewide HHW stewardship program attracted some enthusiastic support but died in the Ways and Means Committee. Legislators are interested in introducing it again in 2018.

Climate

At the end of the 2017 session, a group of more than 30 legislators led by Sens. Dembrow and Beyer and Rep. Helm introduced SB 1070, a “marker bill” representing the then-current state of a proposed carbon “cap and invest” bill to be pursued in 2018. You supported the “invest” portion of this legislation in 2017, as well as related legislation in 2016, and we will discuss the new proposal with you this fall.

Housing

While progress was made on housing in 2017, several proposals did not pass and are likely to appear again in 2018. Specifically, we anticipate renewed efforts to enact tenant protections and to increase the document recording fee to raise funds for affordable housing. We also expect the Legislature to refer a constitutional amendment to the ballot to relax certain limitations on the use of local general obligation bonds for affordable housing. After the 2018 session, we anticipate a conversation about a more comprehensive approach to ensuring that all communities implement land use and permitting practices that accommodate housing development and affordable housing.

Transportation

As you know, the passage of a transportation package (HB 2017) was a major success of the last legislative session, but unfinished business remains. Specifically, HB 2017 calls for cost estimates for improvements to I-205 to be delivered early next year, and there could be a conversation about how to fund those improvements in 2018. The value pricing provision of HB 2017 is another element that that could be the subject of legislative refinement. Finally, we can discuss any next steps on CMAQ funding following the OTC’s recent decision about how to reallocate those federal dollars to include two newly eligible urban regions.

Air Quality

As noted in the attached summary of session outcomes, legislation passed in 2017 that allocates funds from the national Volkswagen settlement, but most of the other elements of the original bill were stripped out before final passage and a renewed effort to enact some of those elements is likely. Other improvements to air quality management could also be the subject of legislation given the Legislature's failure to enact such improvements in 2017.

Land Use

We expect to be asked to testify in September about two issues: the status of urban and rural reserves, and the relationship between our urban growth management process – specifically, our capacity analysis – and areas like Damascus that have been in the UGB for some time but have failed to develop. Both of these issues were raised in 2017, and while no problematic legislation moved forward, we continue to need to educate legislators about them. Meanwhile, we anticipate continued legislative efforts to modify the adopted reserves map and/or to rezone particular properties like the so-called Red Barn property south of Wilsonville.