

## 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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Date: December 29, 2020  
Department: GAPD  
Meeting Date: January 12, 2021

Presenter(s) (if applicable): Randy Tucker  
and Anneliese Koehler  
Length: 45 minutes

Prepared by:  
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### ISSUE STATEMENT

This work session is the fourth opportunity to discuss the Metro Council's objectives for the 2021 Oregon legislative session, and the final opportunity before the session convenes on January 19. The Council is scheduled to officially adopt its legislative agenda on January 28 in Resolution 21-5152, so in this work session we will present proposed final versions of the Council's legislative priorities and principles that reflect the feedback we have received to this point and consider any refinements to ensure the agenda accurately carries forward Council intent. Specific proposed legislative priorities and principles have been discussed in more detail in previous work sessions.

### ACTION REQUESTED

The Council may wish to discuss specific changes or refinements to the legislative priorities or principles, direct staff to develop additional concepts, or otherwise provide policy direction to staff before adopting its legislative agenda on January 28.

### POLICY QUESTION(S)

- Does the Council wish to confirm or modify the proposed Legislative Priorities with respect to issues that are likely to surface in 2021?
- Does the Council wish to make changes to the proposed Legislative Principles that guide the actions of staff on issues that may arise during a legislative session?
- Are there topics on which the Council would like to adopt legislative positions aside from those that have been brought forward to date?

### POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

See attached draft versions of proposed 2021 Legislative Priorities and Legislative Principles. Specific 2021 legislative priorities and principles were presented at the October 13, November 10 and December 15 work sessions.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 21-5152 along with Exhibit A (2021 Legislative Priorities) and Exhibit B (2021 Legislative Principles).

### STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

As we have previously discussed, we continue to anticipate that much of the 2021 session will be focused on the pressing matters currently facing our state related to COVID-19, police reform, wildfires, and budget balancing. The December 2020 revenue forecast, released on November 18, was consistent with the more upbeat September forecast (as compared to the dire May forecast),

but budget challenges anticipated over the next couple of biennia suggest that the Legislature will be reluctant to make significant new investments.

Most of the priorities staff has proposed for the 2021 session reflect well-established Council policy and/or legislative priorities that have previously been included in the Council's agenda. We discussed most of these items at previous work sessions in the fall of 2020.

One new item to highlight for your consideration, which in part reflects feedback you have provided in earlier work sessions, is the one titled "Major transportation projects." While we do not know exactly what proposals will surface with respect to projects on the region's freeways, the ongoing conversations about needed upgrades and the accompanying discussions of community impact, community restoration, pricing, climate impacts and other issues have led us to include this item that we hope reflects the Council's general policy direction. Naturally, we will consult with the Council about any specific legislation that emerges with respect to these projects.

In addition to the issue preparation we undertake every session, we continue to work with our staff colleagues and external partners to more effectively integrate the consideration of racial equity into the development and implementation of Metro's legislative agenda. We expect this to be an ongoing process. As we discussed in our December 15 work session, one reflection of this process is the proposed addition of two equity-related items to the 2021 Legislative Principles, as well as the reorganization of that document to highlight certain general principles, including the principle on Racial Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, that apply to all of our legislative work.

We have also made some limited additional edits to the draft 2021 Legislative Principles in response to your comments at the December 15 work session. As a reminder, you agreed that Metro's work on housing and homeless services now constitutes a fifth Metro "business line" alongside land use and transportation planning and investment, solid waste management and prevention, parks and natural areas, and operation of visitor venues. Those edits are reflected in items 3 and 4 on the latest draft.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Draft of proposed Resolution 21-5152
- Draft of proposed 2021 Legislative Priorities
- Draft of proposed 2021 Legislative Principles

[For work session:]

- Is legislation required for Council action? ☒ Yes   ☐ No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? ☒ Yes   ☐ No
- What other materials are you presenting today? Drafts of proposed 2021 Legislative Priorities and Principles