

METRO COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
2021 Legislative Session



COVID RESPONSE

- **Immediate needs:** Support legislation that addresses the immediate needs of those impacted by COVID-19, including policy changes and funding assistance for businesses, employment support, health care, housing, food, and other basic needs.
- **Equitable and efficient vaccine distribution:** Support efforts to administer vaccines to all Oregonians, with priority for the most vulnerable and for disproportionately impacted communities.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND WASTE REDUCTION

- **Recycling system modernization:** Support legislation to overhaul and update Oregon's recycling statutes to address changes in markets and materials; reduce contamination; provide statewide consistency and transparency; eliminate inequities throughout the system; and require producers to share responsibility for end-of-life management of packaging and paper products.
- **Producer responsibility:** Establish waste management programs based on producer responsibility and product stewardship principles to facilitate safe and environmentally sound disposal of mattresses, household hazardous waste, carpeting and medical sharps.

LAND USE AND HOUSING

- **Affordable housing:** Support legislation to increase state housing funding, improve tenant protections, expand affordable home ownership options, increase home ownership for BIPOC households, and provide additional tools and authority to local governments to address housing supply and affordability.
- **Supportive housing services:** Support legislation that ends homelessness in the greater Portland region and statewide. Advance solutions that leverage and integrate local, state and federal investments to implement comprehensive supportive housing and wraparound services. Ensure sustained state homeless services investments in the region.
- **Urban growth management:** Ensure that the Legislature establishes the policy framework and process for local land use decisions and respects the authority of local governments, including Metro, to make specific decisions on local land use matters. Oppose efforts to legislatively determine specific land use designations in the region or to distort the process of assessing land need by mandating inaccurate analysis.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Climate Smart transportation:** Seek funding to achieve reductions in transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions required by the Portland region's Climate Smart Strategy and to implement the Oregon Climate Agenda.

- **State funding for state-owned highways:** Secure ongoing state funding for investments to improve safety and multimodal mobility on state highways that operate as urban arterials.
- **Major transportation projects:** Support legislative decisions that: carry out commitments of 2017 transportation package related to freeway bottlenecks in Portland region; consider freeways as a system with respect to both project development and tolling/pricing approach; advance the Interstate 5 bridge replacement project in ways that accommodate community concerns, measurably reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimize other environmental impacts; and address ongoing harm to communities of color caused by past and current transportation policies and investments.
- **Willamette Falls Locks:** Support funding to repair and reopen the Locks and transfer ownership to a public corporation.
- **Transportation pricing:** Support transportation pricing mechanisms that significantly and measurably reduce congestion, minimize carbon emissions, advance equity and improve safety.
- **Emerging transportation technologies:** Ensure that legislation establishing statewide policy frameworks for ride-hailing companies, automated vehicles and other technology-driven transportation innovations do not unreasonably limit local government authority or access to data needed for sound transportation management and planning.

RACIAL EQUITY

- **Racial justice:** Support legislation that acknowledges past and ongoing discrimination, eliminates current disparities and promotes substantive inclusion in decisions about public programs, services, facilities and policies, including Black, Indigenous and People of Color-led policy and funding proposals that create meaningful law enforcement reform.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

- **Emergency relief for visitor venues:** Seek funding to address financial crisis caused by pandemic-related closure or severely limited operation of Oregon Convention Center, Oregon Zoo and other venues owned and/or operated by Metro, and to ensure these venues can quickly reopen when it is safe to do so in order to support economic recovery.
- **Brownfield cleanup and redevelopment:** Support \$10 million allocation to recapitalize the state's Brownfields Redevelopment Fund; creation of a complementary new fund with an additional \$5 million for a grant program to incentivize cleanups of privately owned brownfields; and legislation to authorize claims against insurance assets of dissolved companies responsible for environmental contamination.
- **Industrial site readiness:** Provide funding to implement statute authorizing loans to make land inside urban growth boundaries available for industrial development and job creation through infrastructure investment, brownfield cleanup, land aggregation, and other means.
- **Columbia River levees:** Provide funding to support recertification of Columbia River levees.
- **Geographic data:** Support legislation to create and fund central state repository for standardized geographic "framework" data.