

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 21-5152, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING AN AGENDA FOR THE 2021 OREGON LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Date: January 14, 2021
Department: GAPD
Meeting Date: January 21, 2021

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ISSUE STATEMENT

This resolution articulates the Metro Council's agenda for the 2021 Oregon legislative session and directs staff to pursue legislative outcomes consistent with the Council's policy priorities and principles.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 21-5152.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

See Exhibits A and B.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

See Exhibits A and B.

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

N/A. (Note: staff will continue to seek policy direction from the Council throughout the legislative session as issues change and new issues arise.)

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Specific recommendations on policy direction are included in Exhibits A and B.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- **How does this advance Metro's racial equity goals?** Several of the legislative priorities described in Exhibit A support outcomes that will advance Metro's racial equity goals, including but not limited to support for

- both funding and policy related to affordable housing and supportive housing services, including legislation to ensure that people affected by COVID-19 can stay in their homes;
- legislation to modernize the state's recycling system that includes elements aimed at reducing inequities in the system;
- legislation addressing ongoing harm to communities of color caused by past and current transportation policies and investments, as well as the failure to invest in safety and multimodal improvements on state-owned highways that serve areas disproportionately populated by communities of color; and
- BIPOC-led policy and funding proposals that create meaningful law enforcement reform.

Moreover, the legislative principles in Exhibit B have been updated to include two new principles addressing racial equity in the solid waste and transportation systems.

- **How does this advance Metro's climate action goals?** The agenda directs staff to seek funding to support implementation of the Climate Smart Strategy, and to work to ensure other transportation legislation (e.g., on pricing) is structured in ways that lead to reduced carbon emissions. Staff is also directed to support legislation to modernize the recycling system and introduce producer responsibility for specific product types, which will reduce waste and conserve energy. Other items support efficient land uses which reduce the need to drive, thereby reducing per capita greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Known Opposition:** None.
- **Legal Antecedents:** None applicable.
- **Anticipated Effects:** Provides direction to Metro staff with respect to issues before the 2021 Oregon Legislature.
- **Financial Implications (current year and ongoing):** Funding for Metro's legislative advocacy is included in the budget for Government Affairs and Policy Development and is supported by Metro's general fund. Certain substantive elements of the legislative agenda have financial implications for Metro, its regional partners, and the larger regional economy (e.g., personnel or public contracting requirements or the availability of funds to support regional projects and programs), but those implications cannot be known at this time with any specificity.

BACKGROUND

The Metro Council has taken formal positions on legislation since its inception. The first such action was in Resolution No. 79-23 whereby the Council took a position on Senate Bill 66, which dealt with economic development. Since that time, the Metro Council has taken formal and informal positions on legislation that impacts the agency and the region.

The priorities and principles described in Exhibits A and B were developed by Metro's legislative affairs manager, Randy Tucker, and state and regional affairs advisor, Anneliese Koehler, in consultation with the Metro Council and Metro staff. Most of the specific legislative issues described in Exhibit A have benefited from consultation with legislative liaisons and other staff in Metro departments; staff colleagues also developed the equity-related updates to the principles. The priorities and principles were discussed with the Metro Council in work sessions that occurred on October 13, November 10, and December 15, 2020, and January 12, 2021.

Where applicable, the legislative principles described in Exhibit B also reflect previously adopted Metro policy as embodied in the Regional Framework Plan, the Regional Waste Plan and other documents.

As issues arise and develop during the 2021 session, the Council will have the opportunity to take positions on specific pieces of legislation and to modify its agenda as it sees fit.

ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit A, Metro Council Legislative Priorities, 2021 Legislative Session

Exhibit B, Metro Council 2021 Legislative Principles