



# Government Relations in the City of Tacoma

Government Performance and Finance Committee  
AUGUST 20, 2019  
ITEM #3



## OVERVIEW



- Presenting at the request of Chair Ibsen
- Ongoing efforts to improve city-wide harmonization on government relations
- Options for systemic improvements for Mayor & Council and Public Utility Board
- Questions & potential next steps

## BACKGROUND



- How does government relations work in the City?
  - Advocacy consistent with policymaker & executive direction
  - Recent progress responsive to policymakers and executives
    - City's Legislative Policy Statement adopted by the City Council with input from the Public Utility Board
    - Public Utility Board approved legislative agenda(s) adopted as City's agenda(s)
    - Joint presentations on legislative issues, policy topics of City-wide interest
  - City staff coordinate regularly
    - Weekly coordinating calls during state legislative session.
    - Lobbying contract provisions
    - Staff identify issues that need further feedback from policymakers in real time

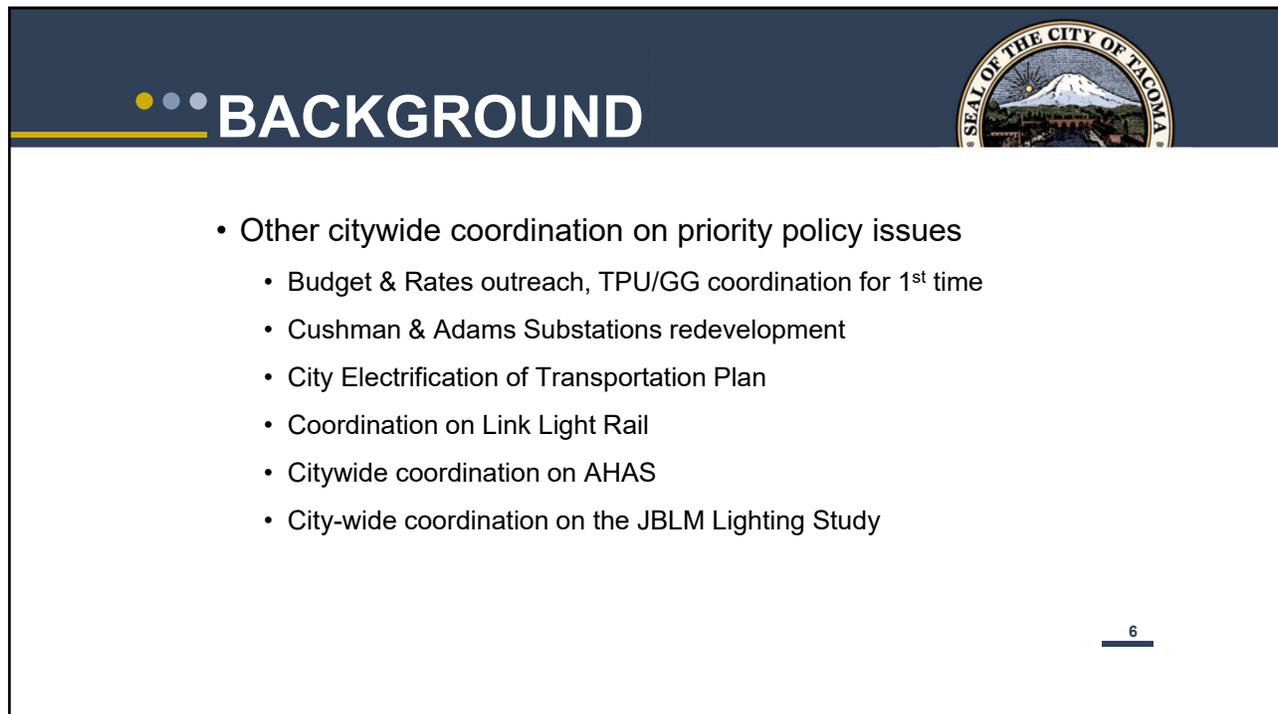
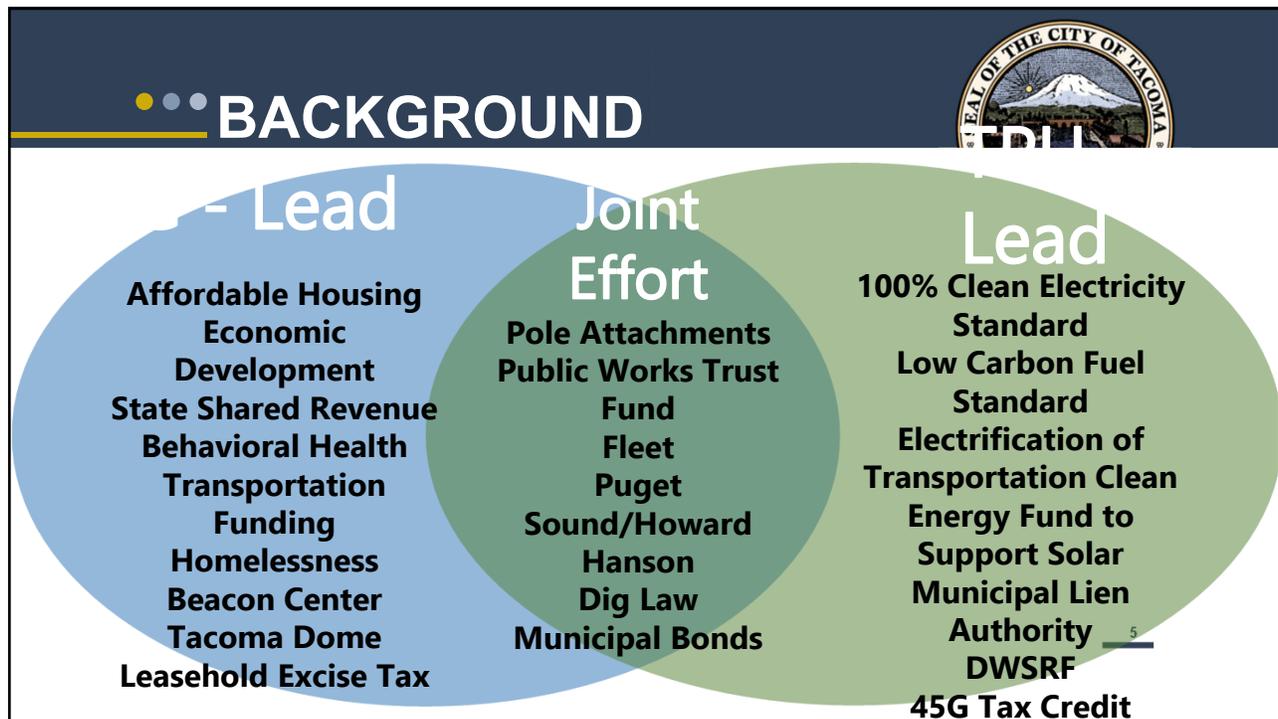
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## BACKGROUND



- Coordination improves & policy progress made
  - 2019 State Legislative Session, productive for the City of Tacoma
    - Beacon Center Funded
    - Tacoma Dome Leasehold Excise Tax Issue resolved
    - Electrification of Transportation authority strengthened
    - "100% Clean Energy" standard adopted with improvements for Tacomans
  - Ongoing city-wide policy coordination
    - Preserving local authority relating to small cell attachments
    - Puget Sound/Orca/Salmon Recovery -- Howard Hanson Dam
    - Municipal Bonds

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- Other citywide coordination on priority policy issues
  - Budget & Rates outreach, TPU/GG coordination for 1<sup>st</sup> time
  - Cushman & Adams Substations redevelopment
  - City Electrification of Transportation Plan
  - Coordination on Link Light Rail
  - Citywide coordination on AHAS
  - City-wide coordination on the JBLM Lighting Study

## PROPOSED REVISIONS



- Options for formalization
  - Staff recommends: Adopt systemic changes by joint resolutions
    - Recent improvements
      - Coordination on legislative policies
      - Council adopts Public Utility Board adopted agendas
      - Joint presentations by GG/PUB staff
    - New improvements
      - Public Utility Board Chair as non-voting, ex officio member of GPFC (Council adopts through rule changes)
      - City Manager & Director of Public Utilities evaluated on government relations coordination

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## ALTERNATIVES



- One Department/Office Concept
  - Potential Opportunities
    - Formalizing structure may/may not improve coordination, messaging versus current structure
  - Potential Risks
    - Reduced access to elected officials across City
    - Less efficiency, departments require administrative support
- No formal changes, staff informally continue efforts to improve harmonization

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## RECOMMENDATIONS



- Staff recommends that the Mayor/Council formalize systemic harmonization by adopting identical resolutions.
  - Recent improvements
    - Coordination on legislative policies
    - Council adopts Public Utility Board adopted agendas
    - Joint presentations by GG/PUB staff
  - New improvements
    - Public Utility Board Chair as non-voting, ex officio member of GPFC (Council adopts through rule changes)
    - City Manager & Director of Public Utilities evaluated on government relations coordination

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## NEXT STEPS



- Questions?
- Feedback?
- Staff draft of resolution submitted to Mayor/Council and Public Utility Board in September for consideration and adoption.

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