



2021 State Legislative Agenda

City of Tacoma | City Manager's Office

City Council Study Session Item #1
September 29, 2020



●●● AGENDA DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE



- City Council Discussion of State Legislative Priorities- Today
- Refinements to the State Legislative Priorities- Oct.- Nov.
- Federal Priorities Discussion- October 13, 2020
- Council Adoption of State and Federal Legislative Agenda- November
- Meeting with the Legislative Delegation- December
- Legislative Session Begins – January 11, 2021

OVERVIEW



- Overview of the 2021 Legislative Session
- Structure of City's State Legislative Agenda
- Review, discuss, and provide direction on the City's Draft State Legislative Agenda

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2021 SESSION OVERVIEW



- The 2021 legislative session is scheduled to begin Monday, January 11th and is a "long" session scheduled to last 105 days.
- Potential special session in November
- Format (virtual v. in person) of session uncertain.
- The Legislature will adopt Operating, Capital, and Transportation budgets and consider policy issues.



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CITY'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

- **City's Legislative Agenda**

- Identify top 3-5 legislative priorities
- Easily comprehensible, graphically appealing
- Supplement with one pagers that provide greater detail
- Council committed to advocating/prioritizing the items on the Agenda

- **Collaboration with Community Partners**

- List of policy statements and funding requests on which we will partner with other agencies

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CITY'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

- **City's Policy Document and Support/Oppose/Monitor List**

- The Legislative Policy Statement provides guidance to City staff and lobbyist on the hundreds of policy issues discussed during the legislative process that impact city business. It is reviewed every other year, and very lengthy.
- Last year, we created a **Support/Oppose/Monitor** list identifying various issues that may impact the City that we would monitor and potentially take a position. These are issues that we are not planning to lead, but we want to be engaged nonetheless.

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RECOMMENDATIONS



- **Together, We Will Change**

- **Systemic Reform, including Criminal Justice Transformation Policies:**

- Ensure an independent investigation and prosecution occurs on incidents involving fatal use-of-force and deaths that occur in police custody.
 - Establish a statewide standard for police use-of-force.
 - Create a database to track police officer misconduct and removal.
 - Reform the decertification process to include use-of-force violations.
 - Establish an officer duty to intervene and report misconduct or illegal activity.

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RECOMMENDATIONS



- **Together, We Will Change (continued)**

- **Systemic Reform, including Criminal Justice Transformation Policies:**

- Require officers to receive regular psychological evaluations.
 - Prohibit officers from resigning in lieu of any investigation.
 - Review binding interest arbitration to enhance the ability for agencies to dismiss officers who are not helpful to the agency's mission or betray the public's trust.
 - Enable local jurisdictions to effectively deploy body and dash cameras.

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RECOMMENDATIONS



- **Responding to COVID-19 as Partners**

- All levels of government must work together to find solutions to the budgetary challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Legislature grapples with how to address the state revenue shortfall, the City asks that **cuts are not made to revenues shared with local governments**, and that the State consider **revenue replacement and/or revenue tools for local agencies facing significant shortfalls**.

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RECOMMENDATIONS



- **The Northwest ICE Processing Center**

- The City supports the recommendations from the Washington State Department of Health to bring transparency, accountability, and oversight to the operations of the facility. *Pending*
- The City supports efforts to eliminate privately operated detention centers as an immigration enforcement option in Washington State.

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RECOMMENDATIONS



• Affordable Housing & Homelessness

- Funding for foreclosure and eviction prevention, including rental and utility assistance
- Progressive local option funding tools dedicated to affordable housing
- Flexibility to utilize mental health sales tax revenues for capital purposes and for existing programs so that service providers can achieve the desired community outcomes
- Reform the multi-family property tax exemption (MFTE) to incentivize increased housing units in the urban core
- Preserve and fully fund the Housing Trust Fund

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RECOMMENDATIONS



• Transportation Improvements & Preservation

- On-time delivery of current investments
- Local funding /enhanced local option tools
- Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge
- Puyallup Avenue Complete Streets Project
- HOV lanes on I-5 from 38th to JBLM
- I-5 Access Ramp to Tacoma Mall
- Trail Investments

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RECOMMENDATIONS



- **Capital Funding Requests**

- \$3 million for the Links to Opportunity project along the Hilltop Tacoma Link

Extension route

- Project components: sidewalk design, pedestrian lighting, street furniture, wayfinding signage, bicycle facilities, local art, granite inscriptions and poetry, street trees, and landscaping
 - Robust public engagement informed the project design

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RECOMMENDATIONS



- **Collaboration with Community Partners**

- **Pierce Transit** – stable funding and bus rapid transit
 - **Tacoma Housing Authority** – operating funds for Arlington Drive campus
 - **Metro Parks Tacoma** – Gas Station Park & childcare licensure
 - **South Sound Housing Affordability Partners**
 - **Tacoma Public Schools** - TBD

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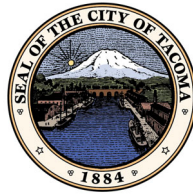
RECOMMENDATIONS



- **Support/Oppose/Monitor List Highlights**

- Economic Development Tools
- Environmental Stewardship
- Automated Speed Enforcement
- Local Control over Land Use
- Hate Crimes Database
- Sentencing reform for possession of controlled substances
- Emergency Management Governance and Funding
- EMS Levy

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