

CITY OF TACOMA 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Police Transformation

The City expresses its sincere gratitude to the Legislature for demonstrating great leadership in adopting significant legislation in 2021 to transform policing throughout Washington State. In 2022, the City asks that the Legislature continue this transformation by establishing independent prosecutions for incidents involving fatal use-of-force and deaths occurring in police custody. The City supports the Legislature building on the policies enacted in 2021 to ensure community safety is maintained and statewide implementation consistency.

Transportation Investments

The City urges the Legislature to adopt a revenue package to make much needed investments in transportation. Below are the City's transportation priorities:

- On-time delivery of key regional investments, including the extension of light rail from Federal Way to Tacoma and the completion of the Puget Sound Gateway (SR 509/167).
- Local funding and/or enhanced local option tools for cities to meet local street maintenance needs. The City's street maintenance backlog for pavement alone is approximately four times the size of its annual budget.
- \$180 million to complete the replacement of Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge, a deteriorating bridge that provides access to the west side of the Port of Tacoma. The new bridge will improve safety, freight movement, bicycle and pedestrian access, and fish habitat.
- \$9 million as a state match to the Puyallup Avenue Complete Streets Project to better accommodate vehicles, freight, bicycles, pedestrian, and transit.
- Funding for HOV lanes on I-5 from 38th to Joint Base Lewis McChord to provide a completed HOV system through Tacoma.
- \$650,000 to complete phase two of an access revision report to improve access from I-5 into the Tacoma Mall subarea, envisioned to become an urban center for housing and mixed-use development.
- Funding for trail investments, including additional funding for the SR 167 Tacoma-Puyallup Trail and Schuster Parkway Promenade.

Automated Speed Enforcement

The City respectfully requests that the State authorize automated speed enforcement to improve public safety, especially for vulnerable users. Automated enforcement presents an unbiased and consistent method of enforcing speed limits, calming traffic, and maintaining safety.

Affordable Housing & Homelessness

The City adopted an Affordable Housing Action Strategy that has an ambitious goal of creating 6,000 new units of affordable housing by 2028. The City supports grant programs and funding tools for projects that support all income levels, including shelters, permanent supportive housing, and workforce housing. The City is grateful for the Legislature's recent work on preventing evictions in the state, and

respectfully request a continued focus on efforts to reduce barriers to accessing housing and promote housing stability, including:

- Funding rental and utility assistance.
- Additional funding to cities for rapid acquisition of hotels or other buildings that can be used to provide sheltering and housing.
- Increase resources to the Department of Social and Health Services to address homelessness in Department of Transportation right-of-way, including conflict resolution with individuals experiencing homelessness, flexible funding for incidental expenses necessary to assist individuals, and provide supplemental funds for city outreach workers and clean-ups.

Transfers to the Northwest ICE Processing Center

The City appreciates the Legislature's bold action to ban privately operated detention centers. The City supports policies that limit transfers into the Northwest ICE Processing Center.

COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The City of Tacoma recognizes that a thriving community requires strong communication, collaboration, and innovation with our partners. The Tacoma Anchor Institutions Network is comprised of organizations rooted in Tacoma that have joined together to advance common goals to build community wealth, resilience, and improve opportunities for all. The collective priorities of the Anchors are aligned with the community-crafted Tacoma 2025 Strategic Plan. We are pleased to join community organizations in asking for your assistance with the following:

Metro Parks Tacoma:

- The City supports Metro Parks Tacoma's request for funding to support the design and replacement of Dash Point Pier, which is utilized by Northeast Tacoma residents.
- The City supports funding enhancements to the Department of Natural Resources' Derelict Vessel Program, as Metro Parks has been repeatedly impacted by derelict vessels at the marina and shoreline areas.

Pierce County:

- The City supports funding for public health and pandemic support for K-12 education.
- The City supports increased diversity in housing options and funding for homeownership projects.
- The City supports creation and funding of educational resources that will increase the number of behavioral health professionals in Pierce County.
- The City joins Pierce County in requesting that the Legislature increase funding for multi-modal transportation projects such as the Pipeline Trail and future investments in the SR-167 trail system. The City supports state funding for first- and last-mile infrastructure connections to major transit projects.

Tacoma Housing Authority:

- The City supports THA's efforts to advocate for a Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) Exemption for Affordable Housing: The legislature passed a REET exemption for affordable housing in 2020, but it was vetoed due to pandemic-related budget concerns. Enacting this exemption would create more opportunities to preserve the existing supply of affordable housing by incentivizing property sales to non-profit or public entities.

- The City supports THA's requests of the legislature to make a significant competitive allocation to the Housing Trust Fund as part of the Supplemental Capital Budget. We encourage the legislature to include funds for the preservation of existing affordable homes, including USDA, PBRA, and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit-financed properties at risk of losing their affordability.

Pierce Transit:

- The City joins Pierce Transit in requesting that the Legislature identify a new, sustainable, statewide public transportation funding solution to support an essential level of service. An effective revenue tool will protect existing sources of public transportation revenue while incorporating new and innovative funding models to ensure the stability and reliability of equitable public transportation in Washington State.

Port of Tacoma:

- The City supports the Port of Tacoma in advocacy efforts to streamline the awarding of Remedial Action Grants through the Department of Ecology, and securing funding for key regional transportation projects such as State Route 167, the I-5/Port of Tacoma Interchanges, and Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge.

Sound Transit:

- The City supports Sound Transit's efforts to seek state funding to support the target delivery dates for the agency's projects and services.

South Sound Housing Affordability Partners:

- The City will coordinate efforts on attainable housing with the South Sound Housing Affordability Partners, a coalition of elected officials representing Pierce County, various South Sound cities, and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians who are committed to fostering housing stability and attainability in our communities.

South Sound Military and Communities Partnership:

- The City supports prioritizing transportation funding to advance work along I-5 through the Nisqually River Delta.
- The City supports amending the Defense Community Compatibility Account statute to improve the program's effectiveness as it is crucial to the long-term strategy to resolve encroachment in the North Clear Zone.
- The City joins SSMCP in urging the Legislature to improve the state's occupational licensing processes through the adoption of interstate compacts, reciprocity agreements, and enhanced spouse licensure to reduce barriers to employment for military families relocating to Washington.

Tacoma Public Schools:

- The City joins Tacoma Public Schools in requesting that the State maintain school district funding based on the greater of the October 2019 enrollment count or the current count so that districts can maintain adequate instructional and support staffing throughout the year.
- The City supports the establishment of a robust system for expanded learning opportunities through sustainable funding and priority grant-making opportunities for community partner

agencies to provide student supports and enhanced learning opportunities for youth from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. and other non-school hours.

- The City supports revision of the student transportation funding statute to fully cover the actual costs of student transportation. The formula must include all costs related to transportation employee benefits mandated by the state through the School Employee Benefits Board (SEBB).
- The City supports increasing the funding for school support staff such as, McKinney-Vento (homeless) liaisons/social workers, psychologists (mental health), nurses (IEP supports), custodians, security personnel, transportation services and parent involvement coordinators.

Higher Education

- The City supports preserving funding for community and technical colleges, including Tacoma Community College and Bates Technical College.

Additional Support/Oppose/Monitor Legislative Issues for General Government

Climate Justice/Environmental Stewardship

Clean Transportation: The City supports policies that encourage more fuel-efficient and alternative-fuel vehicles and fuels. The City requests that the Clean Fuel standard legislation enacted by the Legislature in 2021 be preserved.

Clean Buildings: The City supports policies and investments that reduce the carbon intensity of new and existing buildings, including expanding energy efficiency, green building standards, upgrades to public buildings, and other measures.

Culvert and Stormwater Funding: The City supports state investments in local culvert and stormwater projects to improve fish passage and water quality.

Producer Responsibility: The City supports legislation that helps prevent waste and creates opportunities for reuse and recycling markets, including producer responsibility and product stewardship models.

Funding for Asarco clean-up efforts: The City supports ongoing appropriation for the Department of Ecology's program to address legacy contamination from the Asarco smelter plume in Tacoma.

Pandemic recovery

The City supports policies and funding programs that promote community and economic resiliency as the state emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic. The City also encourages clean-up efforts on WSDOT rights-of-way to address blight and debris that accumulated during the pandemic.

Community & Economic Development

Economic Development Tools: The City supports expanded and new economic development tools, including expanding commercial office space development tools and other proposals.

Green Economy and Growth: The City supports legislation that will develop green jobs including in urban forestry growth, renewable energy growth, natural storm water infrastructure, urban farming, and green technology development, making sure that these jobs are promoted within highly vulnerable communities.

Social Equity in the Cannabis Industry: The City supports the recommendations of the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force to foster a more equitable cannabis industry in Washington state and better support business owners of color. These include technical and financial assistance to social equity applicants to reduce barriers to entry in the industry and help these new businesses thrive.

Liquor License Expanded Authority: The City supports the Liquor and Cannabis Board's efforts to collaborate with licensees on the provision of alcoholic beverages via curbside pick-up, take-out, and delivery throughout the remainder of the pandemic and encourages further consideration on making the temporary rules permanent to support the hospitality industry.

Guaranteed Income program funding: The City supports funding to launch guaranteed income pilot programs in Washington State and welcomes additional funding from the State to bolster Tacoma's program in partnership with United Way.

City Attorney's Office

Open Public Meetings Act: The City supports revisions to the OPMA that provide flexibility for local governments to hold meetings of their governing bodies remotely or with limited in-person attendance during declared emergencies.

Public Works

Transportation Grant Programs: The City supports ongoing and increased funding for transportation and freight mobility grant opportunities that have historically been offered through the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB), WSDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, and the Safe Routes to Schools Program.

Transportation Benefit Districts: The City supports expanded local authority for transportation benefit districts to allow for continued use of the sales tax funding tool beyond the current time limitations.

Interstate-5 Corridor: The Washington State Department of Transportation is leading the I-5 System Partnership to identify improvements along I-5 from Marysville to Tumwater. The City supports advancing the work of the I-5 System Partnership, and asks that I-5 crossings, especially pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, be prioritized as part of the partnership.

Automated License Plate Reader Technology: The City supports legislation that regulates automated license plate reader technology but will oppose provisions that would negatively impact the City's parking enforcement program.

Bicycle Signals: The City supports proposals to allow the use of bicycle signals in state law. The federal government has allowed use of signals which use a bicycle symbol instead of a circular ball or arrow. However, Washington defines a signal as being a circular ball or arrow, which means other shapes (i.e. a bicycle symbol) cannot be used.

Passenger-Only Ferry Service: The City supports initiatives that help bring passenger-only ferry service to Tacoma. Puget Sound Regional Council completed a study on passenger-only ferry services, and the Seattle-Tacoma route was highly ranked as a potential route. The report indicates that prior to route

implementation, additional stakeholder and public outreach, environmental analysis, and business planning would need to be funded and completed.

Transfer of State Routes to Local Jurisdictions: The City supports policies and funding that would assist WSDOT in improving state routes to current standards prior to transferring them to local agencies.

Public Safety/Criminal Justice

Basic Law Enforcement Academy Capacity: The City supports the Criminal Justice Training Commission's request for funding to offer additional BLEA classes in an effort to ensure that there is adequate capacity for training new peace officers.

Curbing Theft of Catalytic Converters: The City supports measures that address the increasing trend in catalytic converter theft, such as making it more difficult to sell stolen catalytic converters for scrap.

Hate Crimes: The City of Tacoma supports the efforts of the State LGBTQ Commission to address and minimize hate crimes statewide, including supporting efforts that build upon the report due to the 2021 Legislature on restorative justice and required data collection. .

Sentencing Reform: The City of Tacoma supports revisions to criminal sentencing that reduce that state prison population, especially the disproportionate number of people of color, maintain community safety, and decrease recidivism. The City encourages the state to prioritize funding for education around substance use disorders and treatment so that impacted individuals can receive necessary services as an alternative to incarceration.

Firearms: The City will monitor legislation regulating firearms or other proposals to curb gun violence.

Jail Standards: The City supports revising the state's standardized requirements of care to ensure the health and safety of individuals in custody of the criminal justice system. The City will monitor the Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards that is anticipated to make recommendation by June 30, 2023.

Systems Transformation

Equity and Empowerment: The City hopes to work together in partnership with the Legislature to advance reforms that address the disparate impacts of systems and institutions on communities of color. The City supports statewide policies that bolster gender and racial equity in hiring and contracting. The City also supports policies to address disparities in homeownership among communities of color.

Finance

State-shared Revenues: The City supports efforts to protect and enhance state-shared revenues, including liquor taxes, marijuana taxes, and the criminal justice assistance account.

Local Tax and Licensing Authority: The City opposes legislative proposals that restrict the City's authority to impose a local business and occupation (B&O) tax and business license requirements.

Transportation Network Companies: The City supports statewide regulation of transportation network companies that establishes a regulatory structure that is similar to or more stringent than the City's existing regulations, but retaining City authority to continue collecting trip fees from TNC's to contribute to a wheelchair accessible vehicle program in Tacoma.

Comprehensive Property Tax Levy Reform: The City supports comprehensive property tax levy reform that aligns with growth and inflation to allow the city and other local agencies to provide adequate services to the community. For example, in 1982, Tacoma residents approved a permanent property tax levy for fire/EMS at \$0.50 per \$1,000. However, the 1% cap calculation continually diminishes the rate the approved rate, requiring the City to ask voters to re-approve the levy several times. This causes confusion amongst voters as they struggle to understand why the same levy needs to be approved repeatedly. The City would ask that the levy calculation be changed so that it could maintain its levy rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

Tacoma Employees Retirement System

Retirement Investments: The City operates its own retirement program for city employees, as well as the city's LEOFF 1 retirement program, and will oppose any proposals that requires the City to cede these operations to the Washington State Investment Board, or that transfers reserves out of the programs.

Planning

Local Control over Zoning: The City opposes any proposal that preempts local land use authority, including proposals mandating zoning or regulations changes regarding single-family homes, duplexes, triplexes, or accessory dwelling units.

Growth Management Act (GMA) Reform: The City supports reforms to the GMA that further facilitate growth within urban centers, integrates planning for climate change, and provides dedicated planning funding to local jurisdictions to implement any new policies or responsibilities.

Fee-In-Lieu of Construction: The City supports legislation clarifying that local programs that establish a fee-in-lieu of constructing off-site requirements are allowed under state law.

Neighborhood & Community Services

Homeless Encampments: The City will monitor any legislation to change or enforce policies addressing homeless encampments on public right-of-way. Additionally, the City will continue to implement the budget proviso language directing WSDOT/City of Tacoma to address homeless encampments.

Programs Supporting Vulnerable Populations: The City supports funding for programs that serve our most vulnerable populations, including the Housing & Essential Needs (HEN) and Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD).

Aging- friendly Policies: The City supports proposals that seek to improve quality of life for seniors in our communities, such as providing opportunities for aging residents to age in place, rather than being placed in a long-term care facility.

Housing Justice Act: The City supports legislation that would ban discrimination against renters based on a prior criminal record.

Fire

Removal of Derelict Vessels: The City supports increased funding for the state's Derelict Vessel Removal Program. Tacoma Fire utilizes this program to remove derelict and abandoned vessels in Commencement Bay and surrounding waters.

Tacoma Public Libraries

Firearms in Public Spaces: Tacoma Public Libraries opposes legislation that would require library employees to enforce regulations prohibiting firearms in public spaces.

Challenges to Intellectual Freedom: Tacoma Public Libraries opposes legislation that restricts intellectual freedom.

Protecting Library Workers: Tacoma Public Libraries supports protecting library employees in the same manner as all public sector employees (RCW 9A.36.031).

TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

TPU-Wide

- **TPU supports programs to assist limited-income residents:** TPU supports policies and additional funding for programs that provide assistance to limited-income residents.

Tacoma Power

- **Carbon reduction policies:** Washington lawmakers have indicated that they will continue to focus on legislative solutions aimed at decarbonizing Washington State's economy. TPU will actively engage in and seek to support proposals that decarbonize the economy at reasonable costs to customers and that appropriately acknowledge and credit hydropower as a carbon-free generating resource and align with existing and emerging regional organized markets.
- **Building decarbonization policies:** TPU will support reasonable policies to decarbonize the state's residential and commercial building sector, including proposals to provide municipal electric utilities the authority to adopt beneficial electrification plans. Any comprehensive building decarbonization policy must be based on sound cost/benefit analysis to understand the impacts on energy capacity and reliability.
- **Support investment in zero-emission transportation infrastructure and programs that advance the development of clean fuels:** TPU will support additional funding for zero-emission transportation infrastructure and policies that advance the development and production of clean fuels, including electrolytic hydrogen.

- **Support equal treatment of hydropower:** Tacoma Power customers have invested in renewable, carbon-free hydroelectric generating facilities for decades. These facilities will continue to require significant reinvestment to ensure their future safe and reliable operation. During the 2019 Legislative Session, other renewable generating resources were given special tax treatment. TPU will continue to advocate for consistent tax treatment or alternative approaches that support equal treatment of all renewable, carbon-free resources.

Tacoma Water

- **Support the Public Works Trust Fund:** Tacoma Water supports funding for the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF). It is a critical program for many public water systems by providing low-interest loans to maintain and preserve their infrastructure. TPU supports public water systems and city partners in their request to restore and protect the existing funding of the PWTF.

Tacoma Rail

- **Explore opportunities for infrastructure funding:** Tacoma Rail intends to pursue funding opportunities to make investments in rolling stock, track, and other infrastructure.

CITY OF TACOMA 2022 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The City of Tacoma successfully advocated for direct federal relief for State and local governments in 2021 and was allotted \$61 million in aid over 2 years to support existing City emergency programs addressing income, housing, and food insecurity of residents and financial distress of small businesses, nonprofits, and venues. The City received a first tranche of American Rescue Plan funds in May of this year and will receive the second tranche in May 2022 to support ongoing recovery. The City supports flexibility of fund dispersal at the discretion of local governments, which are on the frontlines of COVID-19 and disaster recovery. The City will prioritize working with local partners to meet the needs of Tacoma residents and businesses, and with the federal government to meet reporting requirements.

Together, We Will Change—Systems Transformation

The City hopes to work together in partnership with federal policy makers to advance reforms that address the disparate impacts of systems and institutions on communities of color. As part of this, the City calls on Congress to advance transformation policies with regard to policing and the criminal justice system, economic security, immigration, housing, climate justice, and infrastructure to better support communities that historically have not been well-served by existing systems and policies. The City finds the following reforms of great importance:

Policing and Criminal Justice Transformation

Tacoma is undertaking an effort to analyze our existing policies in the Police Department and we are working to implement new initiatives and policies at the local level. We support comprehensive police reform legislation at the federal level that can align with our local and state efforts. **The City urges Congress to continue discussion on legislation such as the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.**

The City also supports several other issue-specific bills that seek **to implement sentencing reform and provide financial incentives for states and cities to implement independent investigations and body-worn camera programs**, for example:

- Enhancing Oversight to End Discrimination in Policing Act
- Police Training and Independent Review Act
- Justice Safety Valve Act

Economic Security

Community members are asking leaders to not only address the violence of police brutality, but also the violence of poverty and the violence of a lack of opportunity. **Mayor Woodards joined Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI), a network of mayors who are studying or piloting guaranteed income (GI) projects in their communities.** The City's own pilot program will launch this month. The City supports the priorities of this network and joins the Anchors Institutions Task Force **in calling for the creation of a Fund for Anchor Institutions within a federal agency** to rebuild in the wake of the pandemic by targeting low-income and historically disadvantaged communities of color.

We also support the **Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act**, to establish a commission to study and recommend reparation proposals in a report to Congress and examine federal and state policies that contribute to white supremacy.

Human Dignity and Public Safety: Immigration Reform

The City urges Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform so that all residents may have an accessible path to citizenship and live without fear in the United States. The City shares concerns expressed by the Tacoma community for the health, safety, and welfare of detainees held locally in the Northwest ICE Processing Center, a privately owned and operated immigration detention facility. The City finds that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)'s current operations are dehumanizing and **implores the federal government to replace it with an anti-racist agency that will humanely and equitably implement immigration laws and eradicate human trafficking.** To that end, we support legislation that would **end the use of privately-operated prisons and instead utilize available alternatives to immigration detention.** The City also supports legislative efforts such as the **Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act**, which will ensure that all immigrants receive individualized and fair bond hearings by ending the use of mandatory detention of certain immigrants and requiring the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to establish probable cause of removability in 48 hours. Likewise, the City supports the New Way Forward Act, which would end mandatory detention policies for immigrants in deportation proceedings, ban local law enforcement from aiding federal agents, and phase out the practice of holding federal detainees in private detention centers and county jails.

The City also is in favor of initiatives such as the **COVID-19 in Immigration Detention Data Transparency Act**, which calls for ICE, Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), and detention facilities to collect and share data on COVID-19 cases and vaccine distribution among detainees. More broadly, however, given the highly communicative nature of COVID-19, we support the immediate release of individuals in ICE custody for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, we support legislative efforts such as the **Federal Immigrant Release for Safety and Security Together (FIRST) Act**. This bill is crucial to ensuring the health and safety of undocumented individuals during a National Emergency related to a communicable disease.

Human Dignity and Public Safety: Gun Violence

Nearly 38,000 Americans die from gun-related injuries in the United States every year. Finding and declaring that gun violence directly affects residents, the Tacoma City Council adopted a Firearms and Ammunition Tax in 2019. The City joins the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities in requesting that Congress **advance critical legislation to reduce gun violence and promote public safety.** The City supports the **Bipartisan Background Checks Act** and the **Enhanced Background Checks Act**, to require and enhance background checks, as passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Human Dignity and Public Safety: Combatting Hate Crimes

In light of the recent surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans and other communities in Tacoma and across the country, the City calls for the creation of a **Hate Crimes Commission.** The City supports legislation that will create a bipartisan commission to investigate and expand reporting on hate crimes throughout the United States. This commission would be comprised of a group of 12 members appointed by House and Senate leadership who would have one year to prepare a report on the rise in hate crimes, potential causes of increase, and how to combat it.

Affordable Housing and Homelessness

The City supports the **Housing Fairness Act to assess prevalence of housing discrimination and create a grant program for organizations to study the causes and effects of such discrimination**. We seek flexibility in federal funding to be able to deploy those resources toward communities in Tacoma that need them the most so that we may effectively address housing disparities.

Telecommunications

Access to high-speed broadband service in every community is essential to our ability to provide quality education, create more jobs, and increase small business growth. Local governments are central players in ensuring broadband connection to homes and businesses is achieved. **Tacoma calls on the Federal Communications Commission and Congress to preserve local government authority to manage their rights-of-way to ensure the siting of cell towers and small cells is safe and appropriate**. The City supports the **Accelerating Wireless Broadband Development by Empowering Local Communities Act of 2019 (H.R. 530)**, which would overturn the FCC regulations limiting the ability of local governments to regulate the deployment of 5G wireless infrastructure.

TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

TPU-Wide

Infrastructure financing tools

TPU supports legislation that promotes the availability of tax-exempt municipal bonds and will support proposals that revoke changes made in 2017 relating to advance refunding. TPU supports providing comparable tax incentives to consumer-owned utilities. TPU also supports restoring Build America Bond payments back to their originally-enacted levels.

TPU supports programs to assist limited-income residents

TPU supports policies and additional funding for programs that provide assistance to limited-income residents.

Tacoma Power

Support proposals that maintain and improve BPA's competitiveness

TPU will continue to support federal proposals to maintain and improve BPA's cost competitiveness.

Carbon reduction policies

TPU will actively engage in and seek to support proposals that decarbonize the economy at reasonable costs to customers and that appropriately acknowledge and credit hydropower as a carbon-free generating resource.

Support investment in zero-emission transportation infrastructure and programs that advance the development of clean fuels

TPU will support additional funding for zero-emission transportation infrastructure and policies that advance the development and production of clean fuels, including electrolytic hydrogen.

Provide funding for the Hydropower Incentive Program

Tacoma Power continues to support federal appropriations for the Department of Energy's Hydropower Incentive Program. The program provides payments to hydropower utilities, including Tacoma Power, for hydroelectric production added to an existing dam or conduit.

Support legislation to maintain municipal utility control over poles and pole attachment rate setting

TPU supports legislation that would ensure that municipally-owned utilities maintain their historic authority to safely manage pole attachments on utility poles.

Tacoma Water

Support implementation of the Howard Hanson Dam – Additional Water Storage Project

Tacoma Water continues to support federal authorization, appropriations, and actions necessary to complete the Howard Hanson Dam – Additional Water Storage Project. Any federal action must respect federal/non-federal cost share agreements already in place. TPU believes Howard Hanson Dam fish passage and the Additional Water Storage Project are critical to salmon and orca recovery as a construction-ready project with broad impact.

Support funding of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)

Tacoma Water supports appropriations to fully fund the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).

Support funding of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Tacoma Water supports adequate appropriations for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Tacoma Rail

Explore opportunities for infrastructure funding

Tacoma Rail intends to pursue funding opportunities to make investments in rolling stock, track, and other infrastructure.



CITY OF TACOMA OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER ISSUE BRIEF

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: Legislative Priority on Independent Prosecution

Background

The City of Tacoma's 2021 legislative agenda included several policy priorities related to systems transformation in law enforcement and the criminal justice system. We asked that the Legislature advance reforms that address the disparate impacts of systems and institutions on communities of color. The Legislature enacted a package of police reform bills consisting of over a dozen pieces of legislation, including the City's top priority, establishing a mechanism for independent investigations of incidents involving fatal use-of-force and deaths occurring in police custody. Coupled with the independent investigations policy on the City's legislative agenda was a similar independent structure for prosecutions. Legislation on independent prosecution was introduced in the 2021 legislative session, but did not advance. The Government Relations team recommends that the City Council continue to advocate for this policy's successful passage in the 2022 legislative session.

Summary of Policy Dialogue

While the concept of independent prosecution was not contemplated in Initiative 940, public sentiment around this issue is similar to that for independent investigations of police use-of-force. Community members have expressed doubt that prosecution conducted by an adjacent local authority can be entirely objective and free of bias. During the summer of 2020, the Governor's Task Force on Independent Investigations took up the issue and a robust dialogue occurred on how such a system might be structured. The Task Force heard from several legal experts on the matter. The following is a very brief summary of the considerations that were highlighted in those discussions.

- The Task Force was provided with a matrix (included in Council's Study Session packet) outlining the legal considerations to be analyzed for five models that would represent a departure from the current system in which the County Prosecuting Attorney has decision-making authority. The matrix included input from the law firm K & L Gates as well as the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.
- During the course of the Task Force's discussions, the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys raised concerns about any proposed structure that would intrude upon the core functions of the county prosecuting attorney. From this perspective, such a change would likely require an amendment to the Washington State constitution.
- The Task Force also received a memorandum from K & L Gates (included in Council's Study Session packet) that provides some analysis on the alternative models for independent prosecution. Notably, the firm stated that "We have identified no case law testing the constitutionality of an independent agency with the power to investigate and prosecute such cases independently or through the delegation of power from the State Patrol, AG or the Governor."



CITY OF TACOMA OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER ISSUE BRIEF

[House Bill 1507](#), sponsored by Rep. Debra Entenman (D- 47th LD), introduced in the 2021 legislative session, would have established an Independent Prosecutions Unit within the Office of the Attorney General. It would have authorized the Office of the Attorney General with jurisdiction concurrent with county prosecuting attorneys to investigate and prosecute crimes involving use of deadly force by police officers committed on or after July 1, 2022. The bill was not heard in the House Committee on Public Safety until the cut-off date for policy bills, so the bill did not advance. The City did sign in support for the legislation and Mayor Woodards met with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee in advance to express the City's support for the policy.

Looking Forward to the 2022 Legislative Session

The Washington Coalition for Police Accountability, a key stakeholder group in the policy discussion on police and criminal justice system reform, plans to continue to advocate for a system change providing for independent prosecution. There is ongoing dialogue between stakeholders and Rep. Entenman regarding how to advance legislation on this topic in the 2022 session. While House Bill 1507 proposed a structure that did not present any legal concerns, there is some discussion as to whether or not the Office of the Attorney General can be entirely impartial given that it provides legal counsel to the Washington State Patrol. The City's Government Relations team will continue to engage in the discussions and will be prepared to support the City Council in advocacy efforts moving forward.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will Deliver for Washington

President Biden and Vice President Harris support the Senate's passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the largest long-term investment in our infrastructure and competitiveness in nearly a century. **The need for action in Washington is clear and recently released state-level data demonstrates that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will deliver for Washington.** For decades, infrastructure in Washington has suffered from a systemic lack of investment. In fact, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave Washington a **C grade** on its infrastructure report card. The historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will make life better for millions of Washington residents, create a generation of good-paying union jobs and economic growth, and position the United States to win the 21st century. Specifically, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will:

- **Repair and rebuild our roads and bridges with a focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians.** In Washington there are 416 bridges and over 5,469 miles of highway in poor condition. Since 2011, commute times have increased by 12.7% in Washington and on average, each driver pays \$659 per year in costs due to driving on roads in need of repair. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework will devote more than \$312 billion to transform our nation's transportation infrastructure and make it more resilient, including \$110 billion for roads, bridges, and major projects. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework is the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system. **Based on formula funding alone, Washington would expect to receive \$4.7 billion for federal-aid highway apportioned programs and \$605 million for bridge replacement and repairs under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act over five years¹.** Washington can also compete for the \$12.5 billion Bridge Investment Program for economically significant bridges and nearly \$16 billion of national funding in the bill dedicated for major projects that will deliver substantial economic benefits to communities.
- **Improve healthy, sustainable transportation options for millions of Americans.** Washingtonians who take public transportation spend an extra 72.9% of their time commuting and non-White households are 1.7 times more likely to commute via public transportation. 17% of trains and other transit vehicles in the state are past useful life. **Based on formula funding alone, Washington would expect to receive \$1.79 billion over five years under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to improve public transportation options across the state².**

¹ These values are estimates and may change based on updated factor data each fiscal year.

² Transit formula funding amounts are subject to changes resulting from the 2020 census or from annual transit service data reported to FTA's National Transit Database.

- **Build a network of EV chargers to facilitate long-distance travel and provide convenient charging options.** The U.S. market share of plug-in electric vehicle (EV) sales is only one-third the size of the Chinese EV market. The President believes that must change. The bill invests \$7.5 billion to build out the first-ever national network of EV chargers in the United States and is a critical element in the Biden-Harris Administration's plan to accelerate the adoption of EVs to address the climate crisis and support domestic manufacturing jobs. **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Washington would expect to receive \$71 million over five years to support the expansion of an EV charging network in the state³. Washington will also have the opportunity to apply for the \$2.5 billion in grant funding dedicated to EV charging in the bill.**
- **Help connect every American to reliable high-speed internet.** 8.5% of Washingtonians live in areas where, under the FCC's benchmark, there is no broadband infrastructure. Even where infrastructure is available, broadband may be too expensive to be within reach. 8.8% of Washington households do not have an internet subscription. **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Washington will receive a minimum allocation of \$100 million to help provide broadband coverage across the state, including providing access to the at least 241,000 Washingtonians who currently lack it. And, under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 1,409,000 or 19% of people in Washington will be eligible for the Affordability Connectivity Benefit, which will help low-income families afford internet access.**
- **Prepare more of our infrastructure for the impacts of climate change, cyber attacks, and extreme weather events.** From 2010 to 2020, Washington has experienced 10 extreme weather events, costing the state up to \$5 billion in damages. **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, based on historical formula funding levels, Washington will expect to receive \$39 million over five years to protect against wildfires and \$18 million to protect against cyberattacks. Washingtonians will also benefit from the bill's historic \$3.5 billion national investment in weatherization which will reduce energy costs for families.**
- **Deliver clean drinking water to every American and eliminate the nation's lead service lines and pipes.** Currently, up to 10 million American households and 400,000 schools and child care centers lack safe drinking water. **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, based on the traditional state revolving fund formula, Washington will expect to receive \$882 million over five years to improve water infrastructure across the state and ensure that clean, safe drinking water is a right in all communities.**

³ These values are estimates and may change based on updated factor data each fiscal year.

- **Improve our nation's airports.** The United States built modern aviation, but our airports lag far behind our competitors. **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, airports in Washington would receive approximately \$385 million for infrastructure development for airports over five years⁴.**

Over the coming days and weeks, we will expect to receive additional data on the impact of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in Washington.

⁴ Precise allocations would change each year because the formulas use current passenger boarding and cargo data, and this estimate is based on 2019 data.



CITY OF TACOMA

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

ISSUE BRIEF

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Rosa McLeod, Government Relations Analyst, City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: 2022 Federal Agenda Recommendations Brief

The City's Government Relations team will present policy recommendations to Council for consideration of an advocacy platform for the 2nd session of the 117th Congress, which begins January 2022. This memorandum provides background information on examples of legislation and federal actions in accordance with the City's Systems Transformation goals. Links to bill information and full text are provided below each item.

Policy recommendations were crafted considering the following:

- (a) A unique federal landscape: The Biden Administration's policy initiatives more closely align with the City's federal priorities than those of the previous administration. Democrats currently hold the White House as well as both houses of Congress, presenting a unique opportunity to advance legislative priorities rather than play defense. However, the upcoming 2022 Congressional election cycle may make for a slower legislative season in the 2nd year of the 117th Congress.
- (b) The infrastructure package and reconciliation bill remain in limbo: The President's bipartisan, sweeping Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and partisan Build Back Better Act (BBBA), his signature social services spending bill, contain several pieces of legislation that reflect city priorities. However, Congress is still deliberating funding amounts of the BBBA and interparty dynamics in the Democratic Party have caused a delay in voting.
- (c) Pending items from the City's 2021 legislative agenda.

LEGISLATION

Policing and Criminal Justice System Transformation

- **Enhancing Oversight to End Discrimination in Policing Act:** This bill would strengthen federal and state governments' ability to investigate police departments with a pattern or practice of unconstitutional and discriminatory behavior, and reverses the Trump Administration's rule to weaken the Department of Justice's ability to investigate police forces with a history of discriminatory police practices.
 - [HR 3732](#) cosponsors 16 Democratic co-sponsors
 - [S 1989](#) 10 cosponsors
 - Note: Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D-10th CD) is the prime sponsor of this bill.



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- **The Police Training and Independent Review Act:** This bill would authorize the U.S. Department of Justice to award grants to States that require sensitivity training for law enforcement officers, including training on racial bias. It also creates a financial incentive for States to require an independent prosecutor to investigate serious police use-of-force incidents.
 - [HR 1337](#) Currently no co-sponsors
 - [S 738](#) 18 co-sponsors, including U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
- **The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act:** This is a comprehensive police reform package championed by Congressional Democrats in response to the 2020 murder of George Floyd and the nationwide protests that followed. It includes measures to increase accountability for law enforcement misconduct, to enhance transparency and data collection, and to eliminate discriminatory policing practices. This bill passed out of the House in March 2021 but has stalled in the Senate, where Democrats and Republicans failed to agree on a compromise bill in early September.
 - [HR 1280](#) Passed House 220-212 with 199 Democratic co-sponsors
- **Just and Unifying Solutions to Invigorate Communities Everywhere (JUSTICE) Act:** This bill is the police reform package championed by Republicans. There is significant overlap with the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, but the JUSTICE Act does not address qualified immunity reform, criminal liability for civil rights violations, and restrictions on the transfer of military equipment. It did include some elements that the Democrats' proposal did not, such as records retention requirements, making it illegal for a federal law enforcement officer to engage in a sexual act while acting under the color of the law, regardless of consent, and adding a criminal penalty for falsifying a police report in connection with a civil rights violation that results in serious bodily harm or death.
 - [HR 677](#) 131 Republican co-sponsors
- **Justice Safety Valve Act:** This bill would allow courts to impose a criminal sentence below established mandatory minimums. This bill was introduced in the Senate by a Republican with one Democratic sponsor. There is currently no House version.
 - [S 2695](#) 1 Democratic co-sponsor

Economic Security

- **The Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act:** This bill is the primary legislative vehicle on reparations. The measure would establish a commission to recommend reparation proposals in a report to Congress and to examine federal and state policies that contribute to white supremacy.
 - [HR 40](#) 194 Democratic co-sponsors, including Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-1st CD), Rep. Rick Larsen (D-2nd CD), Rep. Derek Kilmer (D- 6th CD); Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D – 7th CD), Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D – 10th CD)
 - [S 40](#) 22 Democratic co-sponsors including U.S. Senator Patty Murray



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- **Guaranteed Income:** Mayor Woodards has joined Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI), a network of mayors who are studying or piloting guaranteed income (GI) projects in their communities. GI is a monthly recurring cash payment given directly to individuals intended to serve as an unconditional, targeted intervention that supplements the existing social safety net. This network has also advocated for additional Economic Impact Payments (EIPs), also known as the \$1,200 stimulus checks, and the expansion and modernization of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Immigration

- **COVID -19 in Immigration Detention Data Transparency Act:** This bill would require Customs and Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Office of Refugee Resettlement to collect and publicly report data about COVID-19 cases and vaccine distribution. Immigration detention facilities would also be required to collect and report this data, in addition to preventative measures in place in these facilities.
 - [HR 1681](#) 6 Democratic co-sponsors
 - [S 681](#) 16 Democratic co-sponsors and 1 Ind.
- **New Way Forward Act:** This bill would end mandatory detention policies for immigrants in deportation proceedings, ban local law enforcement from aiding federal agents, and phase out the practice of holding federal detainees in private detention centers and county jails.
 - [HR 536](#) 41 Democratic co-sponsors, including Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D- 7th CD).
- **ICE and CBP Body Camera Accountability Act:** This bill requires U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents and officers to wear body cameras when engaged in official operations.
 - [HR 531](#) 14 Democratic co-sponsors including Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D - 7th CD)
- **Dignity for Detainees Act:** The bill would ensure all immigrants receive individualized and fair bond hearings by ending the use of mandatory detention of certain immigrants and requiring the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish probable cause of removability within 48 hours of detention.
 - [H.R. 2222](#) 110 Democratic co-sponsors including Rep. Rick Larsen (D - 2ndCD), Rep. Derek Kilmer, (D-6th CD) and Rep. Adam Smith (D - 9th CD)
 - [S. 1186](#) 6 Democratic co-sponsors including U.S. Senator Patty Murray
 - Note: Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (D - 7th Dist.) is the prime sponsor of this bill.
- **Federal Immigrant Release for Safety and Security Together (FIRST) Act:** This legislation would provide for the immediate release of individuals in ICE custody during a national emergency related to a communicable disease who are over 50 years old, under 21 years old, or have an underlying health condition. It would suspend the enforcement of civil immigration laws except where there is a risk to public safety and contains various other provisions regarding sanitary requirements in detention centers.
 - [H.R. 6537](#) 44 Democratic co-sponsors including Rep. Adam Smith (D – 9th CD)
 - [S. 3645](#) 6 Democratic co-sponsors including U.S. Senator Patty Murray



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- Note: Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (D- 7th Dist.) is the prime sponsor of this bill

Gun Violence

- **Bipartisan Background Checks Act & Background Checks Expansion Act:** These companion bills would prohibit firearm transfers between private parties unless a licensed gun dealer, manufacturer, or importer first takes possession of the firearm to conduct a background check. This bill passed in the House in March.
 - [H.R. 8](#) Passed House 227-203; 210 co-sponsors (207 Democratic and 3 Republican) including Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-1st CD), Rep. Rick Larsen (D-2nd CD), Rep. Derek Kilmer (D- 6th CD); Rep. Kim Schrier (D-8th CD), Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D – 7th CD), Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D – 10th CD)
 - [S 529](#) 45 co-sponsors (45 Democratic; 1 Ind) including U.S. Senator Patty Murray and U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

Housing

- **Housing Fairness Act:** The bill directs the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assess the prevalence of housing discrimination and creates a grant program for organizations to study the causes and effects of such discrimination.
 - [S 769](#) 12 Democratic co-sponsors