



AGENDA ITEM #11

REGIONAL VISION • COOPERATION • INFORMATION

MEMBERS:

- City of Lacey
- City of Olympia
- City of Rainier
- City of Tenino
- City of Tumwater
- City of Yelm
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Town of Bucoda
- Thurston County
- North Thurston Public Schools
- Olympia School District
- Tumwater School District
- Intercity Transit
- LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- Port of Olympia
- PUD No. 1 of Thurston County

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

- Lacey Fire District #3
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- The Evergreen State College
- Thurston Conservation District
- Thurston Economic Development Council
- Timberland Regional Library

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thurston Regional Planning Council

FROM: Karen M. Parkhurst, Planning & Policy Director

DATE: February 26, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 State Legislative Session

PURPOSE

To brief the Council on the status of legislative priorities and other issues of interest.

Summary:

- The Council developed a list of regional priority issues for consideration during the 105-day state legislative session due to adjourn on April 25, 2021.
- A team representing the Council and Transportation Policy Board has met with most of the delegation from the 2nd, 20th, 22nd, and 35th legislative districts, as well as several relevant committee staff and leadership.
- We continue to work in partnership with military, chamber, association, and other organizations.
- Staff will provide an overview of the status of bills dealing with homelessness, affordable housing, broadband, telework, mental health and addiction treatment, and budget issues such as funding for I-5 and I-5 supportive jurisdictional and WSDOT efforts.

REQUESTED ACTION

Briefing and Discussion only.

kp:bl



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EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

Ultimately, the state legislature is the decision-maker for these issues. However, when setting priorities, the Council considered equity.

1. What are the equity impacts of this particular decision? With a goal to support both equity and equality, the region chose issues with broad benefits for many people.
 - Increase mobility - multimodal projects (walking, biking), freeway, transit - options that support helping all people get to jobs, and other essential and desirable services and destinations.
 - Reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases.
 - Support stronger and more inclusive broadband services to help children thrive in school and people working from home.
 - Find solutions for childcare crisis - not enough choices available and prohibitive costs; while also supporting access to early learning programs that can help children succeed in school.
 - Mental Health and Addiction Support: These conditions cross all demographic lines and solutions that can help children, veterans, people who are homeless, and other community members.
 - Homelessness and Affordable Housing also crosses demographic borders. The food bank reports that former donors are now clients of the food bank due to a variety of circumstances.
 - Support for local Climate Mitigation and other environmental issues can result in cleaner air, water, healthy fish and farms, more health services, and other outcomes that benefit all.

2. Who will benefit from or be burdened by the particular decision?
 - Identifying who may benefit or be burdened by the decisions will depend on the final outcome of the bill/budget. Most of the region's priorities call for programs/projects that serve a broad range of people, but at the detail level, the Council will want to monitor the communities served.

3. Are there strategies to mitigate the unintended consequences?
 - While not specified at this time, the Council will monitor implementation to determine any winners and losers. Council response may be to return to the legislature in the next years with requests to improve and broaden programs/projects to benefit more people and to mitigate any identified consequences.