MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Policy Board
FROM: Karen M. Parkhurst, Planning & Policy Director
DATE: September 2, 2020
SUBJECT: 2021 State Legislative Session

PURPOSE

Discuss priority items for the 2021 State Legislative Session

Summary:

- Each year, the Regional Council prioritizes important regional issues to bring to our 2nd, 20th, 22nd, and 35th district State Legislative delegation and other members of the Legislature (such as Transportation leadership). We identify those issues that require a state partnership, such as funding and policy changes.
- In determining legislative priorities, the Transportation Policy Board focuses primarily on transportation issues, creating priorities for consideration by the Council.
- Legislators appreciate TRPC’s strategy of identifying regional priorities, resulting in a short and focused list. However, staff also tracks a wider variety of legislation that may impact the region.
- The Council generally adopts their legislative priorities package in October or November to allow time for outreach efforts.
- As part of our efforts of educating legislators, TRPC participates in several coalitions, including the South Sound Military & Communities Partnership (SSMCP) - JBLM, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Thurston Chamber, cities and counties in Pierce and Thurston counties - and the Shared Legislative Partnership (Thurston Chamber, Economic Development Council, South Puget Sound Community College, Port of Olympia, Thurston County, and the cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Yelm).
- We also work with associations representing transit, cities, counties, ports, trucking, ridesharing, bicycling and pedestrians, people with disabilities, and others. Knowing and aligning with their legislative priorities and strategies allows us to leverage all our efforts.
- As part of our south county efforts, Katrina Van Every has consulted with cities and towns to create a South County Main Street package. In this effort Katrina also worked with the South Thurston Economic Initiative (STEDI). For SSMCP and the Thurston Legislative Partnership, Marc Daily and the team have developed an I-5 package. Both would be candidates if/when the Legislature considers their next 10-year transportation package.
- Several joint/regional projects have identified issues that require state attention, including the Climate Mitigation Plan and Housing and Homelessness Coalitions. Staff are clarifying what changes are needed to state law to remove barriers/add opportunities for local action.
- Staff will provide an overview of the various priorities mentioned above and ask that the Policy Board brainstorm other issues that may be of regional interest.
- We communicate with legislators during the interim and will ramp up that activity as we near the January session. We will also reach out to any new legislators as a result of the November General Election.

REQUESTED ACTION

Consider priority items for the 2021 State Legislative Session for finalization in October or November 2020.

Kp:bm