

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING AN)	RESOLUTION NO. 21-5152
AGENDA FOR THE 2021 OREGON)	
LEGISLATIVE SESSION)	Introduced by Council President Lynn
)	Peterson
)	

WHEREAS, Metro has an interest in bills before the 2021 Oregon Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council and Metro staff will represent Metro’s interest during the upcoming legislative session; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council wishes to establish a united position on important legislative proposals and provide direction to its staff in order to represent the will of the agency; and

WHEREAS, the attached Exhibit “A” of this resolution lists specific expected and potential 2021 issues that are of concern to Metro and the metropolitan region and gives guidance to staff on the Metro Council’s position on these issues; and

WHEREAS, the attached Exhibit “B” states the Metro Council’s principles regarding categories of potential legislation in order to provide guidance to staff in representing Metro; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby directs the Metro Chief Operating Officer, the Metro Attorney, and Metro staff to communicate the agency’s position on a variety of legislative proposals to the 2021 Oregon Legislature consistent with Exhibits “A” and “B” attached hereto.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 21st day of January, 2021.



Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Carrie Maclaren, Metro Attorney

METRO COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2021 Legislative Session



COVID RESPONSE

- **Immediate needs:** Support legislation that addresses the immediate needs of those impacted by COVID-19, including policy changes and funding assistance for businesses, employment support, health care, housing, food, and other basic needs.
- **Equitable and efficient vaccine distribution:** Support efforts to administer vaccines to all Oregonians, with priority for the most vulnerable and for disproportionately impacted communities.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND WASTE REDUCTION

- **Recycling system modernization:** Support legislation to overhaul and update Oregon's recycling statutes to address changes in markets and materials; reduce contamination; provide statewide consistency and transparency; eliminate inequities throughout the system; and require producers to share responsibility for end-of-life management of packaging and paper products.
- **Producer responsibility:** Establish waste management programs based on producer responsibility and product stewardship principles to facilitate safe and environmentally sound disposal of mattresses, household hazardous waste, carpeting and medical sharps.

LAND USE AND HOUSING

- **Affordable housing:** Support legislation to increase state housing funding, improve tenant protections, expand affordable home ownership options, increase home ownership for BIPOC households, and provide additional tools and authority to local governments to address housing supply and affordability.
- **Supportive housing services:** Support legislation that ends homelessness in the greater Portland region and statewide. Advance solutions that leverage and integrate local, state and federal investments to implement comprehensive supportive housing and wraparound services. Ensure sustained state homeless services investments in the region.
- **Urban growth management:** Ensure that the Legislature establishes the policy framework and process for local land use decisions and respects the authority of local governments, including Metro, to make specific decisions on local land use matters. Oppose efforts to legislatively determine specific land use designations in the region or to distort the process of assessing land need by mandating inaccurate analysis.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Climate Smart transportation:** Seek funding to achieve reductions in transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions required by the Portland region's Climate Smart Strategy and to implement the Oregon Climate Agenda.

Exhibit A to Resolution 21-5152

- **State funding for state-owned highways:** Secure ongoing state funding for investments to improve safety and multimodal mobility on state highways that operate as urban arterials.
- **Major transportation projects:** Support legislative decisions that: carry out commitments of 2017 transportation package related to freeway bottlenecks in Portland region; consider freeways as a system with respect to both project development and tolling/pricing approach; advance the Interstate 5 bridge replacement project in ways that accommodate community concerns, measurably reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimize other environmental impacts; and address ongoing harm to communities of color caused by past and current transportation policies and investments.
- **Willamette Falls Locks:** Support funding to repair and reopen the Locks and transfer ownership to a public corporation.
- **Transportation pricing:** Support transportation pricing mechanisms that significantly and measurably reduce congestion, minimize carbon emissions, advance equity and improve safety.
- **Emerging transportation technologies:** Ensure that legislation establishing statewide policy frameworks for ride-hailing companies, automated vehicles and other technology-driven transportation innovations do not unreasonably limit local government authority or access to data needed for sound transportation management and planning.

RACIAL EQUITY

- **Racial justice:** Support legislation that acknowledges past and ongoing discrimination, eliminates current disparities and promotes substantive inclusion in decisions about public programs, services, facilities and policies, including Black, Indigenous and People of Color-led policy and funding proposals that create meaningful law enforcement reform.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

- **Emergency relief for visitor venues:** Seek funding to address financial crisis caused by pandemic-related closure or severely limited operation of Oregon Convention Center, Oregon Zoo and other venues owned and/or operated by Metro, and to ensure these venues can quickly reopen when it is safe to do so in order to support economic recovery.
- **Brownfield cleanup and redevelopment:** Support \$10 million allocation to recapitalize the state's Brownfields Redevelopment Fund; creation of a complementary new fund with an additional \$5 million for a grant program to incentivize cleanups of privately owned brownfields; and legislation to authorize claims against insurance assets of dissolved companies responsible for environmental contamination.
- **Industrial site readiness:** Provide funding to implement statute authorizing loans to make land inside urban growth boundaries available for industrial development and job creation through infrastructure investment, brownfield cleanup, land aggregation, and other means.
- **Columbia River levees:** Provide funding to support recertification of Columbia River levees.
- **Geographic data:** Support legislation to create and fund central state repository for standardized geographic "framework" data.

METRO COUNCIL 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES¹

GENERAL PRINCIPLES:

- 1. Successful Communities:** Metro supports policy and funding solutions that facilitate the achievement of the six desired outcomes for successful communities that have been agreed upon by the region: vibrant, walkable communities; economic competitiveness and prosperity; safe and reliable transportation choices; leadership in minimizing contributions to climate change; clean air, clean water and healthy ecosystems; and equitable distribution of the burdens and benefits of growth and change.²
- 2. Racial Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** Metro envisions a region and state where a person's race, ethnicity or zip code does not predict their future prospects and where all residents can enjoy economic opportunity and quality of life. Metro therefore supports legislation that acknowledges past discrimination, addresses current disparities and promotes inclusion in public programs, services, facilities and policies.³
- 3. Climate Change:** Metro supports efforts to combat and adapt to climate change and to meet the state's goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. To this end, Metro supports state policy and funding solutions that can help to reduce emissions in all of its main lines of business: land use and transportation planning and investment, housing and homeless services, solid waste management and prevention, parks and natural areas, and operation of visitor venues.
- 4. Pre-emption:** With respect to issues related to matters of regional concern, Metro's policy and funding authority should not be pre-empted or eroded.
- 5. Funding:** To ensure a prosperous economy, a clean and healthy environment, and a high quality of life for all of their citizens, Metro and the region's counties, cities, and other service providers must have the financial resources to provide sustainable, quality public services. Accordingly, the Legislature should remove existing restrictions on local and regional revenue-raising authority and avoid enacting new limitations or pre-emptions, and all state mandates should be accompanied by funding.

SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES:

HOUSING:

- 6. Affordable Housing:** Metro supports efforts to ensure that housing choices are available to people of all incomes in every community in our region; to reduce the number of households that are burdened by the combined costs of housing and transportation; to support people experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing housing; and to increase affordable opportunities for home ownership.⁴ To achieve these outcomes, Metro supports legislative actions consistent with Oregon's land use laws that increase the supply of both regulated affordable housing and market-rate housing; provide funding for both housing development and services that support lower-income renters and people experiencing homelessness; and provide reasonable protections for renters against arbitrary and unfair actions.

LAND USE AND URBAN GROWTH MANAGEMENT:

7. **Oregon's Land Use System:** Oregon's land use planning system provides an important foundation for the prosperity, sustainability and livability of our region; this system reflects the values of Oregonians and enjoys strong public support.⁵ The Legislature should exercise restraint and care when considering changes to Oregon's land use system.
8. **Local Land Use Decisions:** Management of the urban growth boundary is a complex undertaking that involves extensive analysis, public input, and a balancing of many factors. Urban growth management decisions have profound impacts not just on land at the boundary, but on communities within the boundary and on farms and other rural lands outside the boundary. For these reasons, the Legislature should establish the process and policy framework for local land use decisions and should affirm the authority of local governments, including Metro, to make specific decisions on local land use matters.
9. **Efficient Use of Existing Urban Land:** Land within the urban growth boundary should be used efficiently before the boundary is expanded.⁶ Metro supports policy and funding strategies to facilitate efficient use of existing urban land, including investments in brownfield cleanup and industrial site readiness, as well as policy and zoning reforms that authorize and/or encourage more efficient development in residential and commercial areas.
10. **Need:** The UGB should not be expanded in the absence of demonstrated need.⁷
11. **Integration of Land Use and Transportation:** Land use and transportation planning should be coordinated so land uses do not undermine the efficiency and reliability of the transportation system and transportation investments do not lead to unintended or inefficient land uses.⁸
12. **Annexation:** Cities are the preferred governing structure for providing public services to urban areas, and Metro supports reforms that will facilitate, or reduce barriers to, orderly annexation and incorporation.
13. **Fiscal Responsibility:** Funding to support urban development should be generated at least in part by fees on those who directly benefit from that development.

SOLID WASTE:

14. **Life Cycle Approach:** Metro supports efforts to minimize the health, safety, environmental, economic and social impacts associated with consumer products and packaging throughout all stages of a product's life cycle, beginning with resource extraction and continuing through design, manufacturing, consumption and disposal.⁹
15. **Product Stewardship/Producer Responsibility:** Metro supports legislation providing that whoever designs, produces, sells or uses a product bears responsibility for minimizing the product's environmental impact throughout all stages of the product's life cycle. Under this market-based approach, the life-cycle costs of a product are internalized into its price rather than being forced onto the general public. This approach also provides an incentive for manufacturers to design and produce their goods in a way that minimizes waste, environmental impact and management costs.
16. **Equity in the Solid Waste System:** The Regional Waste Plan aims to eliminate disparities experienced by people of color and historically marginalized communities from the full life cycle of products and packaging used and disposed in the region. Metro supports legislation that achieves this by advancing: community restoration, community partnerships and community investment; access to recycling, waste and reuse services and information; good jobs with improved worker health and safety, compensation and career pathways; business

Exhibit B to Resolution 21-5152

opportunities in the local economy; and community health through minimized impacts from system operations - locally and in end markets - and from toxic chemicals in products and packaging. Legislation should require the establishment of targets, standards and compliance processes, as appropriate, to ensure progress toward equity goals.

TRANSPORTATION:

- 21. Transportation Funding:** Providing adequate funding for all transportation modes that move people and freight supports economic prosperity, community livability, public health and environmental quality. For these reasons, Metro supports an increase in overall transportation funding, investments in a safe and balanced multimodal transportation system that addresses the needs of all users, and flexibility in the system to provide for local solutions to transportation problems.
- 22. Climate Change:** Metro and its regional partners are committed to the Climate Smart Strategy, which includes actions needed to achieve state targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. The state should provide financial support for implementation of the Climate Smart Strategy.
- 23. Safe and Equitable Transportation:** Our region has adopted policies and developed programs to make it safer to walk and bike to school and other destinations, reduce serious traffic crashes and deaths, and reduce the disproportionate impact of traffic crashes and traffic enforcement in low income communities and communities of color.¹⁰ Metro supports legislation that advances safe and equitable transportation, including more effective and equitable enforcement of speed limits and other safety regulations, greater investment in infrastructure that improves safety (especially in disadvantaged communities), and greater authority for local governments to safely manage their transportation networks.

PARKS, NATURE AND CONSERVATION:

- 24. Parks and Natural Areas:** Our region has invested heavily in protecting water quality and wildlife habitat and providing residents with access to nature and outdoor activity. Parks and natural areas are regional assets that support public health, environmental quality, strong property values and economic prosperity. For these reasons, Metro supports measures to increase local and regional authority to raise revenues to support parks and natural areas and to increase the level of state funding distributed to local governments for acquisition, capital improvements, and park operations.
- 25. Species Conservation:** Metro supports efforts to protect and restore wildlife habitat, to recover threatened and endangered species, and to create a better future for wildlife, both in Oregon and globally.
- 26. Conservation Education:** Metro supports efforts to provide stable and reliable funding to conservation education.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY:

- 28. Metro Venues:** Because the Oregon Convention Center, Expo Center, Portland's Centers for the Arts and Oregon Zoo contribute millions of dollars to the state and regional economies, Metro supports policy and funding solutions that facilitate the success of these venues in attracting visitors and enhancing the quality of their experiences.

AGENCY OPERATIONS:

- 29. Firearms and Public Facilities:** Metro supports legislation that increases Metro’s authority to regulate the carrying of firearms on Metro properties and public venues, and opposes legislation that limits or reduces that authority.
- 30. Disaster Preparedness:** Metro supports legislative efforts to improve community disaster preparedness and resilience, with the goal of enabling the Portland region to provide for the immediate needs of its residents and businesses after a catastrophic event and facilitating the region’s short- and long-term recovery.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, endnotes refer to applicable policy statements in Metro’s [Regional Framework Plan](#) (RFP).

² RFP Chapter 1 (Land Use).

³ [Strategic plan to advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion](#).

⁴ RFP Policy 1.3 (Housing Choices and Opportunities).

⁵ See <http://oregonvaluesproject.org/findings/top-findings/> (specifically item 5, Natural Resource Protections for Future Generations)

⁶ RFP Policy 1.1 (Compact Urban Form).

⁷ RFP Policy 1.9 (Urban Growth Boundary).

⁸ RFP Policy 1.3.13 (Housing Choices and Opportunities); Transportation Goal 1 (Foster Vibrant Communities and Efficient Urban Form).

⁹ [2030 Regional Waste Plan](#), page 11.

¹⁰ [2018 Regional Transportation Plan, Chapter 3](#), Safety and Security Policies 1-9 and Transportation Equity Policies 1-7.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 21-5152, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING AN AGENDA FOR THE 2021 OREGON LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Date: January 14, 2021
Department: GAPD
Meeting Date: January 21, 2021

Prepared by: Randy Tucker, x1512,
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ISSUE STATEMENT

This resolution articulates the Metro Council's agenda for the 2021 Oregon legislative session and directs staff to pursue legislative outcomes consistent with the Council's policy priorities and principles.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 21-5152.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

See Exhibits A and B.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

See Exhibits A and B.

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

N/A. (Note: staff will continue to seek policy direction from the Council throughout the legislative session as issues change and new issues arise.)

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Specific recommendations on policy direction are included in Exhibits A and B.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- **How does this advance Metro's racial equity goals?** Several of the legislative priorities described in Exhibit A support outcomes that will advance Metro's racial equity goals, including but not limited to support for

- both funding and policy related to affordable housing and supportive housing services, including legislation to ensure that people affected by COVID-19 can stay in their homes;
- legislation to modernize the state's recycling system that includes elements aimed at reducing inequities in the system;
- legislation addressing ongoing harm to communities of color caused by past and current transportation policies and investments, as well as the failure to invest in safety and multimodal improvements on state-owned highways that serve areas disproportionately populated by communities of color; and
- BIPOC-led policy and funding proposals that create meaningful law enforcement reform.

Moreover, the legislative principles in Exhibit B have been updated to include two new principles addressing racial equity in the solid waste and transportation systems.

- **How does this advance Metro's climate action goals?** The agenda directs staff to seek funding to support implementation of the Climate Smart Strategy, and to work to ensure other transportation legislation (e.g., on pricing) is structured in ways that lead to reduced carbon emissions. Staff is also directed to support legislation to modernize the recycling system and introduce producer responsibility for specific product types, which will reduce waste and conserve energy. Other items support efficient land uses which reduce the need to drive, thereby reducing per capita greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Known Opposition:** None.
- **Legal Antecedents:** None applicable.
- **Anticipated Effects:** Provides direction to Metro staff with respect to issues before the 2021 Oregon Legislature.
- **Financial Implications (current year and ongoing):** Funding for Metro's legislative advocacy is included in the budget for Government Affairs and Policy Development and is supported by Metro's general fund. Certain substantive elements of the legislative agenda have financial implications for Metro, its regional partners, and the larger regional economy (e.g., personnel or public contracting requirements or the availability of funds to support regional projects and programs), but those implications cannot be known at this time with any specificity.

BACKGROUND

The Metro Council has taken formal positions on legislation since its inception. The first such action was in Resolution No. 79-23 whereby the Council took a position on Senate Bill 66, which dealt with economic development. Since that time, the Metro Council has taken formal and informal positions on legislation that impacts the agency and the region.

The priorities and principles described in Exhibits A and B were developed by Metro's legislative affairs manager, Randy Tucker, and state and regional affairs advisor, Anneliese Koehler, in consultation with the Metro Council and Metro staff. Most of the specific legislative issues described in Exhibit A have benefited from consultation with legislative liaisons and other staff in Metro departments; staff colleagues also developed the equity-related updates to the principles. The priorities and principles were discussed with the Metro Council in work sessions that occurred on October 13, November 10, and December 15, 2020, and January 12, 2021.

Where applicable, the legislative principles described in Exhibit B also reflect previously adopted Metro policy as embodied in the Regional Framework Plan, the Regional Waste Plan and other documents.

As issues arise and develop during the 2021 session, the Council will have the opportunity to take positions on specific pieces of legislation and to modify its agenda as it sees fit.

ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit A, Metro Council Legislative Priorities, 2021 Legislative Session

Exhibit B, Metro Council 2021 Legislative Principles