



AM No. 10-234

TO: City Council
FROM: John Marchione, Mayor
DATE: November 16, 2010
RE: **ADOPTION OF THE 2011 CITY OF REDMOND STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt the proposed 2011 City of Redmond State Legislative Agenda (Attachment A).

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT

Jane Christenson, Deputy City Administrator	425-556-2107
Nina Rivkin, Chief Policy Advisor	425-556-2103
Doug Levy, City Lobbyist	425-922-3999

III. BACKGROUND

Each year the City Council approves a State Legislative Agenda (legislative agenda) to identify the City's priorities for the upcoming Washington State Legislative Session. The legislative agenda guides the City's work with our area legislators and day-to-day work during the session. The legislative agenda includes the City's top priority issues followed by a listing of other issues the City feels strongly enough about to recommend support or opposition.

The City Council reviewed a draft 2011 legislative agenda at a study session on September 14, 2010, after an overview from Doug Levy, the City's lobbyist, of the upcoming legislative session. Staff revised the draft 2011 legislative agenda to reflect Council's suggested changes and submitted a revised draft to Council, along with a summary of changes that were incorporated into the revised draft (Attachments B and C). The Council is scheduled to review and adopt the 2011 legislative agenda on November 16, 2010. In December Council will meet with its State Legislative Delegation to review the upcoming legislative session and the City's priority legislative issues.

Two changes to the revised draft 2011 legislative agenda are proposed as follows:

1. **Fund SR-520 Eastside Corridor Plan and Environmental Work on 148th and 124th Interchange Projects** (first bulleted item of Top Priority Issues): The cost estimate provided by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to develop a plan for SR-520 from I-405 to Avondale Road was up to \$1M and the cost estimates for environmental work on the 148th Avenue NE and 124th Avenue NE interchange projects is \$3M. Recent discussions with WSDOT have been on a more focused corridor plan and potentially a phased plan. The dollar figure for the legislative request has been removed so that the City has flexibility to work with WSDOT to further refine this request. Staff will keep Council updated on further developments. A final dollar amount will be included in a separate handout that is being developed for this legislative request for funding for these eastside corridor projects.

2. **“Placeholder” item for funding for the Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC) and replacement of liquor profits distribution and liquor excise taxes, in the event of passage of initiatives 1100 and 1105:** At the time of the writing of this memo, both of these initiatives are failing and therefore this item has been removed from the proposed 2011 legislative agenda for Council adoption.

One additional item for Council consideration is potential removal of the “Guiding Principals” from the legislative agenda, as many of these principals are already included in the legislative agenda and meetings with our legislative delegation indicate that legislators want to discuss specific legislative issues of importance to the City. The Guiding Principals have not been removed from the proposed 2011 legislative agenda for Council adoption.

IV. ATTACHMENTS

- A. Proposed City of Redmond 2011 State Legislative Agenda
- B. Revised Draft 2011 Legislative Agenda (dated October 12, 2010)
- C. Summary of Revisions to the Draft 2011 Legislative Agenda

APPROVED FOR COUNCIL AGENDA:



John Marchione, Mayor

11/10/10

Date

CITY OF REDMOND
2011 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Top Priority Issues

- **Fund SR-520 Eastside Corridor Plan and Environmental Work on 148th and 124th Interchange Projects; Include 148th and 124th Projects in Transportation Revenue Package:** In coalition with Microsoft, Wright-Runstad, the City of Bellevue and others, seek funding for a SR-520 eastside corridor plan to examine the needs and develop a plan for SR-520 east of I-405 and for environmental design work on 124th and 148th interchange projects so that these projects are construction ready when funding becomes available, and inclusion of 148th and 124th projects as key projects in any transportation revenue package.
- **Protect Funding for Eastside Project of SR-520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program and Toll I-90:** Ensure Westside efforts on the SR-520 Bridge Replacement Project do not result in any erosion of funding for the Eastside Project (*\$776 million for repaving and reconfiguring High-Occupancy Vehicle lanes*). The City believes tolling is a critical component of traffic demand management on the eastside and is necessary to fully fund the SR-520 bridge replacement and HOV program. To avoid significant adverse impacts on other roadways as a result of SR-520 tolling, including at the SR-520 interchanges at SR 405 and 522, and to fully fund the program, Redmond supports tolling I-90 as well as SR-520.
- **Support a Transportation Revenue Package:** Redmond joins a multi-stakeholder “Transportation Partnership” coalition to urge that the Legislature enact a transportation package that creates new jobs by funding key state projects, distributing monies for local needs, providing additional local options, appropriately funding transit, and investing in Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) and Growth & Transportation Efficiency Centers (GTECs).
- **Capital Funding for the “Redmond Central Connector”:** The City recently acquired 4 miles of the Burlington Northern Santa/Fe corridor in downtown Redmond for \$10 million. Redmond requests \$2 million in the 2011-13 Capital Budget as a state match to complete one mile of regional trail in the “Redmond Central Connector”, a multi-modal transportation corridor that will connect more than 60 miles of regional trails, connect downtown to the Downtown Central Park and new transit center, and provide stormwater and low-impact development enhancements.
- **Reward Early Adopters of the Growth Management Act (GMA):** Redmond has put significant effort into implementing the GMA In the two decades it has been in place. The City has accommodated density, incentivized affordable housing, implemented water-quality programs, invested in storm water detention, created open space in the downtown core, and made urban areas pedestrian and transit friendly. Redmond will work with legislators to develop legislation that rewards jurisdictions embracing GMA, with additional points in infrastructure grant and loan scoring competitions.
- **Fund Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF):** Redmond will be part of a coalition that advances restoration of the PWTF in the 2011-13 Capital Budget. The Public Works Board has recommended a \$4 million low-interest loan for the City’s 161st Street project in downtown; however the Legislature must appropriate funding for the PWTF in order for Redmond to receive this loan.

Support/Oppose Issues

Economic Development/Infrastructure

- Provide additional economic development and infrastructure investment tools for cities: Redmond supports initiatives that advance economic development and infrastructure investment, including reauthorization of the Local Revitalization Financing (LRF) program, climate change and sustainability initiatives and Puget Sound Partnership funding.
- Broaden the allowable uses of the local Real Estate Excise Tax (REET): Redmond supports giving cities more flexibility in the use of their 1st and 2nd one-quarter percent distributions of REET.

Environment

- Advance green development and sustainability: Redmond supports initiatives to promote green development and sustainability so long as mandates and requirements are not imposed on cities.

Fiscal/Budget/Funding Items

- Protect state-shared revenues: Redmond will join with the AWC, cities, counties, and others to protect critical state-shared revenues that are vital for local governments. Particular items of importance include criminal justice assistance monies, auto theft and ID theft prevention, public health, “Buildable Lands” funding, and Streamlined Sales Tax mitigation payments.
- Promote efficiencies to help relieve or reduce cost burdens on local governments: Redmond supports ideas advanced by AWC and Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) to help local governments operate more efficiently, reduce or delay cost impacts, or relieve cost burdens, such as public records request reforms, notice changes under the State Environmental Policy and Shoreline Acts, and delaying the date when public fleets must deploy biofuel-powered or electric vehicles.
- Oppose unfunded mandates and actions that erode or eliminate local government revenues or add to local costs: Redmond opposes actions that impose unfunded mandates on local governments, erode local revenues or add local costs. For example, the city has strongly opposed legislation that would have placed burdensome density requirements on cities around transit stations.
- Oppose pension enhancements that add new costs and fully fund pension responsibilities: Redmond will support the AWC in opposing pension enhancements that would add new costs to local governments and urges the state to fully fund existing pension responsibilities.
- Advance reforms to better manage personnel and labor costs, including Workers’ Compensation system: Redmond supports initiatives that help better manage personnel and labor costs and improve the Workers’ Compensation system.

General Government

- Oppose changes to “Call Before You Dig” laws: Redmond will join the AWC, public utility districts, and others in opposing changes to “Call Before You Dig” sections of state law that could have the effect of shifting liability and costs to local utilities.
- Encourage the use of fire-suppression sprinklers in single-family homes: Redmond went through the process to require the installation of fire-suppression sprinklers in new single-family homes. The City supports legislation to streamline this process without adding new mandates or requirements.

Land-Use/Planning/GMA

- Oppose legislation to require impact fees for new residential housing be collected at sale or closing: Redmond enacted an ordinance that delays impact fee collections on new residential units until the time of drywall installation. Redmond will join the AWC, cities, counties, and school districts to oppose any requirement that impact fees be collected at the time of sale or closing on new homes.

Law Enforcement/Courts

- Strengthen penalties for repeat vehicle prowler offenders: Redmond supports increased penalties for offenders who commit multiple vehicle prowler offenses, as this is a growing problem in Redmond.
- Oppose limitations or mandates on local government photo enforcement programs: Redmond opposes legislation that limits the fines a local government may collect or that dictate operational features of red light and school speed zone camera programs.

Parks & Recreation

- Fund Washington Wildlife, Recreation & Parks (WWRP) program: Redmond supports efforts to preserve or perhaps enhance WWRP funding within the 2011-13 Capital Budget.
- Support “Healthy & Sustainable Communities Initiative”: Redmond supports funding for programs that help people stay active and make healthy choices, such as public health, Safe Routes to Schools, the “Urban Vitality” program in the Capital Budget, “Complete Streets” legislation and the WWRP.

Regionally Significant Issues

- Fund affordable housing and human services: Redmond supports the Eastside Human Services legislative agenda and preservation of funding sources to prevent and end homelessness, sustain affordable housing options, enhance early childhood education and school readiness, improve access to basic needs, and serve older adults in need.
- County Unincorporated Area Utility Tax: Redmond does not oppose an unincorporated area utility tax proposal, but strongly opposes any proposal for a countywide utility tax.

CITY OF REDMOND
2011 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Guiding Principles:

The City has adopted the following principles to guide the City's legislative actions:

- **Protect home rule and local authority:** The Legislature should refrain from pre-empting the authority of local cities and communities which are closest to the citizens they serve.
- **Refrain from imposing unfunded or "under-funded" mandates:** It is important that the Legislature stay within the boundaries of Initiative 601 and refrain from imposing new unfunded or "under-funded" mandates upon local jurisdictions unless there is adequate funding provided to implement them. Redmond believes the Legislature has been much more sensitive to this issue in recent years.
- **The state should not erode local revenues and local taxing authority:** As "creatures of the state," cities in Washington have only the taxing and revenue authority directly provided to them by the State Legislature. It is vital that lawmakers refrain from making decisions that erode or eliminate those revenues and the local taxing authority that is given to cities.
- **The state should preserve Operating, Capital, and Transportation budget funding that flows to cities:** In 2009, the Legislature took several actions that cut or eliminated operational and infrastructure funding for Redmond and other cities. We urge the Legislature to preserve existing funding in 2010.
- **In its decision-making, particularly in grant and loan programs, the Legislature should reward jurisdictions that are stepping up to implement the policy goals developed by the state:** Redmond is an example of a city that is doing the right things to implement the Growth Management Act (GMA), accommodate density, ensure the urban centers of downtown and Overlake are conducive to "transit-oriented" and pedestrian-friendly development, embrace "green building" and climate-change and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) strategies, etc. As it makes funding decisions and policy decisions regarding grant and loan programs, the state should find ways to reward jurisdictions, such as Redmond, that are carrying out and embracing these policy objectives.

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2011 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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- Fund Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC) and replace liquor profits distribution and liquor excise tax revenues if I-1100 and I-1105 are approved: If voters approve I-1100 and I-1105 this November, cities will lose significant profits distribution (1100, 1105) and excise tax revenues (1105) and MRSC will lose its financing source. Redmond will join with the AWC and others to seek replacement revenues for local governments and MRSC in the event of passage of 1100 or 1105.
- Promote efficiencies to help relieve or reduce cost burdens on local governments: Redmond supports ideas advanced by AWC and Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) to help local governments operate more efficiently, reduce or delay cost impacts, or relieve cost burdens, such as public records request reforms, notice changes under the State Environmental Policy and Shoreline Acts, and delaying the date when public fleets must deploy biofuel-powered or electric vehicles.
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Summary of Revisions to Draft 2011 Legislative Agenda

October 12, 2010

Incorporates Council suggestions from September 14, 2010 Study Session

- I. Restatement of Issues for a shorter more concise document
- II. Top Priorities:
 - Fit on one page
 - SR-520 bridge replacement and HOV program – reflects support for tolling I-90 to avoid adverse impacts on the system and is necessary to fully fund the program
 - Reward early adopters of GMA – “reward good actor jurisdictions” language has been replaced with “early adopters” and “jurisdictions embracing GMA”, and water quality programs have been included
 - Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) item mistakenly left off draft and has been added
- III. Support/Oppose Items:
 - REET item added – Broaden the allowable uses of the local Real Estate Excise Tax (give cities more flexibility in the use of their 1st and 2nd quarter percent distributions)
 - MSRC – Funding of Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC) specifically included in title of item (if voters approve initiative 1100 and/or 1105 this November)
 - Pension item – “fully fund existing obligations” language added
 - Personnel and Labor Costs – reflects “reform” as well as Workers Comp System
 - Oppose unfunded mandates or actions that erode or add to local government revenues – added language “or eliminate revenues or add to local costs”
 - Fire Suppression Sprinklers – support streamlined process without mandates or requirements
 - Impact Fee Payments – language more straight forward
 - Utility Tax – reflects City will not oppose unincorporated area utility tax but will oppose countywide utility tax
- IV. Item for future Council Consideration:
 - Remove “Guiding Principals” as a separate page in the Legislative Agenda, as many of these are already incorporated into the Legislative Agenda