



AM No. 11-234 (C3)

TO: City Council
FROM: John Marchione, Mayor
DATE: December 6, 2011
SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE 2012 CITY OF REDMOND STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt the proposed 2012 City of Redmond State Legislative Agenda (attached).

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

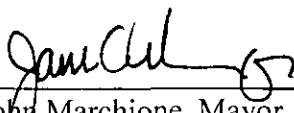
Each year the City Council approves a State Legislative Agenda to identify the City's priorities for the upcoming Washington State Legislative Session. The legislative agenda guides the City's work with our area legislators and day-to-day work during the session. The legislative agenda includes the City's top priority issues followed by other issues the City supports or opposes.

The City Council reviewed a draft 2012 legislative agenda at a study session on November 7, 2011, after an overview from State Lobbyist Doug Levy of the upcoming special and 2012 legislative sessions. The draft 2012 legislative agenda was modified to reflect Council direction to add support for funding the Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC); this item has been added to the top priority issue titled "*Protect 'State-Shared' and other Key State Revenues*". The Council met with 45th and 48th district legislators on November 15 and discussed State budget issues and the City's top priority legislative issues.

IV. ATTACHMENTS

City of Redmond 2012 State Legislative Agenda

APPROVED FOR COUNCIL AGENDA:



John Marchione, Mayor

11/23/11

Date

ATTACHMENT A

CITY OF REDMOND 2012 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Top Priority Issues

- **Support Transportation Investment Package**
Fund 148th and 124th Interchange Projects and Other SR-520 Eastside Projects: Redmond urges the Legislature to develop and enact a 2012 transportation investment package, with funding for the 148th and 124th interchange projects and other project recommendations that will be available in early 2012 from a study being conducted by WSDOT of the SR-520 Eastside Corridor. The transportation package should be crafted in a manner that creates new jobs by funding key state projects, distributing monies for local needs, providing additional local options, appropriately funding the "Complete Streets" program and transit, and investing in Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) and Growth & Transportation Efficiency Centers (GTECs).
- **Fully Fund SR-520 Bridge Replacement Program and Toll I-90:** Redmond will team with others to work to complete the funding package for the SR-520 Bridge Replacement program. The City believes tolling is a critical component of traffic demand management on the eastside and is necessary to fully fund replacement of the SR-520 Bridge. Redmond supports tolling I-90 as well as SR-520 to fully fund the bridge replacement program and avoid significant adverse impacts on other roadways as a result of SR-520 tolling, including at the SR-520 interchanges at I-405 and SR-522.
- **Capital Funding (\$250,000) for the "Redmond Central Connector":** The City has been encouraged to submit a small 2012 Capital Budget request for the Connector that would enable the City to build a trail crossing over the Sammamish River Trestle, a project which is in both Redmond's Parks and Transportation Capital plans. The City sincerely appreciates the work of its legislative delegation in 2011 in obtaining \$850,000 for the Redmond Central Connector, a multi-modal transportation corridor that will connect more than 60 miles of regional trails and connect downtown to the Downtown Central Park and new transit center, while also providing stormwater and low-impact development enhancements.
- **Protect "State-Shared" and other Key State Revenues:** Redmond will join the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), cities and counties to protect critical "state-shared revenues" that are vital for local governments, such as liquor taxes and profits, municipal criminal justice assistance, and Streamlined Sales Tax mitigation payments. Redmond will also emphasize protecting revenue that funds auto theft and ID theft prevention, public health, and key human services such as housing assistance, as well as funding for the Municipal research Services Center (MRSC).

Support/Oppose Issues

Economic Development/Infrastructure

- Provide additional economic development and infrastructure investment tools for cities: Redmond supports initiatives that spur economic development and infrastructure investment, including more robust "Tax Increment Financing."
- Protect key infrastructure programs within the Capital Budget: Redmond will strive to protect key infrastructure programs within the Capital Budget that provide jobs and enhance communities, including the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF), Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) and Housing Trust Fund.
- Infrastructure/jobs package: The 2012 Legislature may consider using the Capital Budget as a vehicle for a jobs or stimulus package of capital and infrastructure investments. Conceptually, Redmond is open to supporting such a package, providing it includes key investments for cities; the City will need to review and analyze the details of any such package.
- 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, "Complete Streets" legislation and the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program.

Environment

- Advance green development and sustainability: Redmond supports initiatives to promote green development and sustainability, and investment for Puget Sound Partnership efforts, so long as mandates and requirements are not imposed on cities without adequate funding to implement.
- Add prescription drug disposal to State's "product stewardship" program: Redmond supports adding prescription drug disposal to the state's "Product Stewardship" program, whereby manufacturers finance programs for safe disposal of items such as electronics and mercury-containing lights.

Fiscal/Budget/Funding Items

- 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 and changes that reduce or eliminate duplication between the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and individual land-use codes that already offer environmental protection mechanisms.
- 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.

General Government

- Bidding and contract laws: Redmond will join the AWC and others in protecting existing authority within bidding and contract laws.
- Public records – limits to requests that are purely for commercial enrichment: Redmond is strongly committed to public records openness and transparency, but will join with the AWC and others to place limits on those who seek to use the Public Records Act purely for commercial purposes vs. the public, common good. In the fall of 2011, the City fielded one public records request that appeared to be strictly for commercial purposes, and will involve records retrieval for 157 months of permits, covering 16,000 pages of copied material and requiring one month of dedicated staff time.

Land-Use/Planning/GMA

- Oppose legislation to require that impact fees for new residential housing be collected at sale or closing: Redmond has worked with its builders on a multi-pronged program that allows impact fees to be paid either at permit issuance, at the time of drywall installation, or at sale/closing, depending upon the size and type of residential development. 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. Local governments should have the jurisdiction to tailor impact fee programs that work for their communities.
- Flexibility in use of GMA impact fees and ability to provide credits back to developers: Redmond strongly supports legislation that provides an additional option to cities and counties in the types of infrastructure improvements to which Growth Management Act (GMA) "impact fees" can be applied. A 2011 bill that will be re-examined in 2012 would allow impact fees to be collected and used for multi-modal infrastructure improvements. Additionally, the bill would allow local governments to provide credits to developers who expend funds toward multi-modal infrastructure improvements. Given anticipated commercial and residential growth planned for the Overlake area, Redmond believes this additional flexibility could be helpful for infrastructure improvements to serve existing and future companies.
- Oppose legislation that pre-empts local control over the siting of small alternative energy facilities: Redmond will join other local governments in opposing this legislation, which has been introduced during the last two Sessions of the Legislature. The City already has a special-use permit process to handle such siting proposals.

Law Enforcement

- Regulation of medical marijuana “collective gardens”: Redmond will work with AWC and others to clarify state regulation of “collective gardens”, including provisions to limit the use of these gardens, to establish a statewide registry, and to clarify that cities have the authority to ban them. The City also supports revisions in the law to better ensure that only those with a genuine need for medical marijuana are the ones certified to use it.
- 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. Substitute Senate Bill 5154 passed the Senate in 2011, but stalled in the House.
- Oppose limitations or mandates on local government traffic safety camera programs: Redmond opposes legislation that pre-empts traffic safety camera programs at the local level.

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.

Water Resources/Stormwater

- Any new regional stormwater monitoring requirements must be funded: Redmond will work with others to ensure that legislative authorization or adoption of regional stormwater monitoring requirements are funded.
- Water rights processing fees: Redmond will join others in opposing any fee proposal for processing water right applications that go beyond the cost of this service or that does not equitably distribute fee requirements across all user groups (so that municipalities are not the only entities that pay these fees).

CITY OF REDMOND
2012 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Guiding Principles:

The City has adopted the following principles to guide the City's Legislative Agenda:

- **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:** Redmond urges the Legislature to refrain from cutting or eliminating operational and infrastructure funding for Redmond and other cities.
- **The Legislature should reward jurisdictions that step up to implement the policy goals developed by the state, as it exercises its decision-making, particularly in grant and loan programs:** Redmond is an example of a city 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", climate-change and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) strategies, etc. As it makes funding and policy decisions regarding grant and loan programs, the state should find ways to reward jurisdictions, such as Redmond, that carry out and embrace these policy objectives.