



AM No. 12-169 (C3)

TO: City Council
FROM: John Marchione, Mayor
DATE: December 4, 2012
SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE CITY OF REDMOND 2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt the proposed City of Redmond 2013 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

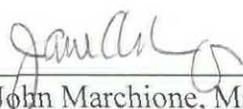
Each year the City Council approves a State Legislative Agenda to identify the City's priorities for the upcoming Washington State Legislative Session. The legislative agenda guides the City's work with our area legislators and day-to-day work during the session. The legislative agenda includes the City's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

The City Council reviewed a draft 2013 legislative agenda at a study session on October 23, 2012, after an overview of the upcoming 2013 legislative session by State Lobbyist Doug Levy. The draft 2013 legislative agenda was reviewed again by Council at a study session on November 20, 2012. The Mayor and Council are scheduled to meet with 45th and 48th District legislators on December 11, 2012, to discuss the City's key legislative priorities for 2013.

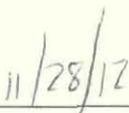
IV. ATTACHMENTS

A. City of Redmond 2013 State Legislative Agenda

APPROVED FOR COUNCIL AGENDA:



John Marchione, Mayor



Date

CITY OF REDMOND
2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Top Priority Issues

- **Support Transportation Investment Package**
Fund 148th and 124th Interchange Projects and Other Key SR 520 Multi-Modal Corridor 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 from the SR 520 Multi-Modal Corridor plan developed by WSDOT in collaboration with Eastside stakeholders. The transportation package should be crafted in a manner that creates new jobs by funding key state projects, distributing monies for local needs, appropriately funding the “Complete Streets” program and transit, and investing in Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) and Growth & Transportation Efficiency Centers (GTECs).

Authorize Local Financing Options: Redmond urges the Legislature to authorize local transportation financing options, in a way that equitably distributes funds to cities and counties, to assist local governments in addressing road maintenance and preservation and transit needs.
- **Support Hi-Tech Industry through the “Washington Tech Cities Coalition” (WTC²):** A new “Washington Tech Cities Coalition” (WTC²) has been initiated to support and enhance our state’s thriving hi-tech industry. For the 2013 Session, WTC² will support legislation that invests in education and infrastructure to support hi-tech, as well as a sales tax deferral program that is critical to the industry, while also focusing on organizational and awareness efforts outside the Legislature.
- **Provide Capital Funding (\$2.35 million) for the “Redmond Central Connector”:** As the Legislature develops its 2013-15 Capital Budget, the City will seek \$2.35 million to design and construct key sections of 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 Redmond Transit Center, and will ultimately connect with trails being planned by Kirkland and King County.
- **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.
- **Emergency 9-1-1 Response Services/Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs):** Redmond is one of several jurisdictions within King County which operates a single-agency PSAP to provide critical, responsive 9-1-1 services to its citizens and those in neighboring communities. The City is awaiting the outcome of a 9-1-1/PSAP consolidation study being conducted by King County, and will be preparing to make a strong case for respecting and continuing the authority of single-agency PSAPs. Redmond will be prepared to form a coalition with other single-agency PSAPs and seek legislative clarification and assurances on this issue if necessary.

Support/Oppose Issues

Economic Development/Infrastructure

- Extend Hotel Motel Tax Authority to Support Special Event and Festival Operating Costs: In 2013, the Legislature will need to take action to extend a provision of hotel-motel tax laws that allows cities and counties to use their lodging taxes to help support the operating costs of special events and festivals. Redmond uses approximately 10 percent of its hotel-motel tax funding to assist special events and festivals and will be part of a public-private sector coalition actively working to extend this authority.
- 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, Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program and Housing Trust Fund.
- 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

- Puget Sound Partnership Action Plan: Redmond supports investments to continue ongoing Puget Sound Partnership efforts, so long as mandates and requirements are not imposed on cities without adequate funding to implement them.
- 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

- Enact new tools and revenue options to fund local government operations: Cities and counties will be bringing forth legislative proposals to provide local governments with additional options and tools to finance the costs of local government operations. Redmond will support these efforts.
- 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 repealing “Buildable Lands” update requirements if no funding is going to be provided; and establishing an every-10-years update schedule for GMA and shorelines plans (vs. the every-seven-years in current law) that is more consistent with census and population updates.

- 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.
- 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, maintain the Housing Trust Fund, enhance early childhood education and school readiness, improve access to basic needs, and serve older adults in need.
- Restore funding for GMA planning grants: Redmond will support efforts to restore funding cuts to GMA planning grants.

General Government and Personnel/Pension

- Public records reform – provide limits to requests that are overly burdensome and cost recovery for requests that are purely for commercial enrichment: Redmond is strongly committed to public records openness and transparency. However, the City will support efforts by AWC and others to establish a mechanism within state law to deal with those few requests that are overly burdensome and of a harassment nature. The City also will work toward legislation allowing public agencies to recover some costs from those who seek to use the Public Records Act purely for commercial purposes vs. the public, common good. In 2011, the City fielded one public records request that appeared to be strictly for commercial purposes, and involved records retrieval for 157 months of permits, covering 16,000 pages of copied material and requiring one month of dedicated staff time.
- Oppose pension enhancements that add new costs and fully fund pension responsibilities: Redmond will join with AWC in opposing pension enhancements that would add new costs to local governments and urging the State to fully fund existing pension responsibilities.
- Ensure public pension obligations are not expanded to include non-public-sector years of service: Redmond believes current laws on pension obligations are appropriate and should not be expanded to include previous, non-public-sector years of service by public employees.
- Support binding Interest Arbitration Reform: AWC expects to propose legislation to reform binding interest arbitration law in a way that provides cities with more cost-control tools. Redmond will support such legislation.

Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice

- Strengthen penalties for repeat vehicle prowl offenders: Redmond supports increased penalties for offenders who commit multiple vehicle prowl offenses, as this is a growing problem in Redmond.
- Address metal theft: Redmond will support legislation to provide local jurisdictions with more tools to crack down on metal theft.

- Protect funding for Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) training and Registered Sex Offender (RSO) address verification: Redmond will join the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) and others in working to preserve funding for BLEA training and RSO address verification.
- Support statutory or budget provisions to provide alternatives to a new indigent defense standard: Last June, the State Supreme Court adopted a new indigent defense standard that limits the number of indigent defense cases any one attorney or prosecutor may handle in a calendar year. Redmond strongly supports the “right to counsel” for those who are indigent, but believe the new standards go too far in dictating costs and caseloads, issues that are more appropriately the decision of the Legislature. Redmond will support efforts by the AWC, counties, and others to have statutory or budget provisions enacted to provide reasonable alternatives to the indigent defense standard that is otherwise due to take effect in October 2013.

Water Resources/Stormwater

- Fund any new regional stormwater monitoring requirements: Redmond will work with others to ensure that legislative authorization or adoption of regional stormwater monitoring requirements are funded.
- Fixes to the “Lane Case”: A work group is developing 2013 legislation to help cities better manage the costs of fire hydrants in their respective communities. Redmond will support the legislation if the City can be assured it would not undermine current collaborative and cost-sharing arrangement between “general fund” and utility operations.

CITY OF REDMOND
2013 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.