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- North Thurston Public Schools
- Olympia School District
- Tumwater School District
- Intercity Transit
- LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- Port of Olympia
- PUD No. 1 of Thurston County

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

- Lacey Fire District #3
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- The Evergreen State College
- Thurston Conservation District
- Thurston Economic Development Council
- Timberland Regional Library

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thurston Regional Planning Council

FROM: Karen M. Parkhurst, Planning & Policy Director

DATE: September 30, 2022

SUBJECT: 2023 State Legislative Issues

PURPOSE

To discuss potential priority issues for the 2023 State Legislative Session.

Summary:

- Each year, with the input of the Transportation Policy Board (TPB), the Council develops a list of priority issues to bring to our state legislative delegation for funding, legislative assistance, or other remedies.
- In September the Council and TPB formed a Subcommittee to discuss issues of importance to the region. The subcommittee will bring their proposed slate of issues to the Policy Board for recommendation in October and to the Council for action in November.
- Some issues under discussion:
 - I-5 – Funding. Proposed schedule for “aging” the Move Ahead Washington \$75 million and request for \$1.5 million to conduct preliminary engineering for part time shoulder use on southbound I-5 between Sleater Kinney and Henderson Boulevard
 - State’s work to site and construct a new commercial airport by 2040-2050. Thurston County site is in consideration.
 - Broadband expansion.
 - Rural Project Package.
 - Clarification of Public Meetings requirements.

REQUESTED ACTION

No action required. This is to discuss issues identified by the Legislative Subcommittee. Council will be asked to take action at the November 4, 2022 meeting.

kp:bl



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EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

Ultimately, the state legislature is the decision-maker for these issues. However, when setting priorities, the TPB and TRPC will consider equity as part of the criteria. Since the Council and the Policy Board represent a broad range of interests (local government, transit, libraries, schools, geographic diversity), the priorities are viewed through a number of lenses.

1. What are the equity impacts of this particular decision?

The Legislative Subcommittee will consider both equity and equality in selecting priorities that serve the Thurston region. For 2021 the Legislative priorities included issues that align with the Regional Transportation Plan, Sustainable Thurston, and other regional goals:

- Increase mobility - multimodal projects (walking, biking), freeway, transit - options that support helping all people get to jobs, and other essential and desirable services and destinations.
- Reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases that may disproportionately impact some communities.
- Support stronger and more inclusive broadband services to help children thrive in school and individuals working from home.
- Find solutions for childcare crisis. There is not enough choices available and prohibitive costs; while also supporting access to early learning programs that can help children succeed in school.
- Mental Health and Addiction Support: These conditions cross all demographic lines and solutions that can help children, veterans, people who are homeless, and other community members.
- Homelessness and Affordable Housing also crosses demographic borders. The food bank reports that former donors are now clients of the food bank due to a variety of circumstances.
- Support for local Climate Mitigation and other environmental issues can result in cleaner air, water, healthy fish and farms, more health services, and other outcomes that benefit all.

In developing the 2022 Legislative Priorities, the subcommittee and then the full Council and Policy Board, will consider equity in their recommendations and decision making and continue to identify issues that support regional and local goals.

2. Who will benefit from or be burdened by the particular decision?

- Identifying who may benefit or be burdened by the decisions will depend on the final outcome of the bill/budget. Most of the region's priorities will likely continue to call for programs/projects that serve a broad range of people, but at the detail level, the TPB and TRPC will want to monitor the communities served.

3. Are there strategies to mitigate the unintended consequences?

- While not specified at this time, the TPB and TRPC will monitor implementation to determine any winners and losers. The TPB and TRPC response may be able to return to the legislature in subsequent years with requests to improve and broaden programs/projects to benefit more people and to mitigate any identified consequences.