



TO: Snohomish County Council and Executive Somers

CC: Lacey Harper

FROM: Josh Weiss & Annika Vaughn

DATE: August 11, 2021

RE: Monthly Legislative Update

As of July 25, all bills that passed during the 2021 session, unless indicated otherwise, have taken effect. It is not uncommon for the implementation process to spur revisions on previous legislation in an effort to clarify intent, repair unintended consequences or further reform. Many of the key issues identified last session such as police reform, transportation funding, housing and more, continue to be at the forefront as the Legislature prepares for the 2022 session.

While it is anticipated that next session will be held in person, the most recent news regarding the uptick of COVID-19 cases in various areas of the state creates uncertainty as to whether that will be the case come January.

Update on Governor Issued Proclamations

- *Eviction Moratorium Extended:* On June 24, Governor Inslee announced a final extension of the Eviction Moratorium. The extension is intended to provide additional time for implementation of the various housing stability programs, including funding, that were put into place by the 2021 Legislature. The proclamation can be found [here](#), and the press release can be found [here](#). The revised eviction moratorium will end on September 30, 2021.
- *Open Public Meetings Act:* On June 29, Governor Inslee announced that Proclamation [20-28](#) would remain in effect for public meetings subject to OPMA, but capacity limits, physical distancing, and most other restrictions related to the in-person component of public meetings have been lifted based on an update to the [Miscellaneous Venues guidance](#). Additional information can be found [here](#).
- *Utility Shutoff Moratorium Extended:* On July 2, Governor Inslee announced a final extension of the Utility Shutoff Moratorium to September 30 to ensure alignment with the extension of the Eviction Moratorium. The proclamation can be found [here](#), and the press release can be found [here](#).

Transportation Revenue Package Discussions

Legislators continue to discuss the possibility of meeting in a special session later this year to adopt a transportation revenue package. Leadership has indicated that House Democrats and Senate Democrats are meeting with their members to finalize principles and a framework that could be supported by each caucus prior to larger legislative negotiations between the House and Senate. Timing of a special session and these discussions still remain unclear.

GTH, Ms. Harper, and Public Works staff continue to engage on special session planning and strategy. Rep. Emily Wicks (D- Everett) has requested information on which projects included on the regional priority list would involve replacing culverts. We are working to finalize and distribute this list to Rep. Wicks and Council in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, we are working with staff to set up a meeting with the Governor's Office and WSDOT Deputy Regional Administrator, Mike Cotten, to ensure alignment on project priorities within Snohomish County. Following this meeting, we plan to organize transportation tours of key projects, focusing primarily on delegation members who sit on the transportation committee.

Snohomish County Delegation Meetings and Legislative Agenda Development

Per our interim plan, we have scheduled individual meetings with members of the Snohomish County delegation to get a sense for their 2022 legislative priorities. The intent of these meetings is twofold: to build stronger relationships with members of the delegation, and to determine whether the County can support any of our legislators' priorities on our 2022 legislative agenda. To date, we have met with:

- Rep. Shelley Kloba (1st LD)
- Sen. Ron Muzzall (10th LD)
- Rep. Dave Paul (10th LD)
- Sen. June Robinson (38th LD)
- Rep. April Berg (44th LD)
- Rep. John Lovick (44th LD)

At this point in the interim, legislators have not firmed up their priorities. However, a few topics remain of interest to members of the delegation, including adjustments to police reform legislation, affordable housing and homelessness, and transportation. Based on our conversations and emergent County needs, a few overarching potential priorities have surfaced:

- Addressing the Opioid Crisis
 - o Increase marijuana revenue sharing
- Environment
 - o Address local culverts
- Education
 - o Secure ongoing funding for RAP

Over the next few weeks, these ideas will continue to be refined as we meet with other members of the delegation. As a reminder, we our upcoming meetings include:

Week of August 16th – 20th

- Tuesday, August 17th: 3:30 - 4pm - Rep. Emily Wicks (38th LD)
- GTH, CM Dunn, CM Nehring, Executive Somers, & Lacey Harper
- Tuesday, August 17th: 4:00 – 4:30pm – Sen. Derek Stanford (1st LD)
- GTH, CM Dunn, CM Wright, & Lacey Harper
- Thursday, August 19th: 1:00 - 1:30 pm - Sen. Jesse Salomon (32nd LD)
- GTH, CM Dunn, & Lacey Harper
- Friday, August 20th: 11:00 – 11:30am – Rep. Lauren Davis (32nd LD)
- GTH & Lacey Harper

Week of August 23rd – 27th

- Monday, August 23rd: 11:00 – 11:30am – Rep. Strom Peterson (21st LD)
- GTH, CM Dunn, CM Wright, & Lacey Harper
- Tuesday, August 24th: 1:00 - 1:30 pm - Rep. Greg Gilday (10th LD)
- GTH, CM Low, CM Nehring, & Lacey Harper
- Wednesday, August 25th: 11 - 11:30am - Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self (21st LD)
- GTH, CM Dunn, CM Nehring, & Lacey Harper

Week of September 20th – 24th

- Thursday, Sept. 23rd: 10 - 10:30 am - Rep. Davina Duerr (1st LD)
- GTH & Lacey Harper

A few members of the delegation have requested to wait until fall to meet, including Sen. Keith Wagoner (39th LD), Sen. Steve Hobbs (44th LD), and Rep. Carolyn Eslick (39th LD).

We are also working with Rep. Mike Sells, Rep. Wicks, Sen. Robinson, Rep. Jesse Johnson (30th LD – Federal Way), Rep. Tina Orwall (33rd LD – Des Moines), and staff on legislation to secure ongoing funding for the County’s RAP program. At these meetings, members of the delegation have expressed support for the RAP program and potential legislation. Councilmember Nehring is leading efforts to schedule a RAP site tour in October; we will coordinate with members of the delegation when a date is selected.

No Initiatives or Referendums Advance to Voters in 2021

This year will be the third consecutive year that no statewide measures will appear on the ballot in Washington. Notably, Tim Eyman filed two referenda - one repealing portions of the bill establishing the low carbon fuel standard (R-94), and the other, repealing portions of the bill establishing the cap and invest program (R-95). The signature submission deadline for Initiatives passed on July 2 and for Referenda on July 24, with no campaigns submitting signatures. In order to be included on the ballot, ballot measures would have needed to submit 324,516 valid signatures

Redistricting Commission Launches New Tool and Continues Public Outreach

The Redistricting Commission meets monthly and is currently in the second round of public outreach meetings. Drafts of the state Legislative maps are tentatively set to be released on September 21, with Congressional maps following on September 28. These dates were discussed by the Commission during the [July 19 meeting](#).

On July 8, the Commission launched a new tool that allows for the public to draw congressional and legislative districts. The tool, which currently uses the most accurate population estimates available, will be updated in late August once the official 2020 Census Bureau population data is available. To access the tool, learn more about the process, or find a public meeting, [click here](#).

Social and Criminal Justice Implementation Funding

The 2021-2022 state biennial operating budget included a one-time \$30 million appropriation to counties and \$20 million appropriation to cities to offset new costs related to police reform legislation that was passed during the 2021 Legislative Session. The allocation will be distributed on a per capita basis and was disbursed directly from the State Treasurer's office by the end of July.

Police Reform Discussions Continue

During the 2021 Legislative Session, a package of over a dozen police reform bills passed into law. Legislators have begun to discuss the need to further refine and improve some of the laws, including [House Bill 1310](#), which created stricter standards for use of force. Additionally, there are three bills that did not pass in 2021 that are likely to be revisited in 2022:

- [House Bill 1202](#), creating a state civil cause of action for police misconduct
- [House Bill 1203](#), requiring community oversight boards of law enforcement agencies
- [House Bill 1507](#), authorizing independent prosecutions

WSAC Legislative Steering Committee Meeting – Sept. 16

The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) will kick off their 2022 legislative agenda development at the first interim LSC meeting on September 16. The meeting will be a hybrid format, held in-person at the Hal Holmes Community Center in Ellensburg (201 Ruby St, Ellensburg, WA 98926), or virtually via Zoom. The meeting is scheduled for 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM.