



SNOHOMISH COUNTY

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Josh Weiss & Annika Vaughn
GORDON THOMAS HONEYWELL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

PURPOSE

- Overview of the 2021 Legislative Session
- Outcome of Snohomish County's 2021 State Legislative Priorities
- Next steps

OVERVIEW OF 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- Democrats hold majority in both House of Representatives (57-41) and Senate (28-21)
- First year of the two-year legislative biennium - 105 days
- Focused on adopting operating, capital, and transportation budgets
- Legislation that did not pass will “carry over” to 2022 session for consideration
- Nearly 1,500 bills introduced, 341 passed the legislature
 - 23% passage rate, 80% of those passed were sponsored by D’s
 - In 2019, 2208 bills introduced; 481 passed (22% passage rate)
 - 32% less introduced, 29% less passed
- Consequential session: capital gains, cap and trade, low carbon fuel standard

OVERVIEW OF 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

2021 OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

- The state operating budget funds all state agency operations
- State fiscal year runs July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023
- March revenue forecast showed rebound from pandemic, combined with federal funding
 - \$59.2 billion total budget - \$3.2 billion increase in investment compared to last biennium
- Next revenue forecast: June 2021

OVERVIEW OF 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

2021 CAPITAL BUDGET SUMMARY

- The state capital budget funds public and nonprofit construction projects (excluding transportation) throughout the state
- Total capital budget: \$6.3 billion
 - Includes federal stimulus funds: \$589 million
- 222 local community projects funded at an average of \$725,000 per project
- \$82 million in bond capacity left for the supplemental budget

OVERVIEW OF 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

2021 TRANSPORTATION BUDGET SUMMARY

- Transportation revenues have been heavily impacted by the pandemic. Less gas purchased, and fewer tolls paid
- I-976 overturned – Allowed legislature to appropriate \$453 million back into the 2021-23 budget
- Shortfall continues – COVID-19 creates a significant gap, in addition to the overall need for fish culvert funding and new project funding
- Federal funds utilized to continue Connecting Washington projects and to replace state-owned culverts
 - This budget fully funds the state's culvert obligation

OVERVIEW OF 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REVENUE PACKAGE

- The revenue shortfall creates increased pressure to develop a package. A significant amount of progress was made this session:
 - Senate – “Forward Washington”: Draft transportation package/project list was shared in 2019 and 2020; it was revised and shared twice more this session
 - House – “Miles Ahead Washington”: Chair Fey held over 90 session with different stakeholder groups to identify the main priorities and needs for transportation. A package/project list was released this session.
 - Linkage to carbon policy - low carbon fuel standard, and cap and trade.

OUTCOME OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY'S 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Snohomish County Food and Farming Center – success
- Regional Apprenticeship Pathways Program (RAP) – success
- Career Crossing – on hold
- Transportation – partial success
- COVID-19 Relief and Recovery – partial success
- Floodplains by Design – success

SNOHOMISH COUNTY FOOD AND FARMING CENTER

- County requested \$2.5 million to construct a Food and Farming Center in the County-owned McCollum Park to renovate existing facilities into a food processing, aggregation, and distribution center and a commercial kitchen
- Project received \$2.5 million in the Governor's proposed capital budget
- Rep. April Berg and Sen. June Robinson sponsored the request with support from other delegation members
- Ultimately received \$2.55 million in the capital budget
- Tour of the facility

REGIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAYS PROGRAM (RAP)

- Snohomish County received \$1.5 million in 2019-21 biennium to develop the RAP pilot program; funding expires at the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2021)
- Requested \$1.5 million in ongoing funding to expand and continue operating RAP
- Attempted to secure funding in Gov. proposed budget; however, was not funded – Gov. Office staff indicated the program should be self-sustaining
- Rep. Mike Sells and Sen. June Robinson sponsored the request
- Program featured in a work session in the House College and Workforce Committee
- Operating budget provided \$1.5 million in one-time funding for the 2021-23 biennium; we will need to work with the delegation to secure ongoing funding for the program

CAREER CROSSING

- Snohomish County requested \$375,000 in one-time operating budget funding for a workforce retraining pilot program, Career Crossing
- Program would consist of a 12-to-24-month workforce retraining program for dislocated workers, helping them transition into high-demand, higher paying careers
- Mixed reactions from the delegation – many voiced support for the concept but confusion regarding the County’s role in workforce retraining initiatives and program details
- Could not secure a legislative sponsor: Rep. Dave Paul expressed interest but ultimately decided not to sponsor; Sen. Steve Hobbs lacked capacity to put forward the request
- The County could put the program forward as legislation next session

TRANSPORTATION FLOODPLAINS BY DESIGN

- Transportation
 - County worked with city, transit, and economic development partners to develop 2021 regional transportation priorities list
 - GTHGA convened Snohomish County transportation advocates group to respond to transportation developments
 - Worked with many members of the delegation to secure sponsorship of projects, particularly Rep. Emily Wicks and Sen. Steve Hobbs
 - Revenue package proposals funded many priority projects – 10 in the House; 14 in the Senate
 - More work to be done on transportation during special session and/or 2022 legislative session
- Floodplains by Design
 - Program funded at \$50.908 million
 - County Community Floodplains Solutions Project fully funded at \$8.829 million
 - Stillaguamish Tribe's Watershed Integrated Floodplain Management Project not funded

COVID-19 RELIEF AND RECOVERY – HOUSE BILL 1152

- House Bill 1152 immediately problematic for the County due to significant public health restructuring, funding implications, and local control issues
 - House Bill 1110 amended into bill, requiring majority non-elected members of BOH
- Worked with many partners to express concerns, including sponsors Rep. Marcus Riccelli and Sen. June Robinson, WSALPHO, WSAC, and Snohomish County delegation
- Sponsors agreed to a population-based exemption from Board of Health restructuring requirements, which evolved into an exemption for counties with advisory boards
- Snohomish County exempt from BOH restructuring requirements in the final legislation, though the County's advisory board must meet statutory requirements by Jan. 1, 2022
- \$148 million/year ongoing funding for FPHS included in the operating budget

RESPONDING TO OTHER OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS

- HB 1386 – Cascade Industrial Center
- HB 1410 – Eliminating property tax penalties and interest
- HB 1348 – Extending medicaid for incarcerated persons
- GMA
 - HB 1099 – adding climate change to the GMA
 - HB 1117 – adding salmon recovery to the GMA & net ecological gain
 - HB 1241 – changing the update cycle from 8 to 10 years
 - SB 5368 – annexation reform
 - Legislative task force

RESPONDING TO OTHER OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS

- Blake decision – SB 5476
 - Supreme Court threw out criminal possession statute – SB 5476 makes it a misdemeanor
 - Diversion is required; funding is provided:
 - \$45 million for grants to counties to assist with resentencing
 - \$23 million for grants to counties to assist with LFO refunds
 - Nearly \$80 million for additional treatment, outreach, housing, therapeutic courts
- Additional Budget Items
 - \$11 million to counties for enhanced 911
 - Legislative task force on jail standards
 - \$500,000 for Commerce to develop an aviation and aerospace advisory committee – counties have 2 seats

NEXT STEPS

- Special session to adopt a transportation revenue package?
- Redistricting Commission meeting through the year – recommendations to the Legislature in early 2022
- Legislature meets for pre-session committee days in September & December
- Governor's proposed supplemental budgets in early December
- 2022 legislative session begins January 10

QUESTIONS?

**It is a privilege to represent Snohomish
County!**

Josh Weiss

Vice President
jweiss@gth-gov.com

Annika Vaughn

Government Affairs Consultant
avaughn@gth-gov.com