
From: Harper, Lacey
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 1:15 PM
To: SXO - Council
Cc: SXO - All Hands; Thomas, Geoffrey; Eco, Debbie; Josh Weiss; Annika Vaughn
Subject: GTH Update for Council

Good afternoon,

Please see the below update from GTH and let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you!
Lacey

From: Annika Vaughn <avaughn@gth-gov.com>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 1:04 PM
To: Harper, Lacey <Lacey.Harper@co.snohomish.wa.us>
Cc: Josh Weiss <jweiss@gth-gov.com>
Subject: Update for Council

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Hi Lacey,

Here's our written update for Council. Have a good weekend!

2022 Legislative Agenda Development

Throughout the interim, we have been meeting with the Snohomish County delegation, staff, and Council to begin developing the County's 2022 legislative agenda. Based on our conversations and emergent County needs, a few overarching potential priorities have surfaced:

Addressing the Opioid Crisis

Increase marijuana revenue sharing to fund behavioral health and diversion programs.

This issue was brought up at our meeting with Rep. Peterson, who championed the County's 2019 legislation to increase county share of marijuana revenue. Rep. Peterson was open to bringing forward this issue again.

Support the Lynnwood Recovery Center Project

Rep. Davis will be leading an effort to establish a recovery center in Lynnwood, providing services including outpatient treatment for inmates and the public. The County supports this project and will help contribute to efforts if the City requests funding in 2022.

Education

Secure ongoing funding for RAP.

We are engaging with Sen. Robinson, Rep. Sells, and legislative staff on pathways to advance this issue. It is likely that we will address this through the budget rather than statewide legislation.

Environment

Address local culverts.

We will advocate for the inclusion of funding to address local culverts through the passage of a transportation revenue package.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Fund the Snohomish County Regional Priorities List.

Support the County's RCO project requests, tentatively including:

1. Kayak Point Day-Use Phase II
2. Thomas' Eddy SWM Restoration Project
3. RCO funding to match Conservation Futures Applications – acquisitions TBD

We will continue to refine these items over the next weeks as the County prepares to adopt our 2022 legislative agenda.

Capital Gains Tax Lawsuit

On September 10, courts allowed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the state capital gains tax to move forward. The Douglas County Superior Court Judge presiding over the case also blocked a request to move the case to Thurston County. The 2021 legislature enacted [Senate Bill 5096](#), which instates a 7% tax on the sale of assets above \$250,000, excluding retirement accounts, real estate, and certain agricultural properties. The lawsuit alleges that the tax, which would take effect in January 2022, is an income tax and is therefore unconstitutional. The lawsuit is likely to go to the Supreme Court. For more information, see [this article](#).

Transportation Revenue Package Update

GTH, Lacey Harper, and Public Works staff continue to coordinate on the County's transportation priorities in anticipation of a potential special session to pass a transportation revenue package. Legislators have indicated they will begin cross-chamber revenue negotiations in late September, close to when the House is set to vote on the federal "hard" infrastructure package. Meanwhile, House and Senate transportation leadership have been meeting with their members to discuss package framework and project priorities. Any revised package is expected to differ in revenue generation and project lists from the House "Miles Ahead Washington" and Senate "Forward Washington" package proposals. The revised package is anticipated to fund significantly less projects than both 2021 proposals.

The two chambers are also rumored to be taking different approaches to package building: the Senate is utilizing a more traditional district-by-district, project-centered approach, while the House is filtering projects through a set of informal, "values-based" criteria. Though this list of criteria is not being publicly shared, members of the transportation committee shared the list with the County last month.

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