

CITY OF SEATTLE
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SESSION PRIORITIES

Transportation Solutions

The House and Senate Transportation Committees will hold work sessions to hear about the transportation needs in the Puget Sound Region. Members of the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) and the three King County sub-area transportation groups will be participating. These discussions will take place on February 8, 9 and 10.

SB 5534 is a bill put forward by the Seattle Monorail. The Senate Transportation Committee heard this bill on February 2. Seattle testified requesting two amendments to the bill to clarify the ability of the SMP to meet the Transit Way Agreement and to correct an error with one of the new bonding provisions. The House version is **HB 1718**

State Funding – Operating

The House Appropriations Committee held a hearing on Governor's Locke proposal for filling the "treatment gap." This is the gap that exists between those who seek treatment for substance abuse/mental health services and those that actually get it. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) estimates that approximately 20% of those who would benefit from drug and alcohol treatment are receiving treatment. Governor Locke proposed that DSHS be given the authority to shift resources so they could treat 40% of those in need during the next biennium (2005-2007), increasing to 60% in the following biennium. Legislation is being drafted to fill both the mental health and substance abuse need. The Senate Ways & Means Committee will hold a hearing on this issue on February 10.

Seattle supports efforts to close the treatment gap.

The Senate Ways & Means Committee held a hearing on General Assistance – Unemployable (GAU) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Governor Locke's Book I budget (no additional revenues) has GAU slated for elimination (approximately \$114 million). They received compelling testimony to the benefits of this entitlement program and the associated costs in maintaining this program. **Seattle supports the continued funding of these programs.**

State Funding – Capital Budget

SB 5036 authorizes funding for projects recommended by the public works board. Seattle has three storm sewer projects on the funding list totaling almost \$5.7 million. This bill will be heard in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on February 8. The companion bill **HB 1049** was already approved by the House and assigned to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

SESSION OBJECTIVES

Civil Rights

HB 1515 which would add sexual orientation to the state discrimination law was heard in the State Government Operations & Accountability Committee. This is the 28th year in a row this bill has been

before the legislature. Dale Tiffany and Jacque Larrainzar from the Office of Civil Rights came to testify in support of this bill. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

HB 1586 and **SB 5575** which permit a college or university to maintain a diverse student population by considering race, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the admission and transfer process without using quotas, predetermined points, or set asides were introduced. Public hearings will be held on February 10 in the House Higher Education Committee and on February 11 in the Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Clean Cars

SB 5397 would enact the California emissions standards for cars and light trucks beginning in 2009. The Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee will hear this bill on February 9. The companion bill, **HB 1397**, was referred to the House Transportation Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Consumer Protection

HB 1251 requires a number of steps to disclose information by businesses that provide tax refund anticipation loans however, it is not as specific as Seattle's ordinance. It would also preempt local jurisdictions from strengthening the proposed state law. **Seattle is opposed to the preemption component of this legislation and is working with the sponsor on this issue.**

Public Disclosure

HB 1350 which would alter the public disclosure act will be heard in the House State Government Operations & Accountability Committee on February 9. This bill was written in response to the ruling in the Hangartner case this past spring. **Seattle opposes this legislation.**

Trust Water Rights

HB 1098 relating to trust water rights was heard in the House Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade Committee. **Seattle supports this bill** with amendments we are requesting.

Weights & Measures

SB 5401 allowing cities to impose local fees to pay for a weight & measures program will be heard on February 10 in the Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee. The companion bill, **HB 1440**, was assigned to the House Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade Committee. **Seattle supports these measures.**

POLICY ISSUES

Education

SB 5144 and **SJR 8202** were approved by the Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee and referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. SB 5144 would allow for a simple majority to authorize school levies and bonds. SJR 8202 is a constitutional amendment which must be approved by the legislature and passed by the voters to enact the new legislation. **Seattle supports these measures.**

Elections and General Government

SB 5367 would allow public financing for local campaigns. It was heard in the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee. The companion bill **HB 1436** was heard in the House State Government Operations & Accountability Committee. **HB 1526** would set up a public financing system for state offices and also provide local governments this option. Seattle testified in support of all three

bills. Wayne Barnett, Executive Director of Seattle's Ethics & Elections Commission also testified in support. **Seattle supports these measures.**

HB 1748 and **SB 5746** require the state to share a portion of the primary and general election costs in even numbered years. These bills were assigned to the House State Government Operations & Accountability Committee and Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Energy

The House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee held another hearing on establishing transmission interconnection standards. This is a complicated issue and it is unclear if it will move forward.

On February 11, the House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee will hold a work session on integrated resource planning and renewable portfolio standards. The work session will provide members an opportunity to have more a conversation with interested stakeholders. The City plans on participating in the work session.

Human Services

HB 1314 which would create a domestic violence prevention account to pay for community based services for domestic violence victims had a hearing in the Juvenile Justice & Family Law Committee. The account would be funded by an additional \$10 a fee on each marriage license and petition for divorce. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

HB 1483 and **SB 5567** which would establish a "re-investing in youth" program in the Department of Community Trade & Economic Development (CTED) was heard in the House Juvenile Justice & Family Law Committee and Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee. Approximately \$1 million would be managed through a CTED grant program where the monies would go towards programs which would reduce crime. **Seattle supports both these bills.**

Transportation

HB 1179, authorizing high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes as a pilot project on SR 167, was heard in the House Transportation Committee. The companion bill, **SB 5201**, was already heard in the Senate Transportation Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

HB 1090 would require pictograms on any monorail, light rail or commuter rail routes to help non-English speaking visitors using these transportation systems. This bill was heard in the House Transportation Committee. The companion bill **SB 5394** is in the Senate Transportation Committee. **Seattle supports these measures.**

Water

SB 5338 and **SJR 8205** were heard in the Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee. **SB 5338** would establish new water courts, but it would also require an amendment to our state constitution. **SJR 8205** calls for a vote of the people to approve or deny such an amendment.

SB 5215 which would allow the use of waters of the state to fight forest and range fires had a hearing on the February 3. Cities have expressed concerns and will be working with the sponsors on an amendment to protect the quality of drinking water.

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