

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**2005 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2005**

**NUMBER 6**

Thank you to Councilmembers Conlin, Drago, Della, Godden and Steinbrueck for visiting Olympia on February 16 and 17 for the AWC Legislative Conference and meeting with members of the Seattle Legislative Delegation.

### **SESSION PRIORITIES**

#### **Transportation Solutions**

**HB 1989** and **SB 6016** will be heard in the House and Senate Transportation Committees on February 23. These bills provide local transportation funding options for cities and counties. The bills would allow cities and counties to choose from the following options: \$20 vehicle license fee, 1 ½ cent gross weight fee, street utility fee and 20% local option gas tax. **Seattle supports these bills.**

**SSB 5344** revises the authority of the monorail. Changes that were made prior to voting the bill out of the Senate Transportation Committee include: no bonds may be issued until the entire board is appointed by the City Council, the authority to collect the fees cannot be withdraw as long as the revenue is meeting the obligation of a contract, bonds cannot be longer than 40 years and an expert review panel is required before a new monorail line can be proposed to the voters.

#### **State Funding – Capital Budget**

**HB 1049** 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 was approved by the Senate Ways & Means Committee and referred to the Rules Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

### **SESSION OBJECTIVES**

#### **Civil Rights**

**HB 1515** which expands state discrimination laws to include sexual orientation will be heard on February 24 in the Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

#### **Clean Cars**

**HB 1397** which would adopt California vehicle emission standards in Washington was heard in the House Transportation Committee. Councilmember Jean Godden testified in support of this bill and spoke on behalf of the other cities supporting this measure. Its companion, **SB 5397** was heard last week. **Seattle supports these measures.**

#### **Consumer Protection**

**SB 5692** which 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 and would preempt local jurisdictions. **SB 5796** also relates to refund anticipation loans and is more in line with the Seattle ordinance. Both bills were heard in the Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection

Committee. Julie Nelson from the Human Services Department testified supporting SB 5796 and provided the committee with a copy of the City Council letter that was sent on this issue.

### **Weights & Measures**

**HB 1440** allowing cities to impose local fees to pay for a weight & measures program was supposed to be heard in the House Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade Committee on February 18 but due to time constraints it was postponed until February 22. **Seattle supports these measures.**

## **POLICY ISSUES**

### **Education**

**SB 5144** and **SJR 8202** will be heard in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on February 21. SB 5144 would allow a simple majority of the voters 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**

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

### **Energy**

**HB 1020** allows transmission developers to choose to take siting applications for transmission facilities of 115kv or larger to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) for certification, rather than site directly through cities and counties. The bill requires cities to update the comprehensive plans by July 1, 2007 to include transmission corridors. Many cities have noted that to prepare for these facilities through the comprehensive plan is expensive and time consuming for projects that may never come to fruition. **Seattle opposes this bill.**

A work session was held last week on **HB 1010, HB 1047 and HB 1059**. These bills vary from requiring integrated resource planning (IRP) to establishing renewable portfolio standards (RPS). City Light is in the beginning stages of developing an IRP. The issue of IRPs and RPSs has been around for a few years and there is interest in reaching some compromise on them. We are working with the sponsors of the bills and other jurisdictions on developing language that will satisfy the participants. At this time it is unclear which bill will move forward.

### **Growth Management & Land Use**

**SB 5959** was introduced and will have a hearing on February 23 in Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Parks Committee. This bill deals with a number of issues related to shorelines leases with the Department of Natural Resources, including providing state-owned aquatic land rent free for public entities using the land for public purposes. **Seattle supports this bill.**

**SB 5912** attempts to clarify where best available science (BAS) can be found, and that cities and counties have discretion on how to apply BAS in the adoption of their critical area ordinances. **SB 5954** directs CTED and other agencies to develop and provide model ordinances to meet BAS requirements. The Senate Government Operations & Election Committee will hear both bills on February 24. Seattle is currently reviewing these bills.

### **Human Services**

**HB 1810** which would create the Homelessness Housing Program is going through significant revisions. Most observers have indicated the bill does not provide sufficient resources to meet the goals of the program. A new draft is being developed to include the current \$10 records fee plus a local option for a second \$10 to raise needed revenue. It also requires local jurisdictions to get local support for ending homelessness and grades each community's support. A new bill will be introduced and we are working closely with housing advocates and the sponsor on this legislation.

### **Public Safety**

**HB 1854** addresses the Supreme Court decision from last summer that invalidated the Driving While License Suspended statute, effectively eliminating the court's authority for enforcing traffic infractions. An amendment to the bill that would require all courts to provide the defendant an opportunity to enter into a time payment plan to pay off the monetary penalty over time has been worked out. Most courts (including Seattle) currently offer this service, but proponents of the amendment want to make the practice standard in every court. **Seattle supports this bill.**

**HB 1147** prohibits a registered sex offender still under the supervision of the Department of Corrections from living within two blocks of a public or private school. The proposed substitute bill and other amendments make significant changes to the draft. Under the proposed substitute, the school district may expand the area within which a sex offender may not live, with the agreement of law enforcement and the Department of Corrections. Those entities are granted immunity from civil liability for such decisions. This current draft is expected to be voted out of the House Criminal Justice & Corrections Committee prior to the cutoff. We had concerns with the original version and are evaluating the proposed amendment.

### **Solid Waste**

**HB 1731** which would require the removal of mercury switches from cars before they are destroyed will was heard in the Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks Committee. **HB 1488** and **SB 5515** would prohibit the sales of products containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE). HB 1488 and 5515 were also heard in the Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks Committee. Both the mercury switches and PBDEs have significant disposal and landfill issues. We are reviewing the impact to the City.

**City of Seattle Office of Intergovernmental Relations – Olympia**

**David Foster, david.foster@seattle.gov**

**Rose Feliciano, rose.feliciano@seattle.gov**