

**CITY OF SEATTLE  
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

**April 23, 2007**

**Number 15**

The 2007 Washington State Legislature completed its work Sine Die on April 22. The House and Senate combined to introduce 2584 bills during the session. HB 1128 is the Operating Budget, HB 1092 is the Capital Budget and HB 1094 is the Transportation Budget.

## **SESSION PRIORITIES**

### **Discovery Park/Capital Budget**

The Senate budget includes \$700,000 in addition to the \$1 million re-appropriation and \$500,000 in the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) for the Discovery Park - Capehart Housing property acquisition.

Also, included in the WWRP funding is \$200,000 for Ercolini Park development, \$300,000 for Longfellow Creek Greenspace expansion, and \$500,000 for South Lake Union Park development. Magnuson Park Rugby Field, Magnuson Park Trail extension, Magnuson Park Wetlands restoration, and Lake Washington Boulevard Trail development are all alternates for funding in the WWRP.

### **Environment**

**ESSB 6001**, mitigating the impacts of climate change, has been concurred in the Senate and now goes to the Governor for signature. This bill places restrictions on electric utilities and how much greenhouse gases they emit, including establishing Kyoto levels for the state. **Seattle supports this measure.**

### **Infrastructure/Finance**

The language from **E2SHB 1825** was amended onto **E2SSB 5930**, which is a comprehensive health care bill based on the blue ribbon commission recommendations. This bill provides direction for priorities in public health and accountability measures. The budget includes an additional \$20 million per biennium for public health. Seattle King County will receive almost \$2.2 million per year in new funding. **Seattle supports this funding.**

### **Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness**

The Capital Budget includes \$130 million for the Housing Trust Fund.

### **Transportation**

After much discussion and many alternatives that were brought forward, no regional governance proposals were voted out of the House.

**ESHB 1094** is the Transportation Budget approved by the legislature. Regarding the Alaskan Way Viaduct (AWV), the bill states that money cannot be used to decrease capacity as measured by efficient movement of people and goods. A collaborative process will determine the final project design with a decision made by December 31, 2008, and the state will not spend more than \$2.8 billion. There is \$915 million for targeted projects on the north and south end of the facility.

There is a fund of \$1 billion for a risk pool to be used solely for the SR 99 – AWV project or SR 520. The amount for SR 99 cannot exceed \$400 million.

The SR 520 finance plan consists of \$670 million in state and federal funds along with future anticipated federal funding (\$200 million), tolling (\$1.2 billion), the Regional Transportation Investment District (\$1.1 billion) and the risk pool (\$600 million to \$1 billion).

**ESSB 6099** suggests the use of a mediator to reach a consensus on the SR 520 project. It now calls for work to be done on a six lane facility with the ability to add high capacity transit. The bill passed the House by a vote of 74-23 and the Senate concurred by a vote of 42-6. The bill now goes to the Governor to sign into law.

## **POLICY ISSUES**

### **Energy**

**ESSB 5312**, addressing the issue of stolen metal property, had conference committee and reached final agreement in the House and Senate. This bill changes the methods of the "cash" customers bringing in scrap metal off the street. **Seattle supports this measure.**

### **Public Safety**

**SSB 5718**, imposing penalties for engaging in the commercial sexual abuse of minors, received a unanimous consent in the Senate. This bill will now be sent to the Governor for signature. **Seattle supports this measure.**

**2SHB 1811**, regarding automatic sprinkler systems in nightclubs, received a unanimous consent in the House and now goes to the Governor for signature. This bill changes the date when sprinklers will be required in nightclubs to December 2009. **Seattle supports this legislation.**