

CITY OF SEATTLE
2005 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

JANUARY 24, 2005

NUMBER 2

SESSION PRIORITIES

Transportation Solutions

The House and Senate Transportation Committees held work sessions on critical at-risk structures which were presented by the WA State Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT). The Alaskan Way Viaduct (AWV) and Evergreen Point Bridge were called out as high priorities for bridge rehabilitation and replacement. The Aurora Ave. Bridge on SR 99 was listed as a top priority within the bridge preservation program.

This week the House Transportation Committee will hold work sessions focusing on transportation system needs, including local government needs, and state transportation governance. The Senate will take a look at restructuring transportation agencies looking at the Transportation Commission, WSDOT and Legislative Transportation Committee.

Local Revenue Options

HB 1155 was introduced and will be heard in the House Local Government Committee on January 26. This legislation makes changes to SB 5659 passed in 2003 which allowed a voter approved sales tax increase of up to 0.3%. This legislation removes the requirement of using one-third of the revenue for criminal justice, removes the non-supplanting language and allows the local vote at any election. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

State Funding – Capital Budget

The House Capital Budget Committee approved **HB 1049** authorizing 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 has been assigned to the House Rules Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

SESSION OBJECTIVES

Annexation

HB 1153 was introduced and referred to the House Local Government Committee. This bill would allow a King County city of over 40,000 people to annex adjoining areas and provide an opportunity for residents in such areas to vote on the imposition of a utility tax surcharge for up to ten years to pay for city service needs.

Firearm Safety

The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on January 25 on a number of gun related bills: **SB 5131** restricts possession of a firearm if you are found not guilty by reason of insanity; **SB 5343** establishes new regulations for the sale of firearms at gun shows; **SB 5342** calls for the safe storage of firearms. Other bills that will be heard but don't yet have a bill number include banning fifty caliber guns; banning assault weapons, and renewing concealed pistol license by members of the armed forces.

We are working with CeaseFire and other interested groups in support of these various pieces of legislation. **Seattle supports these measures.**

Public Health

The Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee approved **SB 5048** which would prevent the distribution of tobacco samples anywhere in WA State. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Rules Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

POLICY ISSUES

Education

SB 5144 and **SJR 8202** were introduced and referred to the Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee. These bills would allow for 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.**

Energy

The House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee held a hearing on **HB 1010** relating to energy efficiency and renewable standards and **HB 1047** relating to energy resource planning and renewable standards. **Seattle testified in support of but communicated some concerns.** The Chair is considering holding a work session for interested parties that have expressed interest in these bills. In addition, **HB 1011** relating to interconnection standards will hold a work session in which City Light will likely participate. Finally, **HB 1062** which establishes efficiency standards for appliances will be heard on January 25. Its companion **SB 5098** was heard in the Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee and **Seattle testified in support of this legislation.** This is part of Governor Locke's greenhouse gas emission control package. **SB 5100** establishing greenhouse gas reduction objectives will be heard January 27.

Growth Management

There is interest in discussing updating GMA, "best available science" and critical area ordinances. Both the House and Senate held work sessions which clearly spelled out cities and counties need financial help, flexibility and protection from litigation on these issues. There are no specific bills at this time but there is interest in doing something that can make GMA work better.

Transportation

SB 5201, authorizing high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes as a pilot project on SR 167, will be heard in the Senate Transportation Committee on January 25. The companion bill is **HB 1179** which was referred to the House Transportation Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Water

The House Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade Committee and House Judiciary Committee will hold a joint work session on water rights adjudication on January 28. **SB 5338** and **SJR 8205** creating a water court were introduced and referred to the Senate Water Energy & Environment Committee.

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