

TO: City Council  
FROM: Kelly Adams, Assistant City Administrator  
DATE: November 18, 2025  
SUBJECT: 2026 Legislative Agenda

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1) Recommended Action:

Approve the City's 2026 Legislative Agenda.

The Legislative Agenda was recommended for approval on Council Considerations at the October 28 2025, Council Worksession.

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2) Background:

The City annually adopts a Legislative Agenda to guide the policy and funding requests for the State Legislature. Requests are developed by reviewing the City's adopted plans, trending issues at the Legislature, emergent policy issues, Association of Washington Cities (AWC) legislative issues, and regional legislative initiatives. The legislative agenda both guides City requests for Legislative action and assists staff in knowing how to respond to requests of the City's position on policy issues. The AWC Legislative info is available at: <https://wacities.org/advocacy/City-Legislative-Priorities>.

At the October 28, 2025, Worksession, Council moved to consider the following legislative priorities at the next regular meeting:

- **Restoration of \$2M in funding for prairie habitat acquisition to support the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) development.** To initiate the HCP, the City seeks \$2 million to acquire a portion of Tickner Farms which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified as prime prairie and wetland habitat. Partnerships with federal programs, grants, and conservancies are underway, allowing the program to become self-sustaining through habitat conservation fees on future development applications.
- **Support funding for brewery district redevelopment planning.** The City of Tumwater is preparing a new Planned Action Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to promote redevelopment in the Brewery District, addressing long-standing environmental, infrastructure, and regulatory issues. The EIS will examine multiple development options, assess environmental impacts and cleanup needs, and recommend mitigation measures to make redevelopment more feasible.
- **Support funding for design of the E Street connection.** The City of Tumwater is in the initial planning stages of the E Street Connection, a new east-west transportation corridor that will link Capitol Boulevard and Cleveland Avenue. This project aims to reduce congestion and enhance regional mobility. Designed to accommodate 28,200 vehicles daily—primarily commuters and commercial traffic—the project will include a 1,350-foot bridge over the Deschutes River and a rail line, as well as two roundabouts and various multimodal amenities to ensure safety and accessibility.

A draft handout (Attachment A) provides information on the above items, and shares the

City's support for AWC and regional priorities from the Thurston Shared Legislative Agenda Partnership. The Partnership works to advance regional priorities for the upcoming State Legislative session. These priorities, when approved, will provide multiple and broad benefits to the entire region due to the significant scope and impact across and between entities.

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3) Policy Support:

Strategic Priority: "Pursue Targeted Community Development Opportunities" –

- Facilitate Brewery Redevelopment
- Facilitate Capitol Boulevard Corridor Redevelopment

Strategic Priority: "Create and Maintain a Transportation system Safe for All Modes of Travel"

- Design and build the E Street Connection

Strategic Priority: "Be a Leader in Environmental Sustainability"

- Bush Prairie HCP Carbon Sequestration
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4) Alternatives:

- ☐ Do not adopt a Legislative Agenda
  - ☐ Make changes to the proposal
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5) Fiscal Notes:

There is no specific cost to the Legislative Agenda, although specific projects may have costs reflected in various City plans and budgets.

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6) Attachments:

- A. Tumwater 2026 Legislative Priorities
- B. AWC 2026 Legislative Priorities