



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: January 23, 2025	Subject: 2025 State Legislative Session Priorities	
	Staff Member: Mark Ottenad, Public/Government Affairs Director	
	Department: Administration	
Action Required	Advisory Board/Commission Recommendation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 1 st Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 2 nd Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution Information or Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Denial <input type="checkbox"/> None Forwarded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable Comments: City Council is scheduled to consider re-adoption of a modified set of 2025 State Legislative Session Priorities and the 2025-26 State Legislative Agenda during January 23 Mayor’s Business agenda item.	
Staff Recommendations: Staff recommends Council adopt the 2025 State Legislative Session Priorities.		
Recommended Language for Motion: I move to adopt the 2025 State Legislative Session Priorities.		
PROJECT / ISSUE RELATES TO:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Goals/Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted Master Plan(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:

City Administration seeks re-adoption by the City Council of a modified set of 2025 State Legislative Session Priorities, which would complement a more general prospective 2025-26 State Legislative Agenda, for specific public-policy priorities that advance key City objectives and guide how the City reacts to legislative proposals that may arise during the regular 2025 session of the 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly.

The prior City Council adopted an initial set of 2025 State Legislative Session Priorities on September 16, 2024, in order to timely provide recommendations to Wilsonville’s legislative delegation, composed of the offices of Senator Aaron Woods and Representative Courtney Neron. The one modification made to the 2025 State Legislative Session Priorities pertains to legislative concept for changes to the State Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) transit-funding distribution option.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Starting in 2023 the City Council adopted a set of specific State Legislative Session Priorities that details particular issues of concern, as well as to reflect ad-hoc issues of the day for which long-term City policies may not address adequately but for which the City Council considers important.

The City’s draft set of 2025 State Legislative Session Priorities reflect current topical issues and various issues that have been raised over the past few years. Some of the priorities below with an asterisk (*) are a repeat of 2024 legislative session priorities advanced by the City last year:

- 1.* Increase Road and Public Transit Resources with a 2025 Transportation Funding Package that advances the I-5 Boone Bridge & Seismic Improvement Project with the French Prairie Bike/Ped Facility, and Implements WES Commuter Rail Wilsonville-to-Salem Extension Study
- 2.* SMART Transit-Service Territory Alignment with City of Wilsonville Boundaries; Adjustment of TriMet District Territory
3. State Transportation Improvement Funds (STIF) Transit Funding Allocation for County to Act as Qualified Entity Pass-Through to Sub-Recipients
- 4.* Restore Permanent Recreational Immunity for Public Use of Trails
- 5.* Create a \$2 Billion State Residential Housing Infrastructure Fund:
 - Potential legislative grant requests for City infrastructure projects that support housing development
- 6.* Fund the Business Oregon Regionally Significant Industrial Sites (RSIS) Program
- 7.* Extend the Sunset on Vertical Housing Development Zone (VHDZ) Incentive
- 8.* Improve Childcare Resources to Benefit Families/Workers and Employers
9. Modify Homeless Camping Laws and Increase Support for Affordable Housing and Rising Utility Costs

Attachment A, draft 2025 State Legislative Session Priorities, provides more details on the above-listed priorities. Most of the City’s 2024 “short” session legislative priorities were either not dealt with or only partially addressed, and therefore are still ripe for the 2025 regular session.

Representative Courtney Neron and Senator Aaron Woods of Wilsonville requested receiving during September the City’s 2025 legislative session priorities and potential earmark grant requests. Adoption of the 2025 Legislative Session Priorities on Sept. 16 allowed City to timely communicate priorities to our legislators who may then introduce bills on our behalf:

SB 418 – SMART Service Territory Alignment with City Boundaries; Adjustment of TriMet District Boundary.

“Relating to TriMet.

“Digest: TriMet has to change its district boundaries and leave out certain areas. This rule will not go to a vote. People living in those areas should check if the change will mean new taxes for them. (Flesch Readability Score: 86.5).

“Requires the mass transit district known as TriMet to adopt an ordinance to modify district boundaries to exclude a specified territory. Provides that the ordinance may not be referred to or by electors. Requires persons in the specified territory to assess whether the boundary change results in any changes to tax liability.”

HB 2795 – Modifies the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) program to allow counties to elect to become a Qualified Entity that distributes state funds to local public-transit operators.

“Relating to public transportation service providers; creating new provisions; amending ORS 184.752.

“Digest: The Act makes changes to the STIF program. (Flesch Readability Score: 92.0).

“Modifies the definition of ‘qualified entity’ for purposes of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund distributions for public transit. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.”

Background Information

At the start of each two-year-long session of the Oregon legislature, the City Council adopts a State Legislative Agenda that guides how City staff and consultants evaluate proposed legislation in terms of opposing, supporting or remaining neutral. The City’s State Legislative Agenda is grounded in long-term City Council-adopted policies embodied in the Comprehensive Plan and other master plans or specific strategy documents and highlights current Council goals and known issues under consideration.

Over the past three legislative sessions, however, unique opportunities have arisen for the City for which the City did not have specific legislative policy guidance. Subjects or issues that City master plans, Comprehensive Plan or strategic plans do not address that the City Council has expressed interest in or support for or opposition to. Additionally, new issues arise that require the City to advance specific legislative priorities in a timely manner at the legislature. Thus, starting in 2023 the City Council began to adopt a more timely, current and specific set of Legislative Session Priorities.

For example, the City did not have an IT strategy in 2021, but was able to secure a \$1.665 million earmark for the “Sherwood Broadband-Wilsonville/GovRing Expansion Project.” The City won a \$1.9 million grant in 2022 for the Wilsonville Transit Center Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) affordable-housing project.

The City first developed a written State Legislative Agenda in 2011 with citations to specific sources of City authority for each agenda item. All of the legislative agenda items are based on policies established by the City Council over time through the Comprehensive Plan, Goal 9 Economic Opportunities Analysis and other City master plans/strategies and Council direction. Thus, the City's State Legislative Agenda is grounded in long-term City Council-adopted policies that embrace core community values as expressed by the community's elected officials.

In developing the City's legislative agenda and priorities list, staff review existing and prior city policies and practices, examine the legislative agendas and priorities of other metro-area jurisdictions and affiliated organizations such as League of Oregon Cities (LOC), and gather information from lobbyists and other public-affairs professionals about primary issues of concern in the 2025 legislative session.

City's State Legislators

After the 2020 Decennial Census, the Oregon legislature re-drew House and Senate district boundaries based on population changes. Most areas of the City of Wilsonville community are now in one House District and Senate District, whereas for the prior 10 years Charbonneau was segmented into a separate set of districts; the one exception is Frog Pond East and South, which are in the West Linn district.

- **House District 26: Representative Courtney Neron of Wilsonville** (Democrat) is listed on the Oregon Legislative Website (OLIS) as serving on the following committees:
 - House Committee On Education - Chair
 - House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
 - House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection

- **Senate District 13: Senator Aaron Woods of Wilsonville** (Democrat), is listed on the Oregon Legislative Website (OLIS) as serving on the following committees:
 - Joint Committee On Information Management and Technology - Co-Chair
 - Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Transportation and Economic Development - Co-Chair
 - Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs
 - Senate Committee On Labor and Business
 - Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Each of Wilsonville's legislators may be appointed to different committees when the 2025 legislative session commences on January 21. Both of Wilsonville's legislators have indicated in the past support for public-policy positions that the City has endorsed.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

N/A

TIMELINE:

The 160-day-long 2025 regular legislative session convenes on January 21, 2025, and is scheduled to conclude by June 30, 2025.

CURRENT YEAR BUDGET IMPACTS:

No budget impacts are anticipated based solely on adoption of the 2025 State Legislative Session Priorities. Other legislative-related expenses are currently budgeted.

Actions that the legislature takes can impact the City’s budget directly or indirectly in a favorable or detrimental manner.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROCESS:

N/A

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OR BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

CITY MANAGER COMMENT:

The proposed 2025 State Legislative Session Priorities is in accord with Council’s direction for City priorities and policies.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Draft City of Wilsonville/SMART 2025 State Legislative Session Priorities, Jan. 23, 2025
- B. SB 418 - SMART Service Territory Alignment with City Boundaries; Adjustment of TriMet District Boundary
- C. HB 2795 - Modifies the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) program to allow counties to elect to become a Qualified Entity that distributes state funds to local public-transit operators.
- D. City of Wilsonville/SMART 2025 State Legislative Session Priorities, Sept. 16, 2024 *(initial version of Priorities list produced at request of legislators for production of legislative concepts to become bills)*
- E. City of Wilsonville/SMART 2024 State Legislative Session Priorities, Jan. 18, 2024
- F. City of Wilsonville-SMART 2023 State Legislative Session Priorities, Jan. 19, 2023