



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager
From: Tracy Burrows, Senior Management Analyst
Date: February 7, 2008
Subject: 2008 Legislative Session Status Report

The 2008 Legislative Session is in its fourth week. The first legislative cut-off date is February 8th when bills must have progressed out of their committee of origin.

Below is a brief summary of the status of the City's major issues that have been addressed to date:

Transportation

Governor Gregoire's request legislation related to the financing of SR 520 has progressed out of the House Transportation Committee. The Bill allows for the collection of tolls on the existing and replacement State Route 520 (SR 520) Bridge following the submission of the tolling implementation report required by the act and the approval of tolls by the Legislature. It requires the Washington State Department of Transportation to work with the Federal Highways Administration to determine the actions necessary to toll the I-90 Floating Bridge. It also establishes the State Route 520 Tolling Implementation Committee, comprised of Paula Hammond, Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Bob Drewel, Executive Director of the Puget Sound Regional Council, and Dick Ford of the State Transportation Commission, to evaluate a variety of issues related to the tolling of the SR 520 Bridge.

Housing

Housing has been a significant focus of the first weeks of the legislative session, with a number of bills moving forward past the cut-off deadline. House Bill 2604, giving local governments authority to exempt low income housing from impact fees without obligating local governments to paying the fees from qualifying public funds, passed out of the Housing Committee. In addition, a number of bills providing tax incentives for employer-assisted housing passed out of committee.

Climate Change

The Governor's request legislation on Climate Change passes out of the House Appropriations Committee. The Bill directs the Department of Ecology (DOE) to develop and implement a program to limit statewide greenhouse gas emissions; authorizes the DOE to adopt rules requiring a reporting system to monitor greenhouse gas emissions; creates a green collar job training account to train and transition workers to

clean energy jobs; and directs the Department of Transportation to provide recommendations to reduce annual per capita vehicle miles traveled.

In addition, the Climate Bill championed by Futurewise passed out of the House LG committee. This Bill adds a Climate Change Goal to the Growth Management Act and directs the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development to develop a methodology for measuring greenhouse gases on a jurisdiction-wide basis.

**2007 Legislative Issues Update
as of
2/7/2008**

Kirkland Legislative Contacts

Senator Eric Oemig: <http://www.sdc.wa.gov/oemig.htm>
 Rep. Roger Goodman: <http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/goodman/>
 Rep. Larry Springer: <http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/springer/>
 Senator Rodney Tom: <http://www.sdc.wa.gov/tom.htm>
 Rep. Ross Hunter: - <http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/hunter/>
 Rep. Deb Eddy: <http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/eddy/>

Bill Number	Legislative Issue	Current Status – from AWC and leg.wa.gov	Action Needed/Initiated
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
HB 3292	Taping of Executive Sessions	HB 3292 would require all local governing bodies to "make a verbatim audio recording" of all executive sessions and retain the recordings for two years. The bill states that recordings of executive sessions will be considered public records not subject to public inspection or copying under the public records law except by court order and only under judicial review.	Scheduled for Executive Action 2/7/08
EHB 1551	Allowing Local Funding of Election Campaigns	This bill removes the prohibition against the use of public funds to finance political campaigns for local office. However, before a local government may adopt public funding, it must be submitted to the voters for approval or rejection. If a county, city, town, or district establishes a program to publicly finance local political campaigns, only funds derived from local sources may be used to fund the program.	Passed House on 56-34 vote
SB 6547 and HB 3001	Gender Equity in Parks	The bill requires that each city, town, county, district, or public school district operating a community athletics program or issuing permission to third parties for the operation of such programs, must submit annual reports to the state regarding gender equity in the use of their facilities. The reports must include a variety of information including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of athletic teams that competed in the league. • Total number of participants by team and broken down by number of males and females. • The total budget and expenditures for each team including the equipment replacement schedule, uniform replacement schedule, facilities, umpires, medical facilities, and publicity. 	Passed out of the Judiciary Committee; Substitute Bill being worked on
ANNEXATION			
HB 2938	Coordination with Fire Districts	Requires annexing cities to enter into a service agreement with each affected Fire District that addresses transfer of revenues and assets taking into consideration the FD's ability to maintain service in the area outside the incorporation area. If no service agreement is reached by the effective date of annexation, the FD continues	Passed out of Local Government Committee

		to provide service to the area and the annexing city pays the District the revenues it would have received absent annexation.	
ENVIRONMENT AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT			
HB 2797/SB6580	Climate Change and Growth Management	Creates a Climate Change Goal in the Growth Management Act, directs CTED to establish methodology for measuring greenhouse gas emissions	Referred to Appropriations
HB 2468/ SB 6249 HB 2844/ SB 6469	Evergreen Cities/Urban Forestry	Directs DNR to inventory urban trees, provides incentives for additional tree protection in the form of additional points to qualifying cities for PWTf and Centennial Clean Water funds.	Passed out of House Appropriations
SB 6516/ HB2815	Greenhouse gas emissions and green collar jobs	These Governor-request bills: begin a process to ensure the emission reduction goals established by the Governor's Executive Order 07-02 are achieved; direct the state to continue to develop a regional process to design a multisector, market-based system for regulating green house gas emissions (i.e. cap and trade system); authorize a reporting system to monitor greenhouse gas emissions; establish a process for maintaining a comprehensive inventory of green house gas emissions to track the state's progress in achieving its greenhouse gas emission reductions; and create a "green collar" job training account to train and transition workers to clean energy jobs.	Passes out of House Appropriations
HB 1358	Requiring Performance and Reasonable Measures for the Purpose of Growth Management Planning	Requires all 29 GMA-planning counties to adopt policies and performance measures that regularly review progress towards accommodating 20-year population and employment growth projections.	No hearing held
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and INFRASTRUCTURE			
SB 5762	Local economic development funding	This bill eliminates the 2009-2011, \$50 million Public Works Trust Fund diversion to the Job Development Fund; and provide ongoing funding for the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) at \$50 million/biennium. It also establishes criteria for CERB funding for local economic development	Referred to Ways and Means
SB 6856	Infrastructure and	Under this proposal, cities, counties, and public utilities districts will be eligible for	No hearing to date

	Economic Development Funding	an additional \$60 million in low interest loans to repair and replace basic infrastructure. An additional \$40 million in grants is targeted toward cities and counties experiencing high population growth that is outpacing their ability to provide basic infrastructure.	
HOUSING			
HB 2849	HEFT	Creates mechanism for financing workforce housing. This bill would create a Housing Everyone Financing Tool (HEFT) program within the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development. The program would provide grants to local governments to finance affordable housing within specific designated areas. Funding for the program would come from additional locally imposed sales and use taxes to capture a portion of the anticipated growth in state revenues that is expected to occur within the designated area.	Has not progressed out of committee
HB 2604	Exemptions from Impact Fees	Authorizes cities to exempt low-income housing development from locally-imposed GMA impact fees. Current law allows such exemptions only if public funds are used to replace the fees waived.	Passed out of Local Government Committee
LAW & JUSTICE			
PSSB 5353	Courts of limited jurisdiction	Clarifies the authority the city has to contract court services. Bill establishes nominating commission for the selection of part-time judges and expands the types of cases that municipal courts must hear.	
HB 2557	Operation of municipal courts	HB 2557 , which includes the recommendations of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Task Force led by Rep. Goodman (D-Kirkland) over the interim, was heard on Wednesday, January 16, in the House Judiciary Committee. Unlike versions of this legislation in past years, it does not require municipal courts to hear domestic violence and civil protection orders. The work group decided improving access to the court system for victims of domestic violence was a goal, but meaningful access requires a whole range of support services that municipal courts currently do not provide and are not likely to be able to provide without significant additional funding. Instead, it establishes a study review about how best to increase meaningful access for victims of domestic violence to the court system. Cities are one of several stakeholders who will be included in this work.	Eligible for Floor Vote

SB 6573/ HB2962	Public Safety Funding	SB 6573 which would transfer funds from the state general fund to a newly created local public safety enhancement account.	Hearing Feb 5 at 3:30
TRANSPORTATION			
HB 1773/ SB 6355	Tolling	<p>This legislation establishes the mechanism for the imposition of tolls on state-owned facilities. Either the Legislature or the Transportation Commission can impose tolls, including variable pricing, on a facility or corridor. All revenue from a tolled facility or corridor must be used only to improve, preserve, or operate the facility or corridor on or in which it is collected (public mass transit operations are limited to a maximum 10% of collected toll revenue).</p> <p>A facility or corridor is defined as:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A bridge, highway, or roadway; A vessel, bus, vehicle, or other conveyance of people or goods; or A system of facilities or corridors as defined by the tolling authority.</p> <p>The bills require cities, towns, and ports to get approval from the tolling authority before imposing or changing tolls that would have a significant impact on the operation of a state facility.</p>	Passed out of House Transportation
SB 6543	Tolling	As an apparent alternative to SB 6335 (Tolling), this legislation would create a separate tolling authority exclusive to King, Pierce, Kitsap, and Snohomish Counties. The Puget Sound Regional Council would authorize tolling on portions of state highways.	Hearing on 2/5
HB 3096	SR 520 Design and Tolling	This legislation establishes a design and financing plan for the 520 Bridge.	Exec Action in House Transportation
SB 6772	Governance	<p>Expands existing Regional Transit Authority ("Sound Transit") and rename as Regional Transportation Authority</p> <p>Expands project eligibility: both roads & transit</p>	Hearing on 2/5

		<p>New governance board (12 members): 6 elected within King, Pierce, Snohomish; 1 elected at-large within 3-county boundary; 3 appointed by county executives; WSDOT Secretary (non-voting); Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Director (non-voting)</p> <p>Majority elected board: 7 elected & 5 appointed/designated</p> <p>Broad revenue options: combined roads & transit revenue, not limited by modal or subarea equity</p> <p>No MPO/RTPO function (Puget Sound Regional Council retains existing charter, but Executive Director sits on new entity)</p> <p>Boundaries: Existing ST boundaries</p> <p>Counties outside of Central Puget Sound may create an RTA.</p>	
SB 6771	Eliminating RTID	This would repeal RTID. If this legislation advances, and SB 6772 does not, then the Transportation Benefit District enabling legislation (RCW 36.73) will likely be looked to fund regional and local transportation investments.	Hearing on 2/5