

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Policy Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 12/17/19 **Approx. Start Time:** 11:00 a.m. **Approx. Length:** 30 mins.
Presentation Title: Approval of 2020 State and Federal Legislative Agendas
Department: Public and Government Affairs
Presenters: Chris Lyons and Trent Wilson
Other Invitees: Department Directors and County Elected Officials

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Public and Government Affairs (PGA) is seeking final adoption from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) of the County's state and federal legislative priorities for 2020. PGA will also review the County's legislative process and messaging for the 2020 legislative session.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In August and September 2019, PGA worked with each county department to understand anticipated 2020 state and federal policy and funding priorities and build draft state and federal legislative agendas.

On October 15, 2019, the BCC reviewed a set of draft priorities in a Legislative Agenda Planning Meeting and provided guidance to further refine the issues.

This December 17, 2019 policy session includes final drafts of the county's 2020 state and federal legislative agendas, which have been updated to reflect BCC and department feedback. Draft policy papers on the 2020 federal priorities also are included, which identify the county's 2020 federal objectives for each overarching priority, along with issue backgrounds and key facts.

The 2020 state legislative session will convene on February 3, 2020 and reach constitutional *sine die* on March 8, 2020. The 116th Congress convenes on January 7, 2020.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

The County's state legislative agenda supports continued State/County shared revenue agreements and other funding streams that support major County programs and services. Loss of these revenues would result in potential cuts to County programs and services. The County's federal legislative agenda also pursues additional funding and grants for County programs and priorities.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- This item aligns with the Public and Government Affairs Strategic Business Plan goals to provide intergovernmental connections and relationship building, strategic policy development and messaging, legislative, advocacy, and outreach services to county elected officials and departments so they can build key partnerships to achieve policy goals important to Clackamas County, with special emphasis on the strategic results in the BCC Strategic Plan.
- This item aligns with all five of the County's Performance Clackamas goals:
 - Build Public Trust Through Good Government;
 - Grow a vibrant economy;
 - Build a strong infrastructure;
 - Ensure safe, healthy, and secure communities; and
 - Honor, utilize, promote, and invest in our natural resources.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

N/A

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

PGA continues to maintain close working relationships with the County’s legislative delegation and staff at both the state and federal levels, who will be instrumental in helping to advance the County’s legislative priorities.

OPTIONS:

1. Accept the 2020 State and Federal Legislative Agendas as drafted
2. Amend the 2020 State and Federal Legislative Agendas as drafted

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Accept the 2020 State and Federal Legislative Agendas as drafted

ATTACHMENTS:

- Clackamas County Legislative Process and Messaging
- Draft 2020 State Legislative Policy Agenda
- Draft 2020 Federal Legislative Policy Agenda
- Draft 2020 Federal Priority Policy Papers

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval s/Sue Hildick

County Administrator Approval _____

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| For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Sue Hildick @ 503-742-5900 |
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Clackamas County Legislative Process and Messaging

Legislative Process

For issues on the County's Legislative Agenda:

- PGA coordinates with departments and affiliates
- BCC updated weekly at a minimum, if not more frequently depending on legislative action.

For issues **NOT** on the County's Legislative Agenda that require County action:

- PGA Director determines if issue is major or minor.
 - If major, PGA Director brings to BCC if time allows. If time does not allow, PGA Director brings to County Chair & Vice Chair to determine next steps.
 - If minor, PGA Director approves County position.
- BCC informed of any new County positions and is updated weekly after that at a minimum.

Messaging

Policy Statements/Letters:

Per feedback from legislators, PGA is minimizing the use of formal County letters and will instead communicate official County positions through verbal communications and/or concise policy statements that will be delivered by the County lobbyist. These policy statements will be vetted and approved by PGA, in consultation with appropriate county department director or designee, and will adhere to the County's legislative agenda or other board approved positions. Should a letter be written, it will be signed by the Chair on behalf of the entire BCC without need for formal approval from all BCC.

Testimony:

- Testimony will adhere to the county's legislative agenda or other board approved positions
- Testimony will be vetted and approved by PGA, in consultation with appropriate county department director or designee
- Testimony may be given without need for approval from all BCC
- Testimony will be available for review by all BCC

Individual Commissioner Letters/Testimony

- Individual commissioners may sign letters and/or provide testimony in support or opposition to non-county legislative agenda issues
- Individual commissioners should not write a dissenting letter or provide dissenting testimony that is in opposition to the county's legislative agenda or other board approved positions
- Letters/testimony will note that opinion is that of individual commissioner, not the entire BCC
- Letters/testimony does not need prior approval from all BCC
- Signed letter/testimony will be shared with BCC and PGA

2020 Clackamas County State Legislative Policy Agenda

**Oregon counties and the state are partners in
delivering vital public services**

Clackamas County is truly urban, suburban, rural, and wild. We are dedicated to welcoming new residents and businesses, and committed to delivering community services that are dependable, accessible, and equitable to the public.

DRAFT

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

Jim Bernard – Chair Sonya Fischer Ken Humberston Paul Savas Martha Schrader

COUNTY INITIATIVES

I-205 Bottleneck Funding

Advocate for state funding to support a third lane of capacity in each direction of I-205 from Stafford Road to OR 213, including seismic improvements to the Abernethy Bridge. The Oregon portion of I-205 is a federally designated High Priority Corridor and is vital to both the Portland metropolitan region and users statewide. Without additional travel lanes, this section of I-205 will be overwhelmed by forecasted traffic volumes and will negatively impact regional freight mobility. ODOT is expected to complete design in 2020, but funding for construction is not anticipated until 2026 at the earliest.

Courthouse Replacement Project

Promote continued advancement of the Clackamas County Courthouse Replacement Project. The Oregon Legislature has provided \$32.7 million toward replacing the 81-year old, structurally-deficient building, which is supporting the design and engineering phase of the project. Clackamas County looks forward to building a new, modern courthouse that serves the needs of all county residents.

COUNTY PRIORITIES

- Support the repair and reopening of the **Willamette Falls Locks**
- Support funding for **community corrections** that provides sufficient resources to sustain county programs
- Support a narrowly-crafted bill, in partnership with the City of Happy Valley, that removes Happy Valley from the **North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD)**
- Support policies and funding for **behavioral health** that sustains county programs and services for residents
- Support \$5 million in funding to sustain county programs and services that support residents with **intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)**
- Support policies and funding to address the **housing crisis** and improve housing stability for low income households, including supportive housing services
- Support the restoration of funding for **community dispute resolution**
- Support tax relief for **disabled veterans and surviving spouses**

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

Clackamas County's policy positions will be guided by the five strategic goals listed below. The County also will guide all policy decisions through a lens of carbon neutrality and improving equity, diversity, and inclusion in our communities.

Grow a Vibrant Economy

The county supports legislation that incentivizes businesses to grow and prosper. Successful legislation will ensure the county has dedicated resources for attracting and growing industries, and has access to an adequate supply of shovel-ready employment lands to expand economic development opportunities.

Build a Strong Infrastructure

The county supports legislation that encourages long-term investments in major infrastructure projects to improve the quality of life of county residents. Successful legislation will ease congestion, enhance seismic resiliency, spur economic growth in employment areas including the Sunrise Gateway Corridor, broaden telecommunication access, and promote science-based and ratepayer-minded water quality protections.

Honor, Utilize, Promote & Invest in our Natural Resources

The county supports legislation that ensures effective and sustainable management and conservation of our abundant natural and agricultural resources. Successful legislation will stimulate and preserve the integrity of our natural resource-based economy, incentivize the production of mass timber, reduce and sequester carbon emissions, and adhere to the public process of Oregon's land use system.

Ensure Safe, Healthy, and Secure Communities

The county supports legislation that improves the health, safety, and wellbeing of all county residents and communities. Successful legislation will support access to community assets, such as parks and libraries, and assist vulnerable populations including residents who are facing homelessness, substance abuse and addictions, behavioral health challenges, and public health threats. Legislation also should help to reduce the crime rate and recidivism, promote and sustain best practices for justice-involved individuals, improve emergency communications and disaster preparedness, and protect survivors of domestic violence.

Build Public Trust through Good Government

The county supports legislation that allocates sufficient resources to enable delivery of effective, reliable, and equitable services to county residents. Successful legislation will maintain the county's financial sustainability, provide funding for county needs including the Courthouse Replacement Project, preserve state and county shared revenue agreements, support county efforts to attract and retain qualified employees, and not preempt local tax sources or restrict local government authority.

2020 Clackamas County Federal Legislative Policy Agenda

Clackamas County delivers vital public services in partnership with the State of Oregon

Clackamas County is truly urban, suburban, rural, and wild. We are dedicated welcoming new residents and businesses, and committed to delivering community services that are dependable, accessible, and equitable to the public.

COUNTY INITIATIVE

- Federal funding to support the **I-205 Widening and Seismic Improvement Project**

COUNTY PRIORITIES

- Federal funding and legislation to support the repair and ownership transfer of the **Willamette Falls Locks**
- Federal funding to support a rebuild of the **Bull Run Bridge**
- Legislation for the responsible and sustainable **management reform of federal forest lands**, including O&C Lands
- Permanent reauthorization or extension of the **Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (County Payments)** or similar legislation
- Federal designation of the **Willamette Falls & Landings Heritage Area**

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

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Grow a Vibrant Economy

The county supports legislation that incentivizes businesses to grow and prosper. Successful legislation will ensure the county has dedicated resources for attracting and growing industries, and qualifies for programs that assist efforts to expand economic development opportunities.

Build a Strong Infrastructure

The county supports legislation that encourages long-term investments in major infrastructure projects to improve the quality of life of county residents. Successful legislation will ease congestion, enhance seismic resiliency, spur economic growth in employment areas including the Sunrise Gateway Corridor, broaden telecommunication access, and promote science-based and ratepayer-minded water quality protections.

Honor, Utilize, Promote & Invest in our Natural Resources

The county supports legislation that ensures effective and sustainable management and conservation of our abundant natural and agricultural resources. Successful legislation will stimulate our natural resource-based economy, incentivize the production of mass timber, reduce wildfire risk, and improve the financial stability of counties by creating a predictable and long-term solution to county revenue needs.

Ensure Safe, Healthy, and Secure Communities

The county supports legislation that improves the health, safety, and wellbeing of all county residents and communities. Successful legislation will assist vulnerable populations including residents who are facing homelessness, substance abuse and addictions, behavioral health challenges, and public health threats. Legislation also should help reduce the crime rate and recidivism, promote and sustain best practices for justice-involved individuals, protect survivors of domestic violence, improve emergency communications and disaster preparedness, and enhance the region's readiness for threats or acts of terrorism.

Build Public Trust through Good Government

The county supports legislation that allocates sufficient resources to enable delivery of effective, reliable, and equitable services to county residents. Successful legislation will maintain the county's financial sustainability, support county efforts to attract and retain qualified employees, and not preempt local tax sources or restrict local government authority.

2020 Clackamas County Federal Priorities

Policy Papers

| <i>I-205 Widening and Seismic Improvement Project</i> | |
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| 2020 Federal Objectives | <p>Advocate for federal funding to support a third lane of capacity in each direction on I-205 between Stafford Road and OR 213, including the Abernethy Bridge, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that the project remains a Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) federal priority • Supporting the Oregon Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application including securing support from Oregon's Congressional delegation • Advocating for project funding in any federal infrastructure package or transportation reauthorization legislation • Organizing a project site visit for U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) officials |
| Issue Background | <p>This seven-mile stretch of the south I-205 Corridor in Clackamas County between Stafford Road and OR 213 is one of the last four-lane (two lanes in each direction) stretches of freeway in the Portland metropolitan area. There are significant chokepoints along this corridor creating frequent failures, particularly during peak weekday travel times. As significant growth continues in the region, congestion on I-205 will worsen, further threatening efficient freight movement and travel reliability for businesses, industries, and residents.</p> <p>Clackamas County continues to work closely with its local, regional, state, and federal partners to advance this project. Without additional travel lanes, this portion of I-205, which traverses unincorporated Clackamas County and the cities of West Linn and Oregon City, will be overwhelmed by forecasted traffic volumes and negatively impact regional freight mobility.</p> |
| Key Facts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State of Oregon has invested more than \$50 million to fully fund project design and engineering • Project will be shovel ready in 2020 • Congressionally designated a High Priority Corridor through the 2015 Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) |

| Willamette Falls Locks | |
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| 2020 Federal Objectives | <p>Advocate for federal funding and legislation to support the repair and ownership transfer of the Willamette Falls Locks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting legislation to transfer the Locks to a non-federal owner to be named by the Willamette Falls Locks State Commission • Supporting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' funding of seismic and rehabilitation repairs described in the Final Disposition Study for the Willamette Falls Locks |
| Issue Background | <p>The Willamette Falls Locks is an important historic and navigational resource to Clackamas County, the Willamette Valley and Oregon. Located in Clackamas County within the City of West Linn, the Locks unite the upper and lower Willamette River and were the oldest continuously operating multi-lock system in the United States before being placed into caretaker status in 2011 after an inspection discovered that the gates were in danger of fracture and could not be safely operated.</p> <p>Local stakeholders, led by the Willamette Falls Locks State Commission, are currently working to determine the preferred future of the Locks and crafting a business model that sustains their ongoing operation. Supported by a local economic potential report, many local stakeholders believe new life for the Locks can mean new life for the Willamette Valley and support ongoing regional efforts such as the Willamette Falls Legacy Project and the Willamette Falls Heritage Area and Landings</p> |
| Key Facts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011: Closed for safety issues • 2014: 19 local stakeholders sign resolutions supporting the repair and reopening of the Locks • 2017: Army Corps releases Draft Disposition Study noting a desire to transfer or permanently close facility • 2017: Willamette Falls Locks State Commission established by the Oregon Legislature to find a permanent non-federal owner and propose a viable business model for transfer • 2018: Local economic potential study published validating value of reopening Locks as greater than the cost to repair and reopen • 2019: Army Corps completes Final Disposition Study affirming desire to transfer ownership and commitment of \$2.6 million for seismic repairs for gates 6 and 7 • 2020: State legislation drafted to fund capital repairs and create a Public Corporation for ownership |

| Bull Run Bridge | |
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| 2020 Federal Objectives | <p>Advocate for federal funding to support a rebuild of the Bull Run Bridge by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlisting support for the project from the business community • Meeting with U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) officials to scope the project for a competitive Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application • Supporting Clackamas County's BUILD grant application including securing support from Oregon's Congressional delegation |
| Issue Background | <p>The Bull Run Bridge crosses the Bull Run River northeast of Sandy, Oregon, providing critical access to drinking water for over one-million residents in the Portland metropolitan area. It also provides emergency service responders with access to rural communities and timber lands prone to wildfire.</p> <p>The Bull Run Bridge was built in 1893 and originally served as one segment of the Burnside Bridge crossing the Willamette River in Portland, Oregon. When Multnomah County replaced the Burnside Bridge in 1926, Clackamas County acquired one segment of the bridge and retrofitted it to accommodate the crossing over the Bull Run River.</p> <p>Today, the 127 year old bridge is in critical need of repair. Delayed action will require the County to close the bridge crossing within the next 10 to 15 years.</p> |
| Key Facts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 127 years old • Only one existing alternate route to Bull Run area that is an additional 27 miles from the nearest city • Rural Project: Bull Run area defined by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Office of Management and Budget as a "rural area", outside of the Portland Urbanized Area • Total Project Cost: \$10,394,255 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Federal Funds Requested: \$8,315,404 ○ Clackamas County Share: \$2,078,851 |

| Federal Forest Land Management Reform | |
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| 2020 Federal Objectives | <p>Support legislation for responsible and sustainable management reform of federal forest lands, including O&C lands, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating Congressional offices on the need for federal forest management reform, the scale of federal forest lands in Clackamas County, and the desire for predictable revenue to be achieved through sustainable harvest • Working with Congressional offices and key stakeholders to advance a preferred strategy for a long term solution for O&C lands |
| Issue Background | <p>The health of our federal forests has a direct impact on the public health, safety, and economic wellbeing of counties across the United States. Not only do unhealthy forests increase community wildfire risk, they can also negatively impact community access to clean water and air, threaten wildlife habitats, and reduce community opportunities for forest related tourism and jobs.</p> <p>Active management of federal forests should be done in a sustainable manner to ensure their continued health for generations to come. Forest legislation should balance economic, social, and environmental values so that significant areas of federal forest are focused on environmental protection and significant areas of federal forest are focused on producing forest products in a sustainable manner. Clackamas County strives to balance biological, economic, and social considerations in the management of County-owned forested properties, and expects the same from federal lands.</p> <p>Additionally, Clackamas County supports legislation to formalize a long-term solution for the management of the Oregon and California (O&C) Rail Trust Lands. Successful legislation should establish predictable harvest levels to meet the revenue needs of forest counties, reduce wildfire risk, and focus on environmental protections where appropriate.</p> |
| Key Facts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% of Clackamas County is zoned as forestland • 52% of Clackamas County is federal forestland • 93,000 acres of Clackamas County's federal forestland are designated as O&C lands, of which 75,000 acres are designated for harvest • Clackamas County has the 6th largest acreage (of Oregon's 18 counties) of O&C lands • Clackamas County owns 3,200 acres of timber land |

| Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Reauthorization | |
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| 2020 Federal Objectives | <p>Support permanent reauthorization or extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (county payments), or similar legislation, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing critical support to the <i>Forest Management for Rural Stability Act</i>, or similar legislation • Securing delegation members as cosponsors of legislation • Partnering with NACo and other coalition stakeholders to advocate for the successful passage of legislation |
| Issue Background | <p>The Secure Rural Schools program provides assistance to rural counties and school districts affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. Historically, rural communities and schools have relied on a share of receipts from timber harvests to supplement local funding for roads, schools, and public safety. Over the past four decades, steep declines in timber sales have decreased the revenues that rural counties and school districts receive. Additional reductions in SRS funding has led to cutbacks in public safety, natural resource protection, health, and assistance to schools and community groups.</p> <p>Clackamas County supports reauthorization of the SRS funding at the historical average level until a long term solution can be enacted that provides a reasonable and certain level of timber harvest while achieving predictable traditional timber receipts to the County.</p> |
| Key Facts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRS enacted in 2000 • SRS expired at the end of FY 2018 • SRS reauthorization supported by the National Association of Counties (NACo), National Education Association, Federal Forest Resource Coalition, The Wilderness Society, and others |

| Willamette Falls & Landings Heritage Area | |
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| 2020 Federal Objectives | <p>Support federal designation of the Willamette Falls & Landings Heritage Area by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Willamette Falls & Landings Heritage Area Coalition in the development of heritage area legislation • If legislation is introduced, helping to secure Congressional delegation cosponsors • Advocating for hearings on and ultimate passage of heritage area legislation |
| Issue Background | <p>The mission of the Willamette Falls & Landings Heritage Area Coalition is to advocate for and strengthen the identity of the historic working communities around Willamette Falls by preserving and promoting their important and distinctive natural, cultural, scenic, recreational, and industrial resources through public/private partnerships. The Willamette Falls & Landings Heritage Area is not just the end of the Oregon Trail, it is the beginning of the Oregon story.</p> <p>Designation as a National Heritage Area requires an Act of Congress. The National Park Service provides technical, planning, and limited financial assistance to National Heritage Areas.</p> |
| Key Facts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willamette Falls & Landings Heritage Area covers 56 river miles • 55 National Heritage Areas currently exist in the United States, but none currently exist in Oregon |