

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

..title

A RESOLUTION expanding the requirements for the Summary and Fiscal Note that accompanies new legislation so that it also considers impacts of climate change ~~and, for certain capital projects seeking funds from The City of Seattle, the basic financial documents needed for a more thorough assessment of fiscal impacts and renaming it the Summary, Environmental, and Fiscal Note.~~

..body

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Charter highlights not only fiscal responsibility but also the importance of the environment with its preamble stating, “the People of the City of Seattle enact this Charter as the Law of the City for the purpose of protecting and enhancing the health, safety, environment, and general welfare of the people;...to provide for transparency, accountability, and ethics in governance and civil service; to foster fiscal responsibility; to promote prosperity and to meet the broad needs for a healthy, growing City;” and

WHEREAS, climate change is a defining crisis of our times, calling for urgent and decisive action by governments, businesses, and individuals; and

WHEREAS, in June 2013, the City Council (“Council”) adopted, with the Mayor concurring, Resolution 31447 adopting the Seattle Climate Action Plan, establishing the goal that Seattle reach zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Seattle Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, published in February 2019, found that total greenhouse gas emissions in Seattle rose by one percent between 2014 and 2016, and that in order to achieve the goals of the Climate Action Plan, Seattle’s emissions reductions rate needs to increase by a factor of seven; and

WHEREAS, in August 2019, the Council recognized the need for more immediate action to decrease greenhouse gas emissions through the adoption of Resolution 31895, calling for

1 a Green New Deal for Seattle and establishing a goal for Seattle to be free of climate
2 pollutants by 2030; and

3 WHEREAS, in response to Executive Order 2018-01, the Office of Sustainability and
4 Environment (“OSE”), in collaboration with select departments, is developing policy and
5 implementation guidance for assessing the greenhouse gas emissions (which should
6 include consideration of embodied carbon) and climate resilience of major capital
7 projects and purchasing decisions; and

8 WHEREAS, the Council and general public would benefit from considering whether
9 assessments of the impact of~~considering whether~~ proposed legislation ~~could impact on~~
10 Seattle’s carbon emissions and ~~climate change resiliency~~ potential changes in adaptive
11 capacity (resiliency) to climate change; and

12 WHEREAS, the Council’s General Rules and Procedures adopted December 2019 as Resolution
13 31920 state, “All Council Bills and Resolutions shall include a Summary and Fiscal
14 Note,” and the parameters of the Summary and Fiscal Note are detailed in various
15 documents, including Resolution 31203 adopted in 2010 for larger projects in the City’s
16 Capital Improvement Program as well as internal guidance from the Legislative
17 Department and the City Budget Office (CBO); ~~and~~

18 ~~WHEREAS, the Council has previously demonstrated a commitment to meet both community-~~
19 ~~building and fiscal responsibility objectives by requiring the review of basic financial~~
20 ~~information from those seeking City funding from programs such as the Equitable~~
21 ~~Development Initiative Fund; and~~

22 ~~WHEREAS, the Council recognizes the importance of identifying financial costs or other~~
23 ~~impacts of not implementing proposed legislation; and~~

1 ~~WHEREAS, the Council and the public would have greater accountability over capital projects~~
2 ~~not owned by The City of Seattle that are seeking City funds if basic financial~~
3 ~~documentation is reviewed to assess the need, feasibility, and public benefits of such~~
4 ~~projects;~~ NOW, THEREFORE,

5 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

6 Section 1. ~~The Summary and Fiscal Note that accompanies new legislation as directed by~~
7 ~~the Council Rules shall be renamed the Summary, Environmental, and Fiscal Note.~~

8 ~~Section 2.~~ Each Summary, ~~Environmental,~~ and Fiscal Note shall, as appropriate, address
9 carbon emissions and climate change resiliency in a form and with content substantially similar
10 to Attachment A to this resolution.

11 ~~Section 3. Unless exempt as described herein, each Summary, Environmental, and Fiscal~~
12 ~~Note for legislation appropriating funds for a private or public capital project not owned by The~~
13 ~~City of Seattle or for any lease for a term of 10 years or greater shall provide for an assessment~~
14 ~~of fiscal impacts based on findings from an analysis of the capital project's financial documents,~~
15 ~~in a form and with content substantially similar to Section 4.e. of Attachment A to this~~
16 ~~resolution. Exemptions include legislation that would a) approve leases for any property for a~~
17 ~~term of less than ten years, or b) appropriate funds or otherwise commit through interfund~~
18 ~~transfers, memoranda of understanding or other legal obligations less than \$100,000 of City~~
19 ~~funds to a capital project not owned by The City of Seattle.~~

20 ~~A. The Summary, Environmental, and Fiscal Note shall indicate whether the project~~
21 ~~owner requires technical assistance to produce the requested financial documents. If such~~
22 ~~assistance is required, the Council may consider a proviso directing the Executive to review the~~
23 ~~requested documents prior to disbursement of funds.~~

1 Section ~~24~~. ~~No later than January 1, 2021, Effective upon Council adoption of this~~
2 ~~resolution~~, all City departments and offices shall use the Summary ~~and~~, ~~Environmental, and~~
3 Fiscal Note template in a form and with content substantially similar to Attachment A to this
4 resolution.

5 Section ~~35~~. The CBO, ~~with input from~~ ~~and~~ OSE shall report to Council no later than
6 ~~December 31, 2020~~ March 31, 2021 on implementation of the Summary, Environmental, and
7 Fiscal Note, including any new tools that could ensure consistent and effective identification of
8 ~~Environmental-climate change~~ implications of proposed legislation, at which time the Council
9 may also consider recommended updates to the Summary, ~~Environmental~~, and Fiscal Note
10 template.

11 Section ~~46~~. This resolution does not supersede Resolution 31203 adopted in 2010, which
12 continues to require a robust financial analysis for certain projects included in the City of
13 Seattle’s Capital Improvement Program.

14 Section ~~57~~. Nothing in this resolution shall give rise to a cause of action to enforce its
15 terms. Information in or attached to a Summary, Environmental, and Fiscal Note is not subject to
16 appeal and may not be used in determining whether The City of Seattle or any of its departments
17 or other organizational units has complied with legal requirements including, but not limited to,
18 chapter 43.21C RCW, chapter 197-11 WAC, or Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 25.05.
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