



## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

### MEMORANDUM

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TO: Seattle City Council  
FROM: Gael Tarleton, Interim Director  
DATE: February 21, 2022  
SUBJECT: **Office of Intergovernmental Relations Highlights**

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Here are some highlights from the Government Relations team: federal and state budgets are rolling out; our diplomatic community is ramping up visits; and our city is working closely with tribal and regional partners.

#### **FEDERAL:**

- Last week, SDOT facilitated a monthly call with federal delegation staff to provide updates on the West Seattle Bridge and other key transportation priorities.
- This week, meetings will start with federal delegation staff to begin conversations around FY22 Earmarks and Appropriations requests for the City.
- Last week, President Biden signed into law a stopgap funding measure (H.R. 6617) that will extend funding until March 11, which the Senate passed by a vote of 65 to 27. Lawmakers are also working to lock in a broader full-year spending package, but have said they need more time to finish.
- The House and Senate will be on recess until Feb. 28. President Biden will give his first State of the Union address on March 1, with all members and senators invited to attend (but no guests).
- In March, the Senate will begin the process of considering the President's Supreme Court nominee. President Biden has promised to pick a nominee by the end of February and Senate Majority Leader Schumer has vowed to quickly move that nominee through the confirmation process.

#### **TRIBAL:**

- Last week, Mayor Harrell sent a letter announcing the appointment of the City's Tribal Relations Director to all Tribal Chairpersons and many Tribal Council members of all the tribes in the state, as well as to the Presidents of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI).
- Our Tribal Relations Director met with many City departments/staff to introduce himself and learn about the services they provide and the tribal issues they encounter in their work. They discussed ways the Director can assist them in their work with tribes.
- The Tribal Relations Director started scheduling meetings with our region's tribes to introduce himself and to gather input on how they would like to engage with the City.



## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

### **INTERNATIONAL:**

- The new International Arrivals Terminal at Sea-Tac opens in early March and will usher in many international delegation visits in the coming months.
- A list of anticipated diplomatic visits in March include:

3/07 **Consul General of Indonesia** Prasetyo Hadi to visit (SC: Surabaya)

3/13 **Mayor of Galway** Colette Connolly to march in St. Patrick's Day Parade / Irish Heritage Week

3/13 **Former Prime Minister of Ireland** Enda Kenny to serve as parade Grand Marshal. CG of Ireland in San Francisco also will be here.

3/16 **Prince Daniel of Sweden** - Visiting with a group of Swedish entrepreneurs. Ambassador of Sweden will present Knight First Class, Royal Order of the Polar Star to Eric Nelson, National Nordic Museum

3/19 **Navruz** – Seattle-Tashkent annual Persian New Year event

### **STATE:**

- Several bills are dead this year after failing to advance before House of Origin cutoff on February 15: The Governor's middle housing bill ([HB 1782](#)), Rep. Robertson's vehicular pursuits bill ([HB 1788](#)), and Rep. Ramel's targeted electrification bill ([HB 1767](#)).
- The Senate will hear [HB 2037](#) on February 21. HB 2037 adopts a use of force definition and makes changes to force that can be used when a suspect flees a stop. The House has scheduled the Senate's use of force legislation, [SB 5919](#) to be heard on February 22.
- The Senate released its Capital Budget proposal on Thursday. [SB 5651](#) invests \$472 million in grants and loans to invest in affordable housing, including \$376 million for rapid housing and crisis stabilization services. It also fully fundings requests from the Tubman Health Center and the Rainier Valley Early Learning Center.
- The Supplemental Operating and Transportation Budget proposals were released over the weekend. We will be providing a more detailed analysis of these documents later this week.

### **REGIONAL:**

- Last week, the Board of Health met. The agenda included an update on the State Legislative Session and discussion on bike helmets.
- The Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board is meeting on 2/24. The agenda will include transportation priorities.
- The OIR Interim Director is participating in internal meetings led by the City's Sound Transit Representative.