

Date: November 10, 2020
To: Metro Committee on Racial Equity
From: Randy Tucker, Legislative Affairs Manager
Anneliese Koehler, State and Regional Affairs Advisor
Re: Metro Council's 2021 Legislative Principles

Before every Oregon legislative session, Metro's government affairs staff works with the Metro Council to develop a state legislative agenda, which the Council then officially adopts around the time the session begins in January or February. Since 2005, that agenda has consisted of two substantive elements: a list of specific priorities and a set of underlying principles that provide guidance to staff as they respond to legislative issues that arise in the course of a session.

As Metro's state lobbying team, we work with our colleagues throughout the agency to develop proposed legislative priorities; consult with the Council to ensure that these priorities reflect Council direction; and work with legislators and other stakeholders to advance them during the session. Before each session we also work with the Council to re-examine and, as appropriate, update the principles that we rely on for policy direction on issues that affect Metro activities and interests. Before the 2017 session, the Council added a principle on Racial Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to this document.

As we prepare for the 2021 session, we are working to effectively incorporate racial equity into the development and implementation of the Council's agenda. We anticipate that this will be a continual process over time and look forward to consulting with you periodically. As part of our current effort, we have been working with staff in two Metro departments on new legislative principles that reflect the integration of equity concerns into the work of the agency.

Attached is a draft of the legislative principles we are developing for Metro Council consideration in December and January. Marginal comments call attention to four elements:

- The organization of the document for the first time into principles that apply generally across the full range of legislative issues Metro works on and principles that are specific to particular issue areas
- The principle on racial diversity, equity and inclusion first added to the document for the 2017 session and now included as one of the "general" principles
- A proposed new principle on equity in the solid waste system
- A proposed new principle on safe and equitable transportation

Questions:

- Do you have questions, comments or suggestions about the content of the proposed legislative principles that address equity?
- What short- or long-term steps could the Council consider to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity through its legislative agenda?

Thank you. We look forward to our conversation with you.