



2022 Business Advocacy Agenda

Adopted 12/8/21

2022 Legislative Priorities - State

Transportation

Tigard and the SW Corridor needs reliable, efficient, safe transportation infrastructure that can handle our current population/usage, our forecasted growth and maintains our Oregon quality of life. Multiple modes need to be considered, planned for and integrated. Change is inevitable, we need to manage the change for healthy, thriving communities and robust economic growth.

The projects listed below are considered high priorities for the Tigard Business community and will need significant financial support from the state and possible federal levels.

- 99W Corridor Study \$1M in funding – Tigard, Tualatin, King City, Sherwood, TriMet, ODOT and Washington County
- Jurisdictional Transfer of Hall Blvd and associated funding for City of Tigard
- SW Corridor Light Rail Project
- North Main Street Improvement
- Bridge and Trail improvements

Broadband and Digital Access

The impacts of the coronavirus pandemic have shown business at least 2 things. Remote workers on a large scale is possible, productive and cost effective. It has also shown that improved broadband and digital access is needed widely as most employees don't live in the same city that they work. This requires a robust reliable network. This will be important to our future recovery as well as increasing equitable access to jobs.

Behavioral Health Programs and Homelessness Prevention

Communities across the state are feeling the effects of the proliferation of homelessness, much of which stems from lack of available treatment options for people suffering from behavioral health issues. This impacts our economy in the form of increased police calls, overcrowding in jails for non-criminal behavior, public safety for both customers, employees and residents and those suffering from these challenges. We support programs, projects and legislation that will provide funding to existing and future private and not for profit entities on a regional level, delivering both behavioral health and housing solutions.

Workforce Housing

Support increased availability and affordability of workforce housing. The lack of affordable housing options for local employees is a top-tier concern for local business communities across the state. Not only is there a shortage of local affordable housing, there is a shortage of local market-rate housing as well. We will support viable measures to increase housing supply. This has a direct economic impact to our state and our business community.

Environment/Sustainability

There needs to be a balance between improvement of our environment/sustainability at a state level and how those improvements get funded, who pays the bill and what it costs both businesses and other taxpayers. We would look to legislation that is fair and equitable to all parties.

Child Care and Workforce Availability/Capacity

Prior to the pandemic Oregon was a childcare desert, with demand far exceeding the supply of childcare, as well as an imbalance in affordable options relative to family income levels. The pandemic with workplace shutdowns, job losses and online school further exacerbated this issue. This is a statewide issue and directly affects both our state and local economies. We would support legislation or incentives that encourages the creation of additional childcare capacity whether in 3rd party providers, by employers, our schools or other organizations.

Employer Issues

Small business pays the largest price when the state mandates pay and benefits. These mandates take away Oregon's competitive advantage across the nation and stifle business growth and expansion, negatively impacting our local economy. Small businesses have further paid the higher price of government mandates/executive orders because of the coronavirus pandemic. We advocate to control or oppose the addition of employer paid benefits or mandates.

Tax Issues/Reforms

In keeping with these two guidelines

- The use of taxes should be fair and equitable in providing services and programs that benefit the economic growth and the health and welfare of citizens.
- As a general rule, overall government expenditures should not grow at rates greater than populations and inflation, or rates exceeding growth in income.

Support a balanced budget through the use of spending reforms (PERS, Medicaid, Personnel Costs) –

Oppose Taxes not supported by the business community.

Business has already been hard hit by the impacts of COVID-19 Executive orders, restrictions and closures. Now is not the time to look to the business community for any revenue raising.

As a counterpoint, the state should be looking to make business whole for the economic impacts of government dictated restrictions/closures.

2022 Legislative Priorities - Local

Transportation – Support projects and initiatives that improve overall transportation infrastructure within Tigard’s areas of commerce including the Tigard Triangle, Pacific Highway and Downtown Tigard including but not limited to:

- Jurisdictional Transfer of Hall Blvd and associated funding for City of Tigard
- SW Corridor Light Rail Project
- Joint cross jurisdictional study of the 99W Corridor
- North Main Street Improvement
- Bridge and Trail improvements
- Improved parking capacity & access in the Downtown core

Education/Workforce Development – We need a technically educated workforce exiting our education system both through secondary education and trade schools. We will support local, school district, state and federal initiatives that work towards this end. We will also support programs that improve/support partnerships between our mental health community and school district for improved mental health program access for students within our school district.

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Economic Development – Support projects/organizations that stimulate revitalization and economic/business growth within the Urban Renewal District, Industrial/Mixed use zones and the Tigard Triangle as the opportunity arises including but not limited to:

- Commercial Re-Development
- Opportunity Zones
- Enterprise Zones
- Vertical Housing Development zones
- Hunziker Industrial Core
- Tigard Triangle & Downtown Tigard Urban Renewal Districts

Behavioral Health Programs and Homelessness Prevention

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projects and legislation that will provide funding to existing and future private and not for profit entities delivering both behavioral health and housing solutions.

We also support de-escalation and conflict resolution training for law enforcement professionals.

The Tigard Chamber of Commerce is committed to working collaboratively with the City of Tigard and our local service providers to support our unhoused residents. We were pleased that the Tigard City Council adopted a goal to “implement an actionable, person-centric, and regional response to homelessness” for 2021-2023. To advance this goal, the Chamber is actively participating in the newly formed Community Houseless Assessment Response Team (CHART) with the City, local business, and service providers.

We are in full support of the proposed legislative concept for pilot funding to support city/county coordination on homelessness response that will be introduced in the upcoming Legislative Session. Tigard City Council’s adoption of its person-centric, regional approach to addressing homelessness demonstrates the City’s commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all people. We strongly advocate and support the City of Tigard, along with its partners in Washington County and surrounding cities, be selected as one of the five pilot regions.

Workforce Housing - Support increased availability and affordability of workforce housing. The lack of affordable housing options for local employees is a top-tier concern for local business communities across the state. Not only is there a shortage of local affordable housing, there is a shortage of local market-rate housing as well. We will support viable measures to increase housing supply. This has a direct economic impact to our state and our business community.

Environment/Sustainability – Support environmental clean-up projects within business/commercial districts that enable redevelopment as they arise. Support parks and green spaces initiatives as they contribute to business/employee quality of life. Including but not limited to:

- Downtown Tigard Brownfield clean up initiatives
- Development of Downtown Tigard Universal Plaza
- [Tigard Resiliency Plan](#), - The Community Resiliency Plan (CRP) is a comprehensive community and science-based strategy to bring Tigard to carbon neutrality by 2035, reduce our effect on natural resources and the environment, and help us adapt.
- County/city flood mitigation as relates to bridgework, etc

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- As a general rule, overall government expenditures should not grow at rates greater than populations and inflation, or rates exceeding growth in income.

We support initiatives that reflect an appropriate balance between general fund revenues generated, general fund increases from additional levy’s/fees and dedicated investment in public safety, transportation and resources used by employees, employers and business.