



ADMINISTRATION

DATE: October 17, 2016
FROM: Keith J. Hunke, City Administrator 
ITEM: 2017 Legislative Agenda

REQUEST

Consider discussion and approval of the proposed 2017 Legislative Agenda.

Please place this item on the October 25, 2016 City Commission meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Legislative Agenda provides the framework for legislative priorities and topic areas, established and approved by the City Commission, for city staff to use when communicating with state legislators and testifying on legislative bills.

RECOMMENDED CITY COMMISSION ACTION

Approve the 2017 Legislative Agenda.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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2017 PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE AGENDA (Draft)

Transportation Funding

The City supports transportation funding at current and increased levels. If a decrease in federal funding is realized, the City supports requests for replacement of that lost federal funding from the State.

Airport Runway Funding

The City supports the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission (NDAC) designation of the Bismarck Airport Runway Project as “critical infrastructure” to the City of Bismarck and the State of North Dakota. The City of Bismarck supports the NDAC’s request for a one-time general fund allocation of \$9 million for airport infrastructure. This allocation would allow the NDAC to provide additional financial assistance to Bismarck’s primary runway reconstruction project estimated at \$67 million.

Renaissance Zone Program

The City supports the continuation of the current Renaissance Zone program and its opportunity to realize all benefits of the program including a full five year extension of the City program.

Emergency Communications and Public Safety

The City supports funding for one-time capital improvement investments to upgrade state-wide 911 emergency communications, as well as multi-hazard public safety emergency responder training. The City supports the assignment of Fire Insurance Premium Tax Payments to Fire Departments.

State Aid Distribution Fund

The City supports funding of the State Aid Distribution Fund to Cities and Public Libraries based on the current per capita funding formula, at the current full funding level of the established funding formula.

Tax Exemptions

The City supports efforts to reduce sales tax exemptions and property tax exemptions.

Behavioral Health Services

The City supports all efforts and programs that address the ever increasing demand for behavioral Health services.

Bank of North Dakota Business Development and Infrastructure Loan Programs

The City supports the continuation of the business development and infrastructure revolving loan programs administered by the Bank of North Dakota. The City supports the expansion of allowable infrastructure projects that qualify for the infrastructure revolving loan program.

Tax Relief/Reform

The City supports the current Property Tax Relief and Reform efforts and further supports overall tax relief efforts.

Housing Programs

The City supports the continuation of state investments in the Housing Incentive Fund for affordable multi-family housing for essential service workers, main street employees and fixed-income households.

Design Build Project Delivery Method

The City supports the use of the design-build project delivery method for state and local infrastructure projects.