

Takoma Park City Council Legislative Priorities

January 25, 2023

Capital improvements

- Takoma Park Maryland Library grant

Fiscally sustainable government

- Increase authority for municipalities to collect revenue. Options might include the authority to collect a sales tax or receive a percentage of sales tax collected in the jurisdiction or receive a portion of revenue generated by cannabis sales.

Transportation & infrastructure investment

- Support of legislation for pedestrian and bike cyclist safety, SHA responsiveness, and meeting Vision Zero goals.

Housing issues

- Giving authority for municipal or county governments to enact “just cause” eviction legislation if they desire.
- Promoting legislation or sources of funding to maintain or increase affordable housing in areas with rising property values and rents resulting from infrastructure improvements, transit projects such as the Purple Line, and redevelopment.
- Establishing energy performance targets in low-income housing.
- Creating an infrastructure repair and rehabilitation fund for condominium improvements.

Climate Change

- Clarifying and increasing municipal authority to go beyond state requirements related to climate change policies, stormwater management, and regulation of plastics.
- Councilmember Dyballa identified stormwater mitigation - identify threats posed by climate and environment driven stormwater impacts and ways to mitigate those impacts. Identify means of funding that might be available through state implementation of the infrastructure bill.
- Councilmember Gibson identified ecosystem protection - protect ecosystem services including carbon sequestration, biodiversity, pollination, cooling, and water regulation

Other Items of interest

- Childcare - Councilmember Honzak mentioned that a childcare provider in her ward was looking for bills which provide flexibility regarding what is considered a "physical" location for a childcare facility.
- Employment - there are a number of changes that are happening related to workforce matters such as FMLA and 4 day work week pilots. It would be helpful to know what these items are to understand the potential impact on the City's staffing policies.