

CITY OF HIGH POINT

AGENDA ITEM



TITLE: City of High Point 2024 2025 State Legislative Priorities	
FROM: Jeron Hollis – Managing Director	MEETING DATE: March 18, 2024
PUBLIC HEARING: N/A	ADVERTISED DATE/BY: N/A
ATTACHMENTS: High Point State Legislative Agenda and Appropriations requests	

PURPOSE: To have City Council approve the 2024-25 State Legislative Priorities.

BACKGROUND:

Each year, the City of High Point meets with our state elected officials to communicate legislative and financial priorities for our community. Over the last two months, members of the High Point City Council and senior staff met with the members of the North Carolina General assembly to seek support for identified needs, discuss priorities, and share program information.

The delegation was made aware of resource needs that are associated with collaborative projects including the Lexington Avenue gateway feasibility study, improvements to the High Point Athletic Complex, and a housing pilot program. In addition, requests related to small scale manufacturing, water and sewer main infrastructure, the Samet Drive extension annexation, local authority related to the sale of property, and efforts to increase workforce housing were shared.

BUDGET IMPACT: There is no budget impact for this item.

RECOMMENDATION /ACTION REQUESTED: Staff recommends that City Council approve the 2024-25 State Legislative Priorities.





2024 | 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST



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2024|2025

LEGISLATIVE SESSION | APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS



Our Why

The mission of this agenda is to describe our collective support for key projects that will further leverage High Point's upward momentum. We believe investment in the below items will accelerate opportunities around economic development, infrastructure, permitting and housing.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS



LEXINGTON AVENUE GATEWAY FEASIBILITY STUDY

The first step to get this Gateway back on the state TIP will be for a feasibility study to be completed to assess the road frontage needs and the housing that it may affect. We believe this road is vital to city access and improved access from downtown High Point to Piedmont Triad International Airport. In 2016, Business High Point covered the cost of the environmental study which has been completed for this Gateway project. We aspire for this corridor to be a greater infrastructure support for community development.



HIGH POINT ATHLETIC COMPLEX IMPROVEMENT

\$4.5M

High Point Athletic Complex is High Point's largest sports complex at over 68 acres. In alignment with the City's Parks and Rec Master Plan, turf and lighting updates and improvement are critical. This is a turnkey estimate and includes all professional surveys, earthwork, excavation, turf, supplies, striping, along with field maintenance equipment and training. The fields would be located on the lower end of our current Miracle League fields, replacing two existing turf fields. This project will have a tremendous impact on High Point sports tourism; increasing our ability to compete regionally for tournaments, drive greater demand for hotel lodging and continue to support current active local sports clubs.



HIGH POINT HOUSING PILOT PROGRAM

\$2-3M

With a current housing shortage in High Point, we request funding to launch a pilot program aimed to address this key tenant of community infrastructure for critical future growth. A comprehensive approach to workforce housing that aligns with the city's comprehensive plan to create density, affordability, support quality of life and support workforce recruitment and retention.

This pilot program will take proactive steps to undergird current resources, target innovative best practices while positively impacting the diverse group of stakeholders that make up a thriving housing market (homebuyer, developer, real estate professionals, etc.)

To include:

- Launching a revolving fund for residential developer incentives
- Implementing down payment assistance program for homebuyers
- Creating workforce related housing options
- Investigating potential landbanking opportunities, and
- Carrying of construction costs

CITY OF HIGH POINT PROJECTS



SMALL SCALE MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE 300 OAK ST.

\$2M

The City of High Point is seeking funds in the amount of **\$2M** for improvements to the facility, updated programming and continuing collaboration with Business High Point - Chamber of Commerce to facilitate the establishment of small scale manufacturing, as well as continued partnership with Guilford works to provide a collaboration workforce development at the neighborhood level.



WATER MAINS & SEWER MAINS UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

\$2M

The City of High Point's average water main age is **66** years.

The City of High Point's average sewer main age is **49** years.

The typical life expectancy is **50** years.

High Point currently has:

790 miles of sewer mains

625 miles of water mains

The City of High Point is requesting **\$2M** to help remedy our significant backlog of water main and sewer main repair and replacement.



HOUSE BILL 5

This bill is the omnibus local bill containing various provisions for different local governments. One of those provisions is the annexation of a small parcel of land needed for the Samet Drive extension which is now underway. HB 5 has passed the House and is on the Senate calendar for a floor vote whenever the Senate wants to take it up.



A LOCAL BILL AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HIGH POINT TO DISPOSE OF REAL PROPERTY BY PRIVATE SALE.

This would allow the City to tailor its conveyance of its property to be consistent with the City's plans for development in that area. Such a private sale could only occur after notice and public hearing on the transaction. Without this authority, the City must use the general statute authority to advertise and offer the property to anyone and accept the highest dollar bid. The cities of Charlotte, Cary and Durham currently have similar authority under their own local acts.



A LOCAL BILL AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HIGH POINT TO CONVEY CITY OWNED PROPERTY TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF WORKFORCE HOUSING

This will allow the city of High Point to convey city owned property, with restrictions, for the purposes of increasing the inventory of workforce housing within the community. The City may attach to the transfer and to the interest conveyed any covenants, conditions, or restrictions, or a combination of them, the City deems necessary to further the public interest in workforce housing. The intent is to provide an environment where there will be a sustainable inventory of workforce housing that will not be depleted over time due to investor purchases or severe market swings. Currently, the City of Winston-Salem has similar authority under their own local act.

Thank you to our legislative delegation for your constant support of High Point and commitment to advance our community needs in Raleigh. The above projects totaling **\$7-8M** will have a massive ROI that will **create jobs, enhance resources, and develop key infrastructure**. We aim to ensure High Point is proactive to meet the needs of our current and future citizens, prospective visitors, as well as our existing and future businesses.

Thank You!



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