THURSTON REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (TRPC) is a 22-member intergovernmental board made up of local governmental jurisdictions within Thurston County, plus the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The Council was established in 1967 under RCW 36.70.060, which authorized creation of regional planning councils.

TRPC’s mission is to “Provide Visionary Leadership on Regional Plans, Policies, and Issues.”

To Support this Mission:

A. Support regional transportation planning consistent with state and federal funding requirements.

B. Address growth management, environmental quality, economic opportunity, and other topics determined by the Council.

C. Assemble and analyze data that support local and regional decision making.

D. Act as a “convener” to build regional consensus on issues through information and citizen involvement.

E. Build intergovernmental consensus on regional plans, policies, and issues, and advocate local implementation.

2019 MEMBERSHIP
THURSTON REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

GOVERNMENTAL JURISDICTION          NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE
City of Lacey                              Carolyn Cox, Councilmember
City of Olympia                           Nathaniel Jones, Councilmember; TRPC Chair
City of Rainier                           George Johnson, Councilmember
City of Tenino                            David Watterson, Councilmember
City of Tumwater                         Tom Oliva, Councilmember
City of Yelm                              JW Foster, Mayor; TRPC Vice-Chair
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation Amy Loudermilk, Staff
Nisqually Indian Tribe                   Heidi Thomas, Staff
Town of Bucoda                           Alan Carr, Mayor
Thurston County                          Tye Menser, County Commissioner
North Thurston Public Schools            Chuck Namit, School Board Member
Olympia School District                  Hilary Seidel, School Board Member
Tumwater School District                 Mel Murray, Staff
InterCity Transit                        Karen Messmer, Authority Member
LOTT Clean Water Alliance                Cynthia Pratt, Board Member; TRPC Secretary
Port of Olympia                          Bill McGregor, Port Commissioner
PUD No. 1 of Thurston County            Russell Olsen, PUD Commissioner

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
Economic Development Council of Thurston County Michael Cade, Executive Director
Lacey Fire District #3                    Gene Dobry, Commissioner
Puget Sound Regional Council              Josh Brown, Executive Director
Timberland Regional Library               LG Nelson, Facilities Manager
The Evergreen State College               Scott Morgan, Director of Facilities Services

CHAIR                                     VICE CHAIR                        SECRETARY
Nathaniel Jones                           JW Foster                         Cynthia Pratt
City of Olympia                           City of Yelm                      LOTT Clean Water Alliance

Marc Daily, Executive Director
During their 2019 retreat, Thurston Regional Planning Council focused on setting the strategic framework for the next two years. In particular, the Council worked to better define priorities around economic development, water, education, and housing. Priorities for transportation and land use were mostly derived from the draft 2020 Work Program and 2020 Unified Planning Work Program. The following tables present a strategic framework that captures the TRPC’s strategic goals, strategies, programs and projects, and performance metrics that will guide the organization’s work over the next two years.

**GOALS:**

1. Maintain and preserve current transportation infrastructure.
2. Enhance multi-modal transportation systems - including trip reductions.
3. Preserve the Thurston Region as a livable, healthy, and sustainable region.
4. Ensure future water quality and quantity.
5. Reduce the region’s contributions to climate change and sustainably adapt to climate related impacts that occur.
6. Sustain and increase employment opportunities in our region.
7. Ensure that the region’s leaders and the public are well informed of the transportation, land use, environmental, and community development issues facing our area.
8. Ensure affordable, adequate and safe housing for all in our community, especially for those who are homeless and severely cost-burdened.
1. Maintain and preserve current transportation infrastructure.

   1. Improve understanding of infrastructure current conditions, function, and future needs to foster more objective, data-driven decisions.
   2. Focus on the regional nature of transportation. Make use of data and modeling across jurisdictional boundaries, and convene regional forums.
   3. Proactively seek funding opportunities: unsettled budgets at the state and federal levels will challenge TRPC and what can be accomplished with available funding.
   4. Transportation Management Associations, tax increment financing, and public/private partnerships to address infrastructure needs and travel demand management.

   **HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects**
   - Work with WSDOT to complete assessment of system needs to reduce congestion on I-5 and the rest of the connected transportation system. Next step include completion of a Planning and Environmental Linkages study.
   - Engage in state processes aimed at defining the next major state transportation package (e.g., Joint Transportation Committee 10-year Transportation Needs Assessment).
   - Complete the Martin Way Corridor Study.
   - Complete Regional Transportation Plan update by July 2020.
   - Monitor transportation technology changes and incorporate in TRPC planning. Example: state connected and automated transportation infrastructure work group.
   - Working with the Technical Advisory Committee, develop federal funding process improvements for consideration by TPB and Council. Proposed improvements must meet the process goals defined in the TPB’s 2019 retreat.

   **LOWER PRIORITY Program & Project Ideas**
   - Develop a transportation recovery strategy.

   **ONGOING Programs & Projects**
   - Continue to serve as the Transportation Committee co-chair for South Sound Military and Communities Partnership.
   - State of the transportation infrastructure (electric charging infrastructure, sidewalk connectivity, bus stop accessibility, pavement condition, bridges, and fish passage barriers (culverts)).
   - Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

2. Enhance multi-modal transportation systems - including trip reductions.

   1. Increase multi-modal options and programs.
   2. Use outreach and social marketing techniques to increase awareness and use of multi-modal options.

   **Addresses Mission:** A, B, C, D, E.

   **HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects**
   - Conduct the Capitol Campus Transportation Demand Management project to increase implementation by state agencies of mobile work and other options.
   - Complete the Regional Trails Plan update.
   - Assist Intercity Transit in completion of Smart Corridors Phase 2.
   - Working with school districts, identify and map suitable walking routes to school for up to 28 elementary and middle schools.

   **LOWER PRIORITY Program & Project Ideas**
   - Explore a regional approach to developing a multimodal level of service.
   - Develop a countywide bicycle (specifically e-bike consideration) and micromobility strategy.
   - Conduct high capacity transportation alternatives analysis.

   **ONGOING Programs & Projects**
   - RT service to rural Thurston County.
   - Commute Trip Reduction.
   - Thurston Here to There.
   - Walk and Roll Program.

**PERFORMANCE METRICS:**

- Transportation fatalities and serious injuries (target: no deaths or serious injuries by 2030).
- Vehicle miles traveled (target: decrease to 30% below 1990 values by 2035).
- Use of alternative commuting options (no target set - trend unchanged since 1990).
- Maintain concurrency – level of service.
- Funding trends to implement priority programs and projects in the Thurston Region.
- Pavement preservation, fish passage barriers, bridge condition, sidewalk completeness, electric vehicle charging infrastructure connectivity, and bus stop accessibility.
3. Preserve the Thurston Region as a livable, healthy, & sustainable region.

1. Facilitate improved coordination across jurisdictions to promote a regional, systems approach to land use decisions (e.g., align planning in UGAs with County and all cities)
   - **HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects**
     - Reconvene TRPC’s Urban Growth Management Subcommittee to work with the County and cities on countywide annexation and joint planning issues
   - **ONGOING Programs & Projects**
     - Current planning for Rainier

2. Apply TRPC’s land use expertise to assist planning in rural communities
   - **Addresses Mission:** B, E

3. Foster more objective, data-driven land use decisions by providing high quality GIS and other modeling
   - **HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects**
     - Complete the regional forecast and develop the 2021 Buildable Lands Report including identifying a list of reasonable measures
   - **LOWER PRIORITY Program & Project Ideas**
     - Freight – last mile: In addition to long haul freight, consider “last mile” freight. This includes smaller vehicles that deliver locally and how they fit into a downtown setting
   - **ONGOING Programs & Projects**
     - Updates of The Profile
     - Updates of Sustainable Thurston Report Card

4. Assist the region in planning for recovery from major disasters
   - **HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects**
     - Work in Partnership with Thurston County Emergency Management and the Emergency Management Council to update and expand the Thurston Region Disaster Recovery Framework and establish how a Disaster Recovery Council would operate
   - **PERFORMANCE METRICS:**
     - Activity density in urban centers and corridors (target: 21 jobs + residents per acre by 2035)
     - Percent of homes in Urban Center or Corridor (target: 17% by 2035)
     - Homes within ½ mile of urban center, corridor, or neighborhood center (target: 72% by 2035)
     - Average residential density (target: 7 units/acre by 2035)
     - Share of new growth occurring in rural areas (target: no more than 5% of housing in rural areas)
4. Ensure future water quality and quantity.

**HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects**
- Through Council meetings and potential evening forums, implement a water resources information series to educate the Council and Thurston residents on key water resource issues facing our region. Topics may include:
  - Water resource availability, management, and protection
  - Pollution prevention (stormwater management, riparian buffers)
  - Aging infrastructure replacement (costs, funding sources, and cross-jurisdiction coordination) – coordinate with Center for Sustainable Infrastructure
  - Infiltration to groundwater and role of reclaimed water
  - Leak detection
  - Latest guidance on riparian buffers for water quality protection
  - Sea level rise impacts on river flows and groundwater
- As the Lead Entity Coordinator for the Deschutes Watershed, support update of the salmon recovery strategy for WRIA 13

**LOWER PRIORITY Program & Project Ideas**
- Convene a standing committee tasked with developing a county-wide water quality and quantity management plan (frame the issues, identify stakeholder and user groups, etc.)

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5. Reduce the region’s contributions to climate change and sustainably adapt to climate related impacts that occur.

**HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects**
- Work with Thurston County, Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater on a Regional Climate Mitigation Plan to reduce the region’s greenhouse gas contributions

**ONGOING Programs & Projects**
- Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan implementation

**PERFORMANCE METRICS:**
- Reducing impervious surfaces in new development (no target)
- Condition rating of 43 basins (target: no loss of “intact” or “sensitive” and improvement of “impacted” streams)
- Per capita water use (target: reduce by 33% by 2035)
- Increased beneficial use of reclaimed water use (no target)
### Strategies and Programs & Projects

**6. Sustain and increase employment opportunities in our region.**

#### HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects
- **In collaboration with EDC, map zones supporting new industry**
  - explore approaches that promote commercial and industrial development in those zones
- **Collaborate with the Port of Olympia in support of the Port’s Vision 2050 implementation**

#### ONGOING Programs & Projects
- **Participate in South Thurston Economic Development Initiative (STEDI)**

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**5% of TRPC budget**

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#### Strategies

1. **Support the ongoing work of the Economic Development Council (EDC) and local chambers of commerce**
   - **Addresses Mission:** B, E

2. **Serve as a regional convener to support economic development discussions and catalyze action within and across jurisdictions**
   - **Addresses Mission:** B, D

3. **Apply TRPC’s transportation and land use expertise to issues of economic development**
   - **Addresses Mission:** A, B, D, E

#### Performance Metrics:
- Activity density in urban centers and corridors (target: 21 jobs + residents per acre by 2035)
- Unemployment (target: Thurston Co remains below state average)
- South county community spending within community (target: retail sales equal to expected spending of residents by 2035)
- Jobs to housing balance (target: Thurston county similar to state average of about 1.4)
- Households meeting needs (target: less than 10% cost burdened, less than 5% severely cost burdened)
7. Ensure that the region's leaders and the public (particularly students) are well informed of the transportation, land use, environmental, and community development issues facing our area.

**HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects**
- TRPC Director and staff provide targeted and consistent outreach to member boards and councils on emerging issues and needs
- Convene a Council subcommittee on Education and Outreach to discuss what role TRPC should play in education and how to better utilize the membership of school districts and higher education

**LOWER PRIORITY Program & Project Ideas**
- TRPC engages in educational efforts to jurisdictions' work committees regarding specific research, findings, and action steps that have been developed by the Council
- Learn from other areas of the country and around the world. Identify and educate about best practices that could be implemented locally

**PERFORMANCE METRICS:**
- Enhance funding, learning, and outreach Performance Metrics - TBD
1. Use TRPC’s data, mapping, and convening expertise to support housing and homelessness efforts

HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects
- Work with Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater on a Washington Commerce grant opportunity to develop durable housing data and trend analyses in support of a Regional Housing Action Plan
- Form a Council Subcommittee on housing to help shape how TRPC can be most helpful on these issues

LOWER PRIORITY Program & Project Ideas
- Develop TRPC as a clearinghouse for housing and homeless data and strategies
- Potentially convene all regional housing stakeholders to develop county-wide housing policies and model ordinances

PERFORMANCE METRICS:
- Enhance funding, learning, and outreach Performance Metrics