

2018

Thurston Regional
Planning Council

Strategic Plan

2020

December 2017



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.

**2017 MEMBERSHIP
THURSTON REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

GOVERNMENTAL JURISDICTION	NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE
City of Lacey	Virgil Clarkson , Councilmember
City of Olympia	Nathaniel Jones , Councilmember
City of Rainier	George Johnson , Councilmember
City of Tenino	David Watterson , Councilmember
City of Tumwater	Tom Oliva , Councilmember
City of Yelm	JW Foster , Mayor
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Amy Loudermilk , Staff
Nisqually Indian Tribe	Heidi Thomas , Staff
Town of Bucoda	Alan Vanell , Councilmember
Thurston County	John Hutchings , County Commissioner
North Thurston Public Schools	Chuck Namit , School Board Member
Olympia School District	Justin Montermini , School Board Member
Tumwater School District	Mel Murray , Staff
Intercity Transit	Karen Messmer , Authority Member
LOTT Clean Water Alliance	Cynthia Pratt , Board Member
Port of Olympia	Joe Downing , 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	vacant
Timberland Regional Library	LG Nelson , Facilities Manager
The Evergreen State College	Jeanne Rynne , Director of Facilities Services

CHAIR
Tom Oliva
City of Tumwater

VICE CHAIR
Nathaniel Jones
City of Olympia

SECRETARY
JW Foster
City of Yelm

Marc Daily, Executive Director

2018-2020 Strategic Framework

The following pages present a strategic framework that captures the TRPC's strategic goals, strategies, programs and projects, and performance metrics that have served as strategic guidelines for the past two years. This information is based on existing strategic goals and work completed over the last two years.

During the retreat, participants discussed the desired outcomes, results, and activities for each of 8 key topics. The results of this discussion were mapped onto the strategic framework. As such, the information that follows represents the foundation of a strategic plan, to be formed by further discussion and debate of the content shown below.

GOALS:

1 Maintain and preserve current transportation infrastructure.

TRANSPORTATION

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

3 Preserve the Thurston Region as a livable, healthy, and sustainable region.

LAND USE & SUSTAINABILITY

4 Ensure future water quality and quantity.

WATER RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

5 Sustain and increase employment opportunities in our region.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

6 Enhance Funding, Learning & Outreach

FUNDING, LEARNING & OUTREACH



strategies programs & projects

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. Public private partnerships/resources -- The federal government is talking about public/private partnerships to pay for transportation improvements and WSDOT exploring public/public partnerships
5. Transportation Management Associations, Tax increment financing, Transportation Management Associations - public/private partnerships to address travel demand management. Tax increment financing: special districts where expected future real estate tax increases are borrowed against to fund current projects

Addresses Mission:
A, C, E

HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects

- Data analysis to lay the foundation for County-wide climate action plan, including a wedge analysis and energy map
- Secure funding for the I-5 study (Grand Mound to Mounts Road); include funding in the WSDOT budget
- Develop relationships with PSRC and Cowlitz - Wahkiakum Council of Governments. Specifically around I-5 congestion issues.
- Monitor transportation technology changes and incorporate in TRPC planning. Example: Intelligent Transportation Systems architecture project

LOWER PRIORITY Program & Project Ideas

- Understand opportunities surrounding county-wide TBD
- TRPC investigates non-traditional fixes (in general)
- Establish a state Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) association to have a lobbying presence in Olympia, not just through the national Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Not much interest in this among WA MPOs

ONGOING Programs & Projects

- State of the transportation system (pavement condition, bridges, and fish passage barriers (culverts) plus other multi-modal topics to follow
- Regional Transportation Plan (What Moves You)
- Transportation modeling
- Unified Planning Work Program and regional transportation priorities
- Regional Transportation Improvement Program
- Transportation chapter for Thurston Comprehensive Plan
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

strategies programs & projects

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

1. Increase multi-modal options and programs

Addresses Mission:
A, B

HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects

- Update Regional Trails Plan

LOWER PRIORITY Program & Project Ideas

- Collaboration with counties and agencies that results in a project that reduces single occupancy vehicle use

ONGOING Programs & Projects

- Rural and Tribal Transportation
- Tenino – Bucoda trail feasibility study
- Lacey sidewalk inventory
- JBLM congestion relief work

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

Addresses Mission:
C, D

ONGOING Programs & Projects

- Commute Trip Reduction
- Thurston Here to There
- Walk n' 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 walking, cycling, and transit commuting options (no target set trend unchanged since 1990)
- Maintain concurrency – level of service
- Sustainable funding = change in taxing structure from fuel tax to UMT
- Pavement preservation, fish passage barriers, and bridge condition

LAND USE & SUSTAINABILITY

12%
of TRPC budget

strategies

programs & projects

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
 - a. Better collaboration between businesses, nonprofits, youth groups
 - b. Monitor and influence public facility siting to minimize adverse impacts on transportation and land use. This includes schools. If possible, we should also monitor private facilities, especially those that serve people who need transit
 - c. Flexibility to take on some of the harder issues relating to land use, by finding other sources of funding that will allow work in this area

Addresses Mission:
A, E
2. Apply TRPCs land use expertise to assist planning in rural communities
 - Ensure land use supports development of efficient alternative transportation

Addresses Mission:
B, E

HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects

- Conduct 5-year review of Sustainable Thurston implementation, focusing on progress on the 120 identified actions
- Pursue funding to develop a regional Climate Action Plan that includes both mitigation and incorporates the Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan

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ONGOING Programs & Projects

- Planning Directors' meeting facilitation
- Long range planners' meeting facilitation
- Boundary Review Board (in discussion with County to resume this role)
- Continue development and then implementation of the Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan

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LOWER PRIORITY Program & Project Ideas

- "Bookend" concept for the I-5 corridor; look at this stretch as most likely area to attract development for a range of uses, including industry and housing

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ONGOING Programs & Projects

- Current planning for Tenino and Rainier

strategies

programs & projects

3. Foster more objective, data- driven land use decisions by providing high quality GIS and other modeling

3. Foster more objective, data- driven land use decisions by providing high quality GIS and other modeling

Addresses Mission:
B, C
4. Foster improved land use decisions through producing high quality, graphics-rich, easily understood, durable, and readily implementable land use plans

Addresses Mission:
B, C, E

LOWER PRIORITY Program & Project Ideas

- Freight – last mile: In addition to long haul freight, we need to consider "last mile" freight. This includes smaller vehicles that delivering locally and how they fit into a downtown setting. Last mile can also refer to connections between transportation modes. For example, a person with a disability may be able to ride transit but may have barriers to getting from home to bus stop (connecting that last mile between bus stop and home)

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ONGOING Programs & Projects

- New land capacity, population, and employment projections to 2040 (ongoing through 2018)
- Updates of The Profile
- Updates of Sustainable Thurston Report Card

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ONGOING Programs & Projects

- Thurston Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Sustainable Thurston and annual Main Street Journal
- Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region

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)

WATER RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

8%
of TRPC budget



strategies

programs & projects

4. Ensure future water quality and quantity.

1. Plan for sufficient quantity and quality for consumption, economic development, and environmental needs.

Addresses Mission:
B, C, E

HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects

- Convene water purveyors throughout the county to determine how much water we have available, how much of our future growth that water will provide for, and discuss measure to ensure long-term water availability for human use and instream flows

LOWER PRIORITY Program & Project Ideas

- Act as convener and clearinghouse for Hirst decision.
- Efforts to avoid water contamination (such as stream buffers, stormwater retrofit, zoning to protect aquifer recharge areas).
- 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.)

2. Study, model, and plan for the impacts climate change will have on ecosystem health, land use, transportation, and economic development

Addresses Mission:
B, C, E

ONGOING Programs & Projects

- Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan

3. Foster improved environmental land use decisions through producing high quality, graphics-rich, easily understood, durable, and readily implementable land use plans

ONGOING Programs & Projects

- Deschutes Watershed Study
- Participate in Voluntary Stewardship Program development

PERFORMANCE METRICS:

- Reducing impervious surfaces in new development (no target – but steady decline)
- 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 acceptance of reclaimed water use.
- Increased support of water reclamation efforts.
- Ability to finance conversion from septic to sewer.



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

5%
of TRPC budget



strategies

programs & projects

5. Sustain and increase employment opportunities in our region.

1. Support the ongoing work of the Economic Development Council and local chambers of commerce
 - a. Collaborate with EDC and higher education institutions
 - b. Work with School Districts for informed youth

Addresses Mission:
B, E

LOWER PRIORITY Program & Project Ideas

- Develop performance measures to reach a percentage of inclusion of green manufacturing/industry in economic growth

ONGOING Programs & Projects

- South Thurston Economic Development Initiative (STEDI)
- Partner of EDC on Thurston Economic Development Strategic Plan

2. Serve as a regional convener to support economic development discussions and catalyze action within and across jurisdictions

Addresses Mission:
B, D

ONGOING Programs & Projects

- Facilitating Yelm economic development meetings
- Update of employment forecast

3. Apply TRPCs transportation and land use expertise to issues of economic development

Addresses Mission:
A, B, D, E

ONGOING Programs & Projects

- Main Street Rochester Plan

strategies

programs & projects

4. Serve as a regional convener on social issues to catalyze actions – understanding that a healthy, safe, and provided for community is a precursor to economic development

Addresses Mission:
B, D, E

Activities

- Thurston Thrives
- South Sound Military and Communities Partnership participation
- Assisting in planning for GRuB Food Summit

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)
- Reduced cost of transportation for families and individuals
- Increased jobs and economic development that requires fewer County residents to commute out of the County. Jobs closer to homes. Maintain existing jobs/housing balance instead of becoming a bedroom community.
- Increase in light commercial jobs, including research/medical
- Increase/improve family wage jobs
- Adequate financing for workforce development so that the workforce is there for job growth



FUNDING, LEARNING & OUTREACH

TRPC budget

4%

strategies

programs & projects

Enhance funding, learning and outreach.

1. TBD

HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects

- Pursue added staff capacity to compile and analyze existing data related to Council land use and transportation priorities (Example: like was done with State of the Transportation System)

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.

2. Funding for TRPC

HIGH PRIORITY Programs & Projects

- Balance the TRPC annual budget
- Expand MPO boundary
- Seek grant funding to implement Council priorities

PERFORMANCE METRICS:

- Balanced TRPC budget