1. Purpose

*What Moves You* serves as a strategic blueprint for the region’s transportation system. The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) takes the long view, looking 20+ years into the future. The RTP considers what our community’s transportation needs may be in the coming decades and how to prepare to meet them.

Thurston Regional Planning Council is updating this plan, moving the planning horizon from 2040 to 2045. The update process is anticipated to run from June 2019 through July 2020.

Agency Public Participation Plan

Adopted May 3, 2019, Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) has an overarching public participation plan for how it operates as a public agency. The agency plan highlights requirements for the Regional Transportation Plan update, including providing:

- At least a 14-day public comment period;
- A summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of comments with the final plan when significant written and oral comments are received; and
- Additional opportunities for public comment if the final Regional Transportation Plan differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts.

RTP Public Participation Plan

In addition to the agency-wide requirements, the goal of the RTP Public Participation Plan is to:

- Engage the public by actively including diverse sectors of the community in meaningful discussion
- Understand the public’s interest in transportation issues
- Provide the public relevant and wanted resources that explain the challenges and opportunities facing our region’s transportation system
2. Project Stakeholders and Roles

Project Team
The project team consists of TRPC staff. TRPC is responsible for the overall RTP update, including public engagement and transportation modeling.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
The TAC is an advisory body to the Transportation Policy Board and TRPC staff. It evaluates the technical, operational, and implementation aspects of studies, grant proposals, and certain construction projects and offers recommendations to the region’s policy makers. Members of the TAC are the primary implementers and users of the RTP.

Transportation Policy Board (TPB)
The TPB is the principal advisory body to the Council on all matters of regional transportation planning. Its members evaluate a wide range of economic, environmental, and social issues and studies as they relate to transportation and provide informed recommendations to Council.

Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC or Council)
Decision-makers from 22 jurisdictions and organizations in Thurston County make up the Council, which meets monthly to address challenges related to the region’s growth. Taking into consideration feedback from staff, TAC, and the TPB, TRPC is the body responsible for adopting the RTP and setting the framework for regional transportation decisions.

The Public
The public is any and all who are affected by our region’s transportation system including area residents, visitors, businesses, etc. The public’s role is to provide input and feedback during the update process to ensure the community’s interests and needs are reflected in the plan.

3. Outreach Tools and Strategy

This public participation plan recognizes the need for continuous public involvement throughout the update process. The project team will use six tools to reach out to the public and RTP stakeholders.

Online Presence (Throughout Update Process)
TRPC already maintains webpages dedicated to the Regional Transportation Plan and will continue to do so. TRPC will establish additional webpages dedicated to updating the RTP for the duration of the update process where information on the project will be posted. TRPC will also work with the various stakeholders and its partners to use online platforms (such as Facebook) to communicate with community members about meetings and opportunities to comment/provide feedback.
**TRPC Briefings (Throughout Update Process)**
From time to time throughout the update process, the project team will provide briefings to the TAC, TPB, and TRPC. These updates are intended to inform the various parties of the project’s progress; inform them of specific topics of interest; answer any questions they may have; and receive direction from policymakers. Each of these meetings is open to the public and provides an opportunity to learn more about the RTP.

**Stakeholder Survey (July 2019-December 2019)**
The purpose of the survey is to identify topics related to the RTP that are of most interest to the various partners in our region as well as the best way to provide information on such topics. Community partners include but are not limited to elected and appointed officials, the disability community, environmental groups, school districts and education providers, chambers of commerce, veterans, groups representing/advocating for minorities, etc.

**Outreach Materials and Presentations (July 2019-December 2019)**
The project team will develop outreach materials based on the stakeholder survey and distribute it as appropriate. Outreach materials may include one-page topic summaries, infographics, digital story maps, or other materials. Where appropriate, these materials will also be available on the project website. From time to time, the project team may also make presentations to stakeholder groups as resources permit.

**Public Comment Period (Spring 2020)**
As the update process nears completion, TRPC will hold a formal public comment period before the document is finalized.

**Translation Services (As Requested/Needed)**
TRPC’s website is Google Translate-enabled. Consistent with the agency-wide Public Participation Plan, the project team will, upon request and within a reasonable timeframe, make a reasonable effort to provide translation services at presentations and for documents.