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- City of Lacey
- City of Olympia
- City of Rainier
- City of Tenino
- City of Tumwater
- City of Yelm
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Town of Bucoda
- Thurston County
- North Thurston Public Schools
- Olympia School District
- Tumwater School District
- Intercity Transit
- LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- Port of Olympia
- PUD No. 1 of Thurston County

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:**

- Lacey Fire District #3
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- The Evergreen State College
- Thurston Economic Development Council
- Timberland Regional Library

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Transportation Policy Board

**FROM:** Karen M. Parkhurst, Planning & Policy Director

**DATE:** February 5, 2020

**SUBJECT:** I-5/US 101 Practical Solutions: State Capitol Campus Transportation Demand Management - Mobile Work Project

**PURPOSE:**

To brief the Board on the Capitol Campus Project

**Summary:**

- Early work on the I-5/US 101 Study identified certain short and mid-term strategies to improve efficiency on the highway system. This included ramp metering, consideration of hard shoulder running (allowing use of the shoulder in certain areas) and encouraging travel behavior change on the Capitol Campus.
- TRPC sought funding through the State Regional Mobility grant program. While the project qualified, TRPC was ineligible to apply. Thanks to the last-minute support by the City of Olympia, they became the applicant and funding was awarded for 2019-2021. The Regional Council also selected the project for funding in 2021-2023.
- We are working through the many facets of this project and will bring updates as they occur. Success will require a culture change, patience, good technical assistance, and continued strong support from Governor Inslee and Secretary Millar, the City of Olympia, and state agency management and employees.

**Background**

**Commute Trip Reduction (CTR)**

The Commute Trip Reduction Law, enacted in 1991, aims to reduce automobile-related air pollution, traffic congestion, and energy use. Using alternative forms of commuting – rather than single occupancy vehicles – can help achieve this goal. The cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, Thurston County, and Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) have adopted/implemented local/regional CTR Plans. These plans and programs encourage walking, bicycling, riding transit, vanpooling and carpooling, teleworking (mobile work), and flexible work schedules.

**Capitol Campus Progress and Culture**

Despite decades of successful mobile work deployment worldwide, and several state Executive Orders, Washington State agencies lag far behind in implementation. Mid-level management, in particular, continues to focus on potential negative outcomes and risks.

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Information and Discussion Only.

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### **The Project**

This project will expand mobile work (telework, compressed workweeks, flexible work hours) outreach and education efforts to all state agencies on the Olympia Capitol Campus. We will target top- and mid-level management – taming their fears and establishing best practices, policies, and robust formal programs.

The effort will include one-on-one and group meetings with small and large agency management, human resources and information services personnel, and presentations at cabinet (and other) meetings. We will also identify and deploy early adopter “champions” and work with Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETCs). This “social marketing” approach will identify the wants and needs of the individual/agency and how CTR/TDM can address these issues.

We will partner with the Office of the Governor, Office of Financial Management, Department of Transportation (Headquarters and Olympic Region), Department of Enterprise Services, the jurisdictions of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater and Thurston County, organized labor, and others to move state employees off roads – especially during peak times. This will help the state Build a Modern Work Environment that will attract a new generation of workers who consider “work” as a verb, and not a noun – a thing you do, not a place you go.

While decreasing congestion has always been part of CTR/TDM efforts, this project adds specificity to that goal – to reduce traffic congestion on Interstate 5 (I-5), particularly at the I-5/US 101 interchange. The I-5 Tumwater to Mounts Road study identified this area as a major choke point. Using a Practical Solutions approach, the study team identified and funded early actions such as ramp metering, hard shoulder running, and this TDM project.

In addition to I-5, changing state employee commute patterns will likely impact the surface streets around the Capitol Campus (4th and Jefferson, Capitol Way, Union, and Plum Streets) and what CTR/TDM efforts can do to address the bottleneck on the Isthmus shown in TRPC's 2040 transportation modeling. The State of Washington and Olympia plan scheduled traffic counts to measure change in travel patterns.

### **Events and Recognition**

To kick off the on-the-ground outreach for the project, we are working with Governor Inslee and WSDOT Secretary Millar. Soon, the Governor will communicate with agency directors and deputy directors to encourage employees (who are already authorized to telework through their agency process) to *Telework Tuesdays* during a month+ time period. Secretary Millar's communication suggests that the Department of Transportation will beat other agencies in the rate of participation.

We are also working with the Governor's office and others to identify ways to celebrate the successes of the program, including reinstating some form of the Governor's Commute Smart Awards. This included a celebration at the Governor's Mansion and presentations by the Governor and other dignitaries.