

DRAFT MEMORANDUM

To: Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan Steering Committee

From: Jessica Gould, Intercity Transit
Allison Osterberg, Thurston Regional Planning Council

Subject: Intercity Transit Requested Amendments to Final Draft of Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan

Date: December 10, 2020

Intercity Transit requests the Steering Committee make the following changes to Chapter 5 of the November 2020 draft of the *Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan* before final approval of the plan. The changes are related to action T3.10, which were made in response to public comments in explicitly include transit in this action:

Original

- **T3.10 – convert to EV fleets.** Set policies and timetable for electrification of municipal and other governmental fleets, including transit. Require replacement of public fleets with cleaner, energy-efficient vehicles to reduce long term fuel costs, improve air quality, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Suggested

- **T3.10 –zero emission fleets.** Investigate options then set appropriate timetables and policies for municipal and other governmental entities to replace public fleets with cleaner, energy-efficient vehicles to reduce long term fuel costs, improve air quality, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Explanation:

- Transit is a municipality and it is redundant to call it out especially if other fleets like school district’s fleets (which are larger than IT’s) aren’t also listed out.
- The path towards zero emission will be achieved in a variety of ways, not just through EV’s.
- “Convert to EV fleets” is very narrow and does not recognize that EV might not be the best fuel alternative option for heavy duty buses like ours.
- IT’s approach is to adopt an emerging technology perspective instead of solely focusing on EV’s. This may include hydrogen and focusing on EV’s limits our options. Most larger fleet conversions are trending away from EV’s.
- Setting a timetable may be detrimental in that it doesn’t always align with technological advances or recognize when the needs have to be met.
- The plan isn’t achievable unless it holistically considers financial, social and environmental issues.