

Journeys

2015 Notable Projects in the Thurston Region

I-5/SR 510 Marvin Road Interchange Reconstruction (Interchange Justification Report approved, project funded in Connecting Washington, the state transportation package, and design is underway) WSDOT & City of Lacey

Capitol Boulevard Improvements (M Street to Bridge, added bike lanes, landscaping, retaining walls, ADA upgrades, LED lighting, and roadway resurfacing) City of Tumwater

State Avenue Overlay (Central Street to Plum Street/East Bay Drive, repaving and adding bulb-outs) City of Olympia

Regional Transit Mobility (WSDOT extended regional funding through mid-June 2017 for 2 routes, supporting 32 trips between Thurston and Pierce/King Counties) Intercity Transit

Golf Club Road Extension Completed (3rd Avenue SE to 6th Avenue SE, including repaving of a section of 3rd Avenue SE) City of Lacey

I-5 Smart Corridors Signal Upgrade (Trosper Road to Marvin Road, upgrade or replace signal controllers to integrate with Cities of Tumwater, Olympia and Lacey signals) WSDOT

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2015 Regional Grants Awarded

TRPC awarded grants totaling nearly \$2.4 million for:

- Binghampton (SR 507) Streetscape Project
- Pattison Street Facility Phase 1 Renovation & Expansion
- Bus Stop Enhancements for Safety & Accessibility
- Walk N Roll Schools Program
- Tumwater Historical Park Trail Connection - additional award
- Tumwater Square Station Transit, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Improvements
- Sustainable Public Transportation - A Community Conversation

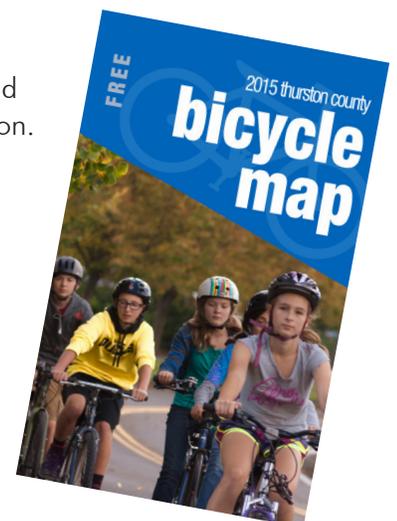
Awardees use these grants to leverage local, state, and other federal funding to complete the projects.

TRPC receives a share of federal transportation funds to award for regional priorities. TRPC prioritizes multimodal safety, preservation, and efficiency when selecting projects.

TRPC also receives a share of federal funds targeting transportation and air quality. These funds must be used for projects that help reduce PM10 (particulate matter under 10 microns) generated from tailpipe emissions, road dust, and brake and tire wear.

2015 Thurston County Bike Map

Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) published the fifth edition of the Bike Map, available on paper and online. The [Bike Map](#) is TRPC's most popular publication. Paper copies are distributed through dozens of outlets. The online version includes an interactive map, a Google-driven route planner with elevations, and printable versions for both the countywide and north urban views. Smart phone, tablet, computer, or paper – we've got you covered! TRPC staff collaborated with local jurisdictions, including Intercity Transit, Thurston County Public Health & Social Services, and local bicycle enthusiasts to prepare this update.



Congress Takes Action

(Finally)

As you may remember in the last issue of Journeys, I talked about how Congress continued to “kick” action on the transportation bill down a “short road.” The years of non-action by Congress on transportation legislation were having serious impacts on the continued growth and condition of our nation’s transportation system.

Way past the last minute, Congress did get the job done. On December 4, the President signed into law the FAST (Fixing America’s Surface Transportation) Act. For the first time in over ten years, we have some long-term funding certainty for surface transportation. This bill provides states and local governments the ability to move forward on multi-year, critical transportation projects with confidence that they will have a federal partner. FAST outlines new opportunities for grant funding and establishes a formula base that shows slight funding increases over the next four years.

Having voiced my concerns and dismay in Congress, I think it’s important to congratulate them on passing this bill and providing the nation with a workable and important pathway for success.



Lon Wyrick

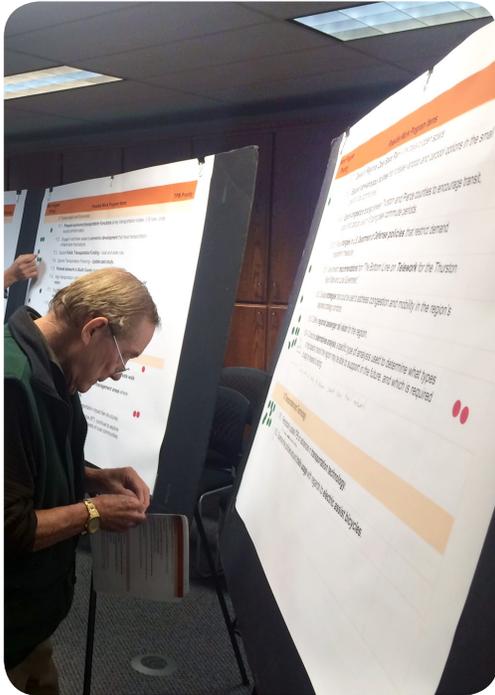
-- Lon D. Wyrick, Executive Director

Legislative Priorities

5 Key Messages

- Fix I-5 – Thanks for funding! Plan for the Thurston region corridor and continued JBLM area improvements.
- Preserve and maintain the multimodal system, and complete current projects – Finance projects, aging road and bridge repair, and local grant programs.
- Maintain and increase Regional and Rural Mobility funding – Fully finance because need far outstrips available funding.
- Maintain and grow public transportation services – Financially support Intercity Transit express service between Olympia and Tacoma. Increase local funding options.
- Fund fish passage culvert conversations – Thanks for funding! Need is far greater, so expand financial support. Explore ways to streamline the state environmental process.

Retreat Shapes Transportation Work Program



October 2015 TPB Dots Exercise

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) held their first retreat in September 2015. TPB's focus was the regional transportation work program for the next 10+ years – shaping the long range transportation plan. They laid out key questions and challenges, defining where regional data and policy analysis is needed to support on-going collaborative transportation decision-making. TPB built on Thurston Regional Planning Council's transportation priorities identified at their retreat in July, including a "state of the region's transportation system" report.

Regional work program priorities focus on transportation and...

- Sustainability
- Maintenance
- Health & Human Services
- Local Food Systems
- Energy & Climate Change
- Land Use
- Economics
- Multimodal Choices
- Technology

TPB Short Updates

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) established a new standing item on their agenda. Beginning in December 2015, TPB meetings start with quick updates on transportation projects and topics. The first round included the Chehalis Western/Woodland Trail Hub Junction, a Walk N Roll event and participation, and Transportation Investment Board (TIB) grants to Lacey and Yelm. These shorts will bring newsworthy bites of information to the attention of regional policy makers.

Changes at the Transportation Policy Board

The [Transportation Policy Board \(TPB\) membership](#) saw many changes in 2015. Thanks to the continuing members for their commitment – Andy Ryder, Graeme Sackrison, Cathy Wolfe, Doug DeForest, John O'Callahan, Kevin Dayton, Martha Hankins, Pete Kmet, Tracey Wood, Heidi Thomas, and our ex officio state delegates. Our appreciation goes to departing members who served on TPB – George Barner, Cheryl Selby, Ron Landon, Ryan Warner, Jim Longley, and Renée Sunde.

Welcome to members joining the TPB in 2015 and new appointees in 2016 – E.J. Zita (Port of Olympia), Clark Gilman (City of Olympia), JoAnn Schueler (WSDOT), Debbie Sullivan (Intercity Transit), Ramsey Zimmerman (Thurston Economic Development Council), Bob Covington (State Agency – Department of Enterprise Services), and Monty Sabin and John Suessman (North Thurston Public Schools). Members Zimmerman, Covington, Sabin, and Suessman represent new organizations at the TPB table.



TPB Meeting, March 2016

Mullen Road Upgrade (Lacey city limits to Carpenter Road, urban safety improvements, construction expected 2018-19) *Thurston County*

E-Street & Deschutes Parkway Improvements (Added sidewalk and pedestrian scale LED lighting) *City of Tumwater*

US 101/West Olympia Access Project (Approval of Interchange Justification Report for new freeway access ramps at Kaiser Road and Yauger Way in West Olympia) *City of Olympia*

Bus Stop Enhancements (TRPC regional grant provided ADA/pedestrian and safety enhancements for 27 bus stops; local funding provided solar lighting in 29 bus stop shelters to improve customer safety) *Intercity Transit*

Corporate Center Drive SE Overlay Completed (College Street to Yelm Highway) *City of Lacey*

I-5 Ramp Meters, Cameras & Message Sign (SR 510 to SR 512, including 2 ramp meters, 2 closed-circuit traffic cameras, 1 variable message sign & supporting hardware) *WSDOT*

Bald Hill Road Upgrade (Smith Prairie Road to Owl Pit, rural widening project, construction expected in 2016-17) *Thurston County*

LED Streetlight Conversion (Converted 936 City streetlights to LED with an expected energy savings of \$60,000 per year) *City of Tumwater*

Moore Street Pathway (Completed bicycle and pedestrian pathway in partnership with residents) *City of Olympia*

Technical Advisory Committee Goes Hammer-and-Tongs in 2015

The [Technical Advisory Committee \(TAC\)](#) tackled several regional work program items in 2015.

TAC served as a workhorse to develop the regional transportation model. They provided and guided the data and assumptions and validated its results. Because of this close collaboration, regional, local, and state planners and engineers will use the model to analyze future transportation conditions and how projects, programs, and services could impact those conditions.

In 2015, TAC provided thoughtful, detailed input for key portions of the regional long range transportation plan, including goals and policies, the regional project list, transportation finance, regional level of service, and strategy corridors. In 2016, they will help shape the assessment of future conditions discussed in the 2040 plan.

Thurston Regional Planning Council issued a 2015 call for projects eligible for regional funding. TAC reviewed the submittals to identify technical issues that could keep projects from moving forward.

In addition to their regional work, TAC invited speakers to present on topics of common interest, including: Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Practical Solutions project approach, changing requirements for federal funding agreements, Dynameq modeling tool applications, update of Low Impact Development (LID) Standards in the region, WSDOT Corridor Sketch Initiative, and the Washington State Public Transportation Plan.



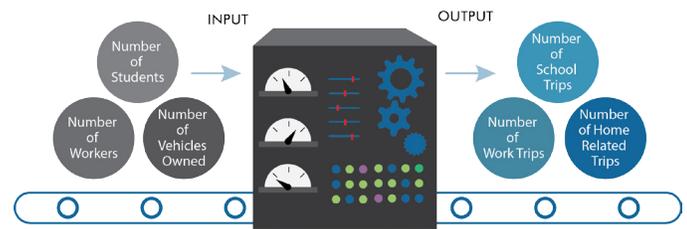
TAC Meeting 2015

New Regional Transportation Model in Development

The regional transportation model helps us look at the broad implications of future travel conditions. For the first time in a dozen years, TRPC undertook a complete model update and expanded the planning horizon to 2040. Based on the regional population and employment forecast, and a supplemental forecast for the surrounding four counties, the model includes:

- Integration of the recent household travel survey, and origin and destination study data.
- Enhanced trail and bicycle lane networks.
- Addition of carpool, vanpool, and park-and-ride use.
- Better information on traffic flows between surrounding counties and the Thurston region.
- More model detail inside the Thurston Region.
- Improved integration with Puget Sound Regional Council's model.
- Ability to model travel behavior based on income.
- Capacity to look at truck travel.
- Capability to assess more transportation demand management factors, such as the impacts of changing parking prices or implementing more telework.

The regional transportation model supports local and state jurisdictions' more detailed system analysis and refinements. TRPC then rolls those refinements back into the regional model – a continuous cycle tying local and regional planning together with a common set of assumptions and tools. TRPC's model development team includes TAC, TRPC staff, consultants, peers, and partners.



Using the Model

TRPC staff use the regional transportation model to conduct the data and policy analysis policy makers set forth in the regional work program. The model helps us, at the broad scale, to: 1) forecast road, transit, and trail trips, 2) project long range traffic growth patterns, 3) highlight expected traffic impacts of new land use developments, 4) evaluate transportation scenarios, 5) test implications of some transportation policies, and 6) help local jurisdictions assess traffic capacity issues.

Thera Black Leaves TRPC



After more than 20 years, Thera Black made the jump from public to private sector employment. Thera's contributions are many. One recent highlight is completion of Bridging the Gap in the Chehalis Western Trail. Thera's work behind the scenes was essential to fulfilling this policy maker vision. Thera hasn't jumped too far - she still lives and works in the Thurston region. Thanks to Thera for her service!

Thera Black

TRPC Is Involved

North Lewis County Industrial Access Study - The [study](#) seeks to improve roadway access to industrial lands primarily at the Port of Centralia Industrial Park and the Industrial Park at TransAlta. The project teams are evaluating freeway and local street options, including the potential need for a new I-5 interchange south of Grand Mound. Findings may impact transportation and land use plans for south Thurston and north Lewis Counties. TRPC staff sit on both the steering committee and technical advisory committee.



WSDOT's Corridor Sketch Initiative - Through [this initiative](#), WSDOT is documenting consistent baseline information about each transportation corridor around the state. A corridor sketch describes the characteristics, current and future function, and performance expectations. During this first phase, TRPC staff provided data and facilitated meetings with stakeholders throughout the Thurston region.

Thurston Thrives - Improving the Health of All Residents - This Thurston County Board of Health [initiative](#) explores various community issues through a "health lens." For example, the Thurston Thrives Community Design Team seeks to make healthy choices easier through improving how we create our social and built environment. In 2016, the Team's focus is:

- Broaden education/promotion efforts such as Safe Routes to School and Walk N Roll.
- Bring people together for active events, such as a trail improvement or neighborhood place-making.
- Improve trails and corridors through clean-up and maintenance projects, and wayfinding signs.
- Use walkshed analysis data along urban corridors to open more trail/transit access for nearby housing.



Learn More.
Visit TRPC.org to access
an interactive Journeys.

Port of Olympia Planning in Tumwater - The Port is preparing a real estate development plan to guide future growth for its Tumwater properties in the [New Market Industrial Campus and Tumwater Town Center](#). The Port seeks broad public involvement, and hired TRPC to implement this portion of their planning process. TRPC staff facilitated 4 public meetings and 8 advisory committee meetings in 2015, as the project moved from initial assessment to site plan concept. The Port will wrap up this effort in 2016, moving to the implementation stage.



Main Street 507 - The [Main Street 507](#) project seeks to balance state highway mobility needs for SR 507 with the local mobility, safety, place making, and economic development needs of Tenino's Sussex Avenue and Rainier's Binghampton Street. TRPC staff are supporting the project in two ways – by convening stakeholders in the process, and by managing a consultant contract. The objectives are a clear design concept and a phased implementation strategy. In 2016, the team will present a revised design, cost estimate, and phased implementation plan to Rainier and Tenino Councils for their action.



Earn-a-Bike

A Walk N Roll Program Sponsored by Intercity Transit in partnership with TRPC.

After school classes teach safe bike riding skills and basic bike maintenance to youth. In 2015 . . .



60 graduates earned refurbished donated bikes.

481 volunteer hours donated.

6-8 hours per bike to refurbish top to bottom.

Bicycle donations by:

- Intercity Transit
- King County Metro
- Tumwater Police Department
- Graduates (donating bikes they've outgrown)
- Local bike shops (contributing new parts at reduced rates)

You can donate too! Contact walknroll@intercitytransit.com or 360-705-5855.

Outside Perspectives

Youth Education Outreach
(Walk N Roll served 6 schools in 3 school districts on public transit routes with 2,000+ students walking and biking to school; and Earn-A-Bike classes provided 60 students refurbished bicycles) *Intercity Transit with TRPC*

Willamette Drive NE/31st Avenue NE Multi-Lane Roundabout (Construction completed with assistance of TRPC regional grant) *City of Lacey*

I-5 Paving (Paved portions of I-5 between mileposts 101 and 106, vicinity of Tumwater Boulevard to vicinity of Boulevard Road, including southbound ramps at Tumwater Boulevard) *WSDOT*

Rich Road Upgrade Phase 2 (87th Avenue to Normandy Street, road widening, construction expected 2016-17) *Thurston County*

E Street Outfall Improvement (Constructed wetland facility to treat street runoff) *City of Tumwater*

Chambers Lake Stormwater Treatment Facility Completed (Providing water quality improvements for stormwater runoff discharging to Chambers Lake, the facility will treat street runoff from the planned College Street corridor improvements) *City of Lacey*

Delphi Road Upgrade (32nd Court to 62nd Avenue, rural safety improvements, construction expected in 2016-17) *Thurston County*

Irving Street Traffic Calming (Implemented traffic calming measures on Irving Street) *City of Tumwater*

I-5/ Martin Way Interchange Justification Report (Completed and approved) *City of Lacey*

TRPC and TPB invited several speakers to update them on transportation issues and projects.

TCAT Survey Results - Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT) conducted a community survey regarding attitudes about climate change and energy. Tom Crawford, with TCAT, reported the vast majority of respondents believe that climate change is real, and most support investment in walking, bicycling, and transit to help address the human component of climate change.

Hub Junction Project (Chehalis Western and Woodland Trails) - David Hanna, City of Olympia, and TRPC staff presented information to policy makers on plans for the Hub Junction to commemorate the interlocal cooperation in building these trails and their historic roots as rail lines.



I-5 at JBLM - During Phase 3, a Corridor Environmental Assessment and Interchange Justification Report are being prepared. Bill Elliott, project manager for WSDOT, and consultant Perry Shea with SCJ Alliance discussed the alternatives under consideration.

How Technology is Changing Transportation - Bill Legg, WSDOT, briefed policy makers on the many ways vehicles will be (or already are) connecting with other vehicles, transportation infrastructure, and other users like pedestrians and bicyclists.



Olympia Woodland Trail Feasibility Study - Phases 3 & 4 will connect the existing Woodland Trail to the Deschutes Valley Trail extension. David Hanna, City of Olympia, Scott Sawyer, SCJ Alliance, and TRPC staff presented Phase 4 alternative alignments near Capitol Lake and the historic Brew House near Tumwater Falls.

Draft Washington State Public Transportation Plan - The plan defined public transportation very broadly, encompassing walking, bicycling, traditional transit, Amtrak, Washington State ferries, and other people-moving transportation modes. Ryan Warner, with WSDOT, focused on the plan's major themes and transportation goals.

WSDOT Action Plan - Safer People, Safer Streets - Paula Reeves, then with WSDOT, highlighted strategies state and local agencies identified to improve the safety of pedestrian and bicycle interactions with vehicles.