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- City of Lacey
- City of Olympia
- City of Rainier
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- City of Yelm
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- 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 Conservation District
- Thurston Economic Development Council
- Timberland Regional Library

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Policy Board

FROM: Katrina Van Every, Transportation Manager

DATE: December 7, 2022

SUBJECT: Regional Trails Plan Update

PURPOSE

Staff will provide an overview of the regional trails plan update, focusing on the draft's vision, goals, and policies.

Summary:

- The Thurston Regional Trails Plan is a blueprint for expanding and enhancing a countywide shared-use trail network.
- The vision, goals, and policies of the Plan serve as the framework for how the region can focus its efforts. They also serve as the basis for the plan's recommendations, (currently under development).
- Staff anticipates a full draft of the Plan will be complete at then end of first quarter 2023.

REQUESTED ACTION

None. This is for information purposes only.

kva:bl



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EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

Planning for shared-use trails can help communities connect people to important destinations. Trails are an integral part of an active transportation network in a multi-modal transportation system that can connect people to important destinations, improve access to goods and services. A well-connected trail system supports lower user cost transportation options like cycling and walking, which benefits underserved communities.

BACKGROUND

The Thurston Regional Trails Plan is a blueprint for expanding and enhancing a countywide shared-use trail network. The original plan was adopted in 2007, and Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) staff began the update process mid-2019. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed the update process, staff has met with various stakeholders over the last few years in the plan's development. The plan's vision, goals, and policies serve as the framework for how the region can focus trail development efforts.

Vision for the Regional Trails Plan:

The Thurston Region's trail network is accessible, expandable, and effectively maintained. The network provides safe and enjoyable recreation and active transportation for all users, connecting all Thurston County communities.

The five goals that support achieving this vision are:

- **A Connected and Accessible Network.** The regional trails network is accessible and expandable, effectively connecting communities, destinations, and other transportation facilities.
- **A User-Friendly Network.** The regional trails network functions well for different types of users.
- **A Safe and Secure Experience.** The regional trails network is safe and secure for all who use, operate, and maintain it.
- **A Collaborative Effort.** Trail managing agencies work collaboratively to build and maintain the regional network.
- **A Well-Maintained Network.** The regional trails network is well-maintained in a cost-effective manner.

Working with trail managing agencies and community stakeholders involved in the trails advisory committee, staff is in the process of refining the draft policies associated with each of the above goals. Examples of emphasis areas for the policies include bringing maintenance to the forefront of trail development, effectively communicating with the public, mitigating/avoiding hazards on the trail network, and connecting adjacent developments (existing and future) to the trails network.

Staff anticipates a full draft of the Plan will be complete by the end of first quarter 2023 at which time review and comment from the public, trail managing agencies, jurisdictions, and advisory groups will be sought.