



MEMBERS:

- 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 Conservation District
- Thurston Economic Development Council
- Timberland Regional Library

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Policy Board

FROM: Veronica Jarvis, Senior TDM Planner

DATE: December 7, 2022

SUBJECT: High-Capacity Transportation (HCT) Update

PURPOSE

Brief the Policy Board on completed High-Capacity Transportation Project Phase 1 and plans for the now underway Phase 2 of the project.

Summary:

1. Staff will provide highlights from HCT Phase 1: There is a market for High Capacity Transportation (HCT) both within Thurston County and between Thurston and Pierce counties, yet ridership projections would not currently support light rail, more likely enhanced express bus service, and expanded vanpools. These expanded options would function better if a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane was added to Interstate 5 (I-5). Roles of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), transit agencies, and Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) need to be clarified before funding options can be explored.
2. Phase 2: State funding was provided for Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) to conduct a study examining options for multimodal high-capacity HCT to serve travelers on the I-5 corridor between central Thurston county (Olympia area) and Pierce county. The study will assess travel sheds and ridership potential; and identify and provide an evaluation of options to enhance connectivity and accessibility for the greater south Puget Sound region, with an emphasis on linking to planned or existing commuter or regional light rail. Stakeholder outreach will include a diverse community of interests, including but not limited to transit, business, public agencies, tribes, and providers and users of transportation who because of age, income, or ability may face barriers and challenges.

REQUESTED ACTION

No Action, discussion only.

vj:bl



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EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

1. What are the equity impacts of this particular decision?
No decisions, this is an update.
2. Who will benefit from or be burdened by the particular decision?
Providing recommendations of a HCT option could be a barrier to those in our region that are unable to afford or access the transportation option if socioeconomic and cultural barriers aren't addressed.
3. Are there strategies to mitigate the unintended consequences?
Stakeholder outreach and consideration of equity throughout the project will help mitigate these concerns.