



**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:** Technical Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Paul Brewster, Senior Planner

**DATE:** February 9, 2024

**SUBJECT:** TRPC Countywide Bicycle Connectivity Strategy – Kick off Discussion

**PURPOSE**

To familiarize members with the general scope of the Countywide Bicycle Connectivity Strategy and to discuss expectations, concerns, and opportunities to benefit local agencies.

**Summary:**

- In 2023, TRPC received \$400,000 in redistributed STBG funds from WSDOT to perform the Bicycle Connectivity Strategy.
- The planning project was identified in TRPC’s UPWP list of unfunded needs. The project was selected from TRPC’s Call for Projects Contingency List.
- The project is in early stages. The kick-off discussion will orient TAC members to the project’s intent and provide members an opportunity to exchange ideas on the scope of work, identify concerns, and discuss how the project could benefit members multimodal planning needs.

**REQUESTED ACTION**

This agenda item is for discussion only.



Marc Daily  
Executive Director

2411 Chandler Court SW  
 Olympia, WA 98502  
 360-956-7575  
 360-741-2545 Fax  
 www.trpc.org

## BACKGROUND

The Thurston Regional Transportation Plan and other plans such as the Climate Mitigation Plan, the Regional Trails Plan, and local agency comprehensive and transportation plans work collectively to reduce vehicle miles traveled and transportation emissions. Investments in and the promotion of bicycle and active transportation infrastructure is seen as a key strategy in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing the share of bicycle trips, promoting individuals' health, and achieving other community co-benefits.

While there has been significant progress in constructing bicycle facilities, these investments have historically lacked a countywide comprehensive network approach, resulting in gaps that create barriers for potential users who want to or need to travel by bicycle. Additionally, the rising popularity and increasing range of electric bicycles accentuates the need for safe and connected routes. The project's objective is to identify gaps in the regional network, identify facility types that support a range of varying user comfort levels, and propose policy and infrastructure enhancements to establish a cohesive and efficient network.

In Summer 2023, the Council selected the Countywide Bicycle Mobility Strategy from TRPC's Call for Projects Contingency List as a candidate for redistributed Surface Transportation Block Grant funding from WSDOT Local Programs. The project was also identified as an unfunded regional priority in TRPC's Unified Planning Work Program. The project obligated in September 2023.

TRPC staff are initiating the project in 2024, however the project won't begin in earnest until the second half of the year. TRPC expects the project will be convened over two years. Initial project tasks in the first half of 2024 will focus on data collection and researching local agencies' strategic bicycle plans and planned bicycle infrastructure projects.

## DISCUSSION

Before initiating the Bicycle Mobility Strategy study, TRPC seeks early input from the TAC members to ensure that the project's scope, objectives, and deliverables align with the multimodal transportation needs of Thurston County. The valuable insights from TAC members will guide the study to address tribal, state, and local agency concerns effectively. TRPC staff invites a general discussion with TAC members to inform the study.

### **Discussion Points**

#### **1. Challenges and Barriers to Bicycle Use**

- What specific challenges does your jurisdiction face in promoting bicycle use within your community?

#### **2. Partnerships and Coordination**

- What partnerships or coordination efforts are currently in place with neighboring jurisdictions or agencies regarding bicycle planning and project implementation?
- How can these efforts be enhanced to foster more effective regional bicycle planning and project implementation?

#### **3. Information Collection and Availability**

- What is the best approach for TRPC to collect information from your jurisdiction about planned bicycle investments and upcoming studies or planning projects?
- To what extent is project information accessible via GIS?

#### **4. Concerns about Recommendations or Policy Outcomes**

- What are your jurisdiction's apprehensions about potential recommendations or policy outcomes from the study?
- How can TRPC best address any concerns to ensure the study's outcomes are well-received and actionable?

MEMORANDUM

Page 3

February 9, 2024

**5. Desired Outcomes**

- What specific outcomes or goals would be most beneficial for your jurisdiction regarding bicycle mobility?
- Are there any particular objectives or solutions that your jurisdiction hopes the study will prioritize?

**6. Preferred Involvement in the Project**

- How would your jurisdiction prefer to actively participate and contribute to the study's development?