



## Meeting #14 Summary

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 12-2:00 PM

Agenda Item	Notes
1. Introductions & Project Updates	Allison Osterberg from TRPC conducted a roll call of Steering Committee members and a quick overview of the agenda. Since this is the final planned meeting of the TCMP Steering Committee Public comments were moved to the beginning of the event.
2. Public Comments	<p>There were 5 public comments. Brief summaries follow:</p> <p><i>Lynn Fitz-Hugh:</i> I am very excited that you will be considering the resolution for a climate emergency declaration. The project consultant told the steering committee that we would need to do aggressively pursue the measures in this plan, and more rapidly than what is typical of jurisdictions. The science is clear, we have maybe 9 years before its too late. We need to move out of business-as-usual and into emergency action mode, the emergency declaration does this. There is concern expressed in the plan about balancing tree protections and supporting urban density, these goals are not at odds with each other.</p> <p><i>Deepa Sivarajan:</i> Washington policy manager at climate solutions, a non-profit organization, I am here to support the climate mitigation plan adoption, and specifically actions B6.2 B6.4 to update municipal codes to require new building construction to include all electric hook-ups and transition from natural gas. I also strongly urge the Steering Committee to take those items out of the legislative agenda, to instead work on policies to build electrification locally within the next year. Electrification is one of the easiest actions to reduce our carbon footprint, and jurisdiction currently have the authority to amend their building codes and should protect that.</p> <p><i>Tom Crawford:</i> Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you, I recently sent Allison and I believe she sent you rough estimates for the cost savings for the consumers of Thurston County who purchase energy and use transportation, as much as \$100 million in saving if we reach our benchmarks in 2050. TCAT has identified action items we will be working on such as net-zero building incentives, relief for low-income renters tied to Covid recovery, electrification of our homes and businesses, climate justice, etc. This includes continued work on C-PACER and exploring group purchasing of electric vehicles.</p> <p><i>Loretta Seppanen:</i> Thank you for working to strengthen the breadth and depth, the detail we're going to take on climate change. I live in Olympia and spend my volunteer time supporting farmland preservation. Early in the plan there is a stated goal for no net loss of</p>



	<p>future farmland. I would like this language added to section 5.5 and added to the project timeline. Right now, we lose 3000 acres of farmland a year in Thurston county and within the cities and GMA. That farmland sequesters carbon, so this plan needs to prevent further loss of farmland and the sequestration taking place.</p> <p><i>Chris Van Daalen:</i> I work with NW Eco building guild with contractors, architects, and builders developing technologies for net-zero energy buildings that are safe and health and equal or even less than common practices. The market isn't quite rewarding that type of building yet, but we have the tools to overcome those obstacles. We have discussed polices to overcome those barriers to the market and things cities can do to help move the market. It seems like there has been refusal to develop policies until the plan was finished. Don't delay action, declare a climate emergency and move this forward aggressively.</p>
3. Plan Approval Process	<p>Following public comment, Allison provided an overview of the plan approval process to the Steering Committee before beginning discussion and motions. Plan approval requires a "consensus" from all partnering jurisdictions via Steering Committee representation. Members of the Steering Committee represent their jurisdictions when making decisions, but in approving the plan or taking other action, they do not decide for their jurisdiction. Individual jurisdictions will consider action to approve the plan in 2021. The Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan &amp; Appendices 1-8 approval process included commitments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uphold Shared Framework (presented at previous meetings) for climate mitigation action</li><li>• Continued collaboration through participation in Phase 3 Interlocal Agreement (Still being drafted)</li><li>• Consider priority implementation actions (ongoing)</li></ul> <p>Allison presented a broad summary of applied edits to the final draft. A full list of edits was made available to Steering Committee members via the redlined draft plan provided before the meeting. On behalf of Tumwater, Brad Medrud requested additional edits to actions T1.1 and T1.11 that include language emphasizing increased density and infill, reduced urban sprawl, and the addition of prairie preservation in Section 5.5. Intercity Transit requested that the description for electric vehicle fleet conversion not eliminate the potential for implementing other zero-emission technologies in their transit fleet. Alternative language broadens the action and removes references to IT specifically.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The Steering Committee unanimously approved the plan amendments requested by Tumwater and Intercity Transit.</b></li><li>• <b>The Steering Committee unanimously approved the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan, as amended.</b></li></ul>



	<p>Allison presented the draft resolution acknowledging the acceptance of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan by the Steering Committee and proposed that the resolution be added to the plan document as Appendix 9.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The Steering Committee unanimously approved the resolution and its addition to the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan.</b></li></ul> <p>Lisa Parshley of Olympia proposed a draft resolution declaring a Climate Emergency to be signed by all partnering Jurisdictions and that the resolution be added to the plan document as Appendix 10. Concerns were raised about what the resolution entails and what its impact would be on city governments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The Steering Committee did not approve adding a resolution declaring a Climate Emergency to the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan.</b> Jurisdictions may consider taking up a Climate Emergency as a separate action, if desired.</li></ul>
<p>4. Next Steps</p>	<p>Allison provided the Steering Committee with an update on next steps for the climate mitigation plan.</p> <p>Allison reviewed the WA Commerce grant for evaluating costs/benefits and equity considerations as well as making recommendations for comprehensive plan updates.</p> <p>Allison presented an overview of the Implementation timeframe and the grouping of all priority actions under one of four timeframes: ongoing/underway, short-term, mid-term, or long-term. Implementation timeframes for ongoing/underway and short-term were discussed in more detail. Implementation work or actions that were identified as ongoing or underway (0-1 years) included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incorporate climate mitigation priorities and information into existing programs, including transportation and land use planning</li><li>• Align budgets and staffing with anticipated needs to support climate action</li></ul> <p>Implementation work or actions that were identified for future short-term (1-5 years) work included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordinate on needs and requests from the state and federal partners as part of a legislative agenda.</li><li>• Develop/expand education and technical assistance programs to support climate actions.</li><li>• Identify focused changes to development codes to support green building, electric vehicle infrastructure, renewable energy, and tree preservation.</li><li>• Address climate actions related to municipal operations.</li><li>• Fill information and data gaps.</li></ul> <p>Continuing work to establish priority actions and strategies will occur during the Phase 3 ILA. Allison invited the jurisdictions to share any</p>



	<p>current priorities for future discussions with the project team. Steering Committee discussed the Phase 3 ILA for continued commitments by jurisdictions, and the role of TRPC for staff support and meeting coordination.</p>
<p>5. Jurisdiction Updates</p>	<p>Allison invited Steering Committee members to provide jurisdiction updates as well as any initial priorities.</p> <p>The City of Olympia is engaging in internal conversations to integrate climate mitigation actions and will continue efforts to identify priorities. Olympia has hired a Climate Program manager to coordinate long-term planning and implementation for the climate mitigation plan. Olympia has formed a cross-department “Green Team” to work on integrating a climate action lens to their ongoing plans.</p> <p>The City of Tumwater has not identified priority actions but intends to integrate strategies and goals from the climate mitigation plan that align with their city comprehensive to create continuity. Tumwater identified their ongoing climate mitigation actions including Skookumchuck Wind Farm-supplied energy for city operations, EV purchases for municipal fleets, and intentions to hire FTE for climate plan coordination.</p> <p>The City of Lacey shared plans to incorporate climate mitigation plan language in their city comprehensive plan through existing amendment processes. Once Lacey’s city council accepts the climate mitigation plan, select climate mitigation plan goals will be incorporated.</p> <p>Thurston County has worked to incorporate climate mitigation plan strategies and goals into the County’s comprehensive plan. Climate mitigation actions identified by the County for ongoing or immediate implementation include telework and flexwork programs, free EV parking expansion, and efforts to modify building codes for increased energy efficiency emphasis.</p> <p>Steering Committee completed jurisdiction updates and expressed their gratitude to Allison Osterberg of TRPC for her leadership developing the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan and thanked the entire TRPC staff for their work.</p>

## Meeting Attendance



**Steering Committee Present Online:**

Susan Clark – City of Olympia  
Jim Cooper – City of Olympia  
Rick Walk – City of Lacey  
Cynthia Pratt – City of Lacey  
Jessica Brandt – City of Lacey  
Carolyn Cox – City of Lacey

Chris Hawkins – Thurston County  
Gary Edwards – Thurston County Commissioner  
Lisa Parshley – City of Olympia  
Tom Oliva – City of Tumwater  
Brad Medrud – City of Tumwater

**Public Present Online:**

Tonya Hennen  
Karen Messmer  
Eliane Wilson  
Kelsey Hulse  
Paul Berendt  
Kim Piper  
Loretta Seppanen  
Roy Treadway  
Carolyn Treadway  
Chris Van Daalen  
Lynn Fitz-Hugh  
Deepa Sivarajan  
Wayne Olsen

Thad Curtz  
Tom Crawford  
Maria Ruth  
Mari Stuart  
Karin Landsberg  
Joe Hiss  
Joel Carlson  
Dylan Fischer  
Jeff Miller  
Phyllis Farrell  
Ryan Campbell  
Tom Crawford

**Staff Present:**

Allison Osterberg  
Marc Daily  
Karen Parkhurst  
Les Tobias

Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan Coordinator:

Allison Osterberg

[osterbergA@trpc.org](mailto:osterbergA@trpc.org)

360.956.7575 (main) or (360) 741-2513 (direct)

Link to project website: <https://www.trpc.org/Climate>

TRPC website: <https://www.trpc.org/>

*This meeting summary is not a verbatim account – a video recording of this meeting is available upon request.*