



AGENDA ITEM #8

REGIONAL VISION • COOPERATION • INFORMATION

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



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Executive Director

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Thurston Regional Planning Council

FROM: Karen M. Parkhurst, Planning & Policy Director

DATE: August 27, 2021

SUBJECT: Appointment of 2022 State Legislative Session Subcommittee

PURPOSE

To convene a subcommittee of Council and Transportation Policy Board members to begin identifying priority issues for the 2022 State Legislative Session.

Summary:

- Each year, with the input of the Transportation Policy Board (TPB), the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) develops a list of priority issues to bring to our state delegation for state funding, legislative assistance, or other remedies.
- For the 2021 session TRPC developed a list that includes:
 - Broad categories: Transportation, Families, Local Government, and Environmental Issues. The four categories included approximately 20 issues, ranging from affordable housing to broadband to Rural Main Streets.
 - The I-5 issue asked for \$4.2B if the Legislature considered a multi-year funding package; \$19M for Alternative Routes; varied dollar amounts for Supporting Strategies; and a 2021 Transportation Budget Request of \$204M.
- When we visit legislators at this time of year, we can expect 30-45 minutes. When we visit close to, or during session, we usually have 10-15 minutes.
- So, while everything we included in the 2021 priority issues list was important - and perhaps critical - we need to narrow the list.
- To facilitate creating a tighter - more focused - legislative agenda for the 2022 Session, we are beginning discussions earlier, encouraging formation of a joint TPB/Council team to recommend a list of priorities - aiming for no more than 5 key issues.
- The subcommittee will include two representatives from the Council and two from the Policy Board. The Council Chair will appoint two members and the TPB Chair will appoint two members.
- The Legislative Subcommittee's recommendations will come to the full Policy Board for their recommendation and then to the full Council for approval.

REQUESTED ACTION

The Chair will appoint two members to the Legislative Subcommittee.

kp:bl

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

Ultimately, the state legislature is the decision-maker for these issues. However, when setting priorities, the TPB and TRPC will consider equity as part of the criteria. Since the Council and the Policy Board represent a broad range of interests (local government, transit, libraries, schools, geographic diversity), the priorities are viewed through a number of lenses.

1. What are the equity impacts of this particular decision?

The Legislative Subcommittee will consider both equity and equality in selecting priorities that serve the Thurston region. For 2021 the Legislative priorities included issues that align with the Regional Transportation Plan, Sustainable Thurston, and other regional goals:

- Increase mobility - multimodal projects (walking, biking), freeway, transit - options that support helping all people get to jobs, and other essential and desirable services and destinations.
- Reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases that may disproportionately impact some communities.
- Support stronger and more inclusive broadband services to help children thrive in school and individuals working from home.
- Find solutions for childcare crisis. There is not enough choices available and prohibitive costs; while also supporting access to early learning programs that can help children succeed in school.
- Mental Health and Addiction Support: These conditions cross all demographic lines and solutions that can help children, veterans, people who are homeless, and other community members.
- Homelessness and Affordable Housing also crosses demographic borders. The food bank reports that former donors are now clients of the food bank due to a variety of circumstances.
- Support for local Climate Mitigation and other environmental issues can result in cleaner air, water, healthy fish and farms, more health services, and other outcomes that benefit all.

In developing the 2022 Legislative Priorities, the subcommittee and then the full Council and Policy Board, will consider equity in their recommendations and decision making and continue to identify issues that support regional and local goals.

2. Who will benefit from or be burdened by the particular decision?

- Identifying who may benefit or be burdened by the decisions will depend on the final outcome of the bill/budget. Most of the region's priorities will likely continue to call for programs/projects that serve a broad range of people, but at the detail level, the TPB and TRPC will want to monitor the communities served.

3. Are there strategies to mitigate the unintended consequences?

- While not specified at this time, the TPB and TRPC will monitor implementation to determine any winners and losers. The TPB and TRPC response may be able to return to the legislature in subsequent years with requests to improve and broaden programs/projects to benefit more people and to mitigate any identified consequences.