

**PRELIMINARY STAFF REPORT  
CITY OF TUMWATER 2025 TRANSPORTATION PLAN  
AMENDMENT TO TUMWATER/THURSTON COUNTY JOINT PLAN**

**Thurston County Planning Commission Meeting Date:**  
June 17, 2009

**Public Hearing Date:** TBD

**Prepared by:** Tim Smith, Planning Manager

**Proponent/Applicant:** City of Tumwater

**Staff Contact:** Tim Smith, Planning Manager, City of Tumwater, [tsmith@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:tsmith@ci.tumwater.wa.us), (360) 754-4210

**Action Requested:** Adopt City of Tumwater 2025 Transportation Plan into the Joint Plan and repeal the City of Tumwater 1998 Transportation Plan.

**Proposal Description:** The City of Tumwater proposes adoption of the City's 2025 Transportation Plan into the Tumwater/Thurston County Joint Plan. The Transportation Plan assesses existing and future conditions of the transportation network for the City and its unincorporated urban growth area (UGA). The plan identifies deficiencies in the system and road projects that address the deficiencies.

Map Changes  Text Changes  Both  Affects Comprehensive Plans/documents  
 Affected Jurisdictions : City of Tumwater and Thurston County

1  
2 **ISSUE:** The Transportation Plan serves as the transportation element of the Comprehensive  
3 Plan. A transportation element is a requirement of the State Growth Management Act.  
4 Transportation plans are required to be consistent with local, regional and statewide planning  
5 efforts.

6  
7 **BACKGROUND:** The last major update to the City's Transportation Plan occurred in 1998.  
8 Tumwater hired Parametrix, a local consulting firm, to prepare the new Transportation Plan. The  
9 Tumwater City Council adopted the Transportation Plan into the City's Comprehensive Plan in  
10 2007. Tumwater and Thurston County have not yet adopted the plan into the Tumwater/Thurston  
11 County Joint Plan, which covers the Tumwater UGA.

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1 **DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS:**

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3 Goals and Policies. The Transportation Plan incorporates the twenty goals and supporting  
4 policies that are contained within the Regional Transportation Plan to ensure consistency with  
5 the regional plan. The goals emphasize a balanced transportation system with major roadway  
6 improvements as well as better transit and non-motorized alternatives. Several of the goal  
7 categories and policies are listed below. All twenty regional goals and policies are found in  
8 *appendix A* of the City’s Transportation Plan.  
9

10 *A. Transportation and Land Use Consistency*

- 11 – Provide transportation facilities that support the location of jobs, housing and  
12 industry
- 13 – Support policies, programs and procedures that promote urban infill
- 14 – Support connectivity of streets  
15

16 *B. Multimodal Transportation*

- 17 – Provide for quality transportation choices
- 18 – Where appropriate, construct roadways that safely accommodate pedestrians,  
19 bicyclists, movement of freight and automobiles  
20

21 *C. System Safety and Security*

- 22 – Use compact urban and suburban development techniques to reduce the overall  
23 distance that people need to travel
- 24 – Provide for safe school walking routes
- 25 – Incorporate safety enhancements into road improvement projects  
26

27 *D. System Maintenance and Repair*

- 28 – Use street restoration standards and coordinate utility and street projects to  
29 minimize the destructive impact of utility projects in streets
- 30 – Coordinate street and road projects with neighboring jurisdictions  
31

32 *E. Travel Demand Management*

- 33 – Promote mixed-use developments that reduce the need for auto travel
- 34 – Develop park-and-ride lots throughout the region
- 35 – Promote transportation demand management programs  
36

37 *F. Streets, Road and Bridges*

- 38 – Support design and construction of multimodal streets and roads
- 39 – Limit the addition of travel lanes to those areas that can demonstrate long-term  
40 benefit
- 41 – Develop an interconnected grid of local streets and roads to increase travel  
42 options and neighborhood connectivity  
43

44 *G. Public Transportation*

- 45 – Support implementation of Intercity Transit’s “The Route Ahead” long-range  
46 regional transit plan, which emphasizes trunk and primary routes serving core  
47 areas and designated strategy corridors

- Invest in the commuter vanpool program to provide cost-effective, flexible alternatives to driving

#### H. Bicycling

- Develop a continuous, safe and convenient regional bicycle network
- Provide safe and convenient bicycle routes to all schools in the region

#### I. Walking

- Provide a direct, safe, interconnected pedestrian network that supports existing and desired land use patterns
- Require pedestrian-friendly building design in areas where foot travel is likely and encouraged
- Provide street lighting, trees, benches and other elements that make walking safe and pleasant

System Deficiencies and Planned Improvements. The Transportation Plan applies levels of service (LOS) designations to key intersection and roadways to measure their quality of service. Roadway and intersection LOS are commonly denoted by a letter ranking from “A”, the highest level of service, to “F”, the lowest level of service. A rating of LOS A denotes efficient operations. A rating of LOS F indicates failure to accommodate current or expected traffic volumes. LOS D has been adopted as the standard for all roads and intersections within the UGA. Transportation facilities operating below the adopted standard are determined to be failing. LOS describes existing and projected conditions at each transportation intersection or roadway during P.M. peak hour traffic.

The Transportation Plan identifies planned improvements to the system for each of the four transportation planning areas (TPAs). TPAs 3 and 4 cover primary transportation corridors within the UGA. Planned improvements address current and anticipated system deficiencies (i.e. below LOS D). Planned improvements are identified based on a forecast of what traffic will be like in twenty years. Anticipated land uses, including the location and density of housing, retail shopping, office and industrial were analyzed based on the City’s Land Use Plan and the City/County Joint Plan.

*Figure 1* lists planned improvements for the Tumwater UGA over the twenty-year planning period. Transportation projects are shown with their identification number and potential funding sources. Existing and future LOS are also identified. Future LOS describes 2025 road conditions with the planned improvements. See *figure 2* for a map showing general locations of transportation projects. This map is also found on page 8-8 of the Transportation Plan.

Complete listings of all planned improvements in the City and UGA are found in chapter 9 of the Transportation Plan. These improvements are consistent with the Tumwater Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), Thurston County TIP and the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan.

1 **Figure 1**  
**TUMWATER UGA**  
**PLANNED TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS**

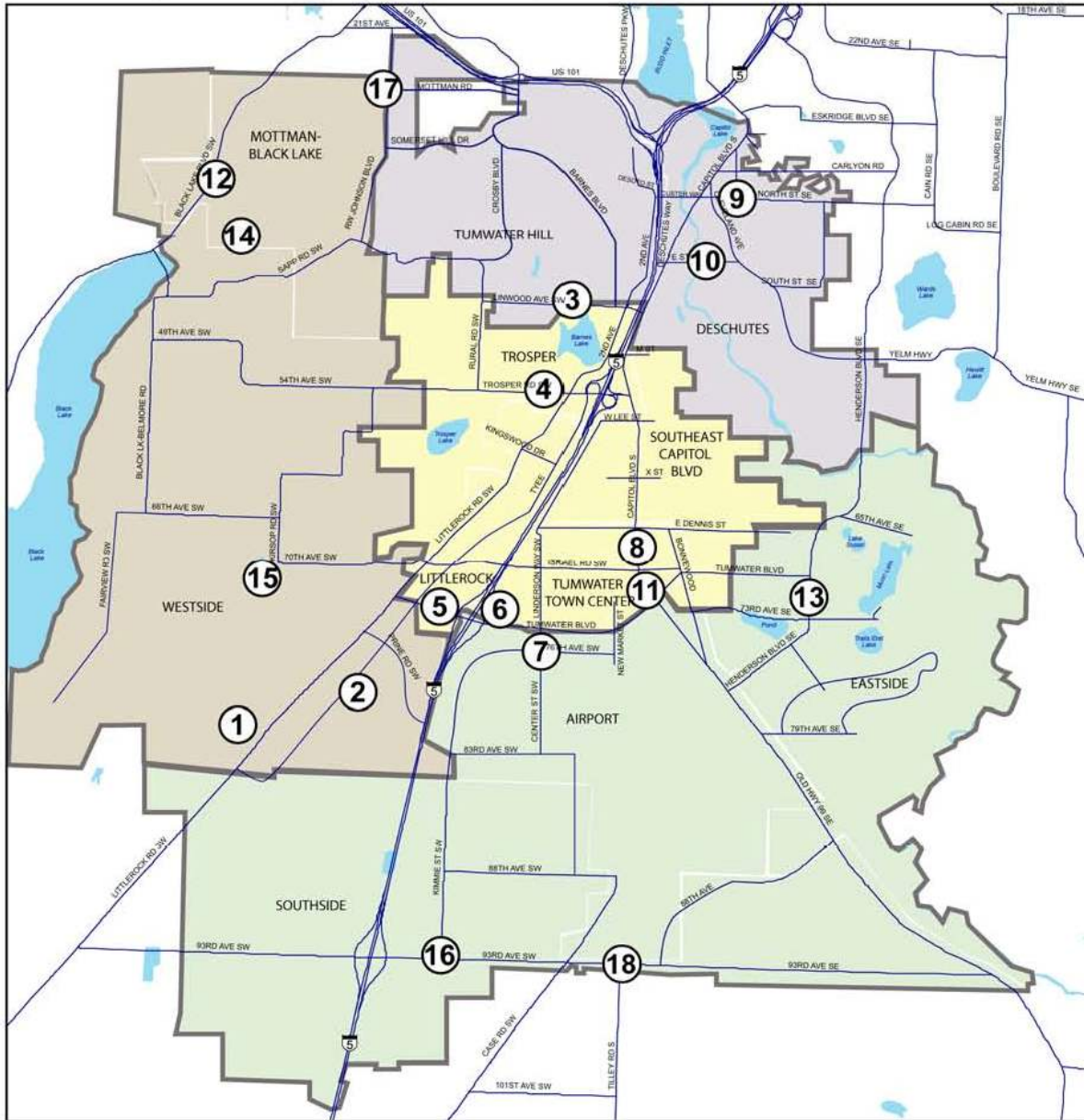
Project ID#	Transportation Facility	Transportation Planning Area	LOS - 2005	LOS - 2025	Planned Improvement	Funding Source <sup>1</sup>
<b>INTERSECTIONS</b>						
11	OLD HWY 99/79TH AVE SE	3	F	A	INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS	G,C,P
11	OLD HWY 99/93RD AVE	3	C	B	INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS	G,C,P
13	HENDERSON BLVD/TUMWATER BLVD	3	E	B	SIGNALIZATION	C, P
16	I-5 SOUTH BOUND RAMPS/93RD AVE	3	F	B	RECONSTRUCT INTERCHANGE	P,W
18	S TILLEY RD/93RD AVE	3	B	A	SIGNALIZATION OR ROUNDABOUT	C, P
<b>ROADWAYS/CORRIDORS</b>						
1	LITTLEROCK ROAD	3,4	C	D	WIDEN ROAD	G,C,P
11	OLD HIGHWAY 99	3	F	D	WIDEN ROAD	G,C,P
12	BLACK LAKE BOULEVARD	4	C	C	WIDEN ROAD	G,C,P
13	HENDERSON BOULEVARD	3	C	C	WIDEN ROAD	C,P
16	93RD AVENUE (Littlerock to I-5 Ramps)	3	C	C	WIDEN ROAD	G,C,P

<sup>1</sup> G = GRANTS; W = WSDOT; C = CITY; P = PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

Source: 2025 Tumwater Transportation Plan

2

1 **Figure 2**  
**2025 Transportation Improvement Program**



2 *This map indicates locations of the projects (by Project ID #) included in Table 8.1 2025 Transportation Improvements Program.*

3  
 4 **Concurrency.** Concurrency is a requirement of the Growth Management Act and is addressed in  
 5 the Transportation Plan. Concurrency means that the transportation system has adequate unused  
 6 or uncommitted capacity, or will have adequate capacity to accommodate traffic generated by  
 7 new development without causing adopted level of service standards to decline below the  
 8 adopted standards at the time of development or within six years. Before new development is  
 9 permitted, a project must pass a test of concurrency, ensuring of the following to be true:

- 10  
 11 ❖ Adequate infrastructure to accommodate transportation impacts is already in place.  
 12 ❖ Infrastructure improvements to support transportation impacts will be constructed with  
 13 the project.

- 1           ❖ Financial commitments are in place to build the needed improvements within a six-year  
2           timeframe.  
3

4 Conclusion. The 2025 Transportation Plan is a key component of the City’s Comprehensive  
5 Plan. The plan provides a link between planned land uses in Tumwater and the UGA and the  
6 transportation facilities and services needed to accommodate expected growth over a twenty-  
7 year period.  
8

9 **OPTIONS:**

- 10       1. Adopt the City of Tumwater 2025 Transportation Plan as written  
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12       2. Adopt the City of Tumwater 2025 Transportation Plan with changes  
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14       3. Do not adopt the City of Tumwater 2025 Transportation Plan  
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16 **SEPA:** Tumwater and Thurston County have not yet issued SEPA threshold determinations on  
17 2009 Comprehensive Plan amendments.  
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19 **NOTIFICATION:** Notification of the public hearing on the proposed amendment will be  
20 provided in accordance with City and County notification procedures.  
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22

23 **DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:**  
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27 **CITY OF TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION:**  
28

29 The Tumwater City Council adopted the Transportation Plan into the City’s Comprehensive Plan  
30 in 2007. The City Council has included the Transportation Plan on the City’s 2009 Docket of  
31 Comprehensive Plan Amendments for adoption into the Tumwater/Thurston County Joint Plan.  
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33

34 **ATTACHMENTS:**  
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- 36       A. Attachment A: Proposed Joint Plan text amendments  
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