MEMORANDUM
Page 1
DATE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thurston County Planning Commission
FROM: Kathy McCormick, AICP, Senior Planner
DATE: September 18, 2013
SUBJECT: Briefing on the Draft Sustainable Thurston Plan

PURPOSE

To get an update on the process, evolution and next steps for the Draft Creating Places – Preserving Spaces, A Sustainable Development Plan for the Thurston Region.

Summary:

- The Thurston Region was awarded a Federal Housing and Urban Development – Community Planning Grant in 2010 – one of 45 successful applicants out of 1000 applications submitted. Twenty nine partners signed on to the grant project including public, private, and non-profit groups and organizations.
- The three year “community conversation” process is an opportunity to define what sustainability means in the Thurston Region and to identify the actions and responsibilities to achieve the bold vision described.
- Over 2000 people have participated – expanding the original partnership by attracting diverse participation through surveys; discussion and analysis of 10 quality of life topics by residents and leaders from throughout the region using the best information available; workshops throughout the region; targeted outreach to special needs residents; and use of on line opportunities to share ideas and comment on others ideas.
- The strength of the Sustainable Thurston project lies in the partnerships formed, the interests included in the process – the most diverse in in the history of the Thurston Region, and the opportunity to explore the linkages among quality of life topics.
- Quality of life topics explored throughout the process identified challenges, opportunities, goals and actions to pursue that will contribute to moving forward on the path to the sustainable future described. The topics include: land use, transportation, climate change; housing; water infrastructure, quality and quantity; health and human services; local food systems; economy; solid waste; public safety; energy; and schools and transportation.
- The draft Plan includes:
  - Results of the community conversation
  - Findings that continuing to develop under current plans and trends into the future is not sustainable
  - Actions, collaboration and cooperation that can change the current trajectory toward an unsustainable future
  - Foundation principles that articulate this region’s values, the bold vision, the priority goals, targets and first action steps, and the quality of life topic goals and actions to achieve over time.

REQUESTED ACTION
Additional Information

Thurston County has been represented on the Sustainable Thurston Task Force by Commissioner Karen Valenzuela and Commissioner Sandra Romero has served as the alternate.

Next Steps: Public comment on the draft Sustainable Thurston Plan will continue through October 2\textsuperscript{nd}. The Sustainable Thurston Task Force will review and finalize the draft Plan and present it to the Thurston Regional Planning Council for their review and adoption.

The draft Sustainable Thurston Plan is the product of the beginning of the community conversation – not the end. The healthy environment, vital society, and robust economy described will depend on motivated, inspired and informed leaders and residents willing to take action and continue to expand the engagement and partnerships that began with Sustainable Thurston.

Check out the draft sustainability plan:

\textbf{Creating Places - Preserving Spaces - A Sustainable Development Plan for the Thurston Region}

Comment on the Plan:

1. By email to \texttt{SustainableThurston@trpc.org}
2. Take the \texttt{online survey} - an easy way to learn about the plan and comment on it.
3. Share your ideas and comment on the ideas of others at \texttt{EngageSustainableThurston.org}
4. Comment in person at the upcoming Sustainable Task Force Meeting
   TRPC - 2424 Heritage Court SW, Olympia, WA 98502
   Monday, September 23: 9 - 11 AM

Attend one of the jurisdiction briefings to be held throughout the Region. Check jurisdiction agenda for any changes to this UPDATED schedule:

\textbf{September 18}: Thurston County Planning Commission (6:30 PM)
\textbf{September 19}: Port of Olympia (1:30 PM)
\textbf{September 19}: Lacey City Council and Planning Commission (evening)
\textbf{September 24}: Tumwater City Council and Planning Commission (5:30 PM)
\textbf{September 25}: Yelm City Council (5 PM)
\textbf{September 30}: Forum sponsored by Eco Builders Guild (6:30 PM Thurston County Courthouse)
\textbf{October 2}: Thurston County Board of County Commissioners (9 AM)

\textbf{Attachment:} \texttt{Draft Creating Places – Preserving Spaces, A Sustainable Development Plan for the Thurston Region – Executive Summary}