



February 24, 2025

Olympia City Council
cc: Olympia Planning Commission

Honorable Mayor Payne and City of Olympia Councilmembers,

As part of the Olympia 2045 update of the Comprehensive Plan, the City Council has provided the Social Justice and Equity Commission with an opportunity to weigh in on the draft chapters to offer equity-related recommendations. This letter is intended to share with you the Commission's conversation regarding the Capital Facilities chapter, on which the Commission received a briefing at our December 2, 2024 meeting.

The Commission discussed the Capital Facilities chapter with Community Planning and Economic Development staff and had the opportunity to ask questions related to how equity is addressed in the chapter and how it was considered during its development. The Commission's discussion centered around the following topics:

- Ensuring that accessibility is intentionally and specifically addressed in future capital facilities plans.
- Sustainability planning for maintaining accessibility in infrastructure like sidewalks.
- We acknowledge that state and federal standards may change however, we believe Olympia should continue to strive to meet and exceed those standards in alignment with our values.

Lastly, Commissioners recommended inclusion of language around equity and universal accessibility be included more explicitly in the chapter goals, to emphasize that they are being considered and guiding the work of this chapter. We appreciate the opportunity to review goals and policies within the Capital Facilities chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, provide feedback on the updated process, and learn how this work promotes equitable growth and development in our community while protecting our natural environment.

Best Regards,

Robin Rosen-Evans, Vice-Chair
Social Justice & Equity Commission

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