



City of Olympia Planning Commission

February 14, 2022

Community Livability and Public Safety Committee
Olympia City Council

RE: Olympia Planning Commission, 2022-2023 Work Plan

Dear Councilmembers,

The Olympia Planning Commission (OPC) is pleased to present its 2022-2023 Work Plan recommendation. The workplan reflects City Staff and Council suggestions, as well as OPC member recommended items which consider equity and inclusion, climate action, and covid recovery/resilience or provide an educational foundation to assist in the periodic update process of the Olympia Comprehensive Plan.

The OPC recognizes housing affordability, and lack of diversity in housing stock as a barrier to an inclusive community within the City of Olympia. Therefore, the following items are included in the workplan to either encourage diverse housing stock, address specific barriers to housing stock diversity, or regulations which increase the cost of housing:

- 1.3 Housing Action Implementation
- 1.2 Capital Mall Triangle Subarea Plan
- 1.8 Downtown Parking Exemption Boundary Code Amendment
- 4.3 Housing Strategies/Regional Housing Action Plan Update
- 4.8 Citywide Parking Requirements Overview
- 4.9 Downtown Parking Requirements Overview

The OPC has also included the equity related workplan item of 4.12 Complete Street Design/Enhanced Bike Lanes to review how streets can be designed to ensure the safety of all road users regardless of transportation method.

Many of the previously mentioned workplan items also address climate action. The Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan found that 33% of greenhouse gas emissions in the County are related to the transportation sector. Therefore, encouraging alternative modes of transportation, and encouraging development which locates services and residents in close proximity, is critical to decreasing transportation related emissions. There are a total of ten work plan items which relate to climate action:

- 1.1 Neighborhood Center Strategies
- 1.2 Capital Mall Triangle Subarea Plan
- 1.8 Downtown Parking Exemption Boundary Code Amendment
- 4.4 Martin Way Corridor Study
- 4.7 Gridded Streets

- 4.8 Citywide Parking Requirements
- 4.9 Downtown Parking Requirements
- 4.10 Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan Update
- 4.12 Complete Street Design/Enhanced Bike Lanes
- 4.15 Urban Agriculture

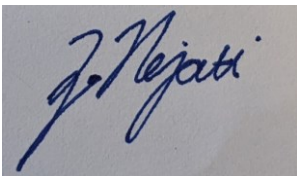
The workplan includes several items which support COVID recovery/resiliency through economic development:

- 1.1 Neighborhood Center Strategies
- 1.6 Create District Code Amendments
- 1.9 Development Code Agreements
- 4.6 Economic Development
- 4.14 Street Cafes and Curb Uses

The remaining workplan items are routine in nature (e.g., 1.5 Review 6-year Capital Facilities Plan, 1.10 Other Zoning Map and Development Code Text Amendments) or are meant to provide the OPC with background information to craft informed recommendations on other workplan items (e.g., 4.2 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update, 4.16 Programmatic Alternatives Analysis).

The OPC appreciates the City Council for providing input and guidance for the preparation of the 2021-2023 Work Plan. With the approval of this Work Plan, the Commission can continue to respectfully serve the residents and businesses of the City of Olympia.

Sincerely,



Zainab Nejati, Chair
Olympia Planning Commission



Tracey Carlos, Vice Chair (she/her)
Olympia Planning Commission