

Related Efforts: Many downtown issues are being addressed through other processes that have separate timelines and decision tracks. This document outlines several of these efforts. Some issues are within the purview of the City of Olympia, while other issues involve separate jurisdictions as a partner or lead agency. As we form the Downtown Strategy (DTS), we will stay coordinated and connected to these other efforts.

1	Sustainable Thurston	Olympia supports the regional sustainability plan. The Downtown Strategy will help to implement regional and Olympia Comprehensive Plan goals to create a more compact, transit-oriented Downtown – which is vital to the long-term success of Thurston County. Sustainable Thurston was formed through a public process led by Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) and it has been accepted by all seven Thurston County jurisdictions.
2	Comprehensive Plan for Olympia	The Downtown Strategy will help prioritize the steps we'll take to implement Comp Plan vision and goals for downtown.
3	Olympia Action Plan	The Action Plan is a citywide 'to-do list' for implementing the Comp Plan; it also tracks our progress and provides partnership opportunities. The Action Plan is broken into 5 key areas: Economy, Environment, Neighborhoods, Community Services & Downtown . The City expects to adopt the first Action Plan in June 2016 - before the DTS will be completed. Meanwhile, downtown actions on the Action Plan's "to-do list" will be folded into the priority-setting process of the DTS. When the DTS is complete, the Action Plan will be aligned with it.
4	Community Renewal Area (CRA)	A CRA is being addressed by City Council & the Council's Community and Economic Revitalization Committee (CERC) as part of a parallel, complimentary process. In 2015, the City released a request for proposals for a CRA small area development project in the vicinity of Water Street between 4 th and 5 th Avenues, and hopes to have a project idea and development team on board in early 2016. There are benefits to planning for the CRA project and Downtown Strategy at the same time, as the project teams and public processes can inform each other. The DTS consultant team, MAKERS, will discuss urban design concepts with the development team once the latter are selected.
5	Parks Master Plan New Downtown Parks/ Open Space	<p>The Downtown Strategy will <u>not</u> include new downtown parks or enhancements to existing parks – any such needs will be addressed through the Parks Master Plan update, to be adopted by City Council by end of 2015.</p> <p>A good question has come up about whether new downtown parks are needed to address the needs of 5,000 new residents. This potential need will likely be addressed within the next Parks Plan update. However, open space requirements associated with private residential development could be addressed as part of the Downtown Strategy. There are many unanswered park-related questions at this time (i.e., when and how will Phase 2 & 3 improvements to Percival Landing occur; how will the Isthmus and remainder of the Heritage Fountain Block be developed; how might the Artesian Commons be further developed or programmed.) Once these questions are answered, it will be more clear what additional park needs</p>

	<p>Percival Landing/ Metro Parks District</p> <p>Artesian Commons</p> <p>'Big W' trail</p>	<p>there are within downtown.</p> <p>Council is discussing funding options for Percival Landing as part of a separate decision track. The Metropolitan Parks District passed on the November 2015 ballot. This will allow the City to levy an additional \$.50-.75 per \$1000 of property tax, to provide approximately \$3m for potential parks acquisitions and maintenance. The City Council is still considering the amount of levy and how the money would be spent.</p> <p>Planning for the Artesian Commons is also on a separate decision track, involving Council's Land Use & Environment Committee and the Artesian Leadership Committee.</p> <p>A habitat study is underway to determine if this planned waterfront trail to connect downtown & West Bay is feasible. The study should be completed by end of 2015.</p>
6	Parking Strategy	<p>The City has completed most of the objectives in its previous downtown parking management strategy, and the City will kick off the next parking strategy in early-2016. The DTS will include land use, design, economic, retail and housing strategies, which cannot ignore parking needs; thus the Parking Strategy will be structured to help implement these strategies. Thus, the DTS consultant team, MAKERS, will help to scope the parking study/strategy as a way of helping these two strategies align.</p>
7	Sea Level Rise Strategy	<p>The Downtown Strategy will consider what we currently know about sea level rise; however creating strategies to address Sea Level Rise will be done through a separate, ongoing effort.</p> <p>The City has been investigating dynamics between sea rise and both current and future downtown development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We evaluated the vulnerability of various downtown land uses in 2011 with the help of consulting coastal engineers knowledgeable of FEMA evaluation protocols (Engineered Response to Sea Level Rise, 2011). As we mapped and evaluated the downtown land uses, we were struck by how much critical infrastructure and how many emergency transportation corridors are encompassed by our relatively small downtown. We all concluded that downtown needed to be protected in its entirety, or not at all. It's all or nothing. A map of the essential infrastructure and corridors from the report is attached. So, our response planning focuses on keeping rise tides back at the existing shoreline rather than necessarily sacrificing portions of downtown. • Identifying priority locations to install tide gates on stormwater outfall pipes. During extreme high tides, the stormwater pipes can flow backwards and carry marine water into our streets. Tide gates are installed at the end of the pipes. They close and prevent the marine water from flowing up the pipes. We are looking at gates designs and preparing for installation within the next year or so. Funding is in place.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning to understand how to construct modest shoreline barriers in our most vulnerable area of downtown - Percival Landing, from the Port of Olympia property line to Sylvester Ave. The initial barriers could be modest, potentially not even noticeable. They could be installed as part of other construction in the years to come. A focus of our 2015 annual work plan for sea rise has been to gather survey-accurate finished floor elevations for downtown building and key infrastructure. That work effort is complete. The information provides a baseline of current vulnerability. Next, we are working with FEMA on revised flood risk maps for downtown. We may not get an adequate level of protection through the federal process, but it's the first step in working through a local process to set an appropriate standard finished floor elevation for the future. These work efforts will provide us with the information to understand and regulations to manage downtown land uses. Over time, we will move to more uniform, higher elevations while being aware of our vulnerable, lower buildings and infrastructure. Our anticipated sea rise capital program will then provide the necessary shoreline infrastructure to keep tides out or at manageable levels. The City intends to make progress on a climate change and sea rise management plan in 2016.
8	Shoreline Master Program (SMP)	Policies and regulations for land within 200' of ordinary high watermark are in the Shoreline Master Program (SMP). The SMP update went into effect October 8, 2015. The policies from the SMP are now part of the Comp Plan, and SMP regulations are part of the development code. These policies and regulations will not be updated again as part of the DTS.
9	Earthquakes/ Liquefaction	Downtown's susceptibility to liquefaction is well documented and new building within this area must be designed to addresses the potential impacts of liquefaction during earthquakes. Unreinforced masonry buildings built before the advent of building codes are very susceptible to damage from earthquakes and are required to be seismically upgraded as they undergo change of use or substantial renovations. Out-year initiatives of the Downtown Strategy may include steps to address this.
10	Transportation	<p>The Downtown Strategy includes an overall urban design focus, which considers how streets and sidewalks, buildings and other structures relate to create people-oriented places and spaces. This will naturally include a perspective on the transportation/land use relationship, and possibly lead to identification of steps regarding transportation needs to achieve our downtown objectives. Also, as part of the DTS, streetscape design standards will be reviewed for any needed changes, including better illustration.</p> <p>Several transportation initiatives currently under consideration will be integrated into the Downtown Strategy as part of "prioritizing street and sidewalk improvements." These include consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next steps for Greening Capital Way Priority order and additional enhancements to transform streets in

	1 to 2 way couplets	<p>need of repaving over the next 6 years, including: portions of Capitol Way, Jefferson, Franklin, Washington and Legion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of festival streets closed to cars • Bicycle Corridors (low-traffic, low-stress streets that are enhanced to encourage biking) • Sidewalk Repair <p>An idea to change 4th and State Aves from 1-way to 2-way streets has been brought up. Initial steps would be to scope and then complete a transportation analysis to identify impacts on downtown & the regional transportation network – this is extensive work, currently not budgeted. This study could potentially be an initiative for 2017-2020, but given the extensive planning involved, it may need to be done in conjunction with the City's next Comprehensive Plan update.</p>
11	Issues Related to Street Dependency	<p>There are a range of downtown issues related to street dependency, including: homelessness; needs for social and housing service clients and providers; mental illness; nuisance or sometimes criminal behaviors; litter; etc. Many of these issues are extremely complex and will not be solved through the Downtown Strategy; however, we can identify priority steps to make downtown a safer and more welcoming place for all people, including those who are experiencing street dependency, and address aspects of these issues in coordination with larger efforts.</p> <p>For example, during steps 2&3 of strategy development, MAKERS and City staff will meet more than once with social and housing service providers to identify needs, objectives and initiatives related to downtown. These will be built into the public process to form a DTS. These initiatives must be part of a larger, countywide coordination effort.</p> <p>During the DTS process, we will also provide information about the variety of efforts that are happening countywide to address these various issues. For example: Thurston County is putting forth \$1m to create a 72 hour mental health diversion triage center; The City of Olympia has a team of Downtown Ambassadors, a Walking Police Patrol, Artesian Leadership Committee, and Downtown Project staff member who works with the Business & Parking Improvement Area Board (PBIA) and Olympia Downtown Association (ODA) to regularly address a variety of these issues.</p>
12	Isthmus & Water Street Properties	<p>The City owns land on the isthmus, and in 2015 removed two blighted buildings at the site: 505 4th Ave W (known as the former Housing Authority building) and 529 Fourth Ave E (former County Health Dept.) In 2015, the City also removed the former GHB and Little Da Nang buildings that were at the southwest corner of 4th and Water St.</p> <p>While it is possible the City will take steps in the future toward redevelopment of city-owned property on the isthmus, potentially in conjunction with a public/private partnership, this is not part of the scope for development of the Downtown Strategy.</p>

		The Capitol Center Building (tall building on Isthmus) is privately owned. There has been informal discussion of the City purchasing this parcel, but no formal analysis or decisions have been made.
13	Safety& Comfort	<p>While the chances of being the victim of a violent crime by a stranger in downtown is extremely rare, people's perceptions of downtown safety – their comfort level – is a real issue that impacts our ability to achieve goals for downtown.</p> <p>Within the past 3 years, the City and partners have developed several resources to address downtown safety issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking Patrol reinstated, and upgraded from 1 to 4 officers • Downtown Ambassadors • Downtown Welcome Center • Downtown Project (downtown liaison and partnerships with local business community) • Alcohol Impact Area
14	Soil Contamination	The Comp Plan directs the City to identify potential tools, partnerships and resources that can be used to create more economic certainty for developments by better characterizing contamination where doing so fulfills a public purpose. The Community Renewal Area (CRA) is one such tool. Other tools/actions may arise during formation of the DTS.
15	Waterfront	The value of the waterfront and connections to downtown will be considered as part of the DTS.
Other Entity Efforts		
16	Artist Housing	The Olympia ArtSpace Alliance has moved into the second phase of steps to build affordable apartments designed for artists and their families to live and work downtown. They may have a potential site selected by the end of 2015, and we will consider this information for the Downtown Strategy. In the future, project could be considered for an Action Plan Partnership.
17	Capital Lake/Estuary	The decision to retain Capitol Lake as a reflecting pool for the Campus or return it to an estuary rests with the State of Washington, and will not be part of Downtown Strategy discussions.
18	Colleges – establishing a presence downtown	As encouraged by the Comp Plan, this could potentially be the subject of an out-year initiative.
19	Providence Community Care Center	Providence Health and Services is leading an effort to create a social service hub in downtown Olympia with a focus on serious mental illness. This may include a day center and bathrooms. The City will stay connected to this effort, and Providence will be included in DTS meetings with social and housing service providers.
20	Thurston Co. Courthouse	One of the areas being looked at for a new courthouse is downtown. We will follow this decision-making process, but it is separate from the Downtown Strategy process.
21	Thurston Thrives	This County-wide health collaboration initiative is a separate process, and includes goals common to our downtown goals. Out-year initiatives may include implementation of some of these mutual goals.