

## Clark County Transportation System Plan Public Participation Plan

### Introduction

Clark County is undertaking a Transportation System Plan (TSP) that will serve as a component of the Clark County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. The purpose of the TSP is to integrate the Clark County Framework Plan, Countywide Planning Policies, Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Element and supporting documents into a Transportation System Plan to better serve Clark County's transportation system. A TSP will be consistent with the land use elements of RCW 36.70A.070 (6), and WAC 365-196-430.

This public participation plan was drafted when Governor Inslee's Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act Proclamations of 2020 (20-05, 20-68, and 20-28) were in effect. These proclamations were intended to curtail the spread of COVID-19 by limiting person-to-person contact through social distancing and limiting in-person interactions. The proclamations further waived and suspended laws and rules concerning RCW 42.56, the Public Records Act, and RCW 42.30, the Open Public Meetings Act that hindered conducting public meetings remotely. The public participation plan responds to these proclamations by planning for electronic communication, virtual meetings and remote public comment submission methods.

COVID-19 has changed our lives in profound ways and has created challenges and opportunities related to how the county engages residents during this unprecedented time. Providing accessible and meaningful engagement opportunities is essential to building a strong pathway forward for this project. Successful engagement will require collaboration across sectors and interests. Successful engagement will involve organized groups and people whose voices have often been marginalized or left out of similar conversations in the past. We need policy solutions to match the story and culture of the communities they are intended to serve.

A Public Participation Plan is a communication tool that provides members of the public opportunities for early and continuing participation, provides public access to key decision making processes with Clark County Council. [RCW 36.70A.035]. The plan describes the steps that Clark County will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment, as well as Clark County contact information and web addresses. This plan is in addition to the public participation required by Clark County Code Section 40.510.040 and 40.560.010.

This plan is a working document and will be adjusted as needed to provide for the greatest and broadest public participation where possible.

The Public Participation Plan will provide the following:

- Continuous education and updates to the public about progress and products;
- Outreach to get input at key points in the process; and,
- Periodic updates to the Planning Commission and County Councilors to keep them aware of progress and potential issues.

## 1.0 Public Participation Goals

The transportation system of Clark County serves the residents and businesses of Clark County by connecting people to places. The system is used, funded, and owned by the public. Therefore, it's important to receive public participation to ensure that the transportation system serves their needs.

The goals of public participation in the TSP are:

- Provide interested parties with timely information, an understanding of the process, and multiple opportunities to review and comment on proposed TSP.
- Actively solicit information from citizens, property owners and stakeholders about their concerns, questions and priorities for TSP review process.
- Provide accommodation and opportunities for community involvement to all Clark County communities that promotes and honors diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Encourage interested parties to informally and formally review and comment on the proposed TSP throughout the process and provide those comments to decision makers.
- Provide public opportunities for formal public input at project milestones prior to decision-making by local officials.
- Consult and consider recommendations from neighboring jurisdictions, federal and state agencies, and Native American tribes.
- Meet qualifications under State Environmental Policy Act, RCW 43.21

## 2.0 Public Participation Opportunities

Clark County is committed to providing multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the process. Clark County will use a variety of communication tools to inform the public and encourage their participation that may include virtual meetings.

### 2.1 Access for All

Consistent with Federal requirements associated with the transportation planning process, Clark County is committed to nondiscrimination in all programs and activities. Accessible participation seeks to provide low-barrier opportunities for all communities in the project area to have a say in the decision-making process. Depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic, events will be hosted either online and/or at community locations within the project area. For online activities, both computer and phone options will be made available. Field-trip type activities will be designed to be accessible by multiple transportation modes. Project information will be communicated to the public in multiple languages on how to request translation of project materials.

Clark County strives to ensure fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all regional residents, regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, disability and income. Efforts will be made to seek out and consider the needs and interests of traditionally underserved populations. Clark County will maintain a contact list of representatives of underserved populations and will communicate with groups and Committees where these representatives may meet. Clark County is committed to ensuring all people have equal access to county services and programs. Although not every need can be anticipated or every barrier avoided, please fill out the request for accommodation form if you need information in



a different format or access to a program. To request auxiliary aids, services or accommodations, please complete the request form found in link below and submit it by email to [ada@clark.wa.gov](mailto:ada@clark.wa.gov) or mail to the ADA Coordinator in the Risk Management Office, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, WA 98660.

<https://www.clark.wa.gov/general-services/americans-disabilities-act-ada>

When possible, please make requests at least two weeks before the event where services will be needed.

If you need assistance with your request, please contact the ADA Coordinator at (564) 397-2000 or [ada@clark.wa.gov](mailto:ada@clark.wa.gov). For Washington Relay Service, please dial 711.

## 2.2 Environmental Justice and Title VI

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Clark County ensures environmental justice by maintaining a Title VI Plan that no person in the region shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which Clark County receives federal financial assistance. Clark County's Title VI Plan is updated approximately every four years. Clark County also submits annual reports on its Title VI program to the Washington State Department of Transportation to ensure all federal regulations are being met. Clark County seeks out and considers the needs of people traditionally underserved by transportation systems (e.g., low-income and minority households). To interact with these communities Clark County will participate in community meetings and will continue to nurture relationships with underserved community representatives at meetings such as the Accessible Transportation Coalition, the SW Washington Healthy Living Collaborative, C-TRAN's Citizens Advisory Committee, Clark County's Commission on Aging and RTC's ad hoc Human Services Transportation Plan Stakeholder Group.

## 2.3 Social justice and equity

The planning team recognizes that policy and planning decisions about transportation do not impact us all in the same way. Policies and transportation projects that disproportionately effect vulnerable communities limits the opportunity for many people to access jobs, schools, parks, housing, and/or essential services. Community members who are most vulnerable to transportation changes need to be at the center and forefront of this project and include a variety of groups, such as: communities of color; people with disabilities; people with limited income and resources; older adults; and young families. Engaging and promoting meaningful input in the transportation system plan is paramount to providing a plan that is reflective of the community; striving to achieve a transportation system that will be a betterment to all.



## 3.0 Public Participation Methods

### 3.1 Website

Clark County's website will include a Transportation System Plan webpage where interested parties can access status updates, draft documents, official notices, minutes and other project information. The webpage will be the primary repository of all information related to the TSP process. The page will include who to contact for more information and an email link for questions and comments. Documents will be available for review at Clark County Public Works Transportation Planning, and copies will be provided at the established copying cost. Documents are available at <https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/transportation-planning-0>

### 3.2 Email Distribution List

An email list of interested parties will be created and maintained by Clark County. The list will be used to notify interested parties regarding TSP progress and participation opportunities. Interested parties will be added to the list by contacting the Public Works Transportation Division. To join the TSP email list, contact the Public Works Department at 564-397-4968 or online at <https://www.clark.wa.gov/project-updates>.

### 3.3 Mailers & Media

The local news media will be kept up-to-date on the TSP process and receive copies of all official notices. In addition, notices will be published in the paper of record. CVTV video production for TV broadcasts and websites will be available to provide information about the TSP.

### 3.4 Sounding Board

Clark County will seek input from a sounding board consisting from members of existing committees such as the Clark Communities Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Commission on Aging, Development and Engineering Advisory Board and RTC staff. The Sounding Board will discuss ideas, public input and recommendations. The Sounding Board will not make formal recommendations. Points of consensus will be recognized and documented in meeting summaries but will not be requisite for advancing the Transportation System Plan.

### 3.5 Public Meetings

Clark County will schedule meetings to solicit public feedback on developing the TSP. Public Works Transportation Division commits to hold meetings at convenient times and at locations or virtually that are accessible. Information is made available through display exhibits and staff. An interactive map option will be available for those who are unable to attend an in-person event or virtual meeting. Materials available at the in-person events will be made available through the project website.



### 3.6 Written Comments

Interested parties will be encouraged to provide comments to Clark County by letter, email, or web-based forms throughout the public process. All comments received will be entered into the public record and forwarded to the Clark County Council and Planning Commission for their consideration prior to their hearings. All comments will be cataloged and responded to by staff, entered into the public record and forwarded to the Clark County Council and Planning Commission for their consideration prior to their hearings.

### 3.7 Public Comment Periods and Hearings

The Planning Commission will conduct a public comment period and at least one public hearing to solicit input on the TSP adoption. The Clark County Council will hold one public hearing before final adoption. Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments for review and provide testimony during hearings.

Planning Commission and Council hearings will be televised by CVTV.

Public notice of all hearings will state who is holding the comment period and/or hearing, the date and time, and the location of any public hearing. Notices will be published per official policy and comply with all other legal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. A notice will be sent to the email list (3.2, above). Final TSP drafts will be available at regional libraries.

### 3.8 Accessible Participation

Accessible participation seeks to provide low-barrier opportunities for all communities in the project area to have a say in the decision-making process. Depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic, events will be hosted either online and/or at community locations within the project area. For online activities, both computer and phone options will be made available. Field-trip type activities will be designed to be accessible by multiple transportation modes. Project communications will include information on how to request translation of project materials, social media, print, email, and online communication methods.

## 4.0 List of stakeholders

Clark County will engage the following stakeholders:

- General public
- Environmental community
- Business & Development community
- Social Service Agencies
- Tribes
- Cities
- Federal, and State Government Agencies

All parties will be informed and invited to participate throughout the process. Notification will be accomplished via email, mail, website, and press.



## 5.0 Public Participation Timeline

The following is a general project timeline including anticipated public participation opportunities. Clark County will coordinate with the Department of Ecology throughout the process. A detailed timeline will be posted on the transportation systems plan webpage.

Description	Start Date	End Date
Transportation Analysis	January 2020	September 2021
Performance Measures	October 2020	September 2021
Multi-Modal Transportation System Framework	October 2020	September 2021
Solution Development and Evaluation	January 2021	September 2021
Funding Strategies	January 2021	December 2021
Equity and Inclusion Analysis	March 2021	December 2021
Community Feedback of Strategy Development	April 2021	December 2021
Transportation System Plan Development	October 2021	March 2022
Adoption Process	April 2022	June 2022

