October 2026 Meeting Notes for TCAT Active Transportation Group

Attending

Julie Geddes, Whitney Godbey, Chris Hawkins, Bill Brun, Ali Fuller, Karen Messmer

Week without Driving Observations and Discussion

Capitol Corridor Audit (October 3)

Ali rode in the cycling portion of this. The group rode through the neighborhood near Capitol and observed some limitations for that route. Karen joined the walking group that included a mix of road users including non-drivers. The group observed vegetation over the sidewalk that could present a problem for people with low or no vision. Karen noted that she heard new feedback that she might not have noticed such as the absence of benches in bus stops in downtown. The group gathered at Vic's for further discussion and social time.

Lacey Walk Audit

Whitney, Bill, and Karen participated in the October 6 walk audit hosted by People First of Thurston County.

Members of People First led the walk from William Bush Park to Rainer Road, where the City of Lacey staff described the changes planned for the street segment between Yelm Highway and the Horizons Elementary roundabout Members of People First pointed out the need for more safe crossing locations for access to the bus. Other attendees included people from the adjacent neighborhood and other community members.

We were also joined by Anna Zivarts, who is a low-vision parent, nondriver and author of *When Driving Is Not an Option: Steering Away from Car Dependency.* Anna launched the Week Without Driving challenge in 2021 and founded the Nondrivers Alliance in 2025.

Whitney reported that the city staff has followed up with People First about specific conditions that they reported on during the walk. The city staff also said that this was a good chance to make contacts with people as they start an update to the Pedestrian Bicycle Plan. Karen and Bill pointed out that the plans for the road project need improvement. There is still time to advocate to Council and staff for changes before the design is finalized.

Other Week without Driving Observations

Julie reported that the Ovations Cycling Club logged 900 miles in the mini-BCC during that week.

Chris noted that he did not drive during that week.

Roundtable

Julie

Thurston County has ground down several areas of bumps south of Yelm Highway on the Chehalis Western Trail. ***Kudos to Julie for her advocacy to solve these dangerous bumps!!***

Ali

Traffic Safety Yard Signs

Throughout the summer and early fall, Walk N Roll was collecting design submissions from local K-12 students for another round of traffic safety yard signs. Walk N Roll staff reviewed all submissions and narrowed the pool down to seven finalists. Now they are seeking your help with selecting the three designs that will be printed on signs and distribute throughout Thurston County. You may view the finalists and select your top three on this Microsoft Form. Please submit your thoughts by Thursday, October 22.

Pioneer Bike Bus

The Pioneer Elementary Bike Bus will ride weekly on Fridays through October 30. Depending on weather, it may take a break after that date and return in the springtime.

See Walk N Roll events below.

Chris

Safe walking routes to school state grant program opens every two years. The process takes several years before a project receives funds and can begin construction. While the process takes several years, it is an outside funding source for local safety improvements.

Karen

Local projects in line for federal funding

Federal funding for several projects moved a step closer to approval at Transportation Policy Board on Wednesday. One more approval step is needed at Thurston Regional Planning Council. The projects of note that received approval include.

- Capitol Corridor
- Walk N Roll program
- Woodland/Karen Fraser Trail Extension Study
- Thurston Bike Map
- TRPC Trails Planning Work Program

Thurston County Speed Limit Changes

The County Commissioners adopted an ordinance to reduce speed on several road segments. One segment is where the Chehalis Western Trail crosses Waldrick Road. (Speed limit reduced from 50mph to 35mph.)

Appreciation to group

Karen expressed her appreciation to those attending the meeting. She is a member of the Active Transportation Safety Council, (part of Washington Traffic Safety Commission) so hearing from others and discussing active transportation topics helps her with participation as an advocate member of that group.

Daniel (via e-mail)

Comment on City of Olympia Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) identifies projects to improve the City of Olympia's transportation system. This TIP is a reflection of the transportation projects identified in the 2027-2031 Preliminary Capital Facilities Plan. Scroll down on this page to find details about the TIP and how to submit your comments at the October 27 public hearing or in writing.

Events

Bike to the Ballot Tuesday October 27

Roll to the ballot box on this all-ages group ride! Together, we'll celebrate voting and community by dropping off our completed ballots and then riding to Tumwater Craft District. Join Walk N Roll on Tuesday, October 27 on a three-city bike ride in celebration of community and civic engagement! All-ages, social pace, group ride with meeting locations in Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater.

Join at any point along the route with your bike, helmet, and a completed ballot, if you have one to drop off. Our group will stop by ballot drop boxes in all three cities and end at the Tumwater Craft District. View the event on the Walk N Roll calendar to see the ride route and additional details.

Can't join on October 27? Bike to the ballot box another time or roll to the polls on election day, November 3. View the Thurston County website for a complete list of ballot drop box locations.

Monster Mash Bicycle Bash group ride Saturday, 2 – 4:30pm October 31

Celebrate spooky season with a family-friendly group bike ride! Walk N Roll will lead a slow-paced group bike ride from Tumwater Historical Park to Downtown Olympia and back, taking a scenic route around Capitol Lake. Costumes you can comfortably bike in are encouraged! As with all Walk N Roll rides, helmets for all riders are required. Join for the whole event or just a portion! Below is the event timeline.

- 2 p.m.- Meet at Tumwater Historical Park with your bike and helmet, and we'll roll out at 2:30 p.m. Arrive a bit earlier if you need extra time to perfect your costume!
- 3-4 p.m.- Enjoy Love Oly's Downtown for Halloween event. Attendees may bring their bikes around the event with them or leave them with Walk N Roll's bike valet at Sylvester Park. Here is a link to Love Oly's event: https://loveolydowntown.com/events/loveoly-downtown-for-halloween/
- 4 p.m.- Bike back to Tumwater Historical Park. We'll return by 4:30 p.m.

Tumwater Historical Park, 802 Deschutes Way SW, Tumwater, WA 98501

USA If you have any questions about this event, please send an email to walknroll@intercitytransit.com

Ballot Walk & Roll Sunday November 1st, 2pm

Meet at Decatur Woods Park for a family-friendly walk/roll to the ballot drop box. Follow SWONA for more info: https://linktr.ee/swona

Filmed by Bike Movie Screening at Avanti High School on Thursday, November 19

Watch for more details in our November newsletter.

Prepared by TCAT volunteer Karen Messmer