



Shaping
our community
together

CITY
OF **LACEY**

**LACEY CITY COUNCIL
WORKSESSION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021
4:00 P.M.
REMOTE ATTENDANCE**

The Lacey City Council Worksession will be conducted remotely, not in-person. The public may view the meeting by watching live through Zoom:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82293275860>

The public may also listen to the meeting via telephone by dialing toll-free:

(888) 788-0099 or **(877) 853-5247** - when prompted enter Webinar ID **822 9327 5860**

AGENDA

4:00 **LETTER TO THURSTON COUNTY BOCC IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSED SAFE PARKING PLAN AT 720 CARPENTER RD NE**

SCOTT SPENCE, CITY MANAGER

4:30 **GREG CUOIO PARK & GREENWAYS MASTER PLAN**

JEN BURBIDGE, PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION DIRECTOR

JULIET VONG, HBB LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

(PRESENTATION)

6:00 **ADJOURN**



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CITY COUNCIL
ANDY RYDER
Mayor
CYNTHIA PRATT
Deputy Mayor

LENNY GREENSTEIN
MICHAEL STEADMAN
CAROLYN COX
ED KUNKEL
MALCOLM MILLER

(Month) (Day), 2021

Thurston County Courthouse
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502

CITY MANAGER
SCOTT SPENCE

Thurston County Board of County Commissioners,

On behalf of the full City Council, I would like to acknowledge and thank Thurston County for hosting a virtual public meeting and providing an opportunity to address the proposed safe parking plan identified on Thurston County property located at 720 Carpenter Road NE.

City leadership is aware of the real concern caused by recreational vehicles parked along Ensign Road NE causing delay to emergency vehicles accessing St. Peter's Hospital as well as adjacent medical providers. Lacey agrees a resolution is necessary to ensure our region's access to emergency care and health services is not interrupted.

Over the last two decades the number of homeless individuals in Thurston County has grown close to 1,000. Even more alarming, youth experiencing homelessness is nearly double that of adults. Our region needs new approaches and strategies to effectively address our homeless population in a pragmatic and compassionate way. Homelessness is complex and difficult to address when considering all the contributing factors. Nonetheless, as leaders we have a responsibility to those individuals willing to create a better future. And, we have an obligation to the public to reverse the current trend of homelessness within our region.

A uniform approach to addressing homelessness within Thurston County is essential. Without a common and consistent approach, we will not be successful. As a working framework, the Lacey City Council endorses the following principles when proactively engaging our homeless population: (1) All government established sites serving homeless 24/7 must have proper security, on-site services, and active case management, (2) jurisdictions must enforce existing rules, standards and regulations on public property, including streets and rights-of-way, to preserve safety and prevent environmental degradation, (3) camping ordinances within Thurston County and its incorporated communities need to be consistent and uniformly enforced, (4) private property must be protected from trespassing, and (5) Thurston County governments adjacent to WSDOT property must collaborate with the State to prevent our interstate rights-of-way from becoming sites for unsafe encampments.

Consistent with Lacey's viewpoint on homelessness, the City believes it is important to communicate key considerations as Thurston County contemplates establishing a temporary safe parking site located at 720 Carpenter Road NE:

- **On-site Services:** It is the opinion of the City of Lacey that individuals in need require access to social services. A safe parking proposal would benefit from having the direct

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services on-site. Services should include, but not limited to, coordinated entry into housing, counseling, reestablishment of personal identification, employment opportunities, case management as well as access to mental health services or drug rehabilitation if needed. Ultimately, services could lead to pathways that can lead to greater stability, allowing individuals relying solely on their recreational vehicles as shelter to a better future.

- **Security:** It is unclear if public safety services can be provided by the Thurston County Sheriff's Office. For the well-being of individuals relocated to the proposed safe parking site and to reassure adjacent property owners, the City of Lacey recommends the implementation of a security plan that utilizes on-site personnel to monitor activity and regulate access to and from the safe parking site 24 hours per day. The security of the site is also dependent on the number of recreational vehicles permitted. The City of Lacey does not endorse exceeding 20 recreational vehicles for this site; this is the same number communicated by Thurston County representatives to be moved from Ensign Rd NE to the 720 Carpenter Road NE site.
- **Limit Site Improvements:** Capital expenditures to provide the necessary potable water and sanitation should equal the stated temporary activity of this proposal. The City of Lacey believes it is unnecessary to spend a substantial amount of public dollars for permanent infrastructure, if the proposed activity is truly temporary. By limiting capital expenditures, Thurston County affirms through actions that this site is not permanent.
- **Enforcement of Parking Standards on Ensign Road NE:** Although Thurston County does not enforce parking standards on Ensign Road NE, the effort in time, concern, and resources to create a temporary safe parking site will be a wasted effort if the space vacated becomes filled by more recreational vehicles. This would be an unfortunate and unacceptable outcome.
- **Establish an End-Date:** Last month, Thurston County representatives communicated that the safe parking plan proposal intended for the 720 Carpenter Road NE site is a temporary measure. To clarify and eliminate any confusion related to the duration of the safe parking proposal, the City of Lacey recommends Thurston County establish a specific date when the site will no longer be actively used for recreational vehicles. Generally, six-months meets that definition of a land use activity identified as temporary.

The City of Lacey strongly encourages Thurston County to incorporate the recommendations outlined in this letter to increase the likelihood of a successful outcome for the safe parking proposal located at 720 Carpenter Road NE.

Thank you again for allowing the opportunity to provide input on a critical issue that impacts everyone in the Thurston County Region.

Sincerely,

Andy Ryder
Mayor of Lacey

C. Lacey City Council

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