

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION



MEETING DATE: April 06, 2021

ITEM NUMBER: 6.C

SECOND READING:

{{customfields.ResoOrdNumber}}

TYPE OF ITEM: Study Session

PRESENTED BY:

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SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE:

Equitable Carbon-Free Transportation Roadmap

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Equitable Carbon Free Transportation Roadmap was envisioned to be incorporated into the Longmont Sustainability Plan update originally set to begin in 2020. This work was funded by the 2020 Boulder County Environmental Sustainability Matching Grant. Much of the work proceeded in parallel with the work being performed by the Climate Action Task Force and Just Transition Plan Committee in 2020 to develop recommendations for the Climate Action Recommendations Report, which includes recommendations in the transportation sector, as well as embedding equity in climate action. This Roadmap includes a broader focus on reducing mobile fuel consumption overall to result in a carbon-free transportation system, and doing so in a way that equitably meets the needs of residents across our community.

COUNCIL OPTIONS:

1. Direct staff to proceed with the next steps of implementation of Equitable Carbon Free Transportation Roadmap Recommendations.
2. Provide staff with additional feedback or direction.
3. Direct staff to hold or not proceed.

RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:

Direct staff to proceed with the next steps of implementation of Equitable Carbon Free Transportation Roadmap Recommendations.

FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:

TBD

BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS:

The Equitable Carbon Free Transportation Roadmap was envisioned to be incorporated into the Longmont Sustainability Plan update originally set to begin in 2020. This work was funded by the 2020

Boulder County Environmental Sustainability Matching Grant. Much of the work proceeded in parallel with the work being performed by the Climate Action Task Force and Just Transition Plan Committee in 2020 to develop recommendations for the Climate Action Recommendations Report, which includes recommendations in the transportation sector, as well as embedding equity in climate action. This Roadmap includes a broader focus on reducing mobile fuel consumption overall to result in a carbon-free transportation system, and doing so in a way that equitably meets the needs of residents across our community.

After completing Longmont's first greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory in 2017, the City established targets to reduce GHG emissions BY 66% BY 2030, and 69% by 2050. The 2019 GHG inventory identified that 13% of Longmont's GHG emissions come from transportation. Longmont has not only reducing GHG emissions, but doing so in equitable manner that benefits all members of our community.

The purpose of the Equitable Carbon-Free Transportation Roadmap (ECFTR) is to pull together the different City equity and carbon-free plans in relation to the transportation sector to create one coordinated action plan that has expanded steps to reach the City's adopted goals. This Roadmap provides direction to achieve the City's (and, more recently, the State's) greenhouse gas goals and create a healthy living environment that effectively engages all members of our community to create diverse, innovative solutions.

The stated City and State goals that this plan is combining are:

- Reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions by 69% by 2050
- Reduce transportation-related fuel consumption by 33% by 2050
- Increase equitable access to transportation infrastructure for all segments of the community
- Prioritize the construction of missing links to connect bicycle and pedestrian facilities citywide to allow a broad choice of safe ways to travel other than by car
- Educate and provide funding to enhance the overall safety of the transportation system for all users
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector by 96% in 2050 (Statewide goal)

Three base strategies and four equity priorities were established to guide and shape this Roadmap to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals while building community support and inclusion. The base strategies and equity priorities work together to help reach the goals of this Roadmap.

Base Strategies

Each of the following base strategies are focused on reducing vehicle emissions and their impacts:

- 1. Shorten and Reduce the Number of Trips:** Reducing the number and length of vehicle trips taken is the most direct way to reduce transportation-related emissions. The City and its partners can use outreach, incentives, programs, and infrastructure to encourage residents and employees to consolidate errands and work from home.
- 2. Shift Modes:** The majority of Longmont commuters still drive to work alone. The City can work with employers and property managers to expand education, and improve the quality of infrastructure, to increase the safety and comfort for residents using alternative forms of

transportation. The City is also committed to land uses and new development patterns that promote access to walking, bicycling and riding transit—all mode shifts—rather than driving a personal vehicle.

3. **Reduce Direct Vehicle Emissions:** When reducing the number of vehicle miles traveled or shifting modes is not an option, drivers can choose reduced- or zero-emission vehicles. The City can adopt policies and promote programs that encourage individual and fleet ownership of zero emission vehicles and participation in EV car share programs as well as the buildout of EV charging station infrastructure.

The future actions detailed in the Roadmap are guided by each of these strategies to meet the goals of GHG reduction and improved air quality.

Equity Priorities

The City continues to work to expand inclusion and equity throughout City programs. The following four equity priorities were identified through community engagement and outreach conducted as part of the Roadmap and from past City efforts and priorities:

1. **Connect:** Ensure connectivity and visibility of services and transportation modes for all.
2. **Include:** Build greater inclusion of various languages, cultures and abilities in the development and implementation of projects.
3. **Reduce Barriers:** Address cost burdens and eliminate barriers around reliable and continuous access to programs and job opportunities.
4. **Safety:** Identify and resolve actual and perceived safety concerns.

The Roadmap highlights where these priorities have been a focus in past City efforts and where these priorities should grow in the future. Expanding on these equity priorities builds community understanding, promotes inclusion, and works towards creating a resilient, sustainable and carbon-free Longmont for all.

To achieve the above priorities, the City needs to work across City departments, with residents, businesses, developers and partners throughout the region and state. The following Roadmap and future steps are the initial recommendations on how to create an inclusive, carbon-free, and healthy community. Ongoing research, pilot projects and re-evaluations of next steps will need to occur for Longmont to continue to be a leader in an ever-changing field of technology and best practices.

The report recommendations were presented to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB), Planning and Zoning (P/Z) Commission and the Longmont Downtown Development Authority (LDDA) Board of Directors. Staff also sought input and feedback from three community partnerships: ECAT, Bicycle Issues Committee (BIC), and the Neighborhood Group Leaders Association (NGLA).

All community partnerships, Advisory Boards and Commissions were supportive of the effort and provided feedback that was integrated into the final document.



Vote from the Advisory Boards and Commissions:

- Transportation Advisory Board: All those in favor of presenting the Roadmap to City Council with integrated feedback from the TAB.
- Sustainability Advisory Board: All those in favor of presenting the Roadmap to City Council as presented (the SAB made this vote one month after feedback from the group was incorporated).
- Planning and Zoning Commission: All those in favor of presenting the Roadmap to City Council with integrated feedback from the P/Z Commission.
- Longmont Downtown Development Authority: All those in favor of presenting the Roadmap to City Council.

Staff is recommending that City Council support the recommendations and implementation steps in the Equitable Carbon-Free Transportation Roadmap.

ATTACHMENTS:

Equitable Carbon Free Transportation Roadmap FINAL DRAFT