



## PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION COMMUNICATION

**Meeting Date:** February 17, 2021

**Subject:** Equitable Carbon Free Transportation Roadmap

**Type of Item:** Action **Time for Presentation:** 30 Minutes

**Presented By:** Phil Greenwald, Transportation Planning Manager  
Francie Jaffe, Water Conservation & Sustainability Specialist

**Suggested Action:** Recommend Acceptance of Equitable Carbon Free Transportation Roadmap to Council

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### **BACKGROUND ISSUE & ANALYSIS**

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 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 electric vehicles and participation in EV car share programs as well as the buildout of EV charging station infrastructure.

The future actions detailed in the ECFTR 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 for all.
2. Include: Build greater inclusion of various languages, cultures and abilities in the development and implementation of projects.
3. Barriers: Address cost burdens and eliminate barriers around 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 are being 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 is seeking input on the recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Recommend that City Council accept the Equitable Carbon Free Transportation Roadmap Recommendations.
2. Recommend that City Council accept the ECFTR with additional feedback or direction.
3. Recommend that City Council not take action on the ECFTR at this time.

### **ATTACHMENT**

Equitable Carbon Free Transportation Roadmap FINAL DRAFT