The City of Olympia and Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) are partnering on a study to support the transformation of the Martin Way District in Olympia.

The vision for the Martin Way District is to achieve a mixed-use district containing residential, commercial, retail, and office uses. The lack of transportation and public utility infrastructure is assumed to be a barrier to redevelopment in the district.

Why Martin Way?

The district has frequent transit service, yet does not have a complete sidewalk network. The urban form of the area and density of land uses are relatively un-urban, despite its central location and close proximity to Downtown Olympia and I-5.

Study Objectives

- Define infrastructure needs.
- Define options to fund infrastructure.
- Explore how public funds can be used to leverage improvements consistent with the corridor vision.
- Identify opportunities for development.

Steps Completed

- The Thurston County Economic Development Council conducted a survey of businesses within the study area.
- The Thurston County Housing Authority and TRPC surveyed residents who live within or near the district to learn more about their travel habits and desired transportation and land-use changes.
- The costs of street, water, sewer and other infrastructure needs have been estimated.
- Long-term plans for a trail in the wetland north of Martin Way have been reviewed.
- Property and business owners along Martin Way were interviewed about their plans for future use of their properties.

Timeline

The consultant report is expected to be complete by June 2014, and Council review and approval is expected in July 2014.
Study Area

The Martin Way District stretches about 1.5 miles from Sawyer Street to Lilly Road and includes a 1/4 mile area on either side. This area of Martin Way is characterized by proximity to the regional Providence St. Peter Hospital and other regional medical facilities, a large open space and wetland area, and some of the last undeveloped parcels of land along Martin Way.

How to Get Involved

The Study will include opportunities for members of the public and the business community to share their ideas. To stay informed on the process and receive updates, event notices, and more, please contact:

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