

### **Statement for the Formation of Ashland Citizens for Transit**

We are the Ashland Citizens for Transit (ACT) a citizens group that has coalesced to promote an idea that has been envisioned in this City for more than two decades. That idea is to create and implement a public transportation system that is powered by renewable, clean energy that is ultimately sourced locally.

*The goal of sustainable public transportation dovetails with already adopted goals set by the City. These include the votes taken by the Transportation and Planning Commissions to adopt the 2012 Transportation System Plan (TSP), the City of Ashland 10 by 20 Ordinance, passed by the City Council in 2016, and the Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP) that has been approved by the City Council.*

Our immediate goal is the creation of a Feasibility Study for an affordable, environmentally sound, efficient, convenient and attractive public transit system for Ashland that we can be proud of and that will take us into the future. Our long-term goal is to have a system that affords seamless connectivity using multi-modal forms of transit.

We would like the Feasibility Study to be a priority of the new 2017 TSP Consultant, preferably to be completed within the first six months of the contract. A Liaison to the *Transportation Commission (TC)* was appointed for our group on February 9, 2017 at a special meeting of the TC. The ACT will interface directly with the TC Liaison and the 2017 TSP Consultant.

ACT will be available to assist with the creation of the Feasibility Study including research, planning, budgeting and funding. Also, we would like to have input in the vetting and hiring of the consultant.