

**ASHLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
February 9, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Graf called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

Commissioners Present: Joe Graf, Danielle Amarotico, Dominic Barth, Sue Newberry Corinne Viéville, and David Young

Council Liaison Absent: Stef Seffinger

SOU Liaison Absent: Janelle Wilson

Staff Present: Scott Fleury, Mike Faught, and Kyndra Irigoyen

RVTD Liaison Present: Paige Townsend

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC FORUM

Willow Denon 132 6th St

She lives between B St and C St and since May there have to been two wrecks there on the corner. People speed down B St at 40 MPH. She is requesting that there be a four-way stop on 6th St at B St and at C St. People will have to stop at C St and B St instead of flying through in their car. There are yield signs at C St but people still speed.

NEW BUSINESS

Transportation System Plan Update Request for Proposal

Graf and Fleury gave an overview of what the Transportation System Plan (TSP) is and the process for selecting a consultant for the five year plan update.

Public Forum

Sharon Javna 219 Almond St

Read from attached letter.

Ron Adams 642 Oak St

About 15 years ago he was in Santa Barbara, they have a lot of parking issues during the summer, as a tourist there he found it refreshing to get on the trolley to get around town, it made it easier, and it was popular. The driver of the bus pointed out points of interest and there was a sense of community on the bus, it was like a party. He thinks it would be great to have that in Ashland. The benefits are carbon footprint, fewer cars downtown, pedestrian friendly, reduce traffic and pollution, reduce competition for parking and eliminate for more parking or parking structures. He hopes that the consultant that is hired can incorporate the Climate Energy Action Plan and the Downtown Parking Plan and one that understands municipal public transportation rather than regional. In addition, we need someone who understands our carbon and emission goals, clean energy goals, and our desire to reduce traffic and the need for more parking. We need a consultant who understands the need for renewable and sustainable public transportation.

Marni Koopman 1206 Linda Ave

Read from attached PowerPoint.

James Stephens 640 Oak St

Read from attached PowerPoint.

Roy Sutton 989 Golden Aspen Pl

He agrees with Denon about the traffic on B St. Having an electric trolley will create less pollution for pedestrians. Business has to be supported, a proper shuttle would provide equal access to downtown without searching for parking space. He is in support of a citizen advisory committee to assist the commission.

Susan Rust 42 N Wightman

As the revision of the TSP begins, she urges the commission to include the following in the RFP:

- Ensure all elements of TSP are consistent and supportive with the Climate and Energy Action Plan
- Consultant coordinates closely with both staff and with ad-hoc committee
- Consider how each decision will reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Coordinate with RVTD in ways the entire system can go from natural gas to electric buses
- Consider methods of providing electric shuttle to transport citizens and tourists in and out of the downtown area
- Coordinate connectivity for all modes of transportation
- Ensure that parking planning is incorporated in the TSP with eye for reducing parking altogether

Elizabeth Hallett 938 Mt. Meadows Circle

She thanked the Transportation Commission for shoehorning us into the new era.

Donna Swanson 863 Plum Ridge Dr

She said she echoes Hallett's comments.

Huelz Gutcheon 2253 Hwy 99

He seconds everything everyone has said. In the 90's the buses would pick up anyone who was walking on the side of the road and it was calm. Now everything is faster. Only 20% more people changed the town. The buses now run fast. They ruin the ambience of the town because they are running behind. Accidents happen and we do not know who causes them. The accidents are caused by cars, not the people walking. Everyone is driving fast. Build it and they will come.

Fleury said he has made additions to the RFP based on comments he has received. Graf said we should include the bullet points in the RFP. Newberry liked the comment made about including someone who has a municipal knowledge, not just regional. She asked if it was possible to have a steering committee. Fleury said one of things we would talk about is the schedule for the transit related issues and have meetings associated with the TSP. Last time it was the Transportation Commission and the Planning Committee working together for the update. Javna said they are not looking for an ad-hoc committee right now, they are looking for a citizens committee and call it a steering committee. She would like the Commission to direct them to form it, so they can report who the members of the citizen committee are.

Graf said we have the following three groups: One who evaluate the consultants for the RFP. One who will assist in updating the TSP and one who will help with the transit part of the TSP update. Fleury said all of the meetings that we have for the update will have a public forum, so if someone is not part of any of the groups, they will have a chance to give input.

Townsend said in her experience when doing planning projects, there is a citizens advisory committee that can be a broad reach of citizens from the community and also a technical advisory committee that can be a broad reach of city staff and others who have technical knowledge that can be available to you. Those committees would work together and report back to the Commission or Council.

Graf said there is a group of citizens who have been working hard for a long time who want to be part of this. If we created a steering committee, it might not just be this group and include other members of the community. We need to balance this group and have the right makeup of this committee to make the decisions. Young said the scope of this to get to a feasibility study and to help guide a feasibility study, with no assumption that it will be feasible. The charge of this group is to look at many points of view. If we make it too big, referring to the downtown committee, it could be a drag on the feasibility process. He does not think we need to be concerned of the makeup when we have a group here already. Viéville said other people will have the opportunity to come to the regular meetings for input

instead of putting them on the steering committee.

Amarotico asked how we go about recommending this group as a steering committee without excluding others who are not aware of it. Fleury said he envisions a sub-committee to focus in on the feasibility of transit and have a technical advisory committee that focuses on the TSP itself. We have to find a way to give them the power to make recommendations to the Transportation Commission without being an appointed committee. Young said we should have a committee that does not require staff but has a liaison between the committee and the Commission. Viéville said we should have a committee that is loose, where people are not appointed and people can join and participate when they want. Newberry asked to include in the RFQ that the consultant have experience working with citizens and find out their ideas how they would work with various groups.

Commission agreed to have a citizens group as a resource to update the TSP.
The Commission agreed to have Dave Young as the liaison to the citizens group.
The Commission agreed to include in the RFP that the consultant will consult with the citizens group.

Newberry asked that we have engagement opportunities with the citizens prior to a draft.

Fleury will include updates in the RFP from this meeting. Newberry will be the liaison from the Commission to help grade the RFPs. Fleury will have the RFP in May, grade responses in June, and award in July or August.

TASK LIST

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

FOLLOW UP ITEMS

None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

COMMISSION OPEN DISCUSSION

None.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

TSP update process
Nevada St Bridge (February)
CIP Budgeting

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kyndra Irigoyen
Public Works Administrative Assistant*

Sharon Javna

Transportation Commission Special Meeting 2/9/17

My name is Sharon Javna. I am an attorney, a founder of ScienceWorks Museum and I have been a resident of Ashland for 21 years.

I would like to introduce you to a Citizens Group that has coalesced to promote an idea which has been envisioned in this city for 2 decades. That idea is to create and implement a public transportation system that is powered by clean energy within Ashland.

The goal of sustainable public transportation dovetails with already adopted goals of the City of Ashland, including the votes taken by the Transportation and Planning Commissions in 2012 to make this goal a priority, the Climate Energy Action Plan, and the 10 by 20 ordinance.

Our immediate goal is the creation of a Feasibility Study for an affordable, environmentally sound, efficient, convenient and attractive transit system that Ashland can be proud of and that will take us into the next century. Our long-term goal is to design a system for future regional transit connectivity.

We would like the Feasibility Study to be completed within 6 months of the hiring of a consultant. There is no need at this point for another Ad Hoc Committee. Instead, we hope you will appoint a Liaison from the TC to interface between the consultant, the Commission and the Citizen's Group. The Citizens Group has expertise in many areas that could assist with the creation of the Feasibility Study, including research, planning, budgeting and funding.

We would like to be recognized as a Steering Committee to facilitate the involvement of the public with the selection of the consultant and to subsequently work with the Consultant and the TC Liaison to develop this feasibility study. We request to meet with City Staff to help develop the RFP.

The time for debate is over. This is the time to finally move this project forward without delay.

Today we will hear from:

- 2) Marni Koopman of the GEOS Institute and active member on the CEAP Ad Hoc Committee.
- 1) Ron Adams - A citizen with a long standing interest in this issue.
- 3) James Stephens - President of SOHEVA (Southern Oregon Hybrid & Electric Vehicle Association)

ultimately sourced

that affords seamless

Citizen Presentation Ashland Transportation Commission

Special Meeting – February 9, 2017

Renewable and Sustainable
Public Transportation

Living in Ashland, I would like to have Transportation Options

- Walking safe, clean streets with less vehicle traffic.
- Safe Bicycling with less vehicle congestion.
- Available Public Transit when traveling for longer distances, locally.

I care about the Environment and the Impact I may have on it when driving my car

- ▶ I want to leave my car parked at home, whenever possible.
- ▶ I care about pollution and my Carbon Footprint when driving.
- ▶ When I do drive in Ashland, I would like the streets to be less congested with traffic.

Ashland has been talking about Public Transit for a long time. It is time to Act.

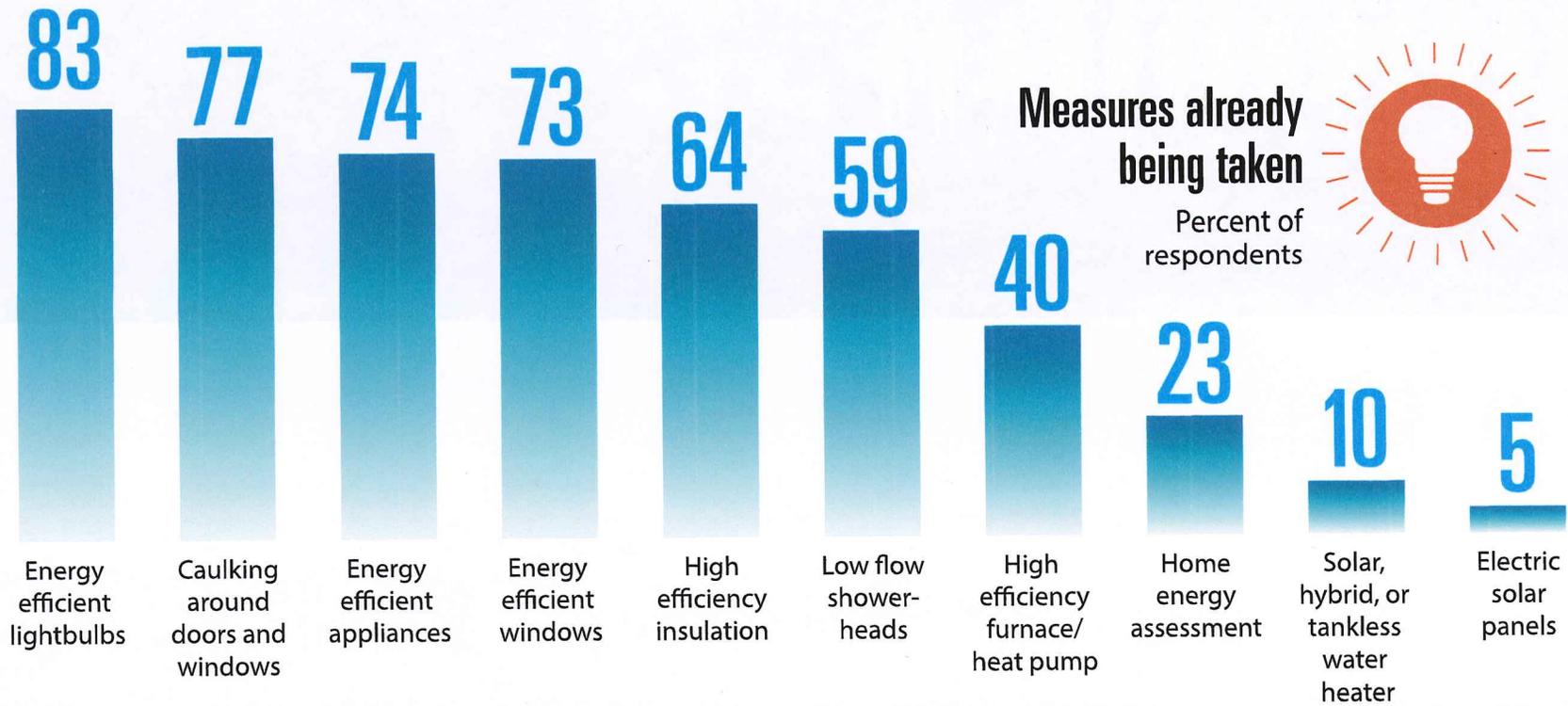
- ▶ Choose multimodal transportation solutions.
- ▶ Hire a consultant who understands our commitment to sustainable and renewable energy.
- ▶ Maintain community involvement.

Ashland Survey on Climate and Energy

- ✓ 2,000 surveys mailed to Ashland households
- ✓ More than 1,000 returned!

What did
we hear?

- Most people think climate change is a threat and want action
- Many residents find alternative transportation too inconvenient
- Renters have fewer options than home owners for saving energy
- Respondents supported measures taken by the City to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions



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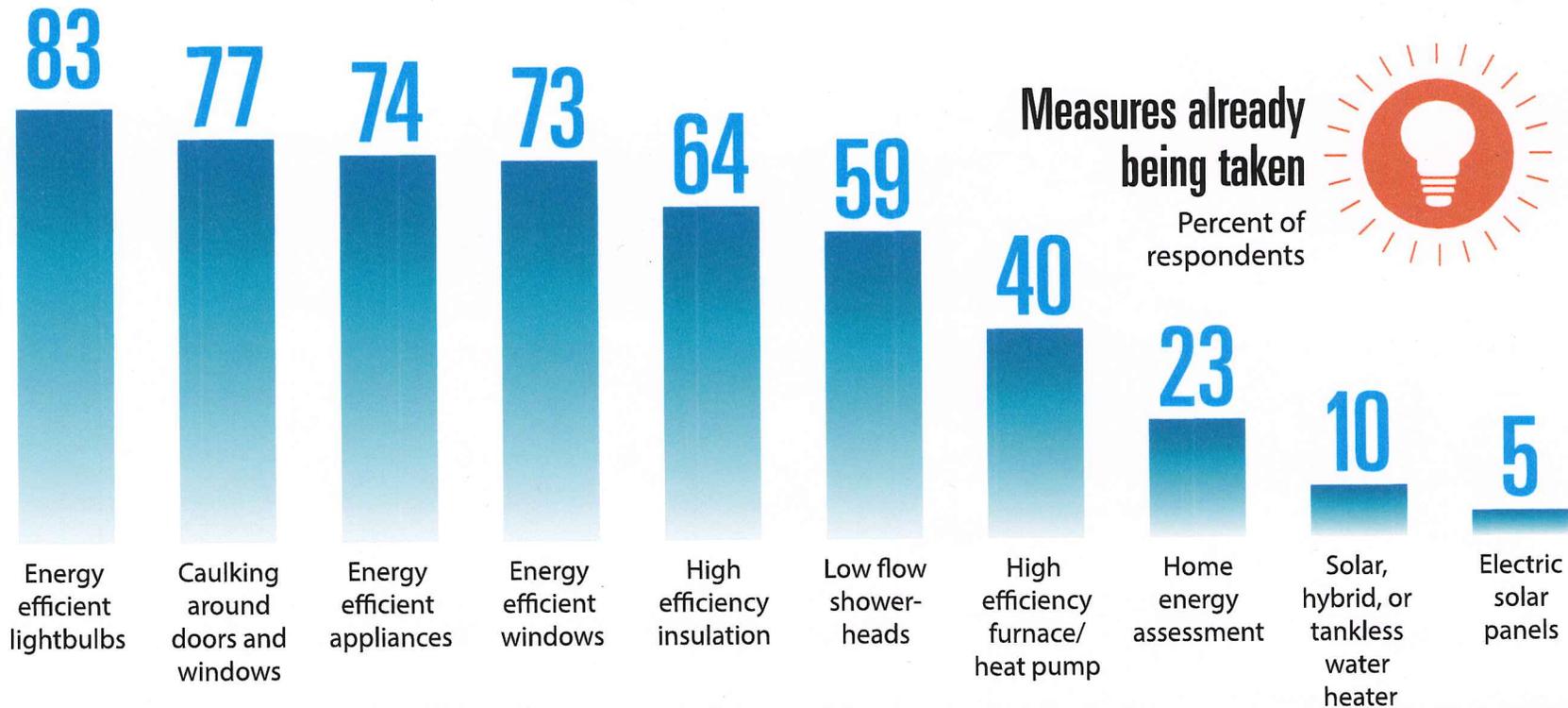
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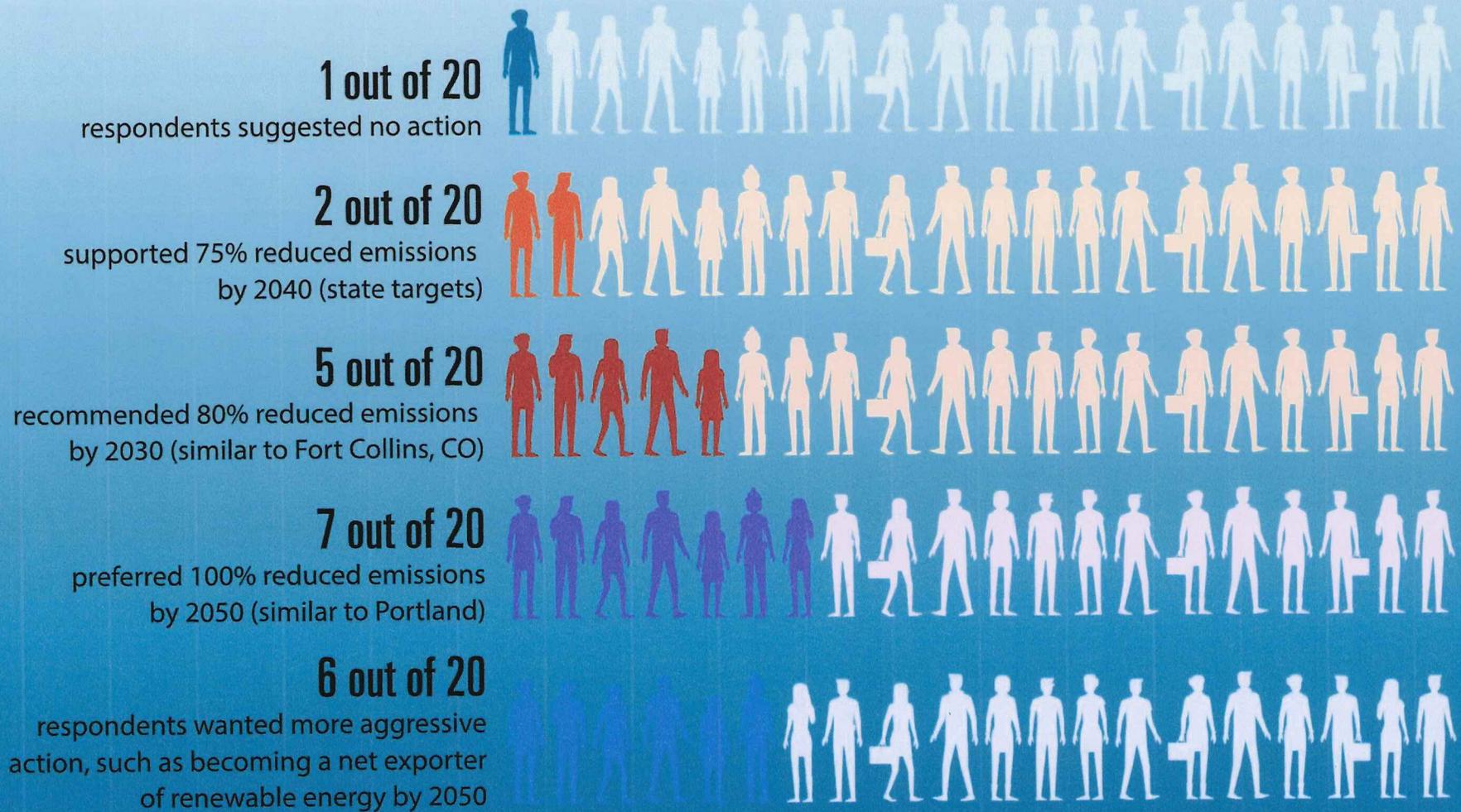
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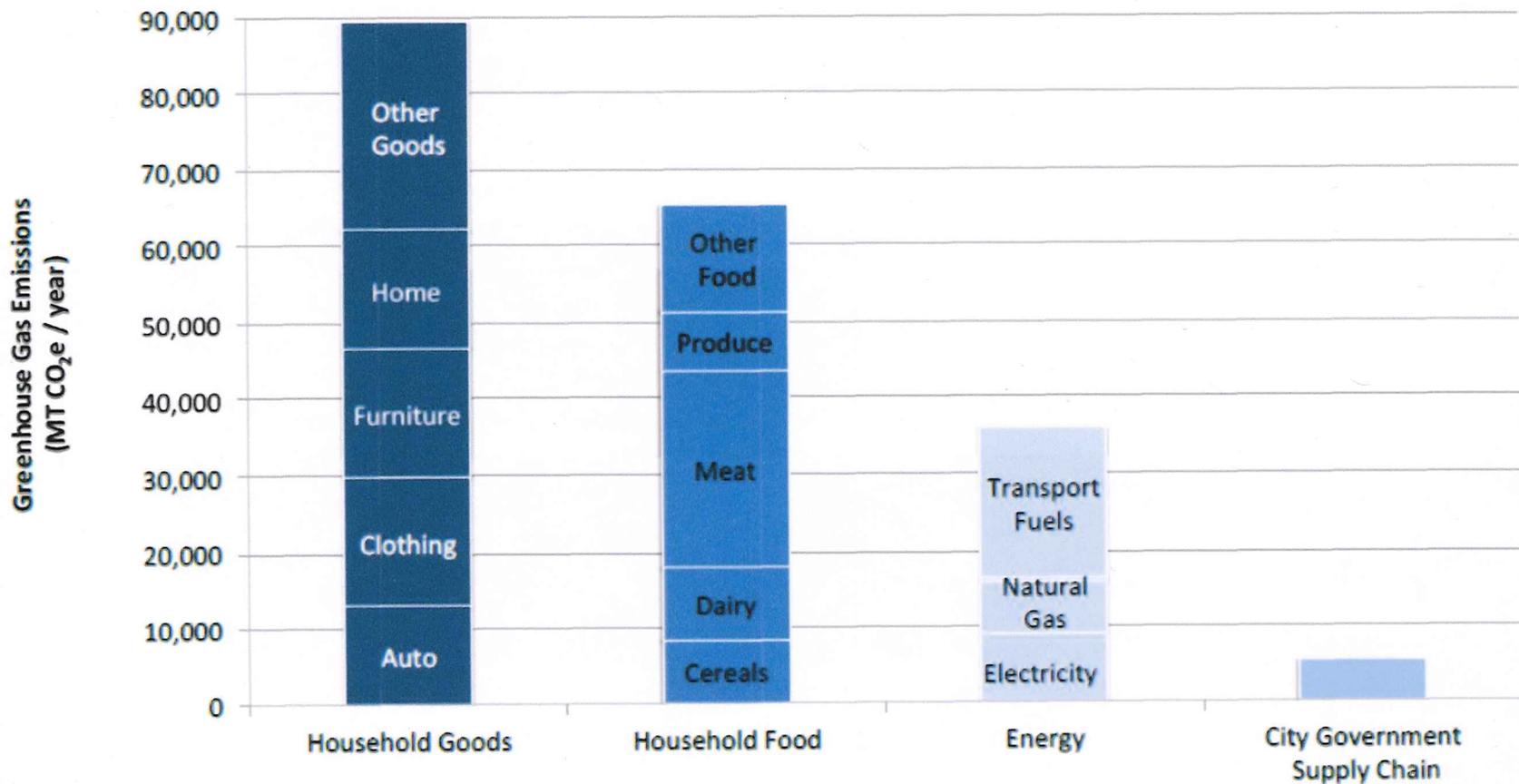


A majority of survey respondents support aggressive action on climate change!

Cities around the nation are setting greenhouse gas emissions targets and taking action on climate change. How aggressive should Ashland be compared to others? We asked residents this question, and this is what we heard.

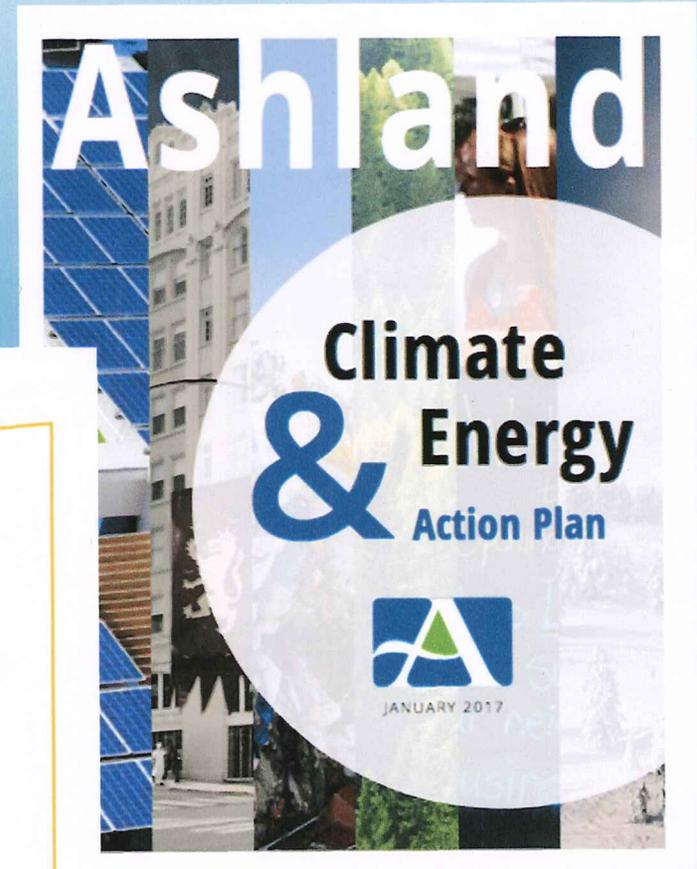
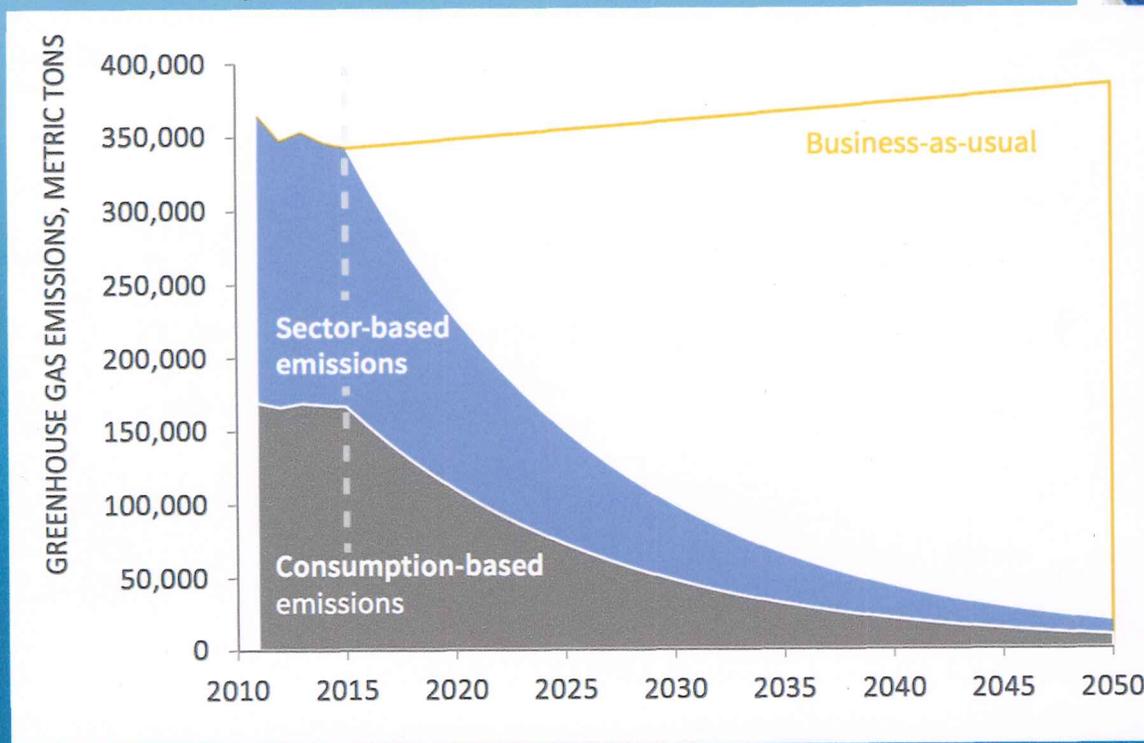


Ashland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions



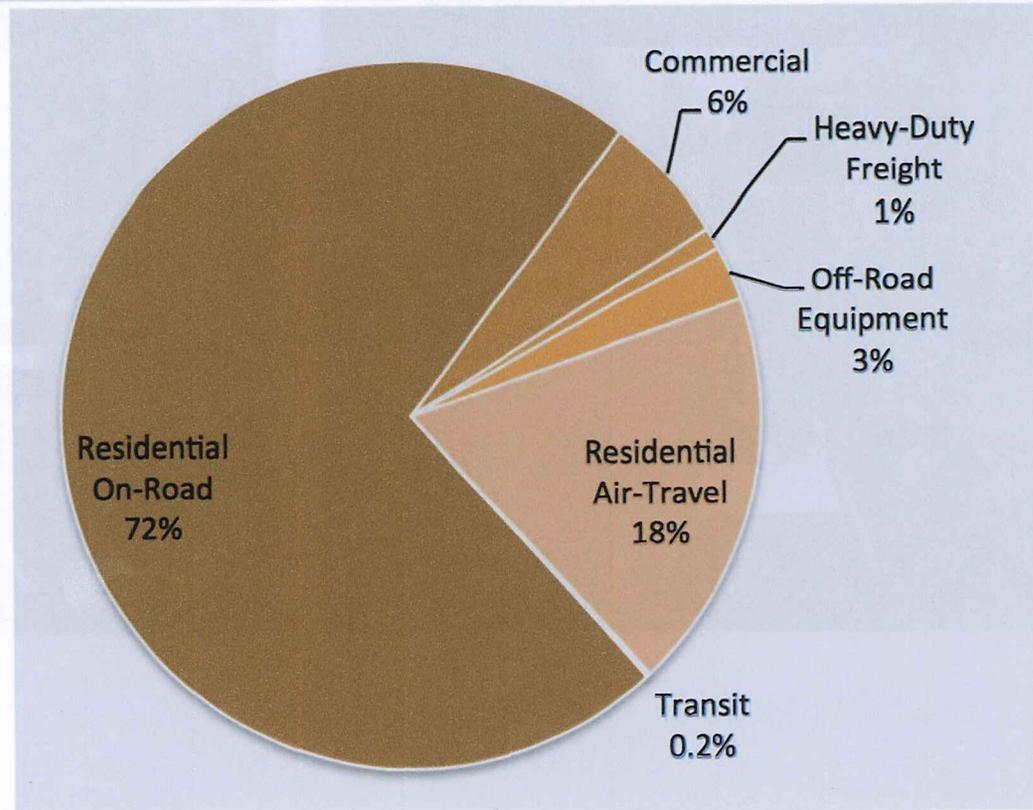
Ashland's Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP)

Reduce emissions 8% per year

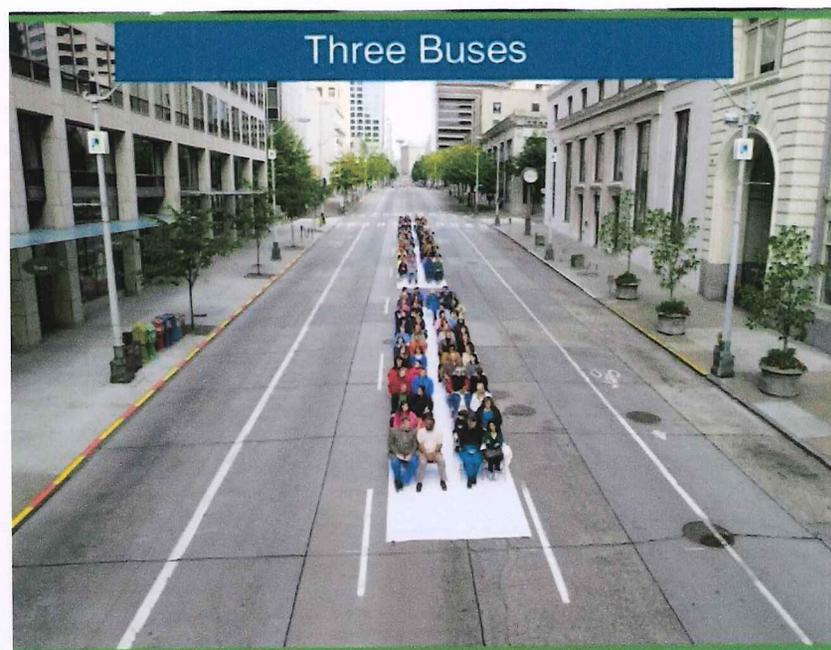
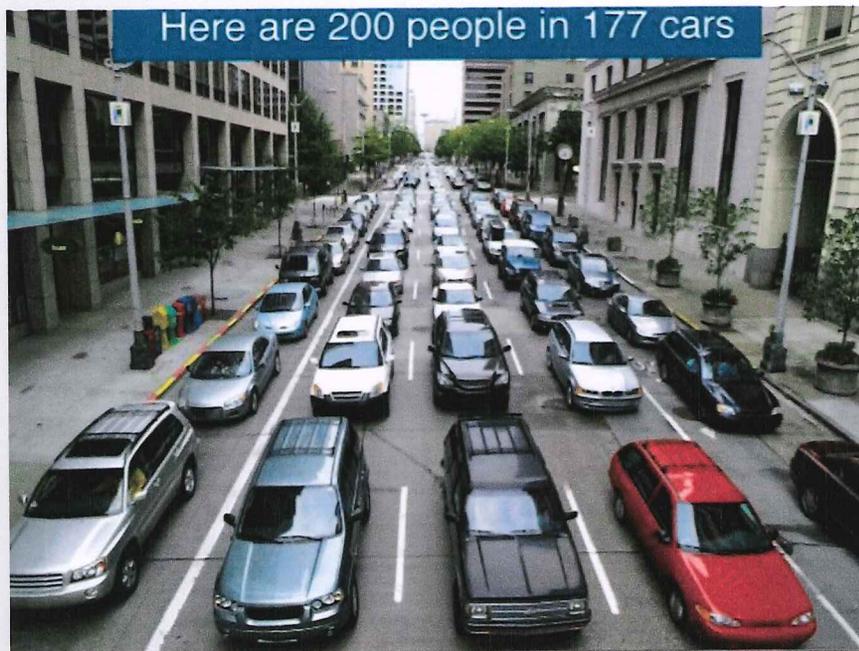


The Environmental and Sustainable Energy Case for an Electric Shuttle

Figure 11: Distribution of On-Road transport emissions, by vehicle category, as estimated by RSPM.



A way to visualize the last slide...



An Easy Way to Move Toward Renewable and Sustainable Public Transportation

- Serving Local Neighborhoods
- Connected and Inclusive
- Business Friendly
- Serving Tourists
- Accessible
- Environmentally Friendly
- Powered by Renewable Energy



Many cities and towns already use Electric Shuttles and Trolleys.



BYD Build Your Dreams
K7 y K8 (BYD Andino)

Electrified Public Transportation





Who wants an Electric Trolley?



What are the next steps?

- Appoint a Citizen Advisor to work with a “Commission Liaison” in selecting a consultant.
- Hire a Consultant who understands the importance of Sustainable Public Transit.
- Keep the community involved and informed.

Thank You!

Questions?

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Ron Adams – 61649@msn.com

Marni Koopman – marnikoopman@yahoo.com

James Stephens – james.stephens@soheva.net