

*** FORM FIELD DATA***

Full Name: **Louise Shawkat**

Phone:

Email: **louise4008@gmail.com**

Subject: **Working together in 2021 for climate action progress and Transit Equity Day**

Message: **See press release for Transit Equity Day See SOCAN-ACAP testimony**

Attachment 1 file: **PRESS RELEASE - Transit Equity Day Jan 2021 (1)024170230.PDF**

Attachment 2 file: **SOCAN-ACAP Testimony to CCOC 2021024170506.PDF**

Attachment 3 file:

*** FORM FIELD DATA***

Full Name: **Lorrie Kaplan**

Phone: **2406760040**

Email: **lorrie@socan.eco**

Subject: **Working Together in 2021 for Climate Action Progress**

Message: **Our testimony includes information about the work we are planning for 2021 and an invitation to collaborate, plus two requests to the Commission. We ask that the Commission: 1. Communicate its support of our January 19 request to the Ashland City Council to include climate plan development and implementation as a required qualification for Ashland City Manager. 2 Communicate its support of our January 19 request to the City Council to ensure ongoing engagement of public commissions in climate action and to independently implement the following recommendations, as appropriate, in the Commission.**

Attachment 1 file: **SOCAN-ACAP Testimony to CCOC 2021024162950.PDF**

Attachment 2 file:

Attachment 3 file:

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

SOCAN

Confronting Climate Change

To: City of Ashland Conservation and Climate Outreach Commission
From: SOCAN-Ashland Climate Action Project
Date: January 25, 2021
Re: Working Together in 2021 for Climate Action Progress

The [Ashland Climate Action Project of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now](#) is a community-based organization of local residents engaged in advocacy, education, and community organizing to support the full and timely implementation of Ashland's Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP) in city operations and in the community at large. As you know, the plan was approved unanimously by the City Council in 2017, and city Ordinance 9.40 states that "Achievement of the Climate Recovery Goals for city Operations...shall be part of the goals for city Operations."

We wish to communicate several requests and FYI items to the Commission:

- I. **We ask that the Commission communicate its support of our January 19 request to the Ashland City Council to include climate plan development and implementation as a required qualification for Ashland City Manager.**

As we look out to the next decade, scientists and policymakers have advised that climate action work must intensify as we approach critical goals and thresholds that must be attained by 2030 to avert irreversible catastrophic conditions. ([This Union of Concerned Scientists blog from April 2020 explains, in understandable terms, why 2030 targets are so significant.](#)) Ashland's new City Manager will be responsible for providing leadership for a wide range of issues, including reducing our city's greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to climate change, building community resilience, and positioning Ashland to be at the leading edge of economic development spurred on by innovations in climate mitigation and adaptation. It is critically important that we recruit candidates for City Manager who have had significant participation in the development and implementation of climate action plans.

- II. **We ask that the Commission communicate its support of our January 19 request to the City Council to ensure ongoing engagement of public commissions in climate action and to independently implement the following recommendations, as appropriate, in the Commission.**

The CEAP provides important guidance for every sector of our city operations and our community, including every Ashland public commission. We ask the City Council to consider the following recommendations designed to increase the level of awareness of and accountability to the CEAP and the integration of climate action into the work of all Ashland public commissions:

1. **Build Climate Awareness.** Commissions shall fully acquaint themselves with the CEAP, and review of the CEAP shall be incorporated into the orientation process for new commission appointees. Consider developing a standardized orientation presentation for all commissions (and city staff, if appropriate) on the CEAP and how to think about climate impact.
2. **Commit to Action and Accountability.** Review the CEAP to identify the specific strategies of the plan that are relevant to the work of the commission. Determine how the commission can support achievement of these strategies. Incorporate these steps into commission projects, processes, and planning. Incorporate CEAP goals and relevant strategies into the official charter of the commission. Include an update on CEAP efforts, considerations and climate impact in every report of the commission to the city council.
3. **Coordinate and Collaborate.** Create a mechanism for communicating, collaborating, and tracking CEAP-related work of the commissions and others into a common resource that supports this work and that residents can follow. Encourage commissions to report progress and future plans in coordination with the planned Fall 2021 update of the CEAP, which will be guided by the Climate Policy Commission.

IV. Invitation to Collaborate: Update on our 2021 programs

We welcome the opportunity to work together to advance local climate action. **Here are some specific projects that might be of interest to the Commission.**

- **2021 Community Survey.** You may be familiar with our Summer 2020 survey, “Lessons Learned from Recent COVID Restrictions: Imagining the Future of Ashland.” [Here is a link to the final report on our findings.](#) We will be conducting another community survey in 2021 in partnership with SOU’s Office of Sustainability. Together, we will be forming an expert panel to advise the survey process and are inviting proposed topics and suggestions in the coming weeks. Our goals for this year are to increase community engagement and enhance our survey methodology and its strategic value to Ashland’s climate work. We will be sending out information in February asking for suggested topics and volunteers wishing to participate in our Advisory Panel.
- **Spotlight in the *Ashland Tidings*.** We now have a biweekly column on local climate action in the *Ashland Tidings* called “Spotlight.” As a sample, check out “[City staff connect the dots on climate action,](#)” from January 4, 2021. If you know of people and programs focused on climate that you feel may be newsworthy, or a climate education topic of high importance, please contact us at ACAPSpotlight@gmail.com .
- **Zoom Spotlight Conversations.** In 2021, we are hosting a series of Zoom Conversations to spotlight local climate issues and spark ongoing dialogue and

community-based action. Our January program was “Spotlight on Local Food: A Zoom Conversation,” focused on issues and challenges facing local growers and how we can further strengthen our locally grown food network. The recorded program will be available in the coming days. Upcoming Programs:

- **Thursday, January 28, 7-8:30pm via zoom. “Other Side of the Hill”: Bridging Oregon’s Rural-Urban Divide.** Living in a deeply divided country, we are all feeling the wounds and grief of bitter partisanship. These divisions have led us to fear and dehumanize each other and close off communications. How can we write a new chapter to this story--right here in Oregon? To help us along this journey, we are hosting a repeat screening of “[Other Side of the Hill](#),” a 2020 film spotlighting Eastern Oregon communities that have embraced renewable energy projects, defying assumptions about climate change attitudes in conservative rural Oregon. Following the 30-minute film, community leaders featured in the film will join us for a discussion facilitated by [Titus Tomlinson, Program Director of the Resource Assistance for Rural Environments \(RARE\) program at the University of Oregon’s Institute for Policy Research and Engagement](#). [Click here to register](#).
- **Thursday February 4, 7-8:30pm via zoom. Transit Equity Day 2021: State of Transit Equity in Oregon and the Rogue Valley.** The program will be moderated by Tonia Moro, Chair of the Rogue Valley Transportation District Board. Panelists include RVTD rider Stacy Matern; Linda Peterson Adams, Chair, City of Ashland Transportation Commission; Sara Wright, Transportation Program Director for Oregon Environmental Council; Paige West, Associate Planner, RVTD; Karyn C. Criswell, ODOT Public Transportation Division Administrator; and Amanda Peitz, Manager, ODOT Climate Office. [Click here to register](#).

V. Invitation to Collaborate: Our 2021 strategic plan

- **Goal 1: ADVOCACY.** We will work with the city to increase climate funding and climate action progress in Ashland’s 2021-2023 biennial budget, city master plans, updates to the climate plan, and matters coming before the City Council.
- **Goal 2: EDUCATION.** Through Spotlight in the *Ashland Tidings*, Zoom Spotlight Conversations, and a community survey on local climate action and attitudes, we will provide education and information on local climate issues and opportunities for action. When appropriate, we will provide education, information, and advocacy to complement the climate priorities of the city, the Climate Policy Commission, and the Conservation and Climate Outreach Commission, and others.
- **Goal 3: ORGANIZATION.** We will support development of local working groups focused on important local climate issues. We will form an Action Team of those interested in participating in local climate advocacy opportunities.

Please feel free to contact ACAP Chair Lorrie Kaplan at lorrie@socan.eco or 240-676-0040 to discuss how we can best work together to achieve the goals and strategies for city operations,

public commissions, and the community at large, as laid out in the Ashland Climate and Energy Action Plan.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continued climate progress in 2021.

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PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release
DATE: January 25, 2021
CONTACT: Lorrie Kaplan Chair, SOCAN-Ashland Climate Action Project; lorrie@socan.eco (240) 676-0040



Transit Equity Day 2021: State of Transit Equity in Oregon and the Rogue Valley

Hosted by the [SOCAN-Ashland Climate Action Project](#)

Thursday, February 4, 7-8:30pm via zoom

Show your strong support for clean and equitable public transit for all by recognizing Transit Equity Day on February 4. Held annually on Rosa Parks' birthday, Transit Equity Day highlights the rights of all people to high-quality public transportation run on clean renewable energy.

In honor of the event, the Ashland Climate Action Project of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN-Ashland) will host a panel presentation with state and regional transit officials and clients on February 4 from 7-8:30pm. **"Transit Equity Day 2021: State of Transit Equity in Oregon and the Rogue Valley," will be held via zoom.**

Moderated by Tonia Moro, Chair of the Rogue Valley Transportation District Board, the panel will probe questions such as: Do our transit systems support equity in the rights of all to access employment, education, medical services, and groceries? Do they protect public health by minimizing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions? What progress can we take pride in and how can we create a more equitable and cleaner transit future for Oregon and the Rogue Valley? Panelists will include RVTD client Stacy Matern; Linda Peterson Adams, Chair of the Ashland Transportation Commission; Paige West, RVTD Associate Planner; Karyn C. Criswell, ODOT Public Transportation Division Administrator; and Amanda Pietz, Director, ODOT Climate Office.

Additionally, RVTD will celebrate Transit Equity Day 2021 by reserving a front seat on all its buses for Rosa Parks from Saturday January 30 - Saturday February 6. The sign, which features a picture of Ms. Parks riding a bus, reads, "In honor of Rosa Parks, RVTD is reserving a seat at the front of the bus." Valley residents are encouraged to show their appreciation for Rosa Parks on February 4 by waving signs (or just waving) from the sidewalk along RVTD bus routes. While residents can take this action from any sidewalk along a bus route, Ashland residents are encouraged to fan out from the Plaza at 12 noon to show their solidarity.

[Click here to register](#). After registering, you'll receive a zoom link to attend the meeting.

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