



Safe Parking Project

Public Information Meeting, November 4, 2021

Questions and Answers

Panelist Questions

Q. Why is there such urgency to move people off Ensign Rd.?

A. Ambulances arriving to Providence St. Peter have two main entrances: Martin Way/Ensign Road and Lilly Road/Ensign Road. Martin Way growth has continued, and many ambulances are re-routing to Lilly Road due to safety concerns (longer route to the Emergency Room from downtown Olympia). Intercity Transit has also discontinued service on Ensign Road due to safety concerns. With unhoused individuals living on the street, at times on both sides, this causes safety concerns on a street meant to be clear for emergency access.

Q. There are more than 15-20 vehicles on Ensign Road so is moving this small group really going to help?

A. Although the long-term plan of clearing all of Ensign Road to allow two main entrances into the hospital for ambulances is ideal, the short-term plan will clear upper Ensign Road allowing one safe passage to be cleared. Clearing Ensign Road from Lilly Road to Woodard Creek will allow safe entrance to other businesses and mainly, the hospital that includes ambulances, our supply trucks, patients, visitors and most importantly, staff.

In addition to improving access to St. Peter's and other medical providers, relocating 15-20 vehicles would also likely improve the safety, stability, and health of everyone currently living along Ensign Road and those who work, visit, or use services in the surrounding area.

Further, relocation to the new site would likely significantly improve the quality of life, safety, and stability of the residents relocating. Stability is essential for successful connection to essential services and permanent housing solutions.

Q. How will you ensure no one just moves back onto Ensign Road after you move these campers out? Will the City of Olympia be enforcing their parking rules?

A. The area where the vehicles will be moved off of is from Providence Lane up to Lilly Road. The City of Olympia will be installing new 'no parking' signage along with a barrier along the parking lane so people cannot park there. The city will also be monitoring this area on a regular basis to ensure it does not get re-established with additional RVs.

Q. Why did you choose this specific location? The county has property near the Thurston County jail and juvenile detention center, why not use that property instead?

- A.** Under the Regional Housing Council, more than 200 local government-owned properties were evaluated for their appropriateness for safe parking and other affordable housing/homeless services activities. This included looking at county-owned property near the Thurston County jail and juvenile detention center.

The county and city recognize that no site is perfect, and any proposed location will face opposition. The Martin Way and Carpenter Road site was chosen because it is the only viable site that can be reasonably used for this purpose in a cost-effective and time-sensitive manner. The benefits of the site are it doesn't require site prep work, is near a bus line and other resources, it is completely fenced, and the vegetation surrounding the site offers natural screening of the property. Also, the site is not in active use for other purposes.

We determined the sites near the county jail and detention center were not viable for multiple reasons, including that both sites would require substantial site preparation time and funding to address stormwater issues, grading, removal of shrubs and brush, adding lighting and fencing, as well as obtaining applicable permits for those activities. In addition, the location near active detention facilities would negatively impact the operations of those facilities, including impacting use of an access road by detention center staff used to transport juveniles in custody.

Q. What is the timeline for the project?

- A.** Thurston County Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) submitted an application under Thurston County's emergency housing ordinance on October 25 to the county's Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) department. The public informational meeting was rescheduled in order to comply with the county's Emergency Housing Ordinance timelines. CPED has 28 days to review the application.

The county drafted a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Olympia outlining the plan to address the vehicles on Ensign Road. The Board of County Commissioners delayed taking a vote on whether to sign the MOU until Tuesday, November 9.

For the Martin Way and Carpenter Road site, with site preparation, hiring of staff, and other logistics that need to happen before the site is occupied, the county is estimating a move in date of mid-December. If the application is approved, the temporary permit would allow the site to operate for 6 months. Any extension beyond a 6-month timeframe requires additional project review and approvals.

The second phase of the project involves a joint effort between the county and City of Olympia to purchase a piece of property in Olympia for a long-term temporary solution for up to 50 vehicles. The county and city anticipate completing the

purchase and preparing that site for vehicles to be completed around June or July of 2022. There is no guarantee or promise that this project will not extend for a few months beyond the 6-month timeframe, but this is the timeframe the jurisdictions have committed to strive for in the MOU.

There is no intention to move additional vehicles to the Martin Way and Carpenter Road site after this first phase of the plan is complete. Any future use of the property would need to go through the applicable permitting processes before any new activity could occur.

Q. What will this cost and how will it be paid for?

A. While final budgets are being prepared as specific needs are determined to prepare the site, the estimated total cost to prepare and operate the site for 6 months is close to \$400-500,000. The largest cost is the cost of staffing the site 24/7, but this also includes funding for hygiene, potable water and garbage services, as well as cost to prepare the site.

Providence Hospital has provided a grant of \$100,000 to help defer the costs. For the remaining costs, the county intends to use one-time funding it received under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Q. Who is determining who will move to this site and what is the criteria?

A. OlyMAP, as the organization responsible for facilitating site operations, will also be largely responsible for determining who will move to this site. However, the county does have a final say over who may or may not relocate to Martin Way and Carpenter Road site.

The four core criteria prospective residents must meet in order to be considered eligible to move to the site are:

- Must be currently living in an RV or vehicle along Ensign Road
- Must be at least 18 years of age or older
- Must be willing to sign and abide by the site's Code of Conduct/Community Agreements
- Must not be registered as a Level 2 or Level 3 sex offender

As there are more people living along Ensign Road than can relocate to the new site and more than 18 people who would meet the above criteria, OlyMAP will be prioritizing people for the limited spaces who:

- Are elderly
- Have high medical vulnerability or are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19
- Have high vulnerability due to other factors that may reasonably be mitigated at the new site
- Are currently working with our Ensign Road case managers, who will be relocating to the new site
- Are at high risk of displacement due to their location along Ensign Road

- Already share community with others along Ensign Rd with visions, values, and commitments that align with those of this new site

OlyMAP is committed to doing everything they can to ensure the success of this project while also minimizing any potential negative impacts.

The people who will be relocating to the new site will be people they know, many of whom they have worked with for a long time. OlyMAP is confident that people who will be moving to the new site will share its commitment to making this temporary community as healthy, stable, and as safe as possible.

Q. What rules do people have to follow to be in this site? What happens if they do not follow the rules?

- A.** In order to be considered eligible to become a resident of this temporary site, all prospective residents will need to sign a Code of Conduct Agreement and will be expected to abide by that agreement for the duration of their stay.

The Code of Conduct is made up of five agreements. Those five agreements are:

1. Take responsibility for yourself & your belongings. Take pride in your space and keep it tidy!
2. Use of any illicit drug/substance on site is prohibited.
3. Act safely and don't use violence.
4. Use the appropriate restroom facilities (if a resident's personal restroom is not operational or able to be pumped appropriately, they will be required to use the designated restroom facilities on site).
5. Respect and protect the space, each other, the belongings of others, and the neighborhood (no theft, destruction of property, not disturbing neighbors, etc.)

Additionally, residents with pets will be responsible for ensuring their pets are under control at all times. There will also be a designated area for pets to relieve themselves and expectations around managing pet waste.

OlyMAP will have a minimum of two staff on site at all times. Those staff, as well as residents on site, will be responsible for facilitating adherence to the community agreements. These staff will also be responsible for safeguarding the site's security, monitoring the entrances and exits 24/7, and ensuring people are not coming onto the site without permission.

Specific accountability measures in response to violations of the Code of Conduct will depend on variables such as which rule was violated and the severity or frequency of the violations. For example, accountability measures may range from requirements to sign behavior agreements, temporary loss of specific privileges, and up to expulsion from the site.

Q. How will sanitation and hygiene be handled at the site?

- A.** The county and City of Olympia have an interlocal agreement on sanitation services. There will be two, seven-yard dumpsters for solid waste which will be serviced as needed but no more than twice a week. Portable toilets will be on-site, including an ADA toilet. Potable water will be available on-site and provided by City of Olympia.

As per the Code of Conduct agreement, if a resident's RV septic is not operational, the resident will be required to use the appropriate toilets. If they have a septic operational RV, they may use their own vehicle toilet facilities and will take them to get dumped, as needed.

OlyMAP staff on-site will also be responsible for supporting maintenance and cleanliness of on-site sanitation and hygiene facilities.

Q. What stops you from moving in a new group of people to this site after this group moves to the Franz-Anderson site?

- A.** The Emergency Housing Ordinance only provides a permit for six months, it is a temporary use permit. Any future use would have to be a separate application process to use the site.

Q. We received multiple questions about enforcement because of a fear of increased crime. So, if crime increases in the area, how will the Thurston County Sheriff's Office support the community and business members?

- A.** The Thurston County Sheriff's Office said the number one priority of the Sheriff's Office is public safety to include residents, businesses, community members, and those living on-site. The Sheriff's Office will respond to calls and complaints in accordance with office policies. Response will be based on call priority and availability of personnel. They will monitor calls and adjust response, as needed.

Q. What are the next steps?

- A.** The application was submitted to Community Planning and Economic Department (CPED) on October 25 with an updated site plan submitted on October 29. The applications development was a collaboration with the Regional Housing Council (RHC), the RHC Technical Team, City of Olympia, and OlyMAP. The application is currently in active review and PHSS expects to hear if the application was approved or denied after the 28-30 day approval process. Should the application be approved and PHSS receives support from the Thurston County Board of Commissioners, PHSS will move forward with the site, or halt work, after they receive the response from CPED. The first milestone was the application, second is the public information meeting, and now PHSS is waiting for the response to the application.

Participant Q&A

- Q. What about the large empty parking lot at a place like Shopko or over to the brewery property?**

- A. The 200 properties looked at were public properties, not private properties. Olympia has tried to pursue multiple commercial properties to no avail. That is not what people generally use their commercial property for and the city has yet to find a willing renter.
- Q. The Franz-Anderson Road site is part of what's commonly called 'The Jungle'. It is neither cleared of trees nor paved. How soon can you predict you'd be able to make it support RVs? How many people already living there would be displaced or moved to make room for the RVs, please?**
- A. The Franz-Anderson Road property is not what is considered within 'The Jungle'. It is a separate site. The site is mainly cleared but there is some site work needed. The City of Olympia expects to have the site acquired, prepped, and ready to move into within the 6-7-month timeframe.
- Q. Why are we not able to find a location in the City of Olympia these individuals can be relocated to? This would only require the city to change the allocation of their services already provided, rather than increase the workload of the Deputy Sheriff's and Lacey Fire.**
- A. There were more than 200 sites evaluated across the entire county to find what one is best established. The Carpenter Road site is fenced, has shrubbery to conceal the site, fits the criteria outlined for this project, and is the best location for this temporary solution. This is a regional issue. Not all of the RVs are from Olympia, they have come from all the cities within the county and across the region. Because this is a regional issue, the Regional Housing Council is working together to find a coordinated response.
- Q. Is there capacity at the Carpenter Road site to support moving RVs there from other locations? Could those two FTEs support more people?**
- A. PHSS worked with Thurston County Public Works and the fire marshal to determine capacity and based on the criteria, the number of RVs is pretty finite. Each of the vehicles must be separated by 20 feet to ensure emergency response vehicles can get between the vehicles. Based on fire code and other criteria, the maximum number allowed on the site is 18 RVs and they will only be coming from Ensign Road. OlyMAP will continue to provide ongoing support services to those continuing to live along Ensign Rd.
- Q. An employee of the medical facility across from the hospital spoke at the BoCC meeting Tuesday, November 2. She stated that their employees and customers feel unsafe coming and going. These buildings have security and many staff members. How will small neighboring businesses with only 1 or 2 staff members and no security feel safe?**
- A. Although the Sheriff's Office will not be allocating additional resources to the area, deputy sheriffs will assist and patrol as staffing allows. A crucial difference between the current state of Ensign Road is that Ensign Road is currently considered an 'unsanctioned' encampment that receives a few hours of outreach-based support per day, whereas this site would be a temporarily 'sanctioned' safe parking

community with staff on site 24/7 who would be responsible for maintaining site security, safety, and stability. This site would also have fencing, with gates closed at most times, and OlyMAP would be responsible for ensuring no one enters the site without the permission of site management.

Residents at this site would also be expected to abide by the Code of Conduct and community agreements. Violations of those agreements would result in accountability measures. The different circumstances and realities of unsanctioned and sanctioned camps have significant impacts on safety, stability, and security. This is especially true when a sanctioned camp has 24/7 staffing support available, as would be the case in this project.

Q. What is the zoning of this property in question?

A. The zoning is Open Space Institutional (OS-I)

Q. It appears this is on Mazama pocket gopher soils. Does the county have to perform a gopher review prior to RVs moving onto the site?

A. The 720 Carpenter site has been reviewed internally per BoCC approved gopher review protocols. The project site has a low likelihood of gopher occupancy due to the amount of impervious surfaces. The project is not proposing any ground disturbing activity or structures that require ground disturbance to be installed so does not require a gopher review. And, the project is proposing to locate vehicles, structures, etc. only on existing impervious surfaces.

Q. Will sexual offenders be on this site? Will there be ANY sex offenders on the site-any level?

A. Level 2 and level 3 sex offenders will not be allowed on the site as campers or visitors. Level 1 sex offenders would be considered eligible to apply. At this point, OlyMAP could not say whether or not any Level 1 sex offenders would be applying to move to the site. The prospective resident list will not be finalized prior to the approval to move forward with this project. It is also not OlyMAP's policy to complete background checks on people it provides services to through the Scattered-Site Pilot Project, so OlyMAP is not currently privy to the background histories of everyone who may apply/be eligible along Ensign Road.

If the Martin Way and Carpenter Road site were granted approval to move forward, OlyMAP would finalize the prospective resident list. At that point, it would be OlyMAP's policy to take reasonable and legal steps to obtain verifiable identification from prospective residents and OlyMAP may use verifiable identification to complete sex offender checks to determine whether or not the person would be eligible as a resident.

Q. Why haven't your partner churches offered to take on five campers per church? If they did, the problem would be solved.

A. OlyMAP does work with a number of faith-based partners across the county to provide supportive services and supplies to camp communities they work with. Faith-based partners in our community have stepped up many times to provide emergency or ongoing shelter to people who are unsheltered. A number of shelters in our community currently operate out of these faith-based communities. Unfortunately, at this time, the faith-based communities that we are partnered with are either at capacity or do not have the property to house or temporarily shelter people living in RVs.

Q. Why not install the barriers now, to make sure that safety for patients (who are also vulnerable people) is addressed immediately?

A. The barriers cannot be installed until the RVs are moved off upper Ensign Road as they will be installed in the parking lane to prevent future parking from happening in that area.

Q. The Ensign Road site is littered with trash. Is there a plan to deal with health hazards related to that and how will the management prevent the new site from becoming littered as well?

A. The City of Olympia holds the contract to host the litter cleanup and portable toilets on Ensign Road. OlyMAP and the city held a cleanup recently and the residents are working to keep the site clean. The new site will have 24/7 staffing support and the residents will be required to follow the Code of Conduct. One of the agreements within the Code of Conduct is to keep personal spaces clean and tidy. There will also be a dumpster on-site which will be emptied multiple times a week and OlyMAP will ensure residents have regular and consistent access to garbage bags and other cleaning supplies.

Q. Can you explain the specific accountability for site rules violations? How determined, why, who, etc? Would affected neighbors have input on that?

A. Accountability will depend on the rule violated. For example, if someone cannot keep their site clean, they will be required to sign a behavior agreement and clean their space by a specific date. If cleanliness continued to be an issue, accountability measures would also continue to escalate up to potential expulsion from the property. OlyMAP will be responsible for ensuring site safety and compliance with the Code of Conduct among residents, staff, volunteers, and visitors. Residents will also have the opportunity to be involved in developing and facilitating accountability measures. Residents want to be a part of creating a safe and clean space. If someone needs to be trespassed from the site, OlyMAP would contact the Sheriff's Office to help with enforcement. The Sheriff's Office will assist as they can and will follow laws that are in place.

Including the neighbors is critical to OlyMAPs engagement process and the success of the camp. OlyMAP will be reaching out to neighbors and welcomes input and involvement.

Q. Captain Johnson said that in cases where someone needs to be expelled, they would look at an eviction. Isn't there an eviction moratorium in place?

A. No. The statewide eviction moratorium expired on October 31, 2021.

Q. How many camp sites will there be at the Franz-Anderson site?

A. The site has a maximum of 50 sites due to fire codes and the useable area in the site. This is outlined in the proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the City of Olympia. The Olympia City Council approved the MOU on November 1. The Board of County Commissioners expect to vote on the MOU on November 9.

Q. So, what I'm hearing is, if someone from this RV park steals from me, they will just get removed and I won't get my property back?

A. OlyMAP would hold the residents accountable if one of them had taken property from a surrounding property owner. OlyMAP has worked with camp communities to facilitate the return of property in other camps. Theft is most often the action of one or few people and it is OlyMAP's experience that the majority of residents in camp communities take theft from the surrounding community seriously and are often interested in being involved in addressing that harm.

As stolen property can be sold or traded, it is not always possible to ensure the return of an item. However, if a resident of the site were to take property from a surrounding property owner, OlyMAP would work with the owner and the residents to do what is possible and appropriate to address that harm.

OlyMAP will manage the site as they are contracted to do, but they are not law enforcement and do not have that role. The Sheriff's Office confirmed they will investigate any crimes reported, including property theft.

Q. Will individuals with active drug addiction be on site? Will individuals with serious persistent mental illness with untreated psychosis be on site?

A. These are funds coming through the county that are required to follow federal best practices and the guidelines around what the funding can be used for. Best practices include not disqualifying anyone from a program because of a pre-existing condition such as drug addiction and mental illness. OlyMAP would be providing case management services on site, which could include connection to substance use and mental health support services, depending on the individual needs of the residents.

Though people will not be denied entry based on pre-existing conditions such as drug use or mental illness, all residents will share the same responsibility to abide by the Code of Conduct/Community Agreements for the duration of their stay.

Q. If this is denied, what will happen to the people on Ensign Road?

A. OlyMAP will continue to provide services to people living along Ensign Road through the Scattered Site Pilot Project and will serve these individuals no matter where they are located. That said, if this is denied, the City of Olympia will need to find another alternative. Finding a solution is an absolute. The goal is to get people to the longer-

term site at Franz-Anderson Road and that work will continue regardless of this decision.

Q. How many individuals will live in each RV?

A. That will be dependent on the RV but there are currently no RVs on Ensign Road with more than 3 and the current campers being looked at there are 1-3 residents per RV. There will not be more than 25 people at the site.

Q. The person just mentioned an updated site plan was submitted. Can you explain what change was made from the original site plan.

A. The changes include the change to stormwater needs due to stormwater already being addressed, this allows for more RVs. With the removal of the 20ft stormwater buffer, they RVs moved from diagonal to horizontal so this will fit three to five more RVs. There is already a concrete pad so they location of the staff has been moved to that pad. This makes it so there isn't a need for site upgrades.

Q. Based on the estimated cost of \$450,000 for the timeframe, that equals over \$4,100.00 per month to provide the parking spaces. Is it a good value to park each RV for a cost of over \$4,000.00 per month each?

A. For any project serving the houseless 24/7, staffing to safety, costs a significant amount for staffing. It ensures line of site, oversight, and addressing conflicts.

Q. Are the funds for this effort in the county budget? Was anything cut to free up the funds?

A. There were no budget cuts for this. The county is using ARPA funds which the county set aside \$5-8 million in ARPA for this type of work. The funds for this will come from that set aside.

Q. What about all of the homeless encampments all over and constantly causing fires and violence? Is this being addressed?

A. The homeless service providers across the county are working with houseless individuals to get people into the services they need. It is a collaborative, coordinated effort at is pertains to housing. The City of Oly homeless response coordinator is also working with the county on the scatter-site program. Case management is an active part of the work they are doing to get people served and housed. This is a huge problem, much bigger than one jurisdiction can solve. Jurisdictions need support from the state. It's straining resources but the goal of the coordinated approach is to serve humanely and provide support across the county.

Q. How come we were not formally notified about the MOU vote this past Tuesday?

A. All Thurston County Board of Commissioner meeting agenda packets are posted to the website two weeks in advance. The Commissioners discuss all agenda items the Tuesday of and Tuesday prior to each commission meeting at their 9am Agenda Setting meetings. You can find all agendas at:

<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/bocc/Pages/agendas.aspx>

Q. Why no panel representation, input, or response from the City of Lacey tonight on this plan?

A. The City of Lacey was asked to participate and chose not to send a representative to the panel meeting.

Q. If a resident is expelled or merely leaves, where will they go, and will they be allowed to set up camp in Lacey?

A. OlyMAP would do what they can to connect them to another shelter or camp location, but cannot guarantee where they would land or if there would be somewhere else for them to go. We have a shortage of hundreds of shelter beds in our County and only one legal place where people without access to indoor shelter can shelter themselves outdoors.

Q. The president of Thurston County Deputy Sheriff's Association testified at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday that their union is opposed to this project. Does this view represent the sheriff's office as a whole?

A. The comments made at the BoCC meeting were the opinion of the TC Deputy Sheriff's Association President. Sheriff Snaza has expressed his opinion of the project in the past but if the commissioners chose to move forward with the project, the Sheriff's Office will do their job and ensure public safety.

Q. Why do you have administration from the hospital on this panel, but no community representation? If these people are as dangerous as Darin says, why would you put them feet from 3 children's dance schools, a karate studio, and school bus stops. What about the safety of our children?

A. The intent of the public informational meeting was to provide information about the project including the collaboration with the City of Olympia and Providence, as well as the need of the site and the plan for operations.

The Sheriff's Office takes the safety of all citizens seriously. If there is a problem that arises that poses a threat, please call 9-1-1 and a deputy will respond.

Q. Does OLYMAP have experience operating a security operation?

A. OlyMAP is a social service organization providing case management and site support services to people living in vehicles/RVs and at outdoor encampments. OlyMAP currently provides these services to three of Thurston County's larger camp communities through the county's Scattered-Site Pilot Program. OlyMAP's experience providing these services to people living in these circumstances precedes the Scattered-Site Pilot.

OlyMAP does have experience in supporting camp communities with site security. However, the Martin Way and Carpenter Road Temporary Safe Parking Community would be considered a sheltering and services operation. While it would be OlyMAP's responsibility to ensure security and safety at the Martin and Carpenter

Temporary Safe Parking Community, security would only be one of many aspects of OlyMAP's role as the facilitator of site operations.

Q. I'm sure they come from other states too. Are they required to have current license and registration?

A. No, they will not be required to have license and registration. The number one reason for this is that what many, if not most people experiencing homelessness, need help obtaining identification. In fact, that is a primary function of case managers for youth and young adults, families with young children, and single adults experiencing homelessness. An ID is often the most crucial and initial step towards stabilization. Without an ID, a person cannot obtain housing, a job, etc. The probability that someone experiencing homelessness has had their ID stolen, lost, or ruined is significant. Obtaining these items for those who do not have them will be a function of OlyMAP staff members.

OlyMAP staff will also be able to assist residents with obtaining licenses and registration, once they have the other needed documentation.

Q. If these residents have been determined the most vulnerable and OlyMAP has been working with them for months and months, can you confirm all will be background checked using their legal ID and not just a name given?

A. Please see above answer regarding ID. There are many factors that can make obtaining a replacement ID difficult. Also, while OlyMAP may be using verifiable ID to complete background checks for prospective residents of the Martin Way and Carpenter Road site, it is not OlyMAP's policy to complete background checks on people they provide services to through the Scattered-Site Pilot. As such, they are not currently privy to the background histories of everyone living along Ensign Road.

Q. I counted 55 vehicles today on Ensign Road, of which some 40 were RVs. What is the plan for the rest?

A. Any vehicles unable to move to the proposed Martin Way and Carpenter Road Temporary Safe Parking Community will continue to remain along lower Ensign Road, for the time being. OlyMAP and the City of Olympia would continue to provide case management, site support, and hygiene/garbage/health support to people living there through the Scattered-Site Pilot Program. Again, the long-term plan is to relocate all RVs located on Ensign Road to the future Franz-Anderson Road site.

Q. Thank you for all the detailed information. As an adjacent property owner, who would we work directly regarding traffic concerns between the two properties?

A. Traffic enforcement at the intersection of Carpenter Road and Martin Way is enforced by two jurisdictions. East and North are enforced by the Thurston County Sheriff's Office and the South and West are enforced by the Lacey Police Department. Individuals don't need to know which one to call. If there is a problem,

please call 911 and the appropriate law enforcement agency will be dispatched to handle your call.

OlyMAP on-site staff would be the best people to work directly with on a day-to-day basis. Neighbors would have the direct contact information for our staff. Staying in close communication with neighbors will be a primary responsibility of the project's Site Support Coordinators and program administrators.

Q. Is the reason you use this format because you can't look us in the eyes?

A. The Emergency Housing Ordinance requires the sponsoring agency (Thurston County Public Health and Social Services - PHSS) hold a public information meeting to provide information about the proposed project and seek questions from surrounding businesses and property owners. A letter was sent to property owners within 1000 feet of the business on October 20 announcing the public information meeting and asking for questions to be submitted in advance of the panelists to answer. The county also sent a news release to local media, posted the information to the Regional Housing Council website, posted to the Thurston County homepage, and shared on social media. Due to COVID concerns and the current declared health emergency, the determination was made to hold the meeting virtually and accept questions in the chat as well as post answers to the questions after the meeting. The meeting was recorded and can be found at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pej7Fh21Wyk>

Q. If they violate the rules and leave, then will they park along Carpenter with no ramifications? How will you stop random parking along that road and enforce it?

A. The Sheriff's Office will evaluate the situation and enforce parking law violations when applicable, within our jurisdiction, and in accordance with the laws.

Q. How can you move forward in good conscience with this plan with our local (Lacey) law enforcement telling you that they are unable to respond in a timely fashion to incidents that take place in the area surrounding your RV lot?

A. This site is not within the City of Lacey's jurisdiction as it is located in unincorporated Thurston County. The Thurston County Sheriff's Office is the responding agency.

Q. I have a concern that this facility will draw campers to the wooded areas nearby within a mile radius of the facility, which possibly could be Lacey - how will this be addressed?

A. OlyMAP would be onsite 24/7 to observe what is happening in and around the site. OlyMAP staff may assist with outreach to people who camp in wooded areas nearby Carpenter Road to inform them of the concerns, any potential consequences/outcomes, and referrals to services.

However, OlyMAP is not an enforcement agency and would assume that camping in these areas would be responded to the same way it is responded to currently, by the

appropriate authorities. OlyMAP would need to rely on enforcement agencies such as crisis response, and law enforcement to take care of any enforcement actions.

Q. You stated that drug and alcohol use is prohibited onsite. Won't this encourage residents to go to nearby neighbors and businesses and do it?

A. While we cannot predict how each individual may respond to the community agreement, it is always important to consider a potential impact of banning drug/alcohol use in certain areas may be people choosing to use drugs or alcohol in other areas that may be considered inappropriate or unlawful. That said, treating neighboring businesses and the surrounding area with respect is also an agreement within the Code of Conduct. Using drugs or alcohol in a way that impacts a neighboring business would be considered a violation of the Code of Conduct/Community Agreements and OlyMAP would respond accordingly.

Q. How will you handle potential drug use in the RV lot and paraphernalia littering the surrounding area? Is there also a screening measure for the visitors they will have?

A. Safety is of the highest priority for everyone involved in this proposed project. OlyMAP supports safety and stability through service connection, harm reduction practices, and setting consistent boundaries and expectations. Drug use on site would be prohibited per the site's Code of Conduct/Community agreement. All prospective residents would be required to sign the Code of Conduct agreement prior to moving onto the site and would be expected to abide by that agreement for the duration of their stay.

Drug use on site would be considered a violation of the Code of Conduct agreement and would be responded to with the appropriate accountability measures- ranging from the requirement to create and sign a behavior agreement up to expulsion from the site.

Not littering is another agreement within the Code of Conduct. Residents and OlyMAP staff will be responsible for ensuring the area is free of litter and paraphernalia.

OlyMAP's Visitor Screening Policy:

- All visitors to the site must be invited and accompanied by a resident or OlyMAP staff or volunteer.
- Residents, staff, or volunteers will be required to receive their visitors at the entrance to the site.
- Those who invite a visitor to the site are responsible for that visitor and their actions or behaviors at the site.
- All visitors must read through the site Code of Conduct with an OlyMAP staff or volunteer and sign an agreement to abide by the site Code of Conduct, prior to being permitted to enter the site.

- If a visitor violates the Code of Conduct agreement (including the requirements in this section), they may lose their privilege to visit the site permanently or until:
 - OlyMAP and the residents create an accountability plan for the visitor and the resident who invited them, and
 - Both the visitor and the resident who invited them will sign and agree to the accountability plan
- OlyMAP will take reasonable and legal steps to verify identification of and visitors and overnight guests.
- OlyMAP may use verifiable identification of visitors or overnight guests to complete sex offender and warrant checks. If said warrant and sex offender checks reveal either an existing or outstanding warrant from any jurisdiction in the United States for the arrest of the individual who is the subject of the check or that the subject of the check is a sex offender, required to register with the county sheriff or their county of residence pursuant to RCW 9A.44.130, then OlyMAP may deny the visitor/guests permission to visit the site.

Q. What if residents perpetrate crimes in the community? Will they be expelled?

- A.** OlyMAP and other partners in this project are committed to doing everything possible to support the success of this project and to minimize any potential negative impacts. OlyMAP is confident prospective residents will also be committed to supporting a safe and stable space.

One of the community agreements in the Code of Conduct is to “Respect and protect the space, each other, the belongings of others, and the neighborhood (no theft, destruction of property, not disturbing neighbors, etc.)” Certain crimes committed in the surrounding community may be considered a violation of this community agreement and would be responded to as such. Whether or not the person were to be expelled would depend on the nature of the crime and whether it could reasonably and legally be considered a violation of the Code of Conduct agreement.

If a resident of the RV community commits a crime and it is reported, the Thurston County Sheriff’s Office will investigate the crime and take appropriate action within Office policy and in accordance to the law.

Q. What if the campers refuse to leave at the end of the six-month period?

- A.** At this point, the plan would be to transition people from the Temporary Safe Parking Community at Martin Way and Carpenter Road to another safe parking site. Any refusal to move in that case would be unlikely.

In the case that someone did refuse to leave upon closure of the site, the appropriate authorities would be responsible for any enforcement actions. OlyMAP

would be able to assist with service connection, limited de-escalation, and facilitation/communication support.

Q. If there are murders on the site like what we have seen in Olympia homeless camps, will it be shut down?

A. As the site is on county property, should there be violence at the site, the county will make a determination on whether it will be closed or remain open for the temporary, six-month duration.

Q. What do you have in place now to provide neighbor input, business or residents?

A. OlyMAP welcomes any input or feedback from neighbors, businesses, or residents. Tye Gundel is OlyMAP's contact for the project. You may reach her by sending an email to tye@olympa.org. Communication with neighbors will be a high priority for OlyMAP and outreach to neighbors is an expected and regular part of the sites' operations.

Q. If you cannot exclude residents for "certain conditions" per Federal Regulation and best practices, then how does that reconcile with code of conduct?

A. All residents will be required to agree with and abide by the code of conduct regardless of certain conditions. If they cannot abide by, or refuse to abide by the code of conduct, they may be expelled.

Q. Will the campers be required to wear masks at all times since it is public property?

A. Unless reasonably excused, residents would be required to wear masks when sharing community spaces with others and when interacting with OlyMAP staff and volunteers.

Q. How will the environmental impact be mitigated from vehicles that might leak hazardous materials? Would the lot meet the requirements for impervious surface?

A. OlyMAP staff would support residents in mitigating any leaks. For example, OlyMAP may take temporary measures to minimize the impact of the leak and connect the resident with OlyMAP's mobile mechanic to fix the leak.

Q. What, if anything, is being done to include current residents of the Ensign Road encampment to ensure their voices are heard?

A. OlyMAP staff are in regular communication with people living along Ensign Road and have been communicating developments in this project to them since conversations first began. OlyMAP is also relying on those conversations to obtain feedback from residents and is passing along what is shared to others involved in the proposed project.

Residents of Ensign Road, particularly people who would be considered eligible to move to this site, would greatly appreciate any opportunity to be involved in developing and moving forward with this project. Outside of communication with outreach workers, there are currently limited ways for people living along Ensign Road to communicate feedback about this project.

Q. Will only the residents of the camp be allowed in the camp?

A. Yes. However, visitors will be allowed, within the parameters of the Code of Conduct, Community Agreements, and site visitor policies. Visitors will be permitted on site between the hours of 9am-10pm. Please see above for further details regarding OlyMAP's proposed visitor policies for this site.

Q. Will there be shower facilities?

A. No.

Q. Please clarify the number of residents in total.

A. The site is set up for 13-18 vehicles, so 20-25 residents in total.

Q. Who at the county will be the Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead?

A. For erosion, sediment, and stormwater control questions, contact Thurston County Public Works at 360-867-2300.

Q. Since state and local authorities have purview over finding or building affordable housing, why are funds available being diverted to "the right to shelter and maintenance" (proven to waste the vast majority of funds currently spent-NYU.edu) instead of "the right to housing"?

A. Thurston County, working through the Regional Housing Council, is dedicating resources to create more affordable housing. However, there are insufficient resources to create the number of affordable housing units necessary in our community. Thurston County receives funding from the State and through document recording fees that are required to be used to support services for houseless persons, including for shelter.

Q. Why not enlist the help of organizations like Homes First, or provide subsidies for rent, wage reimbursement to hire homeless, training, etc instead?

A. OlyMAP and other homeless service providers in the Homeless Crisis Response System are actively engaged in partnerships with affordable housing developers and program services. Multiple strategies will be employed, however in order for those activities as listed to be successful, the participants need consistent, safe, and stable housing. Currently we have a significant deficit in all levels of affordable and low-income housing, a full shelter system, and no other immediate options for unsheltered households.

Q. How many of these people are actually from Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater?

A. All of the individuals currently living on Ensign Road are currently living in Thurston County.

Q. Will carpenter road be lined with no parking signs from Martin to Brittney Parkway?

A. Public Works' policy is not to install no parking signs unless PW has completed a sight line study to determine whether or not that will be needed. There has not been a study done on Carpenter Road at this time. If requested by leadership, PW will consider this study.