



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Kristin Lynett, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability *K Lynett*
COPIES: City Council, City Clerk and Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant to the City Manager
SUBJECT: Green Roads Community Resolution – July 8, 2014
DATE: June 18, 2014

SUMMARY:

Resolution to support the City Council's desire that its roads and other transportation facilities and infrastructure be models of environmental, economic and social stewardship, by setting goals for a Green Roads community standard of sustainable design, construction, and maintenance.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee (IPS) members: David Boe, Anders Ibsen, Ryan Mello, Lauren Walker.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

The following three priorities align with the adoption of a Green Road Policy and Program by creating models with environmental, economic and social stewardship:

- Foster neighborhood, community, and economic development vitality and sustainability.
- Plan for and improve public infrastructure that meets the transportation needs of all Tacoma residents and visitors.
- Encourage and promote an open, effective, results-oriented organization.

BACKGROUND:

This resolution supports the Tacoma Climate Action Plan, the Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Master Plan, and operationalizes the Complete Streets Guidelines. Green Roads is a practical tool to allow consideration and communication of informed and holistic design decisions.

The Sustainable Tacoma Commission, Transportation Commission and Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group were briefed on the draft resolution and support its goals. In addition, staff provided a presentation for the Master Builders Association. The Council's Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee reviewed the draft resolution on April 23rd and recommended it be sent to the full Council for consideration. Staff from the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability and the Public Works and Environmental Services Departments will work to develop a policy over the next year.

ISSUE:

Tacoma is a leader in the number of certified *Greenroads*. This resolution will strengthen that commitment as well as better operationalize sustainability in the City's planning, construction and maintenance of its roads.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City could continue to opportunistically pursue *Greenroads* certification for specific projects, and could continue to implement road construction and maintenance projects without that holistic framework and detailed checklist.

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff and the Sustainable Tacoma Commission recommend approval of this resolution to support the Council's Strategic Policy Priorities.



FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to setting the City's goals to achieve a Green Roads Community. Most construction costs for Green Roads projects are already part of the City's roads program. Depending on the project, stormwater infrastructure costs may be lower and a life cycle cost analysis is a required credit in the Green Roads program. Based on the fiscal impact and feasibility, staff can choose the specific credits that best fit their project as they strive to achieve the goals of *Greenroads* certification. For projects over \$5 million where the City seeks certification, there is a \$5,000 fee in addition to approximately a week of staff time for paperwork; however, the City could use the same criteria or seek an equivalent rating system if not fiscally feasible to obtain the *Greenroads* certification.