

CITY of TACOMA
TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP (TODAG)
MEETING NOTES

(Reviewed and Approved on 3/15/2021)

MEETING NO.: No. 14 (Special Meeting)

MEETING DATE: February 22, 2021

Members Present: Vice-Chair Don Erickson, Adam Cook (in place of Kim Bedier), Cathy Reines, Daren Crabill, Justin Leighton, Evette Mason, Janice McNeal, Kerri Hill, Laura Svancarek, Ryan Givens

Visitors: Maggie Moore (Puget Sound Regional Council), Tim Bates (Sound Transit), Tina Lee (Pierce Transit), Andrew Austin (Sound Transit), Matt Shelden (Sound Transit), Jennifer Kammerzell (COT/PW), Pat Beard (COT/CED), Liz Kaster (COT/PW), Christine Wolf (Port of Tacoma)

Staff Support: Brian Boudet (COT/PDS), Lihuang Wung (COT/PDS), BT Doan (COT/PDS)

ITEM 01: CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Don Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

1. The meeting notes of January 25, 2021 were reviewed.
2. No public comment.

ITEM 02: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. TOD Roundtable Series, Session #2 – “Regional and Local Policies”

- (a) Brian Boudet provided background context for the roundtable series.
- (b) Maggie Moore (Puget Sound Regional Council – PSRC) provided an overview of PSRC, its definition of transit-oriented development (TOD), and its role in TOD. VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy was presented, setting the context for TOD and leading to PSRC’s view on elements of planning for successful TOD.
 - i. The group members had questions regarding the population loss in the South Sound and the classification of the Tacoma Dome Station.
- (c) Tim Bates (Sound Transit) described Sound Transit’s perspective on TOD including elements of successful TOD, types of TOD, various aspects of TOD projects, as well as their equitable policy and housing approach.
- (d) Tina Lee (Pierce Transit) noted Pierce Transit as local transit provider with three modes of service. She also discussed Pierce Transit service area and long-range plan. Bus Rapid Transit system expansion was mentioned.
- (e) Brian Boudet (City of Tacoma) recapitulated main components of TOD, and explained the City’s growth strategy and coordination with transit agencies. Examples of TOD, both successes and challenges, in Tacoma were provided.

(f) When asked for the top three elements of successful TOD, Tina Lee specified coordination and access to transit, pedestrian amenities and connectivity. Tim Bates focused on the overall surrounding neighborhoods of the station, not just the station area. Maggie Moore agreed that the community in the neighborhood was important, also adding housing and commercial options. Brian Boudet put emphasis on integrated station design and diverse housing uses.

(g) The group discussed grant funding for stationary planning.

2. Sound Transit Program Realignment

(a) Matt Shelden (Sound Transit) provided an overview of Sound Transit projects during the pandemic and pandemic-related impacts. The realigning expansion plans portion explained revenue sources (most of which were affected by the pandemic), financial changes, and tools used to address the financial challenges.

(b) Criteria for realignment and projects subject to realignment were discussed.

(c) There were questions regarding catalyst projects and property acquisition, particularly in the Tacoma Dome station area.

3. TODAG Letter of Recommendation regarding Puyallup Avenue Design Project (2/2/21 Draft)

(a) Lihuang Wung explained background context for the letter, as well as timeline to move it forward.

(b) Jennifer Kammerzell provided updates from the Transportation Commission and next steps for the project.

(c) Changes in the current draft of the letter, compared to the last draft, were outlined.

(d) Laura Svancarek commented that it was important for the transit-only lane to be included in the design, which was mentioned in the draft letter.

(e) A motion was made to approve the final draft of the letter as provided in the meeting agenda packet. The motion was passed with eight votes in support and one abstaining.

4. TDLE Portland Avenue Station Area – Conceptual Diagrams and Feedback of Evaluation Matrix

(a) Lihuang Wung briefed the group on the feedback received from the evaluation matrix, and suggested that the group continued discussion on this subject.

ITEM 03: COMMUNICATION ITEMS

1. Tentative Agenda for Future Meetings:

(a) TOD Roundtable Series

(b) TDLE – Portland Avenue Station Area (Recommendation – Progress Report No. 2)

(c) Puyallup Avenue Design Project (Recommendation – Progress Report No. 3)

(d) Bus Rapid Transit Project

(e) Continued Review of ULI Report and Subarea Plans

(f) Quiet Zone Update

(g) TODAG Work Plan and Schedule

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.