

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

(Reviewed and Approved on 1/25/2021)

MEETING NO.: 12-2020
MEETING DATE: December 21, 2020

Members Present: Chair Imad Bahbah, Vice-Chair Don Erickson, Adam Cook (in place of Kim Bedier), David D’Aniello, Janice McNeal, Kerri Hill, Laura Svancarek, Rick Semple, Roberta Schur

Visitors: Sue Comis (Sound Transit), Eric Chipps (Sound Transit), Tina Lee (Pierce Transit), Deirdre Wilson (Port of Tacoma), Dana Brown (COT/PW), Josh Diekmann (COT/PW), Jennifer Kammerzell (COT/PW), Pat Beard (COT/CED), Mark D’Andrea (COT/PW), Liz Kaster (COT/PW), Sue O’Neill (COT/PW), Jennifer Halverson Kuehn (BPTAG)

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

ITEM 01: CALL TO ORDER

Chair Imad Bahbah called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

1. The meeting notes of November 16, 2020 were reviewed.
2. No public comment.
3. Laura Svancarek, a new group member replacing Amber Stanley to represent Downtown On the Go, introduced herself.

ITEM 02: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Debriefing / Take-away’s from Previous Presentations

- (a) Portland Avenue Station Area Roundtable
 - i. Vice-Chair Erickson expressed concerns about pedestrian safety on the Portland Avenue segment under the freeway overpass and advocated for a pedestrian bridge.
 - ii. The group discussed the pedestrian needs, ridership, and made comparison to the Northgate Link extension station.
 - iii. The two options for the station design were also discussed.

2. Bus Rapid Transit Project

- (a) Tina Lee (Pierce Transit) provided an update of the project, highlighting the enhancements that the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) would offer.
- (b) Branding concept, renderings of station designs, community outreach efforts, and the project timeline were presented, along with data on public transit service along the Puyallup Avenue.
- (c) The group had questions about the location, HOV lane usage, median station concept, and potential bus stop closure.

3. Puyallup Avenue Design Project

- (a) Mark D'Andrea (City of Tacoma – Public Works) presented an overview including the project schedule, grant summary, project goals, outreach strategy, feedback received, and lane structure alternatives.
- (b) To address parking concerns from the last discussion, parking analysis had been done and produced a number of options for the draft concept review.
- (c) The summary of the design criteria was explained in three segments – Neighborhood District, TOD District, and Industrial District.
- (d) Chair Bahbah endorsed the option to have parking on both sides of the street. The group was supportive of narrow lanes as a traffic calming measure, and discussed others.
- (e) Also discussed were the sidewalk treatment, pedestrian experience and safety on the sidewalks, and parking options.
- (f) The group provided concurrence for a draft letter supporting the project's scope of work with inclusion of comments made at this meeting. The letter would be prepared by the Chair, the Vice-Chair and staff, circulated to the group for feedback, finalized by the Chair, and forwarded to the Transportation Commission before its next meeting on January 20, 2021.

4. TODAG Meeting Schedule

- (a) Deferred due to meeting's time constraint.

ITEM 03: COMMUNICATION ITEMS

- 1. Jennifer Halverson Kuehn (Bicycle & Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG)) reviewed the letter from BPTAG to Sound Transit regarding Tacoma Dome Link Extension.
- 2. 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 6:21 p.m.