**Minutes**

**Joint Municipal Action Committee**

Friday, April 8, 2022

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Remote meeting via Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER**

 JMAC Chair Elizabeth Bonbright called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

**ROLL CALL - JMAC COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Bonbright, Chair, Tacoma Public Schools
Kristina Walker, Vice-Chair, City of Tacoma + Pierce Transit

Rosie Ayala, Metro Parks Tacoma

Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma

Marty Campbell, Pierce County + Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Ryan Mello, Pierce County + Pierce Transit
Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma

Korey Strozier, Tacoma Public Schools

**JMAC CHIEF EXECUTIVES**

Anthony Chen, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Shon Sylvia, Metro Parks Tacoma

Josh Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools

# **GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Carrie Wilhelme, City of Tacoma

Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma

Jennifer Kammerzell, City of Tacoma

Kacee Woods, City of Tacoma

Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma

Alisa O’Hanlon Regala, Metro Parks

Norinda Rosario Yancey, Metro Parks

William Bridges, Pierce County

Evan Koepfler, Pierce County

Penny Grellier, Pierce Transit

Linda Shilley, Pierce Transit

Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma

Sally Perkins, Practical Solutions

Andrew Strobel, Puyallup Tribe of Indians

Renée Meschi, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Evan Smith, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be accepted as-is; passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of March 11, 2022 be approved as-is; passed unanimously.

**POLICY FOCUS AREA PRESENTATION: *HEALTH AND SAFETY (Part 2)***

Carrie Wilhelme, Senior Transportation Planner with City of Tacoma Public Works, presented on *Vision Zero.*

* **Chair Bonbright** opened stating that JMAC partners should consider Vision Zero as a model for creating and supporting similar safety policies to improve community transportation and neighborhood safety within their agencies.
* **Ms. Wilhelme** presented on the City of Tacoma’s Vision Zero Council Resolution passed in 2020 with the goal to eliminate all traffic fatalities and serious injuries in Tacoma by 2035. This is a global initiative for increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all, as well as prioritizing vulnerable communities.
* Vision Zero is a “systems” approach which considers that traffic deaths are preventable while incorporating the element of human error, and that prevention systems are not expensive. This approach will provide an action plan for accountability and focus. It will also incorporate and strengthen the existing Safe Routes to Schools and Parks plan. It builds on a past Health-in-All policy from the Pierce County Health Department on their Neighborhood Road Environment strategies and their desired outcomes.
* Seattle and Bellevue have already invested significantly in the Vision Zero approach. The City of Tacoma is analyzing best practices from other agencies who have implemented this system and are taking note as to why it may not have worked in other states so the City can mitigate those lessons learned.
* The overall Vision Zero plan starts with commitment, then requires data analysis and discovery, then moves to creating an action plan/strategy (this is where Tacoma currently is in the process).
* Stakeholder feedback that was collected agreed that the “zero traffic deaths by 2035” goal may be difficult to reach, but they are happy we will have a goal.
* The data analysis phase consisted of reviewing intensive crash data over a five-year period in Tacoma where there were fatalities or seriously injured persons. The analysis did NOT include data on access-controlled roads (I-5, etc.).
* Key findings showed that the most fatal and serious crashes occurred at intersections on our arterials, particularly at two-way stops, as well as arterials in proximity to transit stops.
* The breakdown of fatal and serious injury crashes involved:
	1. Motorists driving straight and striking a pedestrian (22%)
	2. Motorists striking a fixed object (car, pole, etc.) (13%)
	3. Motorists crashing into another vehicle at an angle (12%)
	4. Alcohol related crashes (10%)
* Using this data, we prioritized the locations that have ‘high crash frequencies” by population. This information helps identify the use of grant funding and City improvement projects. The Higher-Risk Network map lists the corridors that have the greatest overlap of multiple modes of transportation and other amenities (parks, etc.).
* The result shows that Portland Avenue in Tacoma has greatest risk in Tacoma due to adjacency to parks, schools, rural Pierce County roads, tribal land, bike paths, etc. This area should be priority for transportation planning and “safe systems” grant opportunities.
* The Vision Zero program also includes a “Safe Speeds” element that will reduce speed limits to lessen traffic deaths. In June 2022, the City will propose an Ordinance to reduce speeds that are currently at 25 MPH down to 20 MPH on local roads and in neighborhood business districts. This initiative does not require a traffic study within City limits.
* In July 2022, the Vision Zero Action Plan should be completed.
* Ms. Wilhelme closed with a couple questions for JMAC:
	1. How have traffic fatalities and serious injuries impacted your communities?
	2. What do you see your agency’s role in supporting Vision Zero?

**Discussion:**

* **Marty Campbell, Pierce County Council Member,** shared that he agrees that Portland Avenue is very much a priority for the community as a main arterial with many traffic concerns, and he was wondering what actions are planned for that area. **Ms. Wilhelme** shared that the City’s Transportation Master Plan currently has Portland Avenue listed as bicycle corridor, which means that solutions may include reducing the road down one lane and installing protected bike lanes. The City has already completed several improvements on that corridor, but there may need to be larger improvements and hopefully this will change driver behaviors. **CM Campbell** shared that he would like to speak offline about the location of the First Creek School Zone crossing as it should be relocated to be adjacent to an intersection. He commented that there have already been fatalities due to its current location mid-block on Portland Ave.
* **CM Campbell** then inquired what the Vision Zero plan is for Highway 7/Pacific Avenue. **Ms. Wilhelme** shared that the City would need to work with the WA Dept of Transportation for safety improvements and speed reductions on this major arterial which is a designated state highway.
* **CM Campbell** also shared that street racing has eroded/destroyed the painted crosswalks on Portland Ave. at several intersections, and what is Vision Zero’s plan for quickly repairing these crosswalks to ensure the pedestrian safety infrastructure. **Ms. Wilhelme** replied that Public Works may be looking into changing the features and sizes of certain intersections to prevent the ability for street racers to take control of them.
* **Jennifer Kammerzell, Division Manager of City Transportation Planning** shared that the City is aware of the areas that are impacted by this issue, and our City shops are quickly available to repaint these crossings. It is known that a bigger solution is needed to address this problem.
* **CM Campbell** shared that further communication might be needed on the cost and resource impacts for these types of repairs to help people understand the importance and why it should be prioritized. CM Campbell thanked the City Transportation team on sharing this program and their leadership.
* **Ryan Mello, Pierce County Council Member** also thanked the City team for their leadership, and he shared some of the work Pierce County is doing on streets policy, road design and other safety improvements. He also has emailed legislative staff asking them to begin drafting a bill to implement a speed reduction policy without requiring a traffic study within the greater Pierce County limits.
* **Vice Chair Kristina Walker, Tacoma City Council Member** shared that she is so happy that we are focusing on this work. She asked if other types of agencies (non-municipality or county) can incorporate/become an official partner with the City of Tacoma Vision Zero initiative. **Ms. Wilhelme** replied that many cities and counties have adopted Vision Zero, but she is not aware of other organizations like school districts or parks departments adopting their own plan, and that they are typically a supportive partner with local municipalities/counties implementing the initiative.
* **Dr. Chen, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Director of Health,** commented that there is a need to also work with WA DOT on state highways. He also shared that governing agencies should examine the alcohol and marijuana access policies/laws that make the purchase of these products extremely easy which may increase the number of drivers under the influence. Lastly, Dr. Chen mentioned that the City of University Place studied the traffic impacts of Mildred Street and how they made improvements to the arterial without reducing the speed limit, and he asked if the City is considering these improvements in their Vision Zero program. He shared that no matter what road improvements are considered, they should be measured for how they will improve and/or harm the current business districts in the City.

*See attached PowerPoint presentation.*

**REVIEW AND REFLECTION: JMAC Process, Dashboard Creation, 2022 Calendar**

**Chair Bonbright** kicked off this agenda item by stating that several direct conversations have occurred over the past month with JMAC members to discuss these questions, and the Committee Chairs thought it would be beneficial to discuss them as a group.

**Vice Chair Walker** asked - ***What suggestions do you have to make our monthly JMAC meetings more accountable, impactful or engaging in process or content? Keep in mind the accountability piece is critical to capture.***

**Korey Strozier, Tacoma Public Schools Director** shared that he recommends assigning tangible action items to hold us accountable between meetings. They need to be clearly defined and agreed upon by the committee. An example is “Financial Literacy” -- What specific tools and programs do we need to put in place for our youth, and what tools do other agencies already have in place or are currently working on that we could incorporate into the School District’s program? Clear task assignment would help us come to consensus and keep us on track.

**Commissioner Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma,** shared her commitment to continuous communication with her Executive Leadership and fellow Commissioners on the Metro Parks Board on current JMAC goals and tasks, and that specificity and transparency will help with accountability and keep JMAC topics relevant for Metro Parks.

**Chair Bonbright** shared **Council Member** **Kiara Daniels’** feedback on this topic as **CM Daniels** could not attend today’s meeting. CM Daniels suggested something similar to a recommendation from **Commissioner Keller**. Her suggestion was to have a written action plan for each item with a definition from each agency as to their role and goals for each topic/area. An example would be to list Vision Zero and have each JMAC agency share their anticipated role for how they could support this initiative. Then at the end of each JMAC meeting share the collective next steps and have an accountability plan between meetings.

**Commissioner Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma,** agreed that all of the JMAC conversations are so rich, and in order to collectively manage/track the progress that we should create an action plan. This will bring visibility to each agency and help manage their roles and responsibilities.

**Commissioner Rosie Ayala, Metro Parks Tacoma** shared that to help align our work with the public and incorporate the feedback from the Summit of 60, she suggested to create an asset map for the different agencies to reflect the diverse hats we wear for the community.

**CM Mello** shared that JMAC has been successful in bringing the correct policy makers to the table, but that we also need to make sure key staff and stakeholders are also part of the conversation as they typically are the ones who implement the programs and who do the work. How do we ensure the correct staff are in the room and receive communications on JMAC goals?

**Chair Bonbright** moved to the next question - ***What are your hopes and goals for JMAC to accomplish this year?***

**Vice Chair Walker** reiterated that Vision Zero is her priority, and requests that agencies find a way to incorporate into this initiative. Additionally, the financial literacy program mentioned by **Director** **Strozier** is extremely important, so perhaps we create a list of items starting with these. Again, the specificity helps demonstrate to the public what JMAC has accomplished on these items.

**CM Mello** commented that he feels strongly that the JMAC collective focus should include a Health-in-All policy and actualizing an Equity Index/Map process individualized for each agency. This should be a priority for JMAC.

**Vice Chair Walker** asked the final question - ***How do you envision JMAC actively accessing and integrating community input/data into our collective thinking? Specifically, what other methods are being used to receive data for JMAC focus area/programs, and if you already have access to this type of data, where is it located so it perhaps can be shared more broadly.***

**Dr. Chen** shared that access to data is essential and that it should be shared at all levels of staff, and not just at the leadership or committee level.

**Commissioner Ayala** asked where everyone is receiving their data and are there gaps in types of data and who is receiving it. How do we bridge what information we are receiving and what is available to the community in order to be clear and transparent for the ease of our constituents to understand our agencies policy work?

**Vice Chair Walker** previously spoke to **Director Strozier** about this, and they agreed with **Commissioner Ayala.** How do we compile the list of what we have communicated and asked of the community in order to not duplicate efforts, but to also show gaps in data from community groups and opportunities for gathering more information?

**Chair Bonbright** shared some practical ideas she received from **CM Daniels**, who felt that the Summit of 60 was a wonderful way to connect and involve the community members. CM Daniels also suggested that this type of event should be held annually. It would also be a good idea to identify more opportunities on how the community can influence/contribute to the JMAC and our agencies goals so we can include them in our successes, and we are not working in parallel with them. How do we integrate and share data on the work we have already completed and information that already exists, and how can we gather examples of creative partnerships from different jurisdictions on how they have successfully accomplished this effort? Lastly, CM Daniels recommended the use of mixed media and videos to help with messaging and educating the public.

**Commissioner Ayala** added that showing the growth and development of JMAC over the years is important. It is vital to tell the “story of JMAC” and how each agency has committed to and prioritized this work. This “story” is also helpful for communication to onboard new staff members, new elected officials, the community, etc. as we will have already leveraged communications that we have previously created which will shorten the process time for staff to understand the significance of JMAC.

**Dr. Chen** mentioned that his organization is looking into creating “virtual communities” around Pierce County’s identified priorities. This helps with communication to these groups based on their individual availability as many aren’t available during business hours. The virtual communities also have the ability to provide data collection and indicators of key locations to communicate to the public where activities are occurring.

**Chair Bonbright** shared a Chat comment from **Evan Smith, TPCHD**: Perhaps JMAC could consider formally adopting resolutions where member agencies commit to implementing a specific policy/practice/program at their agency within a specific amount of time? Building off presentations received? Chair Bonbright thought that was an excellent suggestion and reminded the committee that they did commit to these policies, but maybe we need a deeper dive into what that looks like for each agency/board/committee.

**Chair Bonbright** also shared a Chat comment from **Commissioner Keller**: The Summit of 60 meeting really brought home to me the lack of trust our community has with its local governmental entities. Commissioner Ayala is correct about that concern. They want to see us "doing" rather than talking about "doing."

**STAFF WORKGROUP UPDATE-**

**Chair Bonbright** reminded everyone that **Hunter George, Metro Parks Tacoma** is the main point of contact for each agency to organize work groups on behalf of JMAC initiatives. Several smaller groups have been meeting to collaborate on these tasks. The goal is to try to leverage existing staff meetings/groups that are already assembling, and that seems to be working. A lot of activity is occurring as we speak, and many staff are engaged across the agencies.

**Shon Sylvia, Executive Director, Metro Parks Tacoma** shared that there are many cross-functional workgroups meeting on specific topics. One of their main focuses is to identify what work currently exists, ensure that there is no duplication of resources, and how to refine the work on the policy side. We are trying to identify what success looks like. This is a common topic in my meetings with **Superintendent Josh Garcia**. We evaluate what we have done this year, and how to hold ourselves accountable going forward. Coming up with a workplan linking assigned and defined action items is helpful. This is a great time to reprioritize and strengthen our JMAC assignments.

**Chair Bonbright** thanked everyone for all their valuable feedback and closed this agenda item asking us to look ahead to the 2022 Quarterly meetings with the CEOs, and how do we design these meetings to ensure the best cross collaboration on the JMAC topics.

**Vice Chair Walker** has committed to tracking all the JMAC meeting action items, expectations, and deliverables, and she will review them with the committee at the end of each meeting.

**CM Walker** then shared a wrap-up and actions for today’s meeting:

* Several JMAC members committed into looking into Vision Zero with their agencies.
* Members should give some thought over the next several months as to the public conversation and communication on why JMAC exists.
* Create an action plan for JMAC items and assignments based on members.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Bonbright called for public comment. No comments were provided.

**GENERAL COMMENTS BY JMAC**

Chair Bonbright called for general comments by JMAC members.

* **Commissioner Smith** reminded everyone that as we approach the summer months, incidents of youth violence may start to increase. Metro Parks offers a Teen Late Night once per month to offer activities for Tacoma youth. Metro Parks is asking for community support (this could include staffing and/or funding). Also, perhaps local businesses could sponsor a Teen Late Night, or JMAC may have other ideas to offer more of these youth events at other Tacoma locations with more frequency. **CM Campbell** asked what funding amount would be needed to hold these events every Friday at all three Metro Parks locations, as there may be funding that the County could provide, but they will need the information in the next couple weeks. **Alisa O’Hanlon-Regala with Metro Parks** shared they will provide this funding amount to Pierce County as soon as possible, and they are very appreciative.

**Chair Bonbright** thanked everyone who took the time to speak to the JMAC Chairs about the questions they presented today and for their personal conversations. She appreciates that each of the elected leaders are making JMAC a priority.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is a Quarterly meeting with Chief Executive Officers scheduled for Friday, May 13, 2022, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Bonbright adjourned the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

\**Minutes taken by City of Tacoma*