



MINUTES

(Approved on 11-20-2019)

TIME: Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Chambers, Tacoma Municipal Building, 1st Floor
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

PRESENT: Anna Petersen (Chair), David Horne, Christopher Karnes, Brett Santhuff, Andrew Strobel, Alyssa Torrez

ABSENT: Jeff McInnis (Vice-Chair), Carolyn Edmonds, Ryan Givens

A. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM CALL

Chair Petersen called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. A quorum was declared.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

The agenda for the meeting was approved; and the minutes for the meeting of October 2, 2019 was approved as submitted.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) Update

Andrew Austin, Sound Transit, began by indicating that, at this meeting, Sound Transit staff would provide a recap of the TDLE project, status update on Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), decisions made by the Sound Transit Board of Directors in July 2019 regarding EIS alternatives, and most importantly guiding principles for station design. They would also come back to the next meeting with more detailed updates on the preliminary station design and footprints.

Curvie Hawkins, Sound Transit, presented an overview of the TDLE's scope of work and timeline. They had gone through the scoping period and are in the Planning phase, specifically the Environmental Assessment process, which tentatively will go on until 2022. The scoping period for environmental review took place in Spring 2019. The goal is to complete the EIS draft and open for public comment in Spring 2021. Upon completing the Planning phase and receiving the Record of Decision from the Federal Transit Administration in 2022, the Design phase will proceed through 2025, followed by the Construction phase, with the goal of starting service in 2030. Regarding the preferred alternatives and other alternatives for EIS identified by the Sound Transit Board, Mr. Hawkins noted that the Board broke the entire TDLE alignment into two parts which were addressed with two respective motions, one focused on the Tacoma Dome area and the other for East Tacoma/Fife/South Federal Way area. The Tacoma Dome station area has three alternatives (one "preferred" and two "other"), all of which are elevated stations. There is also an additional alternative that Sound Transit is evaluating, called "Close to Sounder" alignment and station, which would follow the Sounder corridor as much as possible to minimize impact on front streets. The East Tacoma station area has two alternatives, one for each category.

Tim Bates, Sound Transit, reviewed the guiding principles for station design, which were developed largely based on feedback and suggestions received from the community, including the City Council's scoping comments transmitted via a resolution from June 2019. Three main categories for the guiding principles are development capacity, comfortable urban design, and great multi-modal transit hub. Mr. Bates also went over suggestions that they had received from different groups and committees.

Commissioner Santhuff was glad that the "Close to Sounder" option was included for consideration and praised the guiding principles. He also suggested adding a principle to consider how the station alignment would enable future expansion. Commissioner Karnes commented that, in consideration of quick and safe transfer, it was necessary to prioritize which mode to be best connected, and factor in its characteristics in the design.

Mr. Hawkins noted that at the next meeting, the names of alternatives would be different, most likely to reflect the street location of the station (such as "Portland Avenue") instead of being numbered (such as "ET-3A").

E. TOPICS OF THE UPCOMING MEETING

1. Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) Update
2. Pierce Transit Long Range Plan Update

F. COMMUNICATION ITEMS

The Commission acknowledged receipt of communication items on the agenda.

Brian Boudet, Manager of Planning Services Division, reported to the Commission that the Tideflats Interim Regulations were going through its renewal process. The second reading is scheduled to be on Tuesday, November 12, 2019.

The Tideflats Subarea Plan will have the next Steering Committee Meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2019. They aim to have consultants on board by the end of the year.

The Shoreline Master Program Update, which is part of the 2019 Annual Amendments and requires joint approval by both the City Council and the State's Department of Ecology, has been approved by the State.

Regarding the Affordable Housing Actions Strategy, the City Council gets quarterly updates, of which the next update will be at the Council meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2019.

The Sound Transit Board has approved \$3.5 million for the Hilltop Link Extension project, completing the \$10 million streetscape improvement project on Hilltop.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

****These minutes are not a direct transcription of the meeting, but rather a brief capture. For full-length audio recording of the meeting, please visit:***

http://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/committees_boards_commissions/planning_commission/agendas_and_minutes/