

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

*(Reviewed and Approved on 10/19/2020)*

**MEETING NO.:** 09-2020  
**MEETING DATE:** September 21, 2020

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**Members Present:** Chair Imad Bahbah, Amber Stanley, Cathy Reines, Chris Karnes, Daren Crabill, David D’Aniello, Evett Mason, Janice McNeal, Kerri Hill, Adam Cook (in place of Kim Bedier), Roberta Schur

**Visitors:** Ross Tilghman (Tilghman Consulting Group), Mark D’Andrea (COT/PW), Dana Brown (COT/PW), Keith Walzak (VIA Architecture)

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

**ITEM 01: CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Imad Bahbah called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

1. The meeting notes of August 17, 2020 were reviewed.
2. No public comment.
3. Discussion Protocol – Materials associated with the TODAG meetings are available on the [TODAG Website](#). Members are encouraged to review the materials prior to a meeting, especially when missing the previous one(s), to avoid repeating an issue that has already been discussed and be mindful of the allotted time for the agenda items.

**ITEM 02: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Debriefing of Presentations to City Council, Transportation Commission, and Planning Commission**
  - (a) Chair Bahbah informed the group that the City Council commended the TODAG for their overall effort and their work on the Progress Report No. 1. One notable comment was about the rider experience, which the group had discussed and included in the Design Principles.
  - (b) The City Council also discussed the importance of the station designs, their connection to the Tacoma Link, the ability of transit infrastructures to support development and vice versa.
  - (c) At the Transportation Commission meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>, a concern was raised about the need for more communication and coordination between the Commission and the TODAG.
  - (d) It was noted that the Planning Commission had reviewed the TODAG Progress Report No. 1 on August 18<sup>th</sup> and was in general concurrence with the report and the Design Principles; though, further planning would be required.
  - (e) For future reports, it was suggested the drafts be sent to both Commissions for feedback before publishing.
2. **Puyallup Avenue Design Project**
  - (a) Mark D’Andrea (City of Tacoma – Public Works) provided an overview of the project and its progress to date, along with the status of the Puget Sound Regional Council’s grant for the project and the input requested of the TODAG.

- (b) The removal of parking on the south side of Puyallup Avenue was discussed. Janice McNeal commented on the need of parking for nearby businesses. It was noted that the traffic volume in the Tacoma Dome district would require four (4) drive lanes and one (1) turn lane.
- (c) The project funding was also mentioned. It would be discussed in more detail at the following meeting in October.

### **3. Tacoma Dome District Parking and Access Report – Findings and Recommendations**

- (a) Ross Tilghman (Tilghman Consulting Group) presented the purpose of the Tacoma Dome Access and Parking plan, challenges, goals, and recommendations.
- (b) The feasibility of building parking structures on the Tacoma Dome parking lot was low because of the utility line under the parking lot. Partial structures were possible but unfavorable, due to high cost and low efficiency.
- (c) Dana Brown (City of Tacoma – Public Works) indicated that there were other options to address the parking need that could be incorporated into other projects. Also discussed were multi-use parking structures and their associated challenges.
- (d) Given the future completion of the Tacoma Dome Link Extension, the Link train could accommodate approximately 10-15% of the traffic volume generated by an event at the Tacoma Dome, relieving some parking demand.

### **4. TODAG Work Plan and Schedule for 2020-2021**

- (a) The TODAG would focus on three (3) projects – Sound Transit’s Tacoma Dome Link Extension, Pierce Transit’s Bus Rapid Transit, and Tacoma’s Puyallup Avenue Redesign. The meeting agendas would be scheduled to stay in line with milestones of the projects.
- (b) The 27 work items listed in the Progress Report No. 1 were categorized into Review Items, Action Items, and Staff/Consultant/Agency Activities.
- (c) There was discussion regarding a number of work items being under a different group/committee’s responsibility and items with no clear designated body in charge. Renaming of the third category (Staff/Consultant/Agency Activities) was suggested.
- (d) While developing recommendations for the three (3) main aforementioned projects, the TODAG would also discuss identity and wayfinding elements for areas under its review.

### **5. Acknowledgement of Anti-Racism and Social Equity**

- (a) The TODAG acknowledged the Anti-Racism Resolution (Resolution No. 40622, adopted on June 30, 2020) affirming the City Council’s commitment to promote anti-racism and social equity. The group would consider the resolution when making policy recommendations.

## **ITEM 03: COMMUNICATION ITEMS**

- 1. Tentative Agenda for Next Meeting (10/19/2020):
  - (a) Urban Land Institute (ULI) Report
  - (b) Puyallup Avenue Design Project
  - (c) TDLE Station Area Access Improvements

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.