

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

(Reviewed and Approved on 12/21/2020)

MEETING NO.: 11-2020
MEETING DATE: November 16, 2020

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

Visitors: Christine Wolf (Port of Tacoma), Phil Harris (WSDOT), Sue Comis (Sound Transit), Tim Bates (Sound Transit), Eric Chipps (Sound Transit), Tina Lee (Pierce Transit), Gary Knudson (Historic Tacoma), Keith Walzak (VIA Architecture), Dana Brown (COT/PW), Josh Diekmann (COT/PW), Jennifer Kammerzell (COT/PW), Pat Beard (COT/CED), Dan Pike (COT/PW), Mark D’Andrea (COT/PW), Liz Kaster (COT/PW)

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 4:06 p.m.

1. The meeting notes of October 19, 2020 were reviewed.
2. No public comment.
3. “Chat” Protocol – Chair Bahbah asked the group members to refrain from using the Chat function and verbally make their comments instead.

ITEM 02: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Debriefing / Takeaways from Previous Presentations

- (a) ULI Report
 - i. Vice-Chair Erickson commented on the importance of pedestrian amenities, wayfinding elements, and of having a masterplan.
 - ii. Justin Leighton made a clarification on his comment at the previous meeting and requested the notes to be modified.
- (b) Puyallup Ave
 - i. Chair Bahbah summarized two points to move forward in the recommendation – no net loss of existing parking along Puyallup Avenue between Pacific Ave and East D St, and pedestrian-oriented design along this street segment. Other group members concurred.
 - ii. Further discussion covered holistic parking approach, curbside delivery parking, and conversion of industrial lands to mixed-use centers.
- (c) Sound Transit Access
 - i. It was significant to have the Close-to-Sounder option included.

2. TODAG Meeting Schedule

- (a) The group discussed schedule and agenda items for upcoming meetings.
- (b) They planned to have a draft recommendation on the Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) – Portland Avenue Station Area by the meeting in January 2021.

3. Puyallup Avenue Design Project (Check-in)

- (a) Mark D’Andrea (City of Tacoma – Public Works) briefed the group on the project schedule.
- (b) The group was welcome to provide feedback in conjunction with that of the Transportation Commission by March/April 2021.
- (c) There was a question regarding potential reduction or restriction of new driveways on Puyallup Avenue.

4. Multi-Jurisdictional Roundtable: TDLE – Portland Avenue Station Area

- (a) Tim Bates (Sound Transit) provided an update on the project status, along with an overview of Portland Avenue station. Pedestrian/bike bridge options were presented for the station designs. It was noted that the bridge option was optional and no funding had been secured.
- (b) Andrew Strobel (Puyallup Tribe) discussed design considerations including concerns about pedestrian experience and parking. He expressed support for the Portland Avenue Station.
- (c) Christine Wolf (Port of Tacoma) provided context of the Port’s mission (trade-focused) and needs, indicating that they would like to ensure Portland Avenue remain an efficient and reliable corridor.
- (d) Phillip Harris (WSDOT) explained the concerns regarding pedestrian and bicycle access in the station area from the agency’s perspective.
- (e) Tina Lee (Pierce Transit) presented the number of routes going from and to the Tacoma Dome Station along with their frequency to demonstrate the high-frequent service provided. Pierce Transit was supportive of the Portland Avenue Span Station option as the bus stops would stay on Puyallup Avenue and enable the buses to quickly continue their trip in any direction. This option would also help riders safely pass Portland Avenue.
- (f) Josh Diekmann (City of Tacoma – Public Works) provided context information on policy guidance from the City’s Transportation Master Plan. He covered multi-modal requirement, crossing points, and pedestrian accommodation. Brian Boudet (City of Tacoma – PDS) recognized the significance of the area.
- (g) There was a request for supportive data to define Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).
- (h) Ms. Wolf described the pros and cons of the Portland Avenue Span Station option from the Port’s viewpoint. Mr. Harris also indicated no preference between the two options.
- (i) The number of daily riders on various transit services was discussed.
- (j) Assuming there would be no pedestrian bridge, the group discussed safety elements of the station options.

ITEM 03: COMMUNICATION ITEMS

- 1. Tentative Agenda for Future Meetings:
 - (a) TDLE – Portland Avenue Station Area (Recommendation)
 - (b) Puyallup Avenue Design Project
 - (c) Developers Focus Group
 - (d) CED Presentation
 - (e) TODAG Work Plan and Schedule for 2020-2021
 - (f) Quiet Zone Update

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.