Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (TOD Advisory Group or Group)
Summary Minutes: September 16, 2019


Meeting Facilitator: Keith Walzak, VIA-Architecture (City Staff Support: Ian Munce (Planning & Development Services))

- Meeting called to order at 4pm in Room 243 of TMB by Councilman Robert Thoms.
- Members commented on the chair / co-chair role. One proposal was that these individuals should represent the initial core study area - ST3 Central Link Extension to the Dome area. Walzak suggested the idea of small task force or sub-groups as a way to manage workloads.
- The Group felt they could postpone the chair/co-chair matter until a future agenda item and after the group is up to speed on the critical issues going forward and has gotten to know each other better. This item was deferred to the November agenda.
- The Group was interested in scheduling a work session at the October 21 regular meeting to help establish key priorities for the Committee.
- Members indicated that they were unclear as to the scope of the Group and the three priority areas and wanted to receive detailed briefing materials.
- The Group agreed to review the draft set of Guiding Principles and Participation Guidelines (submitted by Walzak) with a view to revisions and adoption at the October meeting.

**Action items**

Group members acknowledged the need to get up to speed quickly and set the stage for future discussions. Members requested the Agenda format include a Public Comment item as well as a category called ‘Hot Topics’. Members also discussed that a mechanism be included to help clarify items that may be ‘Open’ for advisory group input and ‘Closed’ items where no further discussion is required.

Members noted the need to clarify the definition of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and other terms (Heavy rail, Light rail, BRT, Multi-modal) and to be briefed on current zoning in applicable areas.

The Group asked that at their October presentation Sound Transit address:

- Purpose/Need and Background information of the Tacoma Central Link Extension
- Project Schedule
- What decisions have been approved by the ST Board regarding the ST3 Central Link Extension (i.e. alignments and station locations)
- What future decisions /milestones are immediate, and the timing for input from local jurisdictions.
Reference Links:
South Downtown Subarea Plan and EIS
https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/planning_and_development_services/planning_services/current_initiatives/south_downtown_subarea_plan_and_e_i_s

Tacoma Dome Link Extension
https://www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion/tacoma-dome-link-extension

The Urbanist
Sound Transit Embarks on Tacoma Dome Link Extension Scoping
April 17, 2018

Railway Age
Sound Transit breaks ground on Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension
November 21, 2018

Pierce Transit
https://www.piercetransit.org/brt

The Suburban Times
Sound Transit Board approves funding for Pierce County bus rapid transit
August 23, 2019

The Urbanist
Pierce Transit Weighs Bus Lane Options for Pacific Avenue BRT
April 3, 2018
https://www.theurbanist.org/2018/04/03/bus-lanes-considered-tacoma-brt-project/

City of Tacoma Community & Economic Development briefing Book for the ongoing Urban Land Institutes assessment of development opportunities in the Dome District
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1M9o7rCcAgRdXVGFlasg3VK_ZYs5PsouU

Members discussed the need to clarify the ‘D’ in TOD. Members acknowledged the need to understand how transit routes and station design may impact development opportunities and the need to view the alignment and station location through the lens of local businesses and residents.

Prepared By Keith Walzak and Ian Munce