



City of Tacoma

Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

To join by computer, click on the following link:

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To join by phone, call: +1 253 215 8782

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MINUTES

Monday, March 22, 2021

5:30-7:30 PM

I. Call to order, land acknowledgement, and approval of minutes

Chair Jennifer called the meeting to order at 5:35PM. Member Michael Dehner, Kristi Picio, Cadell Chand, and Kerri Hill was absent.

We gratefully honor and acknowledge that we reside on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People. The Puyallup people have lived on this land since the beginning of time. They are still here today. They live, work, raise their children, take care of their community, practice their traditional ways and speak the Twulshootseed language – just as their ancestors did.

II. Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Attendees introduced themselves. The minutes for special meeting February 8, 2021 were approved as provided.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

IV. Business Items:

- **Pierce Transit Bus Stop Balancing Project**

Lani Fowlkes, Pierce Transit, provided an overview of Pierce Transit's Balancing Project, which includes looking at all bus stop locations in the system and balancing safety, access, and equity goals. The primary reason people don't ride transit is that it takes too long to get to their destination. For example, there are 21 stops in approximately 1 mile. It takes approximately 20 seconds to stop and continue on the route. Pierce Transit makes these decisions based on safety, accessibility, equity, proximity, ridership, key transfer points, and investments. Guidelines suggest that bus stops should be no closer than 1/8 mile in dense urban areas and 1/4 mile in other areas. Staff evaluated each bus stop. Lani shared that bus stops with lower ridership were prioritized for review. She also provided an example of how travel and route speed has decreased over the past year for certain routes. In an effort to understand the delays, the number of stops was part of that evaluation.



Pierce Transit has mapped each bus stop, which shows the stops to remain or to be removed. Folks can review their stop and provide feedback directly through the website. Pierce Transit is seeking feedback through April 11, 2021. Chair Jennifer asked if the proposed reduction is on all routes or a select few. Lani shared that most routes will be impacted; however, the number of stops on a route will be impacted by comments. Chair Jennifer asked which ridership data timeframe was utilized in the evaluation and what the specific criteria were. Member Cindy asked how equity was incorporated into the review process. Lani shared that the stops were not all located in underserved neighborhoods. Chair Jennifer asked how outreach for removals is occurring, especially for those that are not currently riding due to the pandemic but will return to transit in September and are surprised by the removal. She encourages Pierce Transit to conduct thorough outreach and include translated materials. Liz conveyed that Member Kerri was concerned with ADA access and longer spacings between stops without safe crossings. Lani will follow-up on the data time frame and the specific criteria of ADA access. Member Kessa shared that high school students primarily use city buses instead of school buses and consideration of those routes and uses. Chair Jennifer asked when the last rebalancing project was conducted and if there is no one at a stop, wouldn't a bus continue on and the stop doesn't need to be removed. Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works, shared that at the Transportation Commission meeting, Pierce Transit staff said that buses don't stop at empty stops; however, they do need to stay on schedule and may need to layover at a location to ensure that they are not earlier than the timetable and miss someone. Member Dana asked how Pierce Transit could use the savings to add more service hours. Liz asked if this would be the time to ask for a stop to be added, such as at the Pt Defiance Zoo, which others agreed with. Lani said that folks should add that to the comments in the feedback tool. Chair Jennifer encourage folks to provide comment. Lani will provide responses to Liz, who will forward to the group for consideration in providing comments.

<https://www.piercetransit.org/busstops/>

- **South Tacoma Sounder Station Access Project**

Katie Drewel, Zac Eskenazi, and Melissa Flores-Saxe, Sound Transit, provided an update on Sound Transit projects. Katie provided an overview of the capital program realignment that is in response to lower revenues. Katie shared that some of the realignment tools include cutting costs through reduced project scope, suspending or canceling projects; raising new revenues through issuing higher debt or seeking additional state or federal funding; and delaying or phasing projects to spread costs over time and keep total agency debt within current legal limits. Projects in construction would continue, such as the Hilltop Link Extension; however, those that have not started may be delayed, such as the TCC/S 19th Street expansion study. There are eight criteria that the Board is considering as part of the program realignment, which includes equity, scheduling, and progress. The schedule to review realignment includes April 2021 seeking public feedback and discuss cost review results, June develop realignment plans, and July Sound Transit Board decision.

Zac provided an overview of the South Tacoma Station Access Improvement Project, which currently identifies access improvement to the station that are primarily for pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access. The project includes approximately \$45 million for improvements. The project goals and objectives that will inform the criteria include affordability, access (multiple modes and underserved communities), environment, partnership (connections to the surrounding neighborhood in partnership with the City and stakeholders), and passenger experience. Public engagement would start April 1, 2021. Staff would evaluate potential improvements Summer 2021 and conduct another round of



public engagement Fall 2021. Engagement includes online open houses, technical advisory groups, and in-person events (when allowed).

Chair Jennifer asked if Sound Transit has reached out to the Business District. Zac shared that they will be interviewing the folks in the area. Chair Jennifer asked how the \$45 million will be separated. Zac shared that the initial report included a multi-story parking structure, but \$45 million would not be enough funding. If parking is not prioritized, it would provide funding for other modes. Sound Transit will rely on the community for feedback. Chair Jennifer shared that Step it Up Pierce County is a group that focuses on walkability and would be a good resource. Kessa asked if purchasing a pre-existing parking structure is feasible. Liz shared that Metro Park is on the stakeholder group and considerations to use parking at SERA is in discussion. Member Leon encouraged staff to consider installing a bike lane that connects the South Tacoma Station to the Tacoma Mall and to the Water Flume Line Trail. Zac and Liz confirmed that those projects are being reviewed and building on those projects would be an ideal partnership.

Liz shared a map of the City's existing and proposed bike facilities, focusing on routes that connect to or are in the area of South Tacoma Sounder Station. Some routes that Sound Transit and City staff have identified as higher priority projects include a trail connection between Tyler and Adams on Metro Parks property; protected bike facilities on Tyler Street and on the Water Flume Line on South Tacoma Way, planned bike facilities on S 35th Street, and the missing bike lanes on Stevens/Tyler between Center and S 19th Street. Chair Jennifer appreciates the east-west corridors. Member Matt shared that S 35th Street would be a good route because of the lower traffic volumes. Member Leon commented that a loop around the mall that includes Steele and Lawrence, instead of Pine. Creating family friendly access across the pedestrian bridge at S 37th Street should be a priority. He also would like to see a more protected bike facility or more traffic calming on S 66th Street, which is also a bus route. He uses S 66th Street to Wapato Street to get to Wapato Hills Park. Liz asked the group of a preferred route connection from S 47th Street to S 66th Street as Oakes bike lanes or Fife bike boulevard. Member Leon said that it depends on the audience as commuters would likely prefer Oakes and family friendly would likely prefer Fife. Member Dana shared that it's a similar situation with Yakima and Park, where Park is more comfortable, but Yakima provides the more straight route. Liz shared that east-west connections over I-5 would be costly and likely exceed the project budget. Member Kessa asked if the City is looking at multi-modal networks/connections. Liz stated that the Transportation Master Plan includes a layer for bikes, transit, and pedestrians. Member Leon would like to see good routing from S 37th Street pedestrian bridge over I-5 to the mall to the South Tacoma Sounder Station. Liz asked members to share any additional ideas for future inclusion in project considerations.

V. Updates

- **Report from Transportation Commission**
Jennifer Kammerzell shared that at the March 17, 2021 meeting, the Commission received a presentation from Pierce Transit (rebalancing program and expanding runner service in the tideflats), Sound Transit (program realignment and South Tacoma Sounder access projects), and Home In Tacoma (increased density in single family zoning).
- **Staff Updates**
Member Alexandra has moved and the District 5 seat is vacant. Liz will provide information regarding recruitment soon.



- **BPTAG at other active transportation meetings**

Member Cadell and city staff are actively participating in the Climate Action Plan update.

VI. Adjourn

Chair Jennifer adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.



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