



City of Tacoma

Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

To join by computer, click on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99545896138?pwd=Skd4dDI0WFQreDU4eFpHQIV5U2J5Zz09>

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

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MINUTES

Monday, May 24, 2021

5:30-7:30 PM

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

Chair Jenn Halverson Kuehn called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

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

Leon Nettels was absent. The minutes were moved, seconded, and approved as presented.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comments.

IV. Business Items:

- **6th & Sprague Intersection**

Brian Wang, Professional Engineer, provided an overview of the proposed improvements at 6th and Sprague Avenue that will be part of the grant funded 6th Avenue Highway Safety Improvement Project. The Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group has previously voted for 6th Avenue to be designated as a protected bike facility. The City was unsuccessful in receiving a grant to design and construct parking protected bike lanes on 6th Avenue; however, the 6th Avenue Business District and Pierce Transit strongly support the project. With the modifications to 6th and Sprague, the City is proposing to continue the bike lanes at Ainsworth west to State Street, which includes protected bike lanes for a portion of the corridor.

Brian presented a preliminary design of the intersection and extension of the protected bike lanes. Liz Kaster also shared that floating bus islands may be proposed to allow for in-lane bus stops. Funding for the islands would require additional funds. Brian asked the group for feedback on the preferred design of parking protected bike lanes – 5 ft lane with 2 ft striped buffer or 7 ft lane adjacent to parking.

Member Michael asked if additional considerations were made for Memo's drive-through and queuing that often blocks Grant Street and visibility. Jennifer Kammerzell shared that they have not specifically discussed restrictions to the drive-through, but will take that in to



consideration the impacts to restrict it to right-in/right-out. Member Michael shared concern that the split for eastbound bikes to Division and 6th Avenue needs to be clear to minimize conflicts. Liz indicated that staff recognizes the unique configuration and will include wayfinding/directional signs, and is open to BPTAG ideas. Chair Jenn asked Brian to review the cross-sections and bike lane widths, paying special attention to catch basins that impact bike lane widths. Chair Jenn also asked if the pedestrian crossing distances were shortened. Brian shared that the east crossings were narrowed, but still includes a two-stage crossing for those that may want to access Memos. Chair Jenn also suggested that the outside lane is striped with thermoplastic and the in-lane symbols are paint, which minimize impacts with tires.

Chair Jenn and Michael provided support for the 5 ft lane and 2 ft buffer. Kessa mentioned that if it was just striped, bikes could treat it as a shoulder and pass other bicyclists.

- **I Street: 6th Ave to Division Ave**

Liz shared a street preservation project that includes Yakima/I Street between S 8th to Division Avenue. Staff is proposing a protected bike lane from S 8th to 6th Avenue. Along the park, the TMP designates bike lanes. I Street is 40 ft wide from curb to curb. To provide bike lanes, at least one lane of parking would need to be removed. The neighborhoods and businesses are already concerned with the parking demand that will result from Link Light Rail and the hospitals. Member Dana shared that she rides I Street often and is comfortable driving with traffic. She would like to see pedestrian crossing improvements to improve visibility from parked cars. Chair Jenn supported Dana's comments. Member Kessa shared that as a younger bicyclist, she is not as comfortable taking the lane. Liz pointed out that North I Street NW of Wright Park is designated as shared lane markings, but the higher speeds and traffic volumes would warrant a separated facility. Member Michael shared concern about the familiarity of sharrows for the general driving public. Member Dana added that her experience on the Park Avenue sharrows has been ok, since it has the higher speed facility on Yakima, and has speed humps and traffic circles. Chair Jenn also shared concerns regarding the intersection of 6th and I Street, and numerous conflicts and turning movements.

- **Micromobility Launch: www.cityoftacoma.org/micromobility**

Liz shared that Razor will launch 250 electric scooters on May 25th. They will deploy 150 more on Wednesday. There is a new City website that provides information about where to ride, access/affordability programs, slow speed zones, parking, and who to contact. Liz shared that the City has identified scooter parking zones on Ruston Way, Pt Defiance Park, and at transit centers. Member Kessa asked where the scooters would be allowed at Pt Defiance Park, specifically the parking lot at Ft Nisqually or at the dog park. Member Dana asked if the zoo will have a designated parking spot. Liz shared that the zoo will have a parking spot. Metro Parks has asked that the no parking zones be conservative and then expanded as demand and adherence grows. Member Michael asked what direction bicyclists are supposed to ride when the road is closed. Liz said she would ask. Member Cadell asked if there is a requirement for distribution of scooters. Liz shared no more than 50% of the scooters can be located in downtown/Dome/Ruston Way, and that they are distributed through the City Council districts. She will have access to the scooter distribution and ridership data.

- **Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability (IPS) Council Committee Active Transportation Presentation: May 26th**

Liz will be presenting an update on active transportation to IPS. The presentation will include project prioritization, highlights of recent projects completed, future capital projects, future transit access projects, community awareness & education campaigns, and future



unfunded projects. Chair Jenn shared that as part of the state budget, the state included a connection to the Cushman Trail.

V. Updates

- **Report from Transportation Commission** – Co-Chair Jane Moore shared that the Commission received presentations on the Impact Fee program, Unsafe/Unfit Sidewalk Program revision, and Streets Initiative Active Transportation project/program updates. Chair Jenn asked that staff consider tying unfit/unsafe sidewalk repair to home sales. Jennifer Kammerzell shared that the low-income assistance program originated as a way to assist with the backlog of hazardous sidewalks that property owners are required to fix.
- **Staff Updates** – Staff did not provide additional updates.
- **BPTAG at other active transportation meetings** – Chair Jenn encouraged folks to listen to the podcast – United States of Anxiety. Member Michael sent kudos to Liz on her participation on the video – How Bikes Shape Tacoma: Rolling through History.

VI. Adjourn

Chair Jenn adjourned the meeting at 7:14.



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