



# City of Tacoma

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

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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

If you are asked for a Meeting ID, enter: 995 4589 6138

If you are asked for a Password, enter: 762319

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### MINUTES

#### August 23, 2021

#### 5:30-7:30 PM

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

Chair Jenn Halverson Kuehn (Chair Jenn) called the meeting to order at 5:33 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

Michael Dehner and Kristi Picio were absent.

The June 28, 2021 minutes were approved as provided. The ice breaker question was “What is your favorite trail within a 1-1.5 hr radius?”

#### III. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comments.

#### IV. Business Items:

- **State of Sidewalks: Presentation & Discussion**

Liz Kaster and Jennifer Kammerzell provided an overview of the status of sidewalks in Tacoma. This served as a kick-off for the group to discuss planning and prioritization of sidewalk funding, policies, and planning. Liz provided a background on the City’s sidewalk inventory and the typical cost to construct sidewalks, which does not include signals, curb ramps, or unfit/unsafe sidewalks. She shared a slide on the completeness of the City’s active transportation network, which includes 969 miles (70%) of completed sidewalks and 408 miles of missing sidewalk. Approximately \$1.7 billion is needed to complete the entire network today. Sidewalks are primarily funded through grants (\$6 million) and city funds (\$6 million). At this rate, it would take approximately 143 years to complete. *Member Kerri asked how that cost equates to current spending on roads.* Liz made a note of the question and will follow-up in future discussions.

Jennifer presented information on the City’s current sidewalk programs and how projects are funded. The Unfit/Unsafe Sidewalk Program primarily addresses complaints on sidewalks that are lifted or separated. Once a complaint is received, the City will mark and notify the abutting property owner of their responsibility to repair the sidewalk. The City has limited funds to partner with homeowners to pay for a portion of the repair and, if qualify under the low-income criteria, the entire cost to repair. The City is also piloting a concrete cutting



program to address locations that are lifted and can be cut with a precision tool to make the sidewalk ADA compliant. This program would be temporary and prioritized based on the equity index and public facilities. Jennifer also shared that sidewalks are built through a variety of sources, which includes grants, private development, and City funds (Streets Initiative, utilities, Real Estate Excise Tax, and homeowners).

Member Matt shared that the permitting process for homeowners to fix their sidewalk on their own is onerous and cumbersome. Member Kessa asked if homeowners (schools/churches/companies) can fundraise the \$6 per square foot. Member Kerri asked if the freshly cut concrete could be stained or painted to match existing sidewalk. Member Cindy asked if missing sidewalk could be considered unfit/unsafe sidewalk.

Liz asked the group to consider what factors should be used to prioritize sidewalks in Tacoma and what other data or information does the group need to discuss prioritization. The group divided into break out groups to discuss the questions, then shared their thoughts to the two questions.

Liz shared that BPTAG's recommended factors for prioritization and data/question needs will be utilized in future agenda topics as the group develops a pedestrian implementation strategy as it relates to sidewalks. She shared an overview of the bikeway prioritization that includes safety, equity, and connectivity. As of August 2021, 100% of Tacoma's recently completed and funded bikeways are within or connect directly to an area of low or very low opportunity, according to the City's equity index. Liz also shared that the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities Chair and Rooted in Rights organization reached out to the City regarding the lack of sidewalks on the west side of Orchard Street between S 56<sup>th</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> St. The City is working with the cities of Lakewood and University Place to determine a cost estimate and potential partnership. Jennifer shared another example project that included Roosevelt Avenue fronting Roosevelt Elementary School. The City was presented with an opportunity to install missing sidewalk and identified a location that connected to or was within a HUD low-income area, on the SRTS Action Plan, and on a transit route. Unfortunately, the funding fell through, but an approved sidewalk prioritization plan would guide future investments.

Chair Jenn shared that she appreciates everyone's perspective and thoughts.

## V. Updates

- **Report from Transportation Commission**

Jennifer Kammerzell shared that the Commission's August meeting included a presentation from Transit Oriented Design Advisory Group (TODAG) on their Report No. 2 (Tacoma Dome Link Extension Portland Avenue Station) and No. 3 (Transit Oriented Development Toolkit) and update on the Impact Fee Framework.

- **Staff Updates**

Liz shared that the BPTAG interviews are going well and appreciates the group's assistance with the announcement opportunity.

Liz also shared that the City applied for Transportation Improvement Board grants that included E 64<sup>th</sup> Street Phase 2, Sheridan Avenue Complete Streets, and Yakima Ave Sidewalks at S 68<sup>th</sup> St. WSDOT has also agreed to nominate the City for a Complete Streets grant for a project to be identified. A ribbon cutting for the East 64<sup>th</sup> St Phase 1 project is scheduled for September 2. [Note: after this meeting, the event was cancelled due to COVID]



- **BPTAG at other active transportation meetings.**

## **VI. Adjourn**

Chair Jenn adjourned the meeting at 7:17 PM.



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