



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

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

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MINUTES

October 25, 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 and shared the following land acknowledgement:

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

Members introduced themselves and shared their high school extracurricular or athletic activity. Members Kristi Picio and Cindy Schaarschmidt was excused absent.

III. Public Comment

Commissioner Troy Serad from the Transportation Commission introduced himself.

IV. Business Items:

Overview of Vision Zero Action Plan and Speed Reduction Study

Carrie Wilhelme, Long Range Planner, provided an overview of the development of the Vision Zero Action Plan. She presented that Vision Zero approach is an international effort to eliminate traffic related fatalities and serious injuries. The approach states that traffic deaths are preventable, a safe systems approach is necessary, and that speed is a fundamental factor in fatalities and serious injuries. Carrie shared that the City committed to being a Vision Zero City, which includes developing a Vision Zero Action Plan, funding infrastructure improvements, and forming a Task Force. The City will be working with Toole Design to develop the plan and conduct a speed reduction study. The plan will develop goals and actions, prioritization criteria for improvements (using a data driven approach with an equity lens), and a data dashboard. The speed reduction study will analyze existing speed data, develop best practices and costs to lower speed limits, and identify ten arterial corridors for further engineering review.

Carrie presented that the City has begun evaluating existing speeds in the 15 Neighborhood Business Districts (NBD). Chair Jenn suggested each member to visit the NBD in their neighborhood and one outside of their area. Carrie will provide a poll for folks to see the NBD locations and to sign up. The goal is that members would better understand the needs and character of each neighborhood.



Carrie shared that Community Engagement will be core to the development of the plan. There will be a Task Force that meets for 90 minutes three times next year. Staff will also utilize multi-lingual surveys, community based organizations, and community events/activities. Carrie also asked that members contact her, Liz Kaster, or Chair Jenn if they are interested in participating on a Task Force or in a more involved capacity.

Member Kessa asked if staff have worked with schools. Carrie shared that as the former Safe Routes to School Coordinator she intends to work closely with schools and has a good relationship with the administration and schools. Commissioner Serad asked how much leverage an engineer has with dictating the speed recommendation. Commissioner Serad asked if an evaluation is required to increase speed limits. Carrie shared that an evaluation would be required for increasing and would require an amendment to the Tacoma Municipal Code. Commissioner Serad asked what is the veto power by the Traffic Engineer or evaluating engineer for lowering speed limits. Carrie shared that it is their responsibility to conduct or review the evaluation and to provide a sound recommendation. City Council has the authority to accept or deny that recommendation, since they have the authority to amend the Tacoma Municipal Code.

Member Michael asked what role enforcement would play in reducing speed limits. Carrie stated that traditional enforcement will not be prioritized, but other tools such as automated enforcement will be. Chair Jenn offered that funding for enforcement could come from Target Zero grants. Member Tyler asked if studies would be conducted after the speed limits are reduced. Speed studies will be conducted before and after the speed limits are lowered. This allows the City to determine the effectiveness of the signs and if more tools need to be in place. Member Kerri asked if the upcoming consultant meeting was open to the public. Carrie shared that it is a scope of work planning meeting with staff and not intended to be a public meeting. Chair Jenn recommended the inclusion of short-term goals as part of the plan. Carrie agreed and indicated that short-term goals will be important for demonstrating progress.

Transportation Master Plan Overview

Jennifer Kammerzell, Principal Engineer, provided an overview of the Transportation Master Plan (TMP). The first TMP was adopted in 2015 as part of the One Comprehensive Plan. The TMP is the City's long range transportation plan that addresses growth in Tacoma. Through extensive community outreach, the TMP prioritizes pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit over freight and autos. Several maps show the modal priorities for corridors that create a connected network. Policies and goals support active transportation, traffic safety, accessibility, environmental sustainability, fiscal sustainability, and livability.

An update to the TMP is planned for 2022 that the Transportation Commission will lead and BPTAG will participate in. Staff recognizes that since the TMP was adopted, the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan was adopted, the Climate Action Plan was developed, Impact Fees is being considered, and Route 1 Bus Rapid Transit is in the works.

Jennifer asked members to think about and share how they can support the TMP goal to increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. Chair Jenn is focusing on making her child a pedestrian first individual. Member Teena drives under the speed limit. Member Kessa drives under the speed limit and also delayed getting her license. Member Kerri will tell more people her story – pedestrian crash survivor.

Chair Jenn asked if the TMP is a guiding document or can it be used as a standard that needs to be adhered to. What happens if someone in PW doesn't support it? Jennifer explained that to some degree, if the TMP says it is a priority mode that is what staff needs to implement. But just because



there isn't a line, doesn't mean bicyclists or pedestrians should not be accommodated. Chair Jenn would like the TMP to be more binding. She recognizes that there are people who understand and support a green hierarchy, but that there still are others that don't. Jennifer shared that there is an education component to the TMP for the community and city staff. Jennifer recognizes that it's not just Public Works that implements the plan, but that other utilities and private development can support the vision through their street improvements. Chair Jenn commented that folks don't like to reduce the Level of Service (LOS) for a driver, but would like cities to care as much about LOS for people in the green transportation hierarchy. Jennifer shared that the TMP has de-emphasized the LOS metric for cars. Although there isn't a LOS for ped, bikes, and transit in the TMP, adding one to the next amendment would be ideal. Chair Jenn shared that an example LOS could be lack of sidewalks or curb ramps.

Discussion: Prep for Conversation at November BPTAG Meeting with Councilmember Kristina Walker

Chair Jenn explained that Council Member Kristina Walker (CM Walker) will be attending the November BPTAG meeting for a discussion on active transportation. In preparation of that meeting, Chair Jenn asked the members to share topics or questions to help prepare CM Walker for the discussion. Chair Jenn is interested in where CM Walker supports Home in Tacoma. Member Teena is interested in CM Walker's recommendations/suggestions to reach other Council Members on active transportation priorities, such as CM Hunter supports Aging Friendly Cities. Member Michael is interested in how to proactively fund replacement of stormwater grates that are not bicycle friendly. Currently the program is complaint based.

V. Updates

- **Report from Transportation Commission**
- **Staff Updates**
Sound Transit South Tacoma Sounder Station Access Survey closes tomorrow (10/26): <https://soundersouth.participate.online/>
- **BPTAG at other active transportation meetings**
Member Kerri shared that TODAG will be providing a presentation to City Council on November 16, 2021 (it has been moved to November 23, 2021) with recommendations to support transit oriented development and continuance of the group.

VI. Adjourn

Chair Jenn adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.



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