



# City of Tacoma

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

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To join by computer, click on the following link:

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### MINUTES

#### November 22, 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 5:30 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

Member Kristi Picio and Member Kess Emma. The meeting minutes for October 25, 2021 were moved, seconded, and approved as provided. Members shared their first experience riding transit.

#### III. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

#### IV. Business Items:

- **South Tacoma Sounder Station Access Project: Next Steps**

Zac Eskenazi, Sound Transit, presented an update of the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements, including a report out on the public engagement. The project will improve access to the South Tacoma Sounder Station. Community engagement was completed in October. 54 people completed the online survey, with 900+ visitors to the online open house, approximately 60 people at the virtual Q&A session and 2 tabling events. Over 8000 mailers were sent to neighbors in the area. Zac provided an overview of the Higher Performing projects and Middle-Performing projects (possible alternates). The Middle-Performing projects received less comments/votes and the comments provided were split on supporting and not supporting.

Zac shared that the Higher-Performing and Middle-Performing projects are proposed to be forwarded to the Sound Transit Board. Zac shared that the Phase 1 report will be finalized in December 2021. The Sound Transit Board will take action in March 2022. Phase 2 would begin in April 2022.

- **Conversation with Councilmember Kristina Walker**

Councilmember Kristina Walker is an at-large member. Currently, she serves on the Sound Transit and Pierce Transit Board. CM Walker is also working on the Tacoma to Puyallup



Trails project. She considers herself an advocate for Active Transportation and Transit. Vision Zero and safe speeds is a priority.

Question: Reflecting on the Transportation Master Plan, how can BPTAG and City Council support the green transportation hierarchy [which prioritizes active transportation and transit] throughout the City's work?

Response: CM Walker was on the Transportation Commission that helped to develop the TMP. She recognizes that it provides a good framework and there is a need to update it to ensure it is in alignment with Vision Zero and Climate Action Plan. She encourages BPTAG to reach out to Council and staff if implementation is not consistent with the TMP.

Question: BPTAG wants to ensure that pedestrians are prioritized and level of service for pedestrians is funded.

Response: CM Walker recognizes that the Federal Infrastructure Packages provide an opportunity to fund pedestrian improvements. She also sees that the next Streets Initiative proposition is an opportunity to fund more than maintenance projects.

Question: How can the City be more proactive about bicycle safety, instead of being complaint based, e.g. swapping out catch basin covers. Not everyone may know the process to report safety hazards.

Response: CM Walker encourages folks to use 311 to report concerns to help support requests for funding better maintenance, such as street sweeping or catch basin swap outs. CM Walker defers to staff on where the program may be, but is happy to help support a better process.

Question: The Lincoln District neighborhood improvements provided no bike provisions on the main thoroughfare. The parallel road also did not have commensurate bike improvements (which would have seemed appropriate for that project). With this context, where do you stand on the debate over placing protected bike lanes down busy streets, versus siting them on less busy adjacent streets? Will bike travelers be treated with integrity if they cannot even access the front doors on primary streets?

Response: CM Walker supports implementing bike facilities outlined in the TMP, and does support providing bike access to commercial areas. Liz Kaster, Active Transportation Coordinator, shared the TMP modal priority map that places a parallel bike route on S 37<sup>th</sup> Street. She stated that the next update to the TMP would be a good opportunity to ensure new routes are added.

The group discussed that funding maintenance of bicycle facilities is important as well. For example, S 37<sup>th</sup> Street is in poor condition and aging.

Question: How can BPTAG support Home in Tacoma and what is her position on increasing density?

Response: City Council will likely be adopting a modified version of the Home in Tacoma ordinance. She believes that access to transit and housing is important. She does support increased density and multi-modal access.

- **Project Updates: TAP Grants & upcoming bike/ped projects**

Liz Kaster, Active Transportation Coordinator, shared that the City is applying for two Transportation Alternative Grants – J Street Bike Boulevard between Division and S 27<sup>th</sup> Street construction funds – and Pine Street Protected Bike Lanes between Center and S 47<sup>th</sup> Street design and right-of-way funds [after the BPTAG meeting, the City decided to move forward with just the J Street application to increase its competitiveness; BPTAG will receive an update on this in January]. This grant application prioritizes access to Centers and Corridors. Chair Jenn asked how emergency vehicle would navigate J Street. Liz



stated that the design will utilize a variety of tools that will allow emergency vehicles to go through or around (into oncoming traffic) devices that are typically more restrictive for passenger vehicles. Liz also shared that the City was awarded construction funds for E 64<sup>th</sup> Street Phase 2 between McKinley and Portland Avenue and design and construction of missing sidewalks on Yakima Avenue at S 68<sup>th</sup> Street. Member Kessa asked what is a bike boulevard. Liz explained that they are bike facilities that are typically slower in traffic and lower volume for bicyclists that are sharing the lane with cars. Liz stated that S 25<sup>th</sup> Street bike lanes will likely be striped in 2022 when the road is repaved. Chair Jenn reiterated that BPTAG will have an opportunity to weigh in on future projects that should be funded under that that initiative. CM Serad asked if the City goes back to previous projects to improve a design, such as McKinley Avenue between I-5 and Wright Avenue. Liz shared that the City has gone back to improve projects; however, there is a balance on where to prioritize funding and if it is building new projects or rehabilitating existing infrastructure.

Member Kerri asked if there is a regular bike meet-up similar to the Thursday runners. CM Serad mentioned that Second Cycle conducts BIPOC community rides and morning meet-ups. Member Cindy mentioned Velofemmes rides that host a variety of holiday, themed, and sometimes weekly rides. Member Teena mentioned Tuesday Night Rides. Chair Jenn mentioned Kidical Mass Rides.

## V. Updates

- **Report from Transportation Commission**

CM Serad shared that the Commission received a presentation from Pierce Transit BRT Pacific Avenue, Vision Zero & Speed Limit Study, and Elections Nominations.

- **Staff Updates**

The City has a new Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Cailin Henley.

Liz asked members to test and comment on the new bike tiles at S 56<sup>th</sup> & Tyler Street. They were installed to support people with low visibility to help distinguish it from a curb ramp.

- **BPTAG at other active transportation meetings**

CM Serad shared that the Transportation Commission provided a recommendation letter to the City Council to re-imagine Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (TODAG). There will be a presentation at the City Council Study Session on November 23, 2021.

## VI. Adjourn

Chair Jenn adjourned the meeting at 7:11 PM.



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