



City of Tacoma Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

MINUTES April 24, 2023 5:30-7:30 PM

▪ **Call to order and land acknowledgement**

Chair Jenn called the meeting to order at 5:35 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.

▪ **Introductions & Approval of Minutes**

Members Teena, Jenn, Ileana, Dana, Thomas, Matt, Julian, Mattice, and Riley were present. Members Michael and Tyler were absent.

It was moved (Member Dana) and second by (Member Thomas) to approve the March 27, 2023, minutes.

▪ **Public Comment**

▪ **Business Items:**

• **J Street Bicycle Boulevard (Charla Kinlow)**

Charla Kinlow, Engineering Project Manager at the City of Tacoma, presented the draft designs for the J Street Bicycle Boulevard. Liz explained the protected bike lane couplet on South 11th street and South 12th street.

Member Dana asked whether flashing beacons will be adequate to get traffic to stop at crossings. Liz explained how the crossing type is determined by traffic speeds and volumes and how the J St bike boulevard will provide traffic calming and visual cues will help prioritize pedestrians walking and biking.

Chair Jenn mentioned visibility issues such as parked cars that affect safe crossing and inquired about daylighting for intersections on J St. The project team is exploring daylighting treatments and Charla mentioned curb bulb-outs help with better visibility.

Chair Jenn asked if the planned protected bike lanes are only for 25th to 27th of South J St. Charla answered yes, because of the wider road in that segment.

• **Transportation Master Plan**

Liz presented a list of potential changes to the Transportation Master plan for BPTAG review. For example, in the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan, there were bike routes identified but the bike facility types were not specified. The Transportation Master Plan update is an opportunity to add specificity.

- **Shared Use Path- S 35th St (South Tacoma Way to S Pine St)** - currently bikeway, unspecified type



BPTAG discussed the how steep this area is, although it is in the public right of way. Liz mentioned the potential of a designated trail to connect to the South Tacoma bike lane and provide east and west connectivity to the surrounding bike facilities. Member Jenn asked what material will the trail be made of: gravel or paved? Liz said shared use paths in the Transportation Master Plan are paved. Member Thomas expressed approval for a trail connection for 35th South Pine to 35th South Tacoma Way bike facilities.

Jennifer K added a shared use path that does not follow a roadway will require a switchback to meet ADA standards.

Member Riley asked whether the path will be accessible to pedestrians and not just bicyclists. Liz answered yes.

Staff member Ashley Jones asked will the plan for Shared Used Path affect the tree/forestry count for South Tacoma area. Will the trees be removed? Liz explained the area appears to be primarily bushes, but the city would work with the Forestry team if this project were funded.

Chair Jenn proposed a motion to add Shared Use Path to the Transportation Master Plan, Member Matt made the motion and Teena seconded.

All members but one approved the motion. Member Ileana shared that she did not vote yes because of concerns about the forestry in South Tacoma. Jenn asked if BPTAG can make a note in the Transportation Master Plan that suggests adequate tree placement in design. Liz shared that if the project was funded, the design would assess trees and any potential lost as well as opportunities for planting more trees.

- **S Lawrence St (South Tacoma Way to S 36th St)**- currently bikeway, unspecified type

Liz asked BPTAG to consider designating South Lawrence as a bicycle boulevard and wanted BPTAG members to consider the current conditions such as commercial use and the land use around South Lawrence. The street is narrow and the residential speed limit is 20mph.

Member Thomas asked is there a high density of large trucks on Lawrence? Liz says there is quite a few businesses that use bigger trucks. Liz anticipates protected facilities or a trail on South Tacoma Way and protected bike facilities on South Pine.

Member Dana observed the street usage in the area, a lot of parked cars along the street. Dana is concerned that drivers would park in bike lanes.

Member Dana suggested a bicycle boulevard on South Lawrence.

- **S 47th/ S 48th Facility Type**- Minor arterial classification; 30mph speed limit.

S 47th and S 48th call for painted bike lanes in the TMP, however, as part of the South Tacoma Sounder Station Access project, Toole Design Group evaluated the streets and suggested protected bike lanes would be more appropriate for this corridor. To support shorter term connectivity, Sound Transit will be evaluating adding a bicycle boulevard to S 45th St from Lawrence to Union and on Union from S 45th to S 47th St.

Member Thomas motioned to add S 45th from Lawrence to Union and Union from S 45th to S 47th as Bike Boulevard. Member Julian second the motion. BPTAG approved.

Jenn called for a group vote for changing classification on South 47th and South 48th from a Bike Lane to a Protected Bike Lane.



Member Dana motions, Matt seconds. BPTAG approved.

- **Staff Updates:**

- Upcoming events:

Liz encouraged BPTAG members to check out the Bike253 website and volunteer at Bike Month events. Liz presented the Bike Share Launch flyer. Liz and Jenn will be conducting interviews for a new BPTAG member.

- **T-Town Expo (Fri & Sat, 4/28-29)** tacomadome.org/t-town
Jennifer K explained the T-Town Expo, bikes and scooters will be apart of the Traffic Garden for children to learn the inner works of Public Works.
- **Bike Month Proclamation (Tues, 5/2)** bike253.com
Liz shared members who were accepting the Proclamation from Council members at the Council meeting and encouraged group to attend.
- **Bike Swap (Sat, 5/9)** piercetrips.com/bikemonth
- **Water Flume Line Trail Party (Sat, 5/13)** bike253.com
Staff Member Ashley Jones shared plans for two Trail Parties, encouraged members to volunteer as a representation of BPTAG. Liz mentioned Safe Routes To School is hosting Bike Rodeos and events that could use volunteers as well.

- SS4A Grant Due 7/10

The Transportation Division will start applying for two grants

1. TAP Grant in June, 2023
2. Federal Safe Streets For All is due in July, 2023 for pedestrian signal improvements.

- **Report from Transportation Commission**

Jennifer shared Kristin Lynett presented an update to the Tacoma Climate Action Plan that is going forward to IPS. Jennifer suggested BPTAG could look at the specific actions for Council to focus on.

- **BPTAG at other active transportation meetings**

Jenn shared the upcoming Bike related events and encouraged members to volunteer. Jenn also mentioned the Washington Traffic Safety report, she shared about notable increases in the number of people killed in 2023 compared to 2022. Jenn also discussed education opportunities and the importance of law enforcement to be aware of changes.

- **Adjourn**

Chair Jenn adjourned the meeting at 7:21 PM.



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