



City of Tacoma

Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

To join by computer, click on the following link:

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MINUTES

Monday, April 26, 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 5:31 PM.

She 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

Leon Nettels was absent. Members introduced themselves and shared their favorite access point of access to water in Pierce County. The minutes were moved, seconded, and approved as presented.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comments.

IV. Business Items:

- **South Tacoma Sounder Station Access Project**

Zac Eskenazi, Katie Drewel, and Melanie Mayock from Sound Transit (ST), and Sandy Glover and Tresia Gonzalez from Parametrix provided an overview of the work done to date on the South Tacoma Sounder Station Access Project. Sandy and Tresia shared potential projects that could be part of phase 1 of the South Tacoma Sounder Station Access project. This phase includes identifying potential projects and presenting them to the Sound Transit Board for review and approval to conduct further evaluation. The projects identified included access for non-motorized, transit, and general, as well as parking. Tresia highlighted the project goals, which prioritizes improving opportunities for underserved communities, which is the core for all goals.

Chair Jenn asked how ST intends to identify and measure “enhance the experience of passengers at the station”. ST team shared that it is associated with safety and security. It could mean rain protection, wayfinding, lighting or anything that would correlate to the rider’s experience. Member Michael asked if the goals are weighted. Tresia shared that they are not weighted but there might be a project is not eligible if it is too one-sided. Tresia asked BPTAG for feedback on the identified improvements, including which improvements most



align with the project goals and priorities, are any improvements missing, and if there any additional information that would support alternative screening. Tresia highlighted some of the improvements identified by City staff and preliminary comments, which include at-grade rail crossing improvements, east-west bike/ped improvements across SERA Park to the station, S 60th St, and S 66th St, north-south bike/ped improvements on Tyler and Washington, curb ramps and marked crosswalks with bus stop locations, intersection improvements that include bike detection and leading pedestrian intervals, and micromobility parking at station. She also shared a map that included projects more than ¼ mile from the station and asked BPTAG for feedback on the proposed projects and if there are priorities. Liz shared that Member Leon had mentioned the completion of the Tacoma Mall Loop Trail and adding an east-west connection crossing in either direction of the I-5 ped bridge. Liz clarified that the connection should be a bike facility on Steele Street between S 35th to approx. S 43rd St. The 36th St connection would be a bike boulevard. Another connection is S 40th St between South Tacoma Way and Pine Street as a bike facility. Tresia and Sandy asked for additional comments that might help prioritize routes close to each other. Chair Jenn shared that Oakes and Fife are close, but both have very different traffic speeds and impacts to bicyclists. It would be ideal to have both facilities, a hybrid may be appropriate that helps to address connectivity and all ages/ability. Liz also shared that connecting S 35th between Junett and South Tacoma Way should be included as well.

Member Kristi shared that Tyler Street is an important connection with gaps for bicyclists. Central is at a higher elevation than Tacoma Dome, which makes the South Tacoma station more desirable for bike access.

Zac shared that he will send the map to BPTAG and asks that members provide comment by May 5, 2021. Tresia stated that the team will continue to screen the alternatives for development of a report in November 2021. The alternative analysis will not be impacted by the ST realignment project.

- **Sound Transit Realignment: Joint Letter from Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group, Transportation Commission, & BPTAG**

Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works, provided an overview of the draft Transportation Commission (Commission), Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (TODAG), and BPTAG joint letter to Sound Transit Board regarding their proposed rebalancing project. The rebalancing project is in response to decreased revenues, increased construction costs, and increased real estate costs. The letter was drafted based on responses from the Commission and Group discussions with Sound Transit. The consensus from all groups is to recommend funding all projects in Tacoma and continue on the proposed timelines – do not delay any portion of project timelines. Sound Transit staff had shared that one of the key goals, as part of reviewing realignment, is equity. All groups felt strongly that the projects in Tacoma would serve a high population of BIPOC, people experiencing homelessness, and people with low incomes.

Jennifer shared that TODAG had considered adding a prioritization of projects to ensure that the Tacoma Dome Link Extension was not delayed or reduced in scope. Others suggested de-emphasizing Sounder expansion/capacity projects. The Commission supports the completion of Link, but deems all projects in Tacoma should be completed and on-time. Jennifer shared that preserving funds for access projects might only be commented on by Tacoma, so it may be important to support in the letter. Member Dana suggests including language recommending ST demonstrate support and commitment to Pierce County/Tacoma, especially since the focus has been to the north. This would help in the



long run to show tax-payers that ST is a good partner and committed to making improvements in Tacoma. Member Kessa suggested including the projects that are a priority and remaining silent on those that might not be. Member Kerri recommends including information about Tacoma's median income as it compares to other cities. Chair Jenn also suggested that the letter outline the projected growth and that transit will be the primary source for access.

The group supported Chair Jenn to work with staff to finalize the letter and send to Sound Transit Board by April 30, 2021.

- **2021 Bikeway Infrastructure Updates**

Liz Kaster, Public Works, shared updates on active transportation projects. E 64th Street cycle track is nearing completion. Staff are discussing lessons learned, so if members have any comments, please share with Liz. Chair Jenn asked if the neighborhood was supportive of the project design and how the water treatment or debris works. Liz shared that a small number of residents were upset with the configuration that eliminated driveways or unimproved on-street parking. Staff recognizes that early outreach will prove to be beneficial for Phase 2. Liz shared that the next phase for the Prairie Line Trail is fully funded. She also shared that the planning and preliminary engineering for the Tacoma to Puyallup Trail, and construction of the connection to Northeast Tacoma was funded at the State level. Liz also shared that the Pipeline Trail Phase 3 is also nearing completion. Carrie Wilhelme is working on several biking and walking events to celebrate the completion.

Liz shared that S 25th Street between the Scott Pierson Trail to Fawcett Avenue will be striped this year as part of the citywide striping project. This will provide a direct connection to downtown and address reported bicycle collisions. Chair Jenn asked what corridors might be in construction this year. Jennifer said she would share a table with the list of funded projects that show if they are in planning, design, or construction phases. Member Matt asked if the Water Flume Line Trail Phase 3 is funded. Liz shared that construction of the trail is funded, but would check on construction timing. (Response: Construction of Water Flume Line Trail is planned for 2023.)

- **May: Bike Month & Micromobility Launch**

Liz shared that May is Bike Month and the City's website (https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/public_works/mobility_options/bike_month) lists a variety of events to participate in, including:
Pop-up storybook walk on the Pipeline Trail Phase 3
Women, trans, Femme, and Non-Binary Bike Ride on the Pipeline Trail on May 22nd
Micromobility launch May 15-22nd

V. Updates

- **Report from Transportation Commission**

Co-Chair Moore shared that at the April 17, 2021 meeting, the Commission heard presentations on the Impact Fee program, Tideflats Subarea Plan, 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program Annual Update,

- **Staff Updates**

Jennifer Kammerzell shared that she will be presenting updates on the Temporary Outdoor



Dining/Parklets program to Economic Development Council Committee on April 27, Vision Zero Updates to City Council Study Session on April 27, and 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program Annual Update to Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Council Committee on April 28, 2021. Liz shared that she will be presenting Active Transportation & Bike Boulevard Updates to Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Council Committee on May 26, 2021.

- **BPTAG at other active transportation meetings**
No meetings were identified.

VI. Adjourn

Chair Jenn adjourned the meeting at 7:13 PM.



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