



City of Tacoma

Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

To join by computer, click on the following link:

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If you are asked for a Meeting ID, enter: 916 7226 2812

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Minutes

Monday June 22, 2020

5:30-7:30 PM

I. Call to order and approval of minutes

5:36 PM

Jennifer Halverson Kuehn, Cindy Schaarschmidt, Kristi Picio, Matthew Pavolka, Michael Dehner, Susan Reehill, Leon Nettels. Teresa Beaulieu submitted her resignation to Liz prior to the meeting.

II. Introductions

III. Public Comment

Duane Wakan and Tina Lee are planners with Pierce Transit.

IV. Business Items:

a. Updates on Current Projects: Active Transportation Code Changes and Micromobility RFP

Liz Kaster provided an update on proposed code changes to the Model Traffic Ordinance. Consistent with previous presentations, the City and Stakeholder Committee identified several conflicts with the City's current code. Liz will be presenting the code updates at City Council Study Session on June 23, 2020.

Liz noted that the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Council Committee decided to forward the proposed revisions to include removal of the City's mandatory helmet law.

Liz also provided an update on the Micromobility Request for Proposals. Lime's permit expired May 31, 2020. The City is in contract negotiation with a vendor and will announce the selected vendor when completed. Chair Jennifer participated in the panel to select a vendor. Additional information about a launch will also be announced at a later date.



b. WSDOT Pedestrian Bicycle Grant Application: Cedar St from S 15th to Center St

Jennifer Kammerzell and Liz Kaster provided an update on grant applications that were applied for or pursuing grant funding. They reported that the City applied for and received funding from Washington Traffic Safety Commission to install school zone flashing beacons at East 56th & Portland Avenue. They also reported that the City was successful in receiving funds from WSDOT to install bike lanes on Mildred Street between S 12th & Scott Pierson Trail. Both projects will be installed by the end of 2020.

The City also applied for funding of Water Flume Line Trail Phase 3A and 3B, and Prairie Line Trail Phase 2 (S 21st to S 25th Street). Both projects scored well enough to be placed high on the contingency list. It is highly likely that the projects awarded funding may have other opportunities, which opens the door for Tacoma.

The City is also planning on applying for WSDOT Safe Routes to School for Manitou Elementary School. The project would include a raised crosswalk in front of the school at S 66th Street and protected bike lanes on S 66th Street between Tyler and Verde Street.

The City is also applying for funding for the Bike/Pedestrian grant to install protected bike lanes on Cedar Street between S 15th and Center Streets. This project is identified in the Local Road Safety Plan. Funding from the State is limited, as well as match funds from the City. Liz asked for feedback regarding potential intermittent delineators, as funding is limited. Leon and Cindy supported the more robust protection on the uphill side (northbound). Leon also supported connecting the sidewalk on the southbound side, so it will connect to the Scott Pierson Trail. Liz explained that the City would like to install sidewalks on both sides; however, to be a competitive project, it needs to fit within the funding available. Kristi explained that the speeds between S 15th and 19th are less than S 19th to Center Streets, so the protection in the southern segment would be more ideal. She is concerned with the free right turns at S 23rd Street and drivers not yielding to bicyclists.

c. Design Scenarios for BPTAG input

Protected bike lanes at intersections

Liz asked the group for feedback on how to treat protected bike lanes at intersections, specifically if the delineators should go up to the intersection or stop short. Kristi provided a link to a proposed scenario that included a pedestrian island. Unfortunately, for Cedar Street, there isn't enough room to accommodate an island. The group asked Liz to evaluate best practices and present them at future meetings.

Back-in Angle Parking

Jennifer and Liz provided a presentation on 3 scenarios where back-in angle parking is proposed on bike facilities. Two are part of a new development (N 34th & Proctor and S



37th & G) and one as part of a City project (Fawcett Ave between 6th and 7th). The group discussed the pros and cons of each. Several members see that back-in is challenging as a driver and bicyclist, but recognize that if angle parking is provided there are some additional benefits over head-in. For locations near schools and high pedestrian areas, the preference is to convert parking to parallel or remove all together. The overall goal would be to reduce the number of cars on the road, through parking reductions.

d. COVID-19 Impacts

Jennifer provided a quick update on budget impacts from COVID-19 Pandemic, as presented to the City Council by the Budget Office. Early projections in May, indicate a \$64 Million shortfall. Some departments implemented reductions right a way, which included temporary layoffs and delay of projects. She discussed the financial impacts to sales tax, property tax, motor vehicle fuel tax, which impacted several departments and programs. In response to the 2020 impacts, staff was asked to evaluate projects or programs that could be delayed or eliminated as a budget saving for this year. The proposals included temporary layoff of staff, including Street Operations, Tacoma Dome Staff, and Parking Enforcement, reducing project funds for the Transportation Master Plan, delay the S 84th Street Corridor Study project, and delay the Environmental Services Larchmont Green Stormwater Infrastructure Project.

Each department was directed to propose 15% reductions for 21-22. It is likely that it will include program and position layoffs. She also explained that Office of Management and Budget asked City Council to identify a list of project/programs that they would like to see funded and as part of that, what project/program would be reduced.

e. BPTAG Membership/Term Renewals

Liz provided a quick update on membership term expirations and vacancies. She will email the known and proposed expirations. With two current vacancies, she intends to recruit in the Fall.

V. Updates

- a. Report from Transportation Commission** – Co-Chair Jane Moore explained that the Transportation Commission had its first meeting since the pandemic on June 17, 2020 and recommended approval of the 6 YR Transportation Improvement Program amendment and Pierce Transit Destination 2040 Long Range Plan comment letter. They also received presentations on COVID budget impacts and grant updates.
- b. Staff Updates** – There were no additional staff reports.
- c. BPTAG at Other active transportation meetings** – No comment

VI. Adjourn

7:32 PM