



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

If you are asked for a Password, enter: 762319

Please mute your computer or phone when joining. Cameras are not required. Thank you.

MINUTES

September 27, 2021

5:30-7:30 PM

I. Call to order, land acknowledgement, and approval of minutes

Chair Jenn called the meeting to order at 5:31 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

All members were present. Members introduced themselves and shared a brief story from the last time they walked, biked, or rolled. The group moved, seconded, and approved the August 23, 2021 minutes.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

IV. Business Items:

- **Welcome new BPTAG members**

Chair Jenn introduced the new BPTAG members - Julian, Teena, and Tyler. Staff is waiting City Manager signature to make it official.

- **South Tacoma Sounder Station Access: Project List and Open House**

Katie Drewel and Zac Eskenazi provided an update on the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements planning project. The project will improve walking, biking, rolling, busing and/or driving to the station. Since last presenting to BPTAG, the Sound Transit Board decided to move this project to Tier 1 with infrastructure improvements completed in 2030. Zac shared that Sound Transit (ST) staff received over 50 survey responses, comments from BPTAG, and has worked closely with City staff to identify potential projects. This summer, ST and City staff evaluated all projects and identified them as potential improvements (higher-performing), possible alternates (middle-performing), and not proposed for further consideration (lower-performing). The potential improvements projects (higher-



performing) included S Adams St street connections, S 56th St bicycle pathway, S 58th St and S 60th St street connections, bus and bus stop improvements along S 56th St, and station improvements to improve ADA access. ST staff will be conducting an online open house October 6-26th (soundersouth.participate.online), in-person drop-in sessions on October 12 and October 15, and virtual question and answer session October 18th.

Zac shared that community engagement round 2 will continue in the Fall, which includes a presentation to the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities on October 8th. They would like to provide BPTAG with the final recommendations in November. The ST Board is expected to select improvements for further study (preferred study and evaluation) in Winter 2022.

Member Michael shared that 50 survey responses seems low. He asked what engagement occurred and how staff focused on equity and BIPOC communities. Melanie shared that the first round of surveys asked folks to share ideas of what they would like to see as a potential project. She recognizes that the messaging of 'what would you like to see for station access' versus 'this is what is happening in your neighborhood' may not garner as much engagement. Melanie explained that ST has been working with the Asia Pacific Cultural Center and other grass roots organizations. For this next round of outreach, ST will utilize door hangers in neighborhoods where a project may exist.

Member Dana asked if crossing I-5 was considered. Zac shared that the cost to build a pedestrian bridge over I-5 would exceed the project's budget; however, other projects to connect to I-5 ranked in the higher to middle-performing. Chair Jenn asked if curb ramps on S 56th St crossing I-5 could be added. Jennifer Kammerzell shared that WSDOT is planning to install curb ramps on S 56th St and I-5 crossing fairly soon. The project is in design. Zac and Melanie also responded that new projects will not be generally added to the list, unless it clearly is a higher-performing project and receives significant support. The challenge is that each project was evaluated for feasibility, cost, and benefit this summer. Liz shared a map of proposed projects, existing projects, and potential ST projects. Zac explained that a connection west of Tyler will connect to S 56th St then through unimproved Madison, and across the northern boundary of SERA Park to the station. Zac also shared that pedestrian safety and traffic calming projects on South Tacoma will provide benefit to Pierce Transit riders that would board/de-board buses on South Tacoma Way.

Liz asked members to provide feedback for the two phases on Pine and Oakes St, and if the group would prioritize one phase over the other (north – Center to S 47th St or south – S 56th to S 74th St). Chair Jenn supported the north segment because of its connection to S 37th St. Member Kerri and Cindy supported the north segment as well. Member Matt asked if there are plans for S 35th St between Union and South Tacoma Way. Liz shared that S 35th St is on the TMP to connect to Steele St. Chair Jenn and Member Kerri asked if lighting will be provided. Zac shared that if lighting is a standard or requirement, it will be included. He noted that it would impact project costs and likely how many projects can be completed. Teena supports making S 38th St more walkable and bikeable. Zac reminded the group that all improvements need to go back to how



the project impacts the station and station area.

- **State of Sidewalks: Follow-up on BPTAG Questions – Part 1**

Liz Kaster and Jennifer Kammerzell provided an overview and responses to the group's discussion on State of Sidewalks from the August 23, 2021 meeting. Jennifer shared the design standards for sidewalk installation and amenities that would enhance pedestrian experience. They are typically tied to Zoning and development. She also shared how the City defines unfit/unsafe sidewalks, which is based on vertical and horizontal failures. The definition is meant to address safety and accessibility challenges. Jennifer also provided an overview of zoning requirements as it relates to benches, transit benches and pads, pedestrian scale lighting, canopies/awnings, and amenity zones.

Liz shared a map of assessed curb ramps – good, present, missing. She also shared that schools are responsible for maintenance of sidewalks fronting their property. She also shared that it is not typical for a property owner to place the repair of sidewalks on a renter. Jennifer shared that trees play a large role in sidewalk condition and pedestrian experience. The City has a webpage dedicated to the Right Tree in the Right Place.

Member Tyler asked who would enforce when cars block the sidewalk or travel lanes. Jennifer shared that it would be the Tacoma Police Department to enforce the traffic safety. Member Julian shared that a residential street near his residence was recently repaved, but it has missing sidewalks. Jennifer shared that it is likely a Streets Initiative Project (voter approved initiative) that was funded to primarily pave streets. It was not intended to fund sidewalks and curb ramps and other complete street elements on every project. The initiative expires in 2025 and will likely be added to the ballot again, but with a more complete street focus.

- **Tacoma to Puyallup Regional Trail Connection**

Liz provided a status update on the Tacoma to Puyallup Regional Trail. In 2016, the Tahoma to Tacoma Trail Network Benefit Report was released. It included the economic, health, transportation, equity, and environmental benefits of the trail connection from Mount Rainier to Point Defiance. A trail analysis was completed in 2020 that studied three routes – River Road, Levee Road, and the New SR167 alignment. The SR167 route was selected as the top priority for implementation.

In 2021, the Washington State Legislative Session included \$2.3 million in funding for Preliminary Engineering and environmental documentation and \$2.5 million for construction of Stage 1a/1b Segment 2 to facilitate future connection to Northeast Tacoma. The cohort expects to continue pursuing future funding requests.

V. Updates

- **Report from Transportation Commission**

Jennifer shared that the September 15th meeting agenda included an update on Vision Zero and Speed Limit Reductions, and review/recommendation of the Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group Report No. 2 Portland Avenue Station and Report No. 3 Transit Oriented Development Toolkit.



- **Staff Updates**

Liz shared that Council Member Walker will attend the November BPTAG meeting. If there are topics members are interested in, please let Liz know.

- **BPTAG at other active transportation meetings**

Chair Jenn presented Safe Mobility for All and Injury Prevention Update to the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

Liz shared that there are several opportunities to provide feedback that are linked on the Tacoma Mobility Facebook page – Watershed Planning and Safe Routes to Schools walking audit.

VI. Adjourn

Chair Jenn adjourned the meeting at 7:24 PM.



The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any of its programs, activities, or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the City's Active Transportation Coordinator, Liz Kaster, at (253) 591-5380 (voice), lkaster@cityoftacoma.org, or via TTY/ASCII at (800) 833-6388