



City of Tacoma

Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

To join by computer, click on the following link:

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MINUTES

January 24, 2022

5:30-7:30 PM

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

Chair Jenn adjourned the meeting 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

Say Farewell to Kristi Picio

The November 22, 2022 minutes were moved and seconded. They were approved as submitted. Members introduced themselves and shared their favorite winter fruit. Member Max, Kessa, and Anne were absent.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

IV. Business Items:

1. Conversation with Josh Diekmann, Transportation Division Manager

State Legislative Update & new Public Works Transportation Division

Josh Diekmann, Division Manager and City Traffic Engineer, provided an update on recent Public Works Department changes and State Legislative activities. He shared that the City recently created a Transportation Division that he will lead. The Division includes transportation planning, transportation safety, signal and streetlight operations, and parking. Chair Jenn asked if the Transportation Division is a smaller subset of Public Works. Josh explained that the new Division is approximately half the size of the Division it came from (Engineering Division).

Josh also shared the City's two main Legislative transportation priorities, which includes transportation funding and automated enforcement. For transportation priorities, the City is supporting efforts to develop a transportation funding package that will assist with funding active transportation, safety projects, and failing infrastructure, specifically bridges. The City is also supporting efforts to evaluate a more transportation funding options.



Automated enforcement is another priority that the City is commenting on and supporting. Josh discussed the City's interest in expanding automated enforcement. There are several proposals that support expanding eligible locations for speed cameras, such as the one on Bay Street, in school zones and near hospitals and parks.

Chair Jenn asked where the revenue from automated cameras is directed. Josh explained that all revenues from the cameras are placed in a fund that pays for the vendor contract, staff to review violations, the court system, and approximately 10% of the revenues go to Public Works for evaluation and implementation of automated enforcement. The revenues are meant for traffic safety purposes. One of the Legislative proposals recommends directing revenues to the Cooper Jones Safety Task Force for grant distribution. Member Matt noted that vendor costs had historically been fairly high and asked if Tacoma is experiencing that as well. Josh shared that in some cities heavily utilized automated enforcement, which resulted in higher vendor contracts/costs. There are more vendors available now that helps to increase the competitiveness of vendor selection. Member Kerri asked if the automated enforcement bill would look at cars blocking crosswalk. Josh shared that is a different bill that builds on Seattle's pilot program of Don't Block the Walk that utilizes cameras. Member Dana asked if the data shows improvements for safety. Josh discussed that several agencies have completed robust data collection and reporting.

2. 6 Year Transportation Improvement Program

Jennifer Kammerzell, Principal Engineer, provided an overview of the 6 Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) state law requirement, purpose of the document, and timeline to amend and adopt it. State law requires each city/county/town to amend and adopt their TIP each year. It is a budgeting and planning tool for agencies to prioritize transportation related projects for each 6 years. The TIP includes capital projects only, such as new bike and pedestrian facilities, trails, bridges, and street reconstruction. Jennifer explained how projects are identified and included in the TIP, which includes a prioritization criteria that references the Transportation Master Plan (TMP). She also shared examples of past projects that were added and removed, as well as the timeline for adoption that includes a City Council public hearing.

Member Tyler asked if every unfunded projects stays in the document or do some fall off if they are not funded. Jennifer shared that it depends on the project. If it is a priority, then it will stay on until it is funded. At some point, if it no longer is a priority or funding continues to be unavailable, they may be removed. Member Dana asked if the increase in material and labor costs are impacting projects. Jennifer confirmed that the cost increases are felt by the City and staff are doing better about incorporating those potential cost increases in grant applications. Granting agencies have understood equipment delay and provided some leniency with schedule changes.

3. Grants: TAP Update, HSIP, Complete Streets, upcoming opportunities

Liz Kaster, Active Transportation Coordinator, provided an update on proposed grant applications. The City submitted the J Street Bike Boulevard for funding from the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). This project includes traffic calming and volume restrictions. Chair Jenn asked if the crosswalk on Division will include no parking



signs to improve intersection visibility. Liz commented that the Hilltop Links Extension project will provide a separated path from the tracks, a Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon, bulbouts, and limited parking. Member Julian asked how staff considers raised crosswalks or bulbouts. Liz shared that raised crosswalks are a fairly new tool to the City. Staff are more conscientious of bulbout designs to ensure bicyclist don't have to swerve or merge with traffic.

Liz discussed current projects under consideration, which include the S 25th Street Bike Lanes: Scott Pierson Trail to Prairie Line Trail, S 12th Street Protected Bike Lanes: Cedar to Grant, I Street/Yakima Ave: 6th Ave to S 8th Street, 6th & Sprague Intersection: Protected Bike Lanes Ainsworth to State. Liz also provided an overview of upcoming grants. The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant is based on collision data. The City is considering S 25th Street Bike Lanes (construction) and Pine Street Protected Bike Lanes (design) projects for HSIP application. The Puget Sound Regional Council grant program is based on growth management policy/implementation. The City is considering construction of Puyallup Avenue Complete Streets (Portland to Pacific Avenue) and Portland Avenue (Lincoln to S 25th Street) freight access and bike/ped safety. She also shared that the City received a Complete Streets Award (\$400k-\$600k) for a project that would implement Complete Streets.

4. **Bike Month 2022 Brainstorm**

Chair Jenn suggested creating a program with an incentive that encourages folks to bike to various locations, similar to Metro Parks Bike to a Park. Tracy Oster, Downtown on the Go, shared that Downtown on the Go will be launching a similar Bike to a Business program this year. Chair Jenn asked if the City could coordinate with schools to encourage bicycling. Member Matt suggested including a tour of the Swan Creek Park Improvements. Member Kerri suggested partnering with Sister Cities. Member Julian suggested a digital version of the City of Tacoma/Pierce County bike map that folks could add favorite routes/rides. Member Tyler suggested a self-guided bike tour. Liz also shared that Pierce County is updating their bike map and is looking for folks to give feedback on the recommended routes. Member Kristi suggested Breakfast/Coffee on the Bridges where riders could stop on bridges or on specific stops to socialize. Chair Jenn asked if the City could put together a Bike Month reading list. Liz said that the City has partnered with the Tacoma Public Library for story time and recommended readings. Member Tyler suggested a Bikes and Beer that a brewery could host. He mentioned there is a brewery map. Member Tyler also suggested having a background for virtual meetings. Member Kerri suggested a tour for mini food/produce banks or a fashion show on bikes. A social media competition and ride at Swan Creek Park and/or the Narrows Bridge was also suggested.

V. **Updates**

- **Report from Transportation Commission**

Jennifer Kammerzell reported that Co-Chair Gerritt Nyland and Co-Chair Bruce Morris were elected for this year. She shared that the Commission worked on their 2022 Work Plan in January and will have a joint meeting Planning Commission to hear from Pierce Transit regarding Bus Rapid Transit Route 1 and STREAM Expansion.



- **Staff Updates**

Staff shared that the Vision Zero online survey is posted and available through March 4, 2022: www.cityoftacoma.org/visionzero. The McKinley Hill Neighborhood Plan survey is also available on line:

https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/planning_and_development_services/neighborhood_planning_program/mc_kinley_hill. An end date has not been posted yet.

- **BPTAG at other active transportation meetings**

Member Matt asked staff to convey to Street Operations concerns about snow plows plowing snow onto sidewalks and in bike lanes. Pedestrians and bicyclists end up walking/riding in the street or have to jump over snow hills to get out of the way. With the low volume of cars, can the plows just clear one lane instead of two. Member Michael agreed with Member Matt's observations when biking as well. The group agreed that residents did not clear sidewalks well. Member Tyler noted that folks he talked to did not know that clearing the sidewalk was their responsibility. He suggested posting it on social media or doing some education when it snows.

VI. Adjourn

Chair Jenn adjourned the meeting at 7:14 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