



City of Tacoma Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

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MINUTES July 25 2022 5:30-7:30 PM

I. Call to order and land acknowledgement

Chair Jenn called the meeting to order at 5:33 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

Members Tyler and Anne were absent. This meeting is Max and Kessa's last meeting.

It was moved (Member Michael) and seconded (Member Teena) to approve the April 25, 2022 minutes. The April 25, 2022 minutes were approved as presented.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

IV. Business Items:

1. Hilltop Link Extension – Bicyclist Safety Outreach (Sound Transit)

Sarah Miller, Sound Transit Safety Manager, and Andrew Austin, Sound Transit Government Relations, provided an overview of the Hilltop Link Extension Safety Outreach Overview. Sound Transit (ST) has been working on a Safety Campaign that can be flexible enough to be utilized for four years of Link Light Rail expansions, including grade-separated tracks and at-grade tracks. The key audiences are the people on the platform or people around the station or who may interact with tracks (drivers, pedestrians, bicycles) and in Tacoma it's specifically hospitals, small businesses, and school-age youth. The campaign focuses on desired behaviors – crossing at designated areas and look when crossing. In July/August, ST will be working with 2nd Cycle on posting information and possibly hosting a ride. Fall/Winter outreach during the testing phase includes social media, presentations, flyers, sidewalk chalk, street banners, and Tacoma Public Schools Safety Art Contest. Activities will roll into start of serve of Quarter 1 2023.

Sarah asked for feedback and how to reach bicyclists through the summer. Member Kerri asked if this would impact rented scooters, walkers, and wheelchairs, etc. Sarah and Andrew will connect with Razor, and will be working closely with the hospitals regarding targeted outreach. Member Kerri asked if the outreach will include existing alignments or just the new tracks. Sarah shared that the outreach will focus on the expansion area, but



will include the existing stations and crossings. Member Kessa asked if there will be targeted outreach at the schools. Sarah explained that ST will be working with the schools, especially at Stadium HS. Member Kessa asked if there will be a large event where folks can see the train. Sarah shared that it is a great idea, but difficult to encourage train safety by crossing in designated areas at an event. Liz Kaster, Active Transportation Coordinator, asked about materials that show bicyclists how to cross tracks perpendicularly, especially at areas like Division & MLK where the bicyclists transition to the sidewalk. Dan Maize, 2nd Cycle Board Chair, shared support for a partnership on education. Member Julian suggested providing education to drivers on how bicyclists might act around tracks. Sara Kiesler, Cascade Bicycle Club, mentioned partnering with Cascade Bicycle Club's education team to put together a video on safely crossing tracks on wheels. Chair Jenn said a video for new drivers would be helpful too and would instill good behaviors. Sarah shared that ST has created previous videos and will work with the driving schools in the area.

2. Vision Zero: Draft Action Plan

Carrie Wilhelme, Long Range Planner, provided a summary on the Draft Action Plan, including transformative actions, priority actions, and Transportation Commission involvement. Carrie shared that Chair Jenn served on the Vision Zero Task Force. She explained that the Action Plan focuses on key actions that include key implementers, focus areas, progress metric(s), and implementation notes. The actions are separated as transformative (greatest potential for reducing fatal and severe crashes) and supporting (do not directly address factors contributing most to fatalities and serious injury crashes).

Carrie presented on each transformative action and changes made since the Commission last reviewed them. Carrie shared that she will be presenting the Action Plan to City Council at the Study Session on July 26th. The plan will be revised and finalized in August and should be prioritized for implementation in September. Carrie asked Members to think about what priority actions should be and how they can be involved. Carrie asked Members to send her comments by the end of July. Member Kessa asked if the other Business Districts will eventually be reduced to 25 mph. Carrie explained that State law requires a traffic evaluation on arterials. Studies indicated that certain arterials need additional countermeasures to support a reduction in a speed limit.

Member Michael asked if there is a cost for the sign change. Carrie shared that there is a cost and that City Council allocated funds in anticipation of the change. She also shared that the City was awarded grant funds from the WA Traffic Safety Commission to support an education campaign. Chair Jenn asked if the City is using hospital data to support crash reports. Carrie explained that the WA Traffic Safety Commission does track that data, including race, and provides that on a data dashboard (<https://wtsc.wa.gov/research-data/fatalities-dashboard/>).

Chair Jenn encouraged members to participate and support Vision Zero in their personal and professional capacity. Member Kerri shared the Show Some Love signs and materials at Mikey's vigil. Member Kessa asked if messaging will extend to Northeast Tacoma. Carrie explained that the plan includes coordination with WSDOT, who operates and maintains SR509.

3. Recent Collisions: Reflection & Response

Chair Jenn shared the crash that killed a 13 year old, Mikey Weilert, crossing in a crosswalk on Pacific Avenue. Kerri attended the vigil and shared that neighbors and community have mobilized to provide crossing guards. Mikey's mother is working to



advocate for safer streets. Member Teena also attended the vigil and shared that cars on Pacific Avenue drive very fast and that they do not respect pedestrians. Sara, Cascade Bicycle Club, shared that the News Tribune article was poorly written and victim-blamed. The Cascade Bicycle Club wrote to the editor about wording and would like to see education on how to communicate crashes. Carrie shared that a Vision Zero Supporting Action is to work with media outlets to more accurately and holistically report traffic crashes in a way that avoids victim-blaming. Member Teena recommended reaching out to news reporters so that they know and understand the impact of their words. Liz Kaster shared that Chair Jenn testified at the WA Traffic Safety Commission regarding the reporting of the crash and the WA State Patrol response and lack of a citation to the fatality. Member Teena would like to see that for any fatality, the response from law enforcement should be pending investigation instead of no violation. This helps with the perception that it is the victim's fault and allows for a full investigation.

4. **General Updates**

1. **BPTAG Recruitment** – Liz shared that there will be openings for youth positions with the graduation of Members Max and Kessa. She asked Members to share the recruitment when it is posted.
2. **Parking Outreach** – Liz shared that as part of the S 56th Street & Cirque Drive bicycle project, she created a flyer regarding parking in or around a crosswalk or bicycle facility. Liz also asked members to provide input on minimum widths for a protected bike lane that would be for one direction of travel to the right of a right turn lane. The group discussed ensuring the bike lane can accommodate a trailer, the lane could be swept/cleaned, and provides some protection – and thought a 4 foot minimum would be acceptable if it allows for protection. Member Matt suggested protecting the left side (through lane side) if the available width is insufficient, since it allows for cleaning and cars turning right should be driving slower. The group generally supported that proposal.
3. **Budget Feedback** – Liz encouraged Members to take and encourage others to participate in the Budget Balancing Act Tool. www.cityoftacoma.org/balancingact

V. **General Updates**

Report from Transportation Commission

Carrie shared that at the July meeting, the Commission heard the Vision Zero Action Plan update and also decided to write a letter to support implementation of Transportation Master Plan elements.

Staff Updates

Staff had no additional updates.

BPTAG at other active transportation meetings

There were no additional updates.

Adjourn

Chair Jenn adjourned the meeting at 7:24 PM.



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