



# City of Tacoma

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

**In person meeting location:** Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 248 (747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402)  
*The Tacoma Municipal Building is served by Pierce Transit bus routes 1, 2, 11, 16, 45, and 57. Visit [www.tripplanner.piercetransit.org](http://www.tripplanner.piercetransit.org) to find your route. The Tacoma Municipal Building has bike racks at the Market St and St. Helens Ave entrances. Visit [cityoftacoma.org/mobility](http://cityoftacoma.org/mobility) for a map of Tacoma bikeways.*

**To join by computer, click on the following link:**

<https://us06web.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

**Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group Members:**

iLeana Areiza	Julian Helmer	Sara Kiesler	Matt Pavolka
Steve Demmer	Teena Johnson	Thomas O'Neil	Jami Stavlo
Jennifer Halverson-Kuehn	Dmitri Keating	Treveen Parish <i>Youth Alternate Position</i>	Riley Weaver <i>Youth Position</i>

## AGENDA

**April 22, 2024**

**5:30-7:30 PM**

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Jenn 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, Icebreaker & Approval of Minutes

Icebreaker: Favorite spot to walk or roll in your neighborhood?

Member Matt was excused absent.

Member Thomas moves to motion to approve the March 20, 2024 minutes. The motion was approved as presented.

### III. Public Comment

Nicholas provided comments on cycling infrastructure in Tacoma and examples of potential improvements to support safe access.

### IV. Business Items:

- **Street Operations Overview – Rae Bailey, Public Works**

Rae Bailey, Division Manager for Street Operations presented an overview of the division. Rae presented the Division's organization, staffing, and major programs, which includes Street Maintenance, Grounds Maintenance, Signs & Markings, and Emergency Response.



Street Operations is responsible for installation and maintenance, which includes pothole repair, paving, curb ramps, bike racks, city parks and properties, graffiti, signs, pavement markings, snow removal, and emergency response for severe crashes and weather impacts. He noted that staff shortages have made it more challenging to keep up with maintenance. He then gave a general overview of Street Operations funding. He noted that the division is on target to meet all its goals even with delays from the pandemic. Rae noted that street maintenance is the largest part of program staff. The division has three crews work year-round to pour concrete and grade alleys once every two years, or four, if needed. He mentioned that bike lanes and trails pose a significant challenge to clean and maintain. He said that the division is looking into purchasing specialized equipment to make it easier to clean and sweep bike lanes. Rae emphasized that Street Operations staff works closely with Public Works to ensure signs are placed properly. Rae also mentions that the Signs and Markings team is understaffed, there are only 5 for the entire city of Tacoma in comparison to Spokane which has 15 (3 times the amount). He also notes that other challenges are recruitment and retaining staff with having an aging workforce, reliance on Streets Initiative Funding which provides significant funding, and that many capital projects are grant funded but will not fund the maintenance and upkeep once done.

BPTAG members discussed with Rae how the Group can support Street Operations, either through staffing or other means.

- **Active Transportation in Tacoma: A Brief Intro – Liz Kaster, Public Works**

Staff member Liz Kaster gave a presentation on the state of active transportation in the City of Tacoma. She started by explaining the commonly used terms for the infrastructure and work as it related to active transportation. She then gave an overview of active transportation and policies. Kaster explained how the City uses safety, equity, and connectivity as a framework guide how the limited resources and funding are prioritized. She mentions that 75% of the high injury network is located in low and very low opportunity areas of the city. Kaster mentioned there is a major on focus on active transportation connections to transit facilities.

Board members discussed how projects get prioritized for funding and how projects get assessed for development impact.

- **Discussion: What Brings You to BPTAG?**

As we welcome our new BPTAG members, we'd love for existing and new members to share what brings them to this work.

- **What brings you to BPTAG?**

- People have various reasons for being in BPTAG centered around wanting to make Tacoma a better, more livable, community.

- **Discuss & Vote: Letter Writing on Behalf of BPTAG**

- Member Teena moved to allow Chair Jenn to write letters on behalf BPTAG. The motion was approved as presented.

- **Staff Updates**

- Rey Sosa shared that 2024 Bike Month events are up on the City's Bike Month website and will be continuously updated through the month of May.

- **Report from Transportation Commission**

- Commissioner Korbuszewski shared that the Transportation Commission received a presentation on the Picture Pac Ave Subarea Plan and held a discussion on updating the Transportation Master Plan vision and goals.

- **Report out on Volunteer Assignments**



- **Transportation Commission:** Jenn Halverson Kuehn - Commissioner Korbuszewski gave the update.
- **Metro Parks Point Defiance Park - Outer Loop Visioning Committee:** Matt Pavolka, Teena Johnson, Thomas O'Neil, & Jenn Halverson Kuehn – Chair Jenn reported that the committee's ideas are being incorporated by Metro Parks for consideration.
- **Metro Parks Strategic Plan:** Matt Pavolka
- **Pierce Transit Strategic Plan:** Julian Helmer
- **South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan:** iLeana Areiza – Member Areiza provided an update on first meeting for the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan steering group. She mentioned that there are funds available for the community to identify a project.
- **Metro Parks Climate Action Plan** (<https://engagepiercecounty.mysocialpinpoint.com/climate-action-plan>): All
- **Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan** (<https://www.cityoftacoma.org/picturepacave>)

## V. Adjourn

Chair Jenn mentioned that there will be no May meeting due to Bike Month. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 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) 363-1135 (voice), [lkaster@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:lkaster@cityoftacoma.org), or via TTY/ASCII at (800) 833-6388