



## Minutes

**Meeting:** Regular Meeting  
**Time:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 5:30 P.M.  
**Place:** Zoom meeting by web or phone

To join by computer, click on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/join> or

<https://zoom.us/j/95745162414?pwd=TERkSUNsQkZBRjZCQIRWQ0VuSWVsdz09>

If you are asked for a Meeting ID, enter: 957 4516 2414

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Please mute your computer or phone, when joining the meeting to minimize audio feedback and disturbance. Cameras are also not required. Thank you.

### I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Nyland called the Meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

### II. Roll Call/Introductions

Jacki Skaught was absent.

### III. Approval of Minutes (February 19, 2020)

The minutes were moved by CM Leighton and seconded by CM Mason. They were approved with one edit to the second sentence under Pierce Transit Long Range Plan to delete the word "on".

### IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

There was no public comment.

### V. Business Items (5:45)

- a) Pierce Transit Destination 2040 Comment Letter Recommendation (Justin Leighton/Jane Moore)  
The Commission reviewed the letter drafted by Co-Chair Moore and CM Leighton. The Commission approved the letter with minor changes to the heading. Jennifer Kammerzell will forward the letter to Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Council Committee.
- b) 6 YR Transportation Improvement Program Draft Final Recommendation (Jennifer Kammerzell)



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Jennifer Kammerzell provided an overview of the draft 6 Year Transportation Improvement Program. The Commission had reviewed the added and deleted projects. She explained that there were two changes to that list. The newly proposed East 26<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Repair project was removed from the added list. After further evaluation of the bridge's load capacity, it was determined that it was satisfactory for use by future transit. A new project titled I-5/South 56<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange ADA improvement project will be added. She explained that WSDOT will be paying the City to design and act as project managers for the improvements. *CM Leighton asked how many ramps will be constructed. Response: There will be 21 new curb ramps. CM Mason asked what the County's contribution would be as part of the South Sound Freight Modeling project. Response: Pierce County provided a letter of support committing to \$25,000. CM Leighton asked for additional clarification about location of the Portland Avenue BNSF bridge project. Jennifer explained that the project is vehicle access over the BNSF railroad tracks. Jennifer provided an overview of some new projects, including the East 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge demolition project, Vision Zero Implementation, and 2021-22 Streetlight Installation. CM Leighton asked if the bridge could be demolished in phases and CM Stevens asked why not demolish and replace at once. Response: The first priority for demolition would be to remove the steel truss. The next priority would be to remove the concrete bridge, or at a bare minimum, take steps to mitigate the risk to the Port of Tacoma and its staff who work within the vicinity of the structure. By removing the structures in the near term, it would reduce the costs of the replacement of the 11 concrete sections in the future. We know that if you spend \$9 million today, then wait 10-20+ years to install a new structure, savings will be lost from inflation and increased costs. But, in today's dollars, it reduces the costs. Unfortunately, there are very limited grants available for demolition and the cost to install a new bridge is quite large. The other challenge is that the City has currently prioritized completing the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge segments. CM Gardner asked for the specific location of the S 48<sup>th</sup> Street Sidewalks project that was not funded by the TIB grant. Response: The project was on S 48<sup>th</sup> Street between Cushman and Asotin Streets.*

A presentation will be provided to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Council Committee on July 22, 2020.

c) COVID Impacts (Jennifer Kammerzell)

Jennifer Kammerzell provided an overview of the impacts that COVID has had on City operation and on projected financial revenues. 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 84<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Study project, and delay the Environmental Services Larchmont Green Stormwater Infrastructure Project. 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. *CM Leighton asked if the summary of impacts to the Streets Initiative Fund (\$2.9M) includes the TBD Sales Tax. Response: This does include the Sales Tax (\$1.1M) and Gross Earnings Tax (\$1.8M). Keep in mind that the TBD Sales Tax is different from the TBD Vehicle Fee. I-976 revolves around the TBD Vehicle fee.*

*CM Leighton asked how often the budget presentations will occur. Response: The presentations will be part of the City Council's regularly scheduled Study Sessions (Tuesdays at noon). CM Leighton recommended that the Commission should participate in and comment on future transportation funding, especially as it related to reductions and prioritization.*

d) Grant Updates (Jennifer Kammerzell)

Jennifer Kammerzell provided an update on grant applications that were applied for or will be applied for this year. A grant to install flashing school zone beacons at E 56<sup>th</sup> Street and Portland Avenue was applied for and funded this year. The project will be completed by the end of the year. A grant to install bike lanes on Mildred Street between S 12<sup>th</sup> and N 9<sup>th</sup> Streets that continued the facilities in front of TCC was applied for this year as well. This is a striping only project. Both of those projects were part of WSDOT programs.

The City also applied for construction of the Water Flume Line Trail Phase 3A and 3B (Pine to M Streets) as part of the countywide grant funding and have scored well. Prairie Line Trail Phase 2 was part of the regional grant competition and was not recommended for funding; however, it scored well and could be a contingency project. The City also applied for a preservation project on Portland Avenue and freight modelling project in the Port, but was not successful. The assumption is that in an effort to balance the requests from all agencies, the City received a larger share for Water Flume Line Trail. CM Mason added that City staff did really well with the application and competition, since the City will receive approximately 25% of the total grant funds.

The City is proposing to apply for WSDOT Bike/Ped grant to install buffered bike lanes on Cedar Street between S 15<sup>th</sup> and Center Streets. The project will also include missing link sidewalks under SR 16 on the east side. This project is due July 15, 2020 (correction). The City is also proposing to apply for WSDOT Safe Routes to School to install a raised crosswalk and protected bike lanes on S 66<sup>th</sup> Street in front of Manitou Elementary School. Both projects have been reduced in scope to remain competitive with the grant ask. *CM Miller asked if there will be a traffic signal at S 15<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Streets. Response: Jennifer explained that a signal it not proposed; however, the reduced roadway and two-way, left turn lane will assist with those movements. The City is proposing to add pedestrian crossing beacons too.* CM Stevens is interested in participating in any corridor planning for Cedar/Pine Streets. Co-Chair Nyland asked about the status of the Transportation Master Plan. Jennifer explained that there is funding to conduct a reduced scope of work that would occur by city staff, instead of a consultant. Dan Pike will lead that project and it's anticipated to start this summer.

## VI. Other Business/Updates (6:30)

- a) Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (Justin Leighton/Matt Stevens/Bruce Morris)  
The group has not met since March. Meetings are on hold. CM Stevens asked about the status of the group and potential funding reductions. CM Leighton explained that the group meetings are on hold. Josh Diekmann explained that Planning Department staffing for TODAG was part of the temporary layoff, which will return the end of July.



- b) Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Committee (Richard Gardner/Jane Moore) – Meetings are on hold. CM Gardner explained that Pierce Transit has a virtual open house with public comment available. He explained that roundabouts are no longer part of the proposal. CM Morris asked what locations were previously proposed and why they were dropped. CM Gardner stated the primary location was approximately S 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and Pacific Avenue and was eliminated due to lack of operational benefit and right-of-way needs.
- c) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Jennifer Kammerzell/Jane Moore) – They did not meet during COVID, but do plan on meeting June 22, 2020.
- d) Planning Commission Agenda – June 17, 2020 Meeting is cancelled

## **VII. Staff Reports (6:45)**

- a) Responses to Commission Inquiries  
The City also awarded the RFP for scootershare to Razor and is in contract negotiations. The City is also proposing to bring forward municipal code changes related to bike and scooter share. CM Leighton stated that he saw a tricycle on the waterfront that was being rented from someone/somewhere. Jennifer was not aware of any vendors that were permitted to operate in the ROW, so she will notify Liz Kaster, Active Transportation Coordinator.
- b) Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects – provided in regular agenda
- c) Upcoming Public Meetings & Events - None known

## **VIII. Commissioner Comments**

CM Stevens asked about the City's ability to allow parking to be used for additional sidewalk or commercial use. Jennifer shared that the City unveiled a new curbside café/market program, which is similar to parklets and streateries. This is complementary to a new temporary Loading Zone and ADA parking program.

CM Leighton explained that the Supreme Court would hear the lawsuit on I-976 this summer.

*CM Mason asked about programs to assist neighborhoods in funding new street lights and looking at the project costs, is it really \$20k per Street Light. Response: Jennifer will provide a separate email to CM Mason and Leigh Starr, Assistant Division Manager for Signal Street Light Section. As for the cost of individual street lights, the project includes the cost to install 200 new streetlights on existing TPU power poles and the cost to repair an identified number of street lights.*

CM Alonzo asked about the impacts to the Hilltop Link Extension and funding. He was aware that Sound Transit was asking for additional funds for the project, even though the project is over halfway completed. CM Leighton explained that the transfer of \$35M within Sound Transit was primarily from one pot of funding to another within the organization.

## **IX. Public Comment**

Hally Bert, Downtown on the Go, provided comment.

## **X. Adjourn (7:15)**

**Recorded minutes:**

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