



City of Tacoma  
Transportation Commission

Jane Moore, Co-Chair, District 2  
Gerrit Nyland, Co-Chair, City Manager appointed  
Luis Alonzo, District 3  
Richard Gardner, At-Large  
Justin Leighton, At-Large  
Evette Mason, At-Large  
Sarah Miller, At-Large  
Bruce Morris, District 5  
Jacki Skaught, District 1  
Matt Stevens, City Manager appointed  
Vacant, District 4

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## Minutes

**Meeting:** Regular Meeting  
**Time:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 5:30 P.M.  
**Place:** Zoom meeting by web or phone

Join by computer, click on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/join> or <https://zoom.us/j/98722456000?pwd=OVZwNGp6Qj9FUDdvcW1WMUJpUDRnQT09>

Join by Phone: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 987 2245 6000

Passcode: 969420

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### I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

### II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioner Stevens joined by phone.

### III. Approval of Minutes (October 21, 2020 and November 4, 2020)

The October 21, 2020 meeting minutes were moved and approved with grammatical and spelling corrections. The November 4, 2020 meetings were not available for review.

### IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

No public comment was provided

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

- a) Sustainability, Climate Justice, & Resiliency Project (Kristin Lynett)  
Kristin Lynett, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability, provided an overview of the trends and impacts of climate change. She shared graphics and information regarding the increase in air temperatures, early melting of snowpack, increased flooding, increase in water temperature, and increase in wildfires and poor air quality. She shared that we're close to locking in an increase in 1.5 degrees Celsius. This number is important because if we go beyond that warming temperature, the impacts and effects of global warming will be irreversible. 195 countries committed to not reaching this increase.

Kristin explained that Tacoma needs to lead by example. Some existing programs include planting more trees through the Grit City Tree Program, converting to electric vehicles, supporting mass transit, shifting to every other week refuse pick-up, supporting infill development, and implementing hydro-electric facilities. Kristin shared that the City declared a Climate Emergency in 2020, which was lead by the youth of Tacoma. She explained that the City is committed to centering racial equity in the discussions of Climate Justice Plan.

Staff is kicking-off the outreach piece of the plan development. They are working with Climate Justice Ambassadors to reach underserved communities to gather information and feedback. A draft of the plan is proposed to be completed summer 2021. The Transportation Commission will be included in the plan development process and is encouraged to consider the information gathered as part of project prioritization and planning as it relates to transportation.

CM Leighton asked if the City is making progress on the tree canopy. Kristin shared that the City supported and planted 2500 trees. It is more than in prior years, but it isn't close to meeting our targets as we look at the number of trees removed. CM Leighton voiced concerns about the maintenance of trees in Business Districts and commercial areas, where trees are topped and not able to grow.

Kristin guided the Commission through a story building exercise that will help to inform the plan. The questions asked Commissioners to think about what the future looks like and why. Kristin shared that she intends to return to the Commission during the community feedback phase.

b) Active Transportation Priorities and Planning (Liz Kaster)

Liz Kaster, Active Transportation Coordinator, provided an overview of the Active Transportation Program. In 2020, the City worked on policies and programs, which included updated the Tacoma Municipal Code to support walking and biking, completed a micromobility request for proposals, created 2 pop-up traffic gardens, and Leading Pedestrian Interval policy. In terms of infrastructure, Liz shared that by the end of the year, they will be bike lanes on Mildred between S 12<sup>th</sup> & Scott Pierson Trail, S 15<sup>th</sup> between Fawcett and Prairie Line Trail, S 66<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Improvements, and new sidewalk connection to the Pierce County Annex. Other projects underway in 2020 include Safe Routes to School Projects, Pipeline Line Trail Completion, S 21<sup>st</sup> & C Street Signal, and Tacoma to Puyallup Regional trail Collaboration.

Liz shared that the City is prioritizing safety and equity in planning and implementation of projects. She presented collision data, which shows disproportionate impacts to underserved communities. She also presented demographic data of people that walk and bike, which showed that people of color are more likely to use these active modes.

Liz discussed priority projects for 2021. She recognizes that the "easy" projects have been completed and that evaluating and planning on conflicted corridors is key. Project partnerships with Sound Transit and Bus Rapid Transit will be a priority in 2021. Planning for Vision Zero and Impact Fees will also be important, as well as finding ways to increase funding to complete more sidewalk and bicycle facilities.

CM Mason noted that ½ mile of sidewalk is low and would like to see more Streets Initiative funds allocated to completing the network. Liz shared that this will be a priority discussion as part of the Vision Zero planning and future project budgeting. CM Gardner would like to see bicycle theft recovery a priority. Liz shared that one tool the City can work towards is providing more secure bicycle parking. CM Alonzo asked about the status of the micromobility Request for Proposals (RFP) and what role can the City play in encouraging more sidewalk infill. Liz shared that she is currently working with the selected vendor on a contract and intends to launch early next year. She also shared that funding infill sidewalks is an important topic that mostly resolves around funding. CM Alonzo asked what the Commission's role will be in Vision Zero effort. Jennifer Kammerzell explained that the Commission will

be leading the Vision Zero effort. The project timeline has shifted slightly, but public engagement is expected to kick back off in early 2021. All updates and plan development will be shared with the Commission and may include a subcommittee.

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

- a) Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (Justin Leighton/Matt Stevens) – CM Leighton shared that the group discussed the Tacoma Dome Link Extension Portland Avenue Station with local agencies and the status of the Puyallup Avenue Corridor.
- b) Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Committee (Richard Gardner/Jane Moore) – CM Gardner shared that there will be an open house on December 10, 2020.
- c) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Jennifer Kammerzell/Jane Moore) – Chair Jennifer Halverson-Kuehn presented BPTAG’s comment letter regarding Tacoma Dome Link Extension. CM Leighton asked staff to work with Sound Transit on a one-pager that outlines public comment and decision making timelines. Sound Transit is expecting comments from BPTAG. The Commission moved and approved to endorse BPTAG’s letter. Chair Halverson-Kuehn also shared that the November and December 2020 BPTAG meetings are cancelled.
- d) Planning Commission 11/18/20 Agenda – The Planning Commission agenda included the Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations and Home in Tacoma Project

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

- a) Responses to Commission Inquiries, Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects – Jennifer shared that the City was awarded a Highway Safety Improvement Project grant for S 21<sup>st</sup> and C Street full signal improvements. She also shared that IPS held interviews for the 4 Transportation Commission vacancies. CM Mason was re-appointed, CM Morris was appointed to District 4, and Erin Anderson was appointed to at-Large. The District 5 seat is vacant. Jennifer also shared that this is CM Miller’s last meeting.
- b) Upcoming Public Meetings & Events - No additional meetings or events were shared.

## **VIII. Commissioner Comments**

CM Alonzo asked if the City is continuing the temporary Curbside Café/Market program. Jennifer explained that the program is continuing through the end of the year and will follow the State’s guidelines. Staff is working with businesses that are looking to apply or convert existing spaces with tents and heaters. The intent is to continue the program while traffic and parking demand is low and businesses rely on outdoor areas.

## **IX. Public Comment**

Nick Heerman, Parking Enforcement Services, shared that they are still accepting applications for temporary load zones and ADA parking through State pandemic related restrictions.

## **X. Adjourn**

Co-Chair Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:09 PM

