



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
Erin Anderson, At-Large
Bruce Morris, District 4
Jacki Skaught, District 1
Matt Stevens, City Manager Appointed
Vacant, District 5

Minutes

Meeting: Regular Meeting
Time: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 5:30 P.M.
Place: Conference Room 243, Tacoma Municipal Building, 2nd Floor
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

Join by computer, click on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/join> or <https://zoom.us/j/98722456000?pwd=OVZwNGp6Qi9FUDdvcW1WMUJpUDRnQT09>

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 5:32 PM

II. Roll Call/Introductions

All Commissioners were in attendance. .

III. Approval of Minutes (March 17, 2021)

The minutes were moved and approved as presented.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

No members of the public provided comments.

V. Business Items

- a) Impact Fees Update (Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works, and Kendra Breiland, Fehr & Peers)
Kendra Breiland, Fehr & Peers, provided an overview of the progress of the Impact Fee project. She provided a brief overview of Impact Fees, which is authorized under the Growth Management Act. They can only fund capital system improvements that are in existing capital facilities plans. They cannot fund existing deficiencies or general maintenance. Kendra shared the project schedule, which includes reviewing neighboring programs, program considerations and research, outreach, and program recommendations.

Kendra provided an overview of the questions/comments from the Transportation Commission February 17, 2021 meeting. Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works, shared that the outreach task as part of this project phase is smaller in scale, but provides a good basis of what the City needs to include in the future. The intent is to do more in depth outreach in the next phase. Kendra shared that an impact fee program can be based on geographic zones, which would be an output of outreach and City needs. She also explained that agencies can exempt certain types of development from impact fees (in whole or part), such as affordable housing. There are impacts when utilizing exemptions that the City will need to consider.

Kendra also shared a chart of comparable cities that included when their impact fee program was established and updated, as well as the fees for single-family and multi-family development. She shared that the team has been reviewing growth projections from various sources. Based on PSRC's projections, households are expected to grow 60% by 2040 and employment is expected to growth 68% by 2040. These are aggressive



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projections that the City would want to verify against current trends. Kendra also shared the process for identifying eligible transportation projects, which came from the Transportation Master Plan and 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program. Commissioner Leighton asked for clarity on what projects are eligible. Kendra stated that a project would have to add capacity. While buses moves more people, state law does not allow purchasing of buses for impact fees. Commissioner Leighton asked if impact fees can be used to support new transit improvements related to bus rapid transit, such as signal timing and roadway improvements. Kendra stated that as long as it is in the right-of-way, it is likely eligible. Commissioner Leighton asked if a road was closed to traffic, could it be eligible. Kendra explained that it does depend on what is considered new capacity, but potentially yes.

Kendra shared a map of the eligible projects by motorized, non-motorized, and transit. Commissioner Alonzo asked if the list of projects evaluated could grow or expand. Kendra stated that the list could be expanded; however, it should be added to the adopted plan before the rates are determined and impact fee program is adopted. Some cities will update their Capital Facilities Plan when they update impact fee programs. Commissioner Mason asked if the project needs to be on the 6-Year TIP or can it be on the TMP, which the Commission will be updating soon. Commissioner Skaught asked staff to outreach to the Port of Tacoma, Economic Development Board, Commercial Realtors, and Chamber of Commerce. They are tasked with job creation and could support impact fees that relate to job creation. Commissioner Leighton asked for statistics about Tacoma's jobs growth rate, commercial construction growth rate, maybe residential real estate, commercial growth generally compared to cities around us that have an impact fee. There seems to be an element that an impact fee will stifle development, but other cities appear to still see development.

Kendra shared highlights of the outreach conducted with Centro Latino, Human Rights Commission, and Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. This outreach is a small scale of the outreach planned and will help serve as a basis for future outreach regarding what and how. The groups asked a variety of questions related to park infrastructure, how it would affect affordable housing, and how are projects selected. Commissioner Mason shared that 75-80% of truck drivers in the port are immigrants and may not see the tie between this project and the work they do. Kendra also provided an overview of the Tacoma Permit Advisory Task Force (TPATF) presentation that included their comments and questions. The TPATF was concerned about impacts to affordable housing, equity, timing during a pandemic, what is the need/problem to solve, and growth impacts.

Commissioner Mason suggested reaching out to the Workforce Development Council to understand their infrastructure and transit use. She also recommended reviewing the case in Puyallup about sewer development charges Co-Chair Nyland asked about what the offsets might be if impact fees were in place, such as the amount of off-site improvements. Commissioner Anderson asked if schools would be required to pay for impact fees, as required in other cities. Kendra commented that it depends on the City's policy and program. Schools could benefit from street infrastructure improvements and if adopted an impact fee program.

- b) Tideflats Subarea Plan Update (Radhika Nair, BERK Consulting)
Radhika Nair, BERK Consulting, provided an overview of the Tideflats Subarea Plan, which included background information of the port area. The Subarea Plan intends to maintain a thriving Port, improve overall health of the area while preserving and expanding employment, align infrastructure improvements with needs, and health of the employees. Transportation is a key component of the Subarea Plan and the environmental impact statement. The project is currently in the visioning and baseline scoping phase. Radhika

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asked the Commission for their vision of the Tidelands, specifically what their vision of the Tidelands would be in 20 years from now. Commissioner Mason shared that the efficiency of the infrastructure, employment, and environment. Commissioner Anderson shared that addressing congestion would be important. Commissioner Leighton supported a working port that supports only sustainable types of businesses eliminates environmentally damaging such as fossil fuels. It should also respect the fact it is located on the land of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and understand and respect that it is Tacoma's largest shoreline, estuaries and mouth of the Puyallup River. Co-Chair Nyland shared that safe access for bikes and pedestrians, and access for transit specifically for entry level workers that may not have cars. Commissioner Skaught supports job growth, environmental sustainability, and transit access. Commissioner Stevens supports safe access for bikes and pedestrians, increased job growth, and better use of the brownfields. Commissioner Alonzo would like to see a more welcoming area, which means removing the Northwest Detention Center. Commissioner Gardner would like to see the East 11th Street Bridge replaced to provide better access to the Port and Northeast Tacoma. Co-Chair Moore supports environmentally friendly and sustainable jobs with multiple modes, as well as respecting the cultural importance of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. Jennifer will send an email to Commissioner Morris and Radhika to gather Commissioner Morris' comments.

Radhika shared that the project team is gathering the visioning information and will share the feedback in May.

c) Draft Final Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program Amended 2021 and 2022-2027 (Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works)

Jennifer Kammerzell provided a presentation on the draft final 6-Year Program Transportation Improvement Program. She highlighted the funding breakdown for added and removed projects. For the 13 added projects, the total is approximately \$68M with over \$43M resulting from the Sound Transit Access partnership funds and Puyallup Tribe of Indians Browning Street partnership, and the I-705 and Stadium Way on and off-ramps unidentified grant funds. For the 17 removed projects that resulted in more than \$68M in funding, almost \$50M were identified as grant funding and \$8M in unidentified city match for the Puyallup River Bridge projects. Jennifer also provided an overview of the outreach conducted that includes Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG), Community Council, and Infrastructure, Planning & Sustainability Council Committee (IPS). She also shared the tie in to the City's Vision 2025 goals and priorities, and Transportation Master Plan. The document will be forwarded to IPS for final consideration before presentation to Study Session. The Commission did not have any questions or comments.

d) Sound Transit Realignment Letter (Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works)

The Commission discussed the importance of the letter and that constructing Link Light Rail to the Tacoma Dome as promised is most important. Jennifer Kammerzell shared that TODAG members voiced concerns about supporting Sounder capacity expansion at a time when teleworking may increase and capacity may not be an imminent need. TODAG suggested creating a prioritized list with Link Light Rail at top priority and Sounder Expansion as lowest. Jennifer shared that BPTAG recognizes that supporting Sounder Station Access is also important, especially as other cities will remain silent. These access projects could result in \$40M in projects or match funds for future pedestrian and bicycle projects that connect to the stations. The Commission generally supported the letter as presented. The Commission moved and approved to allow the Co-Chairs to review comments provided by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group at their April 26, 2021 meeting and revise the letter as deemed necessary.

VI. Other Business/Updates



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- a) Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (Justin Leighton/Evette Mason) – TODAG reviewed the ST Realignment Letter, East Tacoma Station Location, and had a roundtable discussion on Transit Oriented Development.
- b) Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Committee (Richard Gardener/Jane Moore) – Met the end of March and are focusing on BRT safety, sponsorship, and roundabout design.
- c) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Jennifer Kammerzell/Jane Moore) – 3/22 Pierce Transit Rebalancing Project, Sound Transit South Tacoma Sounder Access
- d) Planning Commission Agenda – 4/21 Home In Tacoma Public Hearing De-Brief

VII. Staff Reports

- a) Responses to Commission Inquiries & Staff Comments - Staff did not have any updates.
- b) Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects - Staff did not have any updates.
- c) Upcoming Public Meetings & Events – Staff did not have any updates.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Leighton shared updates on the State budget process, which includes funding for the 167/509 shared use path,

Commissioner Gardner shared that he attended a citizen forum for South End and Eastside Sectors on traffic calming on April 19, 2021.

IX. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comments.

X. Adjourn

Co-Chair Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM



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Upcoming Agenda Items:

Envision the Waterfront

TMP Amendments – Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan, Impact Fees, Vision Zero

Potential/Continuing Topics

- 6-Year Transportation Program
- Transportation Master Plan Biennial Amendments
- Street Initiative Progress Reporting – Capital and Active Transportation Projects & Programs
- TMP 101 – What is Transportation Commission relationship to TMP, Why is it important
- Project Participation
 - Tideflats Subarea Plan
 - Safe Routes to School Implementation and Programs
 - Impact Fees
 - Vision Zero
 - Hazardous Sidewalk & Missing Link Sidewalk Program
 - Capital Project Status Annual Update
 - Schuster Parkway
 - Prairie Line Trail Continuation
 - Hilltop Links to Opportunity (Design)
 - Street Initiative Projects Annual Report and Upcoming Projects (biennially)
 - Bike & Scooter Share
 - Tacoma to Puyallup Regional Trail Connection
 - Neighborhood Traffic Calming
 - Puyallup Avenue Corridor Design
- TMP Work Plan Items:
 - System Completeness / Concurrency Status
 - Performance Tracking (assess every 2 years - 2020)
 - TMP Amendment Update (every 2 years 2019)
 - TMP Full Update/Assessment (every 5 years - 2020)
- Agency Coordination:
 - Sound Transit –Link Extension, ST3 - Central Link Station Location, S 19th Extension
 - WSDOT – SR167 and I-5 HOV
 - Pierce Transit – Pacific Avenue High Capacity Transit
 - Metro Parks – Ruston Way “Envision Our Waterfront Tacoma”
- Updates:
 - Pierce Transit Franchise Agreement - handout
 - Curb Ramp App – handout
- BPTAG Work Plan
- PTAG Work Plan
- TODAG Work Plan
- Planning Commission Work Plan
- Sustainable Tacoma Commission Work Plan



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List of Groups to Attend/Follow

- Neighborhood Councils
- Neighborhood Business Districts
- Hilltop Action Coalition
- Tacoma Dome Business District
- Schuster Parkway/Ruston Way Stakeholder Committee
- WSDOT SR167 Bike/Ped Stakeholder Group (Justin, Bruce)
- Sound Transit TDLE (Justin)
- Tideflats Subarea Plan (Jacki, Justin)
- BRT Citizens Committee (Richard)
- BPTAG Liaison (Jane)
- Planning Commission Liaison
- Parking Technical Advisory Group Liaison
- Sustainable Tacoma Commission Liaison
- TODAG (Justin, Evette)

Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee Recommendations

- Affordable housing and access
- Bike Boulevards – Increase facilities, wayfinding, and use
- Pierce Transit – Support higher frequency and future increases
- Vision Zero – Support development and implementation
- Neighborhood Greenways – Include in TMP and focus on traffic calming elements
- Bike Friendly City – Strive for silver status and prioritize network of protected bike facilities



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