



City of Tacoma
Transportation Commission

Gerrit Nyland, Chair, City Manager Appointed
Luis Alonzo, District 3
Richard Gardner, At-Large
Evette Mason, At-Large
Erin Anderson, At-Large
Bruce Morris, District 4
Susan Reehill, District 2
Troy Serad, At-Large
Jacki Skaught, District 1
Matt Stevens, City Manager Appointed
Aram Westergreen, District 5

Minutes

Meeting: Regular Meeting
Time: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 5:30 P.M.
Place: Virtual, Zoom

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

Please mute yourself to minimize disturbance. The meeting is recorded and chat is part of the public record. Thus, this meeting may be subject to disclosure (RCW 42.56), regardless of any claim of confidentiality/privilege asserted by an external party.

I. Call to Order

Chair Nyland called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners introduced themselves and shared how long they have been on the Commission, the area they represent, their day job, and mode of transportation used today. Commissioner Morris was absent. Commissioner Anderson joined the meeting at 5:50 PM. Commissioner Morris joined the meeting at 6:12 PM.

III. Approval of Minutes (September 15, 2021)

The minutes were moved and approved with three changes.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

No members of the public provided comment.

V. Business Items

a) Electric Vehicle Charging Programs

Cam LeHouillier, Power Manager of Energy and Research Development, provided an overview of the City's Transportation Electrification Plan and Strategic Guidelines. He shared that 44% of local Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions come from transportation. In 2019, Senate Bill 1512 allowed municipalities to engage in electrification programs. One of the programs launched in August 2021 supports electrification include Home Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Pilot programs that supports Level 2 charging at home. It provides a \$400-\$600 bill credit for level 2 chargers, smart splitter, and 240V. Another pilot program launched in September 2020 is for Multifamily EV Charging. This program will fund 17 projects and has a 60+ wait list. Tacoma Power would pay up to \$25k of utility side costs, and an additional \$20k if located in a low-opportunity area. The third program is Public EV Charging that was launched in September 2020. The program incentives installation of the ports. There are 16 projects approved which includes 11 projects located in target equity zones and 80 charging ports to be installed by end of 2022. The next project is a City of Tacoma Parking Project that utilizes a grant to install public EV charging stations in city owned parking lots. CM Westergreen asked if the stations are fully grant funded and if they generate a revenue. Cam shared that the Tacoma Power is funding a portion, approximately \$150k to match the \$700k, and there will be a fee to use the chargers. The last program is a Right-of-Way EV Charging program that would install 15 chargers on-street in Neighborhood Business Districts. These chargers should be installed in Spring 2022. CM Stevens asked if the units installed



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at some of the Safeways are different than one will be on-street. Cam shared that the on-street units will be different. The units at Safeway are combining advertising options with providing no-fee charging.

CM Stevens asked how Tacoma's progress on electrification compares to other cities. Cam's group has not conducted that level of evaluation, but has seen significant progress in the current program. Cam also shared that Tacoma Power is interested in supporting e-micromobility, zero emission transit, EV Carshare Co-op, Shorepower, Drayage, maritime electrification, and electric transit. CM Serad asked if there is a plan to expand the program to meet the demand of the wait list. Cam shared that all funds for the program have been spent. Tacoma Power expects that the credits received in January 2023 from the electrification program will help to fund program expansion. Tacoma Power has also applied for Federal Grant funds to expand the program. CM Mason asked if Tacoma Power has the capacity to support a major shift to electrification. Cam shared that there are many elements to that answer, which includes diversifying the type of electrification and working with the various industries to make that shift. CM Alonzo asked Cam to describe the process to apply for the Level 2 Charger reimbursement program and the role of peak hour charging. Cam shared that applications are available online at Mytpu.org, and proof of purchase would be required.

b) Outdoor Dining Program

Jennifer Kammerzell, Principal Engineer in Public Works, provided a second presentation on the Outdoor Dining Program, which includes sidewalk cafes and curbside cafes/markets. The pilot program was meant to address the hardships that businesses are experiencing during the pandemic, while traffic volumes have decreased and the Governor's Emergency Declaration lifts certain restrictions. The program to allow curbside cafes has been in effect since June 2020. During that time, there have been 11 curbside café applications approved. Sidewalk cafes have always been an approved use, but will be evaluated as part of a permanent single-point of entry application and program. CM Stevens asked if any applications were rejected. Jennifer stated that one application was denied because it would occupy a taxi/loading zone that is utilized by many businesses on the block. Staff worked to find an alternative location for the load zone, but was unable to fund one with a ramp to the sidewalk. Staff will continue to develop a program mission and approach that supports City's initiative, including the Transportation Master Plan and Tacoma 2025. CM Reehill asked how businesses hear about the program. The City advertised the pilot program through social media and Neighborhood Business Districts. CM Westergreen supports the parklet design.

Jennifer shared that staff provided presentations to the Parking Technical Advisory Group, Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities, Downtown Tacoma Partnership, and Cross District Association. Feedback included ensuring ADA access to and through the spaces, maximize sidewalk space in high pedestrian areas, allow for weather protection, develop a grant or assistance program for construction, make permitting as easy as possible, and further evaluate implementation, as business needs change. The City set aside \$100,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds for reimbursement of expenses related to existing curbside cafes. CM Stevens supports curbside and sidewalk cafes in all zoning districts. CM Mason recommended that staff clearly communicate with developers that new developer paid wider sidewalks may be occupied with a café. Chair Nyland commented that if a café exists, the remaining sidewalk path must be unobstructed – free of sandwich boards or planters.

c) Vision Zero Action Plan

Due to the limited time left for the meeting, Carrie Wilhelme, Senior Planner in Public Works, provided a brief overview Vision Zero, which is an effort to eliminate fatal and severe crashes. It states that crashes are preventable, that it integrates human failing in the approach, it uses a safe systems approach, and that saving



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lives it not expensive. The City Council passed Resolution 40559 with a goal to become a Vision Zero city. The resolution directs staff to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan, study and implement lowering speed limits, create a Vision Zero Task Force and internal working group, and identify funding needs for implementation. The goal is to eliminate fatal and serious collisions by 2035. The City is currently monitoring speed and volumes in Neighborhood Business Districts.

d) Election Update

Chair Nyland shared that the Commission will hold elections for Chair and Vice Chair, or Co-Chair. Chair Nyland shared that the Chair/Vice Chair and Co-Chair's responsibility include facilitating monthly meetings, meeting once a month with liaison staff to set the agenda and debrief from the monthly meeting (not more than 1 hour), and attending necessary meetings to represent the Commission.

VI. Other Business/Updates

- a) Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (Matt Stevens) – CM Stevens shared that they received a presentation from Mark D'Andrea on Complete Streets for Puyallup Avenue (C Street to Portland Ave) and were focused on parking, reviewed the Commission's comments as it relates to the Toolkit, and discussion of Next Steps / Work Product. CM Stevens presented a letter that outlines the Commission's concerns with continuing TODAG. CM Anderson stated that the recommendation provides a good compromise. CM Mason shared that freight access is important to the Puyallup Avenue Corridor, but recognizes that it may not be part of other successful TOD programs. CM Serad supports CM Mason's observation about freight and recognizes the importance of planning for TOD as the City plans for Home in Tacoma. The Commission moved and approved the letter as presented with one amendment to the letter.
- b) Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Committee (Richard Gardner) – CM Gardner shared that he has attended 3 meetings for BRT. One included a presentation to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability (IPS) Committee that stated agency coordination has been challenging (Pierce Transit, City of Tacoma, and WSDOT), the design has changed, and construction costs are likely to exceed original estimates. The project is also up against a tight timeline and 60% design will not likely be completed until Spring 2022. Chair Nyland asked CM Gardner to corroborate concerns by Pierce County Council that the City of Tacoma is holding up the project. Josh Diekmann has been part of the leadership team that is working to keep the project on schedule. The City is committed to meeting FTA deadlines, but may mean compromises on
- c) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Jennifer Kammerzell) – Jennifer shared that the group received a presentation on how sidewalks are funded and designed. The group continued to discuss Jennifer shared the need for a Transportation Commission liaison that would attend BPTAG meetings and report back.
- d) Planning Commission Agenda - Jennifer shared that the Commission received presentations on the Neighborhood Planning Program pilot program and Climate Action Planning update.

VII. Staff Reports

- a) Responses to Commission Inquiries & Staff Comments – Staff did not have any updates to provide.
- b) Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects – Jennifer shared that staff is evaluating potential projects for the Transportation Alternative Programs (TAP) grant, which are due December 3, 2021.
- c) Upcoming Public Meetings & Events – Staff did not have any updates to provide.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

- a) Commission, Board and Committee (CBC) Equity Training – Chair Nyland, CM Anderson, and CM Serad provided a summary of the CBC Equity Training and thought it was a worthwhile to attend. Jennifer shared that it was a pilot training and will be available to other CBC members next year. The training included a video that discusses institutional racism and how we got here. It also included breakout rooms to discuss specific topics and how each CBC can incorporate equity in to the work they do.



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IX. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

X. Adjourn

Chair Nyland called the meeting to order at 7:46 PM.



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