



## City of Tacoma Transportation Commission

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

### FINAL Minutes

**Meeting:** Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission  
**Time:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 5:30 P.M.  
**Place:** Virtual, Zoom

Join by computer, click on the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87316891624?pwd=ZEJBMml3VWZSOTd1cjE5ZjNGT0VoUT09>

Join by Phone: (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: **873 1689 1624** Passcode: **747000**

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

Co-Chair Nyland called the joint Planning Commission and Transportation Commission meeting to order at 5:42 PM.

#### II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioner Alonzo and Reehill were excused absence.

#### III. Approval of Minutes (January 19, 2022)

Approval of the minutes was deferred to after the joint meeting.

#### IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

No members of the public provided comment.

#### V. Business Items

- a) Joint Business Item: Pierce Transit Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Pacific Avenue Update – Tina Lee, Pierce Transit  
Tina Lee, Pierce Transit Planning Manager, provided a presentation of the Pacific Avenue Stream Corridor project status. She provided an overview of the benefits of Bus Rapid Transit and the Pacific Avenue Stream route. The route includes four roundabouts, four median stations, and access to the Tacoma Dome Station. Tina highlighted key changes that include curb side stations between 64<sup>th</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> Street, a roundabout at 96<sup>th</sup> Street, and station refinements. Changes were based on construction cost savings, operational improvements, and community impacts. The project timeline includes continued work on the traffic impact analysis, downtown Tacoma traffic impact analysis (TIA), and identification of additional project funding for 2022. In 2023, the project will work towards 60% design, property acquisition, environmental permitting, and utility relocation. Construction will be phased, likely starting in the south and moving north. Tina explained that due to project delays, escalating construction costs, and inflation related to supply chain the total project cost is \$222M.

PC Vice Chair Karnes asked if the traffic analysis is a critical portion of the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) review. Tina explained that it is a requirement by both WSDOT, City of Tacoma, and FTA. Pierce Transit is



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paying for the TIA rerun. PC Vice Chair Karnes asked how betterments are being addressed. Tina shared that they have not identified betterments yet. Betterments would require a negotiation, which is not guided by a policy. Those may be an outcome of the TIA. Kurtis Kingsolver, Public Works Department Director, shared examples of betterments that were related to the Sound Transit. PC Krehbiel asked if buses are in or outside of the lane of travel and was concerned with congestion at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Pacific Ave. Tina shared that buses would be in the lane of travel and cars would stop behind, which helps with travel time and minimizes the need to wait for an opening to merge with traffic. PC Krehbiel asked if there are plans for additional street trees or green stormwater infrastructure. 180 trees proposed in City of Tacoma limits. There are biofiltration swales proposed where there is room, primarily in Unincorporated Pierce County. PM Givens asked if there is a policy to allow cash at the stations or buses, or if there is an incentive to try a new service. Tina shared that there would be a ticket vending machine at the platforms that would accept cash. Pierce Transit also has several programs to incentive use of ORCA cards and access to transit. PC Strobel asked how the TIA relates to previously approved environmental applications/permitting. Tina shared that the TIA will inform the SEPA process and an amendment to the NEPA may be required. PC Strobel asked if secured grant funds will be impacted by a delay. Tina explained that staff have been working with granters to ensure continued funding. PC Santhuff encourages both Commissions to consider the alignment on S 25<sup>th</sup> and Market St and how it may impact or can be supported by the Downtown Subarea Plan, Transportation Master Plan, and UWT Master Plan. TC Serad asked if the original TIA was completed in coordination with City staff and if the permitting process will create delays. Tina shared that due to the longer timeline previously used growth rates in the original TIA were not accepted by review staff. She also shared that the PC Dorner suggested utilizing colors for identify specific routes or lines. PC Dorner is concerned with starting construction outside of Urban Growth Areas and encouraging urban sprawl by extending the route to the Roy Y.

b) Joint Business Item: Pierce Transit Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) STREAM Expansion

Darin Stavish, Pierce Transit Planner, provided an overview of the Stream System Expansion Study. The team is focusing on Corridor Routes 2, 3, 4, and 402, which are the routes with the highest ridership. Aiming for the PSRC Regional FTA grant competition the end of 2022. Darin explained that Pierce Transit is looking to plan, design, and construct BRTs every four years. Together with a Technical Advisory Committee made up of city/county and partner agencies, the project team are reviewing each proposed corridor. The Public Survey is live and closes March 1, 2022.

PC Krehbiel asked if there are plans to connect BRT to the 72<sup>nd</sup> Street Transit Center. Tina shared that BRT is not proposed to access the Transit Center by BRT, but do plan to increase transit frequency in future plans. PC Vice Chair Karnes recommends that the proposed expansion is consistent with the Transportation Master Plan (TMP), specifically Route 2 is also designated as a Sound Transit Link extension and Route 3 crosses a manufacturing/industrial center that cannot support housing. TC Serad asked why continuation of Route 1 down 6<sup>th</sup> Ave is not under consideration. Darin shared that the constricted right-of-way and congestion is a major factor. Tina recognizes that 6<sup>th</sup> Ave has a high ridership and ideal for increased density. PC Givens recommends Pierce Transit participate in the upcoming Neighborhood Planning efforts to help identify areas that the City will support for growth and access. PC Givens was concerned about the lack of a north-south route (Tacoma Mall to 6<sup>th</sup> Ave) and asked if the four expansion areas are set or if there is an opportunity to alter the routes. Darin stated that the four routes would not change, but the alignment and termini are flexible. PC Dorner supports connecting mixed-use centers. PC Steele asked if there is a proposal for a north-south BRT route or if existing routes will be enhanced along the proposed BRT routes. Tina shared that the routes are selected based on existing high ridership and proposed ridership. The trolley and micro-transit on



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Ruston Way did not perform well and would be difficult to justify for a BRT expansion. PC Strobel asked that Pierce Transit staff prioritize and communicate to other cities that land use (annexation and densification) supports high capacity transit. Investments should support density and regional planning policies. TC Serad asked if there has been a discussion around moving the termini of the BRT 2 or 3 to Tacoma Dome Station versus downtown Tacoma. Tina shared that staff are reviewing the terminus, specifically moving it to the Tacoma Dome Station.

PC Vice Chair Karnes moved that a joint letter written by Planning Commission and Transportation Commission is drafted by two members of each Commission as appointed by the Co-Chairs, Chair, and Vice-Chair on the BRT System Expansion.

Co-Chair Nyland called the joint meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Co-Chair Nyland reconvened the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

#### **VI. Approval of Minutes (January 19, 2022)**

The minutes were moved and seconded. TC Serad proposed an amendment to page 2 to change where TC Serad said long-term bus service in Pierce County to long-term bus service in Tacoma. The minutes were approved as amended.

#### **VII. Other Business/Updates**

- a) Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (Matt Stevens, Erin Anderson)  
The next TODAG meeting is February 28, 2022.
- b) Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Committee (Richard Gardner)  
A virtual update will be provided to the Committee in March.
- c) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Troy Serad, Susan Reehill, Jennifer Kammerzell)  
The January 24, 2022 meeting agenda included an overview of the 6 YR Transportation Improvement Program and capital project updates.

#### **VIII. Staff Reports**

- a) Responses to Commission Inquiries and Staff Comments  
Carrie Wilhelme, Long Range Planner, shared that the Middle Housing House Bill will not move forward.
- b) Status of Grant Applications and Major Capital Projects  
No updates were provided.
- c) Upcoming Public Meetings and Events  
No updates were provided.

#### **IX. Commissioner Comments**

Co-Chair Nyland asked for volunteers to assist with writing the joint letter with Planning Commission. TC Serad and TC Gardner volunteered to participate in the letter writing.

TC Serad suggested a future agenda topic of the Pierce Transit Franchise Agreement.

TC Gardner shared that the March 1, 2022 Study Session includes an update by Sound Transit.

#### **X. Public Comment**

No members of the public provided comment.



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**XI. Adjourn**

Co-Chair Nyland called the joint meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.



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