



**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
Vacant, District 2
Troy Serad, At-Large
Jacki Skaught, District 1
Vacant, City Manager Appointed
Aram Westergreen, District 5
Matt Stevens At-Large

FINAL Minutes

Meeting: Regular Meeting
Time: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 5:30 P.M.
Place: Virtual, Zoom

Join by computer, click on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/join> or <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 meeting to order at 5:30PM.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

CM Anderson was excused absent. CM Westergreen was absent.

III. Approval of Minutes (June 15, 2022)

CM Serad moved to approve the June 15, 2022 minutes. CM Alonzo seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

No members of the public provided comments.

V. Business Items

Draft Vision Zero Action Plan

Carrie Wilhelme, Senior Planner, shared an email regarding a child fatality that occurred in Parkland on July 19, 2022. She encouraged Commissioners to read the article with a focus of Vision Zero and how Tacoma can better address and discuss the reasons for the fatality. Carrie provided a summary on the Draft Action Plan, including transformative actions, priority actions, and Transportation Commission involvement. Carrie has not received any comments to date. She explained that the Action Plan focuses on key actions that include key implementers, focus areas, progress metric(s), and implementation notes. The actions are separated as transformative (greatest potential for reducing fatal and severe crashes) and supporting (do not directly address factors contributing most to fatalities and serious injury crashes).



The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any of its programs, activities, or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Carrie Wilhelme at (253) 591-5560 (voice) or TTY-711.



Carrie presented on each transformative action and changes made since the Commission last reviewed them. Co-Chair Nyland asked how the pedestrian perspective or special interest groups would be included in the Design Manual process. Jennifer explained that amendments to the Design Manual are typically conducted with internal staff. Co-Chair Nyland recommended that external stakeholders be involved in the process. Carrie will propose ideas of how to engage with stakeholders when the manual is updated. CM Serad asked if the City has reached out to other cities for traffic calming ideas. Carrie explained that Tacoma is one of the leading agencies for Vision Zero; however, staff and consultant do rely on experiences and best practices that other cities do deploy. CM Serad asked how the City will seek funding for Vision Zero improvements and if the City is willing to change design best practices. Carrie and Jennifer explained that the City heavily relies on grant funds for street projects, especially arterial projects that include a new facility such as traffic calming, bike facilities, signals, sidewalks, etc. Carrie shared that grant focuses are shifting to better address Vision Zero, safety, and active transportation. This not only means providing modes with a specific facility, but a safe facility that would include a change to the city's design standards. The Vision Zero Action Plan includes an action to update the city's design standards and best practices. Co-Chair Morris asked if 64th Street was planned with Vision Zero in mind and what other Vision Zero Networks are in Washington. Jennifer and Carrie shared that the 64th Street project was designed before Vision Zero and was more of a Complete Streets project, but does include Vision Zero elements to slow traffic and accommodate active transportation. Carrie also shared that Seattle, Spokane, Bellevue, and Tacoma are Vision Zero Networks or in the process to be.

Carrie shared that she will presenting the Action Plan to City Council at the Study Session on July 26th. The plan will be revised and finalized in August and should be prioritized for implementation in September. Carrie asked the Commission to think about what priority actions should be and how they can be involved. CM Stevens proposed that representatives from Transportation Commission is on the Task Force with the other interested stakeholder groups that would receive regular reports on the status of the Action Plan, review incidents, and report back to their respective Commission. The group would meet monthly or bi-monthly. Co-Chair Nyland turned CM Stevens suggestion into a motion to create an Implementation Subcommittee that is led by a Transportation Commissioner with up to 3 seats for representation from BPTAG and Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities. CM Skaught suggested one representative from each group instead of 3, although there would be up to 3 Transportation Commissioners. Co-Chair Nyland asked if there are other CBCs that would be interested. Carrie shared that a Commissioner from the Human Rights Commission participated in the Vision Zero stakeholder group. CM Stevens suggested allowing other CBCs to participate at the discretion of the Subcommittee Chair. The motion was approved with the amendments. Co-Chair Nyland would like to see a cost estimate tied to reaching Vision Zero, including what percent is needed for grant match and how much staff time is needed to implement the plan. CM Serad pointed out that Vision Zero saves lives, as well as increases quality of life, economic development and climate justice. Carrie asked Commissioners to send her comments by the end of July.





b) Transportation Commission 2023-2024 Biennial Budget Recommendation

At the June Commission meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to draft a letter identifying the budget priorities in partnership with BPTAG. BPTAG submitted a letter in May. Carrie suggested the Commission write one on behalf of Transportation Commission. She shared the highlights of the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget recommendation letter. The letter focused on pedestrian facilities, bicycle connectivity, implementing impact fees, funding Vision Zero, and support Streets Initiative 2.0. Carrie asked the Commission to share ideas on potential priorities. Co-Chair Nyland would like to see the Commission focus on Vision Zero implementation (staffing for data dashboards, grant match/writing). CM Serad would like to see a Tactical Urbanist program to implement quick build and a long-term transit planner. CM Skaught would like to see climate change factored in as a priority (including making organizational changes or re-evaluation of current funding and programs). CM Stevens would like to see additional support for the Transportation Commission, including updating the Transportation Master Plan and data dashboards. CM Alonzo would like to see funding missing sidewalks as a priority. He would also like to see a transit oriented development study (rezones, alignments, etc.) conducted prior to BRT Stream Expansion and Sound Transit Link Extension on S 19th Street. CM Serad would like to see additional staff support for existing programs, e.g. more planners and engineers. The Commission discussed their individual priorities. CM Gardner recognized that Vision Zero should be the umbrella of the request. Co-Chair Nyland and Co-Chair Morris will draft a letter and provide to the Commission.

VI. Other Business/Updates

- a) Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (Matt Stevens, Erin Anderson): CM Stevens shared that they are writing a letter on Bus Rapid Transit Stream Expansion.
- b) Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Committee (Richard Gardner): CM Gardner shared that there was a Stream Expansion Open House in July. Pierce Transit Board will receive a presentation on Stream expansion in September. Pierce Transit will provide a presentation to City Council Study Session on August 7th.
- c) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Erin Anderson, Jennifer Kammerzell): The June meeting was a joint meeting with the Transportation Commission.

VII. Staff Reports

- a) Responses to Commission Inquiries and Staff Comments
Carrie shared that interviews for the Transportation Commission will be held August 10th. CM Alonzo will not be re-applying for another term. Co-Chair Morris asked how many positions are vacant. Carrie shared that the vacancies are District 1, 2, 3, and at-large. This includes CM Skaught's recent resignation. Jennifer Kammerzell, Interim Division Manager, shared that Tadd Willie vacated the Assistant City Manager position in April. Kurtis Kingsolver, accepted an interim position to fill in at Assistant City Manager. Josh Diekmann accepted an offer to serve as Interim Public Work Director/City Engineer, Jennifer will serve as Interim Transportation Division Manager, and Brennan Kidd will serve as the City's Traffic Engineer.





b) Status of Grant Applications and Major Capital Projects

Carrie shared that the City will apply for the Safe Streets for All grant in 2023. Jennifer shared that construction escalation costs are very high and grant match for projects is decreasing.

c) Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

No upcoming public meetings were provided.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

CM Gardner announced the transit pass for all program was launched. Co-Chair Nyland shared that Pierce County provided 500 bus passes good for a year to people experiencing homelessness.

CM Alonzo shared that he was part of an active transportation focused initiative where Governor Inslee declared September 19-25th as a day without driving. He challenged Transportation Commissioners to participate in the week of no driving. CM Nyland asked if the City of Tacoma would/could provide ORCA passes to CBCs.

IX. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

X. Adjourn

Co-Chair Nyland adjourned the meeting at 7:17 PM.

