



# City of Tacoma Transportation Commission

Matt Stevens, Co-Chair, At-Large  
Bruce Morris, Co-Chair, At-Large  
Richard Gardner, At-Large  
James Hill, At-Large  
Joe Korbuszewski, District 1  
Rubén Casas, District 2  
Austin Goble, District 3  
Troy Serad, District 4  
Penny Grellier, District 5  
Pamela Wrenn, City Manager Appointed  
VACANT, City Manager Appointed

## FINAL Minutes

**Meeting:** Transportation Commission  
**Time:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 5:30 P.M.  
**Place:** Hybrid: 747 Market Street, Room 243 or 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

### I. Call to Order

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

**II. Roll Call and Icebreaker:** Using no more than three words, describe your hope/desire/goal for transportation in Tacoma.

### III. Review of Minutes (October 18, 2023)

*Co-Chair Stevens moved to approve the October 18, 2023 minutes with the following edit from CM Grellier: in Section 6 – Item B: change “Route 1 Enhanced Bus Service” to “enhanced bus service on SR7/Pac Ave.” CM Casas seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

*Ayes: 9 – Gardner, Serad, Casas, Grellier, Goble, Stevens, Korbuszewski, Morris, Hill*

*Abstain: 0*

*Non-Voting: Wrenn*

### IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

*No members of the public provided comment.*

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

- a) Introduction: Public Works Director Ramiro Chavez (Discussion) – Ramiro Chavez, Public Works Director *The City of Tacoma’s new Public Works Director, Ramiro Chavez, provided an overview of his background and career which led him to Tacoma. He shared his support and appreciation for Transportation Commission.*

*The Commission asked about Ramiro’s approach to and experience with multimodal transportation, his approach to marking legal crosswalks, and what challenges he sees. They also discussed quick-builds/tactical urbanism to address immediate safety needs, project prioritization, the growing size and weight of vehicles and how increasing maintenance needs will be balanced with multimodal priorities – along with the impacts of decreasing gas tax revenue, the 2035 strategic plan for the City, and porous pavement.*

*There were questions about the Climate Action Plan and how it will impact Public Works, how Ramiro interacts Tacoma’s transportation system, and how to balance industrial centers with other demands on the City’s transportation system. Ramiro shared that his three word hope/desire/goal for Tacoma’s transportation system is: sustainable transportation system.*



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- b) Overview Street Operations Division (Information and Discussion) – Rae Bailey, Street Operations Division Manager  
*This agenda item is being rescheduled to a future date.*
- c) Vision Zero Update (Information and Discussion) – Carrie Wilhelme, Principal Transportation Planner  
*Carrie Wilhelme shared background on the City’s Vision Zero goal to eliminate fatal and serious injury crashes by 2035, a goal Pierce County has now adopted as well. The award-winning Vision Zero Action Plan is data-driven and equity-focused. The Action Plan includes a crash analysis, the identification of a high risk network, transportation actions, and supportive actions. The 23-24 biennium budget included 1 full-time Vision Zero Coordinator, \$300,000 for the first phase of speed reduction, and \$900,000 for program implementation which is being used for grant match for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant (decision-pending) and Portland Ave Vision Zero Grant (awarded). Carrie also spoke about upcoming Road Safety Audits, funded by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and the Vision Zero Crash Data Dashboard. She discussed the City’s speed limit reduction efforts – including reducing the residential speed limit from 25mph to 20mph and reducing speed limits to 25mph in 4 business districts. On residential streets, 77% of locations saw a reduction in speed and 18 of 22 locations saw a reduction in high-end speeders (>35mph). Within business districts, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds and number of 40+mph speeders decreased on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave and Old Town, but increased in Lincoln. She provided details on 2024*

**Note:** Co-Chair Stevens had to leave at 6:46 PM.

*Commissioners discussed how the Vision Zero program can help move from a feeling of hopelessness to action, the need for robust infrastructure investments,*

## VI. Other Business/Updates (6:45)

- a) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Joe Korbuszewski)  
*Liz Kaster, staff liaison to BPTAG, shared that BPTAG received an update on two capital projects – Puyallup Avenue and St. Helens Ave. She also presented the Active Transportation Annual Update that was provided to IPS.*
- b) Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan Advisory Committee (Richard Gardner and Troy Serad)  
*CM Gardner talked about coordination with TPCHD on efforts to improve health and safety along the corridor.*
- c) Proctor Neighborhood Plan (Matt Stevens)  
*Nothing reported at this time.*
- d) McKinley Neighborhood Plan (Troy Serad)  
*CM Serad discussed the ribbon cutting and how people are driving slowly with the new painted bulb outs at Division and McKinley, but mentioned that the intersection still did not yet have crosswalk or delineators installed.*
- e) Joint TOD Task Force (Pamela Wrenn and Troy Serad)  
*CM Wrenn reported the group’s vision, their approach to long-range planning, and next steps for recommending policy.*



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## VII. Staff Reports (7:00)

- a) Staff Updates  
*The December 20<sup>th</sup> Transportation Commission Meeting will be cancelled.*
- b) Status of Grant Applications and Major Capital Projects  
*Nothing to report.*
- c) Upcoming Public Meetings and Events  
*CM Gardner shared about the National Day of Remembrance for traffic violence victims. There will be a vigil in memory of Michael Weilert at 6pm on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> in Parkland at the corner of 134<sup>th</sup> St and Pacific Ave.*

## VIII. Commissioner Comments

*CM Korbuszewki shared that his child attends Hunt Middle School and there are two or three crosswalks on Mildred St in the school zone that do not have flashing lights or signals and they have seen cars using the center turn lane to pass cars stopped for students crossing. Carrie shared that an improved crossing is included in the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant.*

*CM Serad asked about the City's process for construction permits and pedestrian access during construction.*

*CM Goble asked about the sidewalk beveling approach and how funding has been allocated.*

*CM Morris asked about encampments that block sidewalks.*

*CM Gardner shared that construction is underway at 68th and Yakima to build missing link sidewalks, flashing beacons, and bulbouts.*

*CM Hill shared concerns about safety on S 56<sup>th</sup> St between Tyler & Orchard.*

## IX. Public Comment

*Larry Leveen asked about whether additional speed studies would be conducted to track behaviour over time – Carrie shared that yes, annual counts will be conducted. He also asked for more details on the Pierce County Target Zero position. Carrie explained that the position is funded by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and will be hosted at the City of Tacoma.*

## X. Adjourn (7:30)

**The meeting was adjourned**

## Future Agenda Items

*Home in Tacoma, Co-Chair Elections, Transportation Master Plan Scope of Work, WSDOT Coordination, Schuster Parkway Update*



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