



## Minutes

**Meeting:** Regular Meeting  
**Time:** Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 5:00 P.M.  
**Place:** Joint Meeting  
Conference Room 243, Tacoma Municipal Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

### A. Call to Order and Quorum Call

Co-Chair Moore called the joint meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

### B. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. There were not comments and the agenda was approved. CM Miller stated that she works for Sound Transit and asked to recuse herself from the discussion and recommendation.

### C. Joint Session of Planning Commission and Transportation Commission

#### 1. Public Comments

Jori Adkins and Chris Karnes provided public comment.

#### 2. Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) Project Update

Austin Nielson, Sound Transit Government Relations, John Perlic, Parametrix, and Claire Chase, TDLE Project Manager, provided an overview of the TDLE alignment alternatives. She explained that Sound Transit held several open houses and has been working with stakeholder groups to review potential station locations, alignment, and operation/maintenance facility locations. Two stations are proposed in Tacoma – East Tacoma and Tacoma Dome Station. Based on community, stakeholder, and staff comments, the Elected Leadership Group recommended deleting option 5 (southernmost alignment) and modifying option 4 (move off of tribal trust land). This led to the level 2 alternatives. Claire highlighted the alternatives from level 2, which includes 4 alignment options and the pros/cons for each.

Andrew explained that Sound Transit is looking for public comment April 1 – May 1, including City Council and Transportation Commission, to inform the Elected Leadership Group. They are also open to presenting to other groups, such as requested by the Dome District in early April. Brian Boudet, City of Tacoma Planning Manager, is one of the City's representatives on the stakeholder committee and provided insight in to the City Council's request for comments by the Transportation and Planning Commission. The City Council is interested in connectivity of the East Tacoma station to the area south of I-5, potentially under and over I-5. They have also noted that the lack of parking and the importance to providing access to other modes. Connection and access to alternative modes is critical. They have also indicated support for the Dome Station to be located close to the Link Light Rail station, since the Link Extension will not likely serve downtown Tacoma.



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Council has asked Sound Transit to evaluate an underground option. The City Council will be making a recommendation to the Sound Transit Board in May.

### **3. Discussion**

CM Edmonds asked ST to define terms, such as impacts to businesses. Claire explained that it includes a variety of impacts, such as potential relocation and construction impacts. CM Edmonds asked why Option 4 says that it is listed as “far” from the Tacoma Dome Station. Claire explained that the scoring was based on the length relative to the distance of other station alternatives. Claire asked that the Commissions comment/consider on the evaluation criteria, such as if one block or three blocks isn’t an issue. CM Edmonds asked about the definition for “car access”. Sound Transit explained that it does primarily look at pick-up/drop-off, but does include circulation and street impacts. CM Edmonds asked about freight delays – rail or street. Sound Transit explained that it’s the delay of freight mobility on streets. CM Edmonds assumed that the SR167 extension should address some of that freight congestion.

CM Nathan asked if there are station options that are not feasible. Claire explained that the desirable design is generally straight and flat; however, it depends on topography and property acquisition. The proposed options are on the table for review and will vary in cost/feasibility. Co-Chair Moore asked if the criteria evaluates pedestrian safety accessing the station. Sound Transit looked at pedestrian safety in a broad sense, as far as pedestrian access (distance, safety, etc). CM McInnis asked if they are projecting for population growth. Sound Transit is projecting to year 2042 and does include growth factors. CM McInnis asked how did the City/project get to a no parking scenario. Claire explained that Sound Transit worked with PSRC to evaluate the planning models. The East Tacoma station was primarily viewed as a car-share/pick-up/drop-off and bus access. They recognize that the adjacent area is also projected to increase in density. Overall, Sound Transit was looking at the overall transit access and modes serving the areas. CM Santhuff asked Sound Transit to consider the urban form as part of the station location and design. He asked staff to consider minimizing negative impacts to future development (especially in East Tacoma and future connections south to Tacoma Mall), minimizing traffic impacts that at-grade crossings pose with numerous signals in a short distance, and what is an appropriate visual integration (the station at Angle Lake is a statement station to be proud of or a below-grade station with entrances that are integrated in to mixed use development). He explained that TD2 and TD3 deserves study for an elevated station, and TD4 as a cut and cover station. He voiced that East Tacoma Station 3 is a good spot, but a station that bridges Portland Ave would help free options for access and could help encourage zoning changes on either side, and a better connection from L Street. CM Santhuff asked that the Commission consider pulling together coordinated comments through a task force or subcommittee. Chair Wambach explained that there are two options: the Planning Commission can defer the discussion to April 3 and share recommendations after that meeting or discuss this evening. Co-Chair Moore explained that the Transportation Commission will discuss this topic during regular meeting this evening

### **4. Adjournment of Joint Session**

The joint meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.



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**\*\* The Transportation Commission reconvened their regular meeting in the Municipal Building (747 Market Street) Room 243\*\*\***

**D. Call to Order and Quorum Call for Regular meeting**

Co-Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. The Commission excused CM Leighton.

**E. Approval of Minutes (February 20, 2019)**

It was moved, seconded, and approved with the following changes.

CM Mason pointed out corrections on the second page “that is/it was” should be changed. She also asked that under item C, staff expand the Commissions to meet with – Planning Commission and Sustainable Tacoma Commission.

**F. Public Comment on Agenda Topics & PTAG Report Out**

- a. Parking Technical Advisory Group – No update was provided.
- b. No public comment.

**G. Business Items**

**a. Sound Transit TDLE Letter of Recommendation/Subcommittee**

Co-Chair Nyland asked that the Tacoma Dome station is integrated in to the landscaping of the area and has ease of non-motorized access. CM Nathan stated that integration may be confusing with the various rail options. Co-Chair Nyland acknowledged there will be some confusion, which can be addressed with messaging/signage, but would make access easier for all users. CM Morris stated concerns with the lack of parking and not addressing future needs. CM Mason also voiced concerns about the impacts to the expansion of Sounder (as part of ST3). CM Miller explained that the Sounder expansion includes expanding to Dupont and lengthening stations to accommodate longer trains. It was recognized that larger stations and longer trains would ideally mean more riders and potentially parking demands. CM Nathan is less concerned about parking with the plan to make the Tacoma Dome area a transit hub.

*Co-Chair Moore asked for the Evaluation Criteria table.* CM Nathan asked if the underground option is viable. Staff/Commissioners explained that it is an option that the Council would like to consider, even though it could be costly. CM Morris asked if Sound Transit is working with the Tacoma to Puyallup group. Co-Chair Moore stated that they are. Co-Chair Nyland asked if Sound Transit would be willing to create a transit hub or would need funds from the City.

CM Nathan asked that once the Evaluation Criteria is emailed out, Commissioners review the information to further evaluate the options. CM Williams pointed out that the stakeholder group discussed an East Station that straddled Portland Avenue, which would lend itself to pedestrian safety and future development. CM Mason stated that most of the freight traffic using Puyallup/Portland Avenue would not be significantly diverted with the SR 167 expansion. Josh Diekmann explained that future traffic level of service at Portland Avenue and I5 will be at



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capacity. Co-Chair Nyland proposed that a subcommittee be formed to create a letter in coordination or not with the Planning Commission. The goal would be to convene a subcommittee meeting prior to the April 3 Planning Commission meeting, so that each Commission can review and finalize a letter at their respective April 17 meeting.

Co-Chair Nyland and Commissioners agreed that the East Tacoma station needs to provide easy and safe access to the east and west side of Portland Avenue, as well as easy access to the Casino and neighborhood south of I5. The Commission agreed that ET1 and ET2 are not desirable. The preference is ET3, ET5, and more ideally an option that straddles Portland Avenue. Integration with Pierce Transit access is important as well.

With regards to the Tacoma Dome station location, the Commission's primary goal is to create an efficient system for pedestrians. The Commission discussed parking needs, but decided to leave that comment off the letter. Co-Chair Nyland and CM Nathan agreed to be on the subcommittee that will work with the Planning Commission's subcommittee. CM Leighton may be interested in joining as well.

**b. SR167/509 Bike & Ped Stakeholder Committee Recommendation for alignment**

Jennifer explained that the Stakeholder Committee will be meeting on March 25 to discuss the shared-use path alignment options. It would be desirable for the Commission to decide on a preferred trail option for CM Morris and CM Leighton to support at the meeting. The options are a connection to Northeast Tacoma or a connection to the Interurban Trail. The Commission supports both options and would like to see both implemented. If cost is an issue, is there a way for the City to help fund the alternative.

If one option is only allowed, the Commission prefers the option that is identified in the Transportation Master Plan, which is the connection of 509 to Northeast Tacoma.

**c. 6 YR Transportation Program Annual Amendments**

Jennifer Kammerzell provided an overview of the 6 YR Transportation Improvement Program and the annual amendment process. She highlighted the new and completed project. The handout was incorrect and an updated list will be provided. CM Gardner supports the Sheridan Avenue improvement project, especially after seeing the poor drainage and walking conditions. Jennifer will be presenting the 6 YR Program to IPS on March 27, 2019. CM Mason asked what the Cultural Shift to Active Transportation project included. Jennifer stated that it is a partnership with other jurisdictions to work on education and outreach for use of alternative modes. CM Nathan asked that in addition to signalized intersections on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the City review crossings at unsignalized intersections. The Commission had no additional comments.

**d. Subcommittee Report Out**

Co-Chair Moore stated that a Pierce Transit Pacific Avenue BRT subcommittee developed and forwarded a letter to IPS, which was in the agenda packet.

**H. Other Business/Updates**



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- a. Sound Transit TDLE Stakeholder Group (Raymond Williams) – no comments
  - b. SR167 Bicycle & Pedestrian Steering Committee (Justin Leighton) – no comments
  - c. Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Jennifer Kammerzell/Kari Nathan) – Jennifer explained that the group heard from CM Beale and the bicycle connection between Sound Transit South Tacoma Station and the Tacoma Mall Transit Station.
  - d. Planning Commission Agenda – Shoreline Master Program Update and FLUM Map

#### **I. Staff Reports**

- a. Responses to Commission Inquiries – none to report
- b. Jennifer explained that Reid Bennion presented a status update of the Streets Initiative projects at City Council Study Session on March 19, 2019. He is scheduled to present to the Commission in April.
- c. Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects – Jennifer explained that Public Works will be submitting a WA Traffic Safety Commission School Safety grant for school crosswalk striping, crossing guard training, and developing arrival/dismissal procedures for schools. Staff is asking the Commission to consider dedicating \$5100 from Streets Initiative Funds for the grant, which would start July 2019, if successful.
- d. Upcoming Public Meetings & Events – Bike Swap at UPS is April 27<sup>th</sup> and are seeking volunteers.
- e. Josh announced that a Request for Proposals will be in front of City Council to hire a consultant to develop/analyze the policy and program for Impact Fees. They will ask for a Transportation Commission representative on that stakeholder committee. Co-Chair Nyland and CM Nathan indicated interest.

#### **J. Commissioner Comments**

CM Gardner stated that the next Pierce Transit Board meeting to discuss the BRT is on April 8, 2019 at 4 PM. He had copies of the last board meeting recording for other commissioners that were interested. City Council will be providing comment to the Pierce Transit Board on March 26, 2019.

#### **K. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **L. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.



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## Potential/Continuing Topics

- 6-Year Transportation Program #1L
- Transportation Master Plan Biennial Amendments #1L
- Street Initiative Progress Reporting – Capital and Active Transportation Projects & Programs #1S
- Amend Bylaws
- 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 - handout
  - Impact Fees #1L
  - 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 Share
  - Tacoma to Puyallup Regional Trail Connection
- TMP Work Plan Items:
  - System Completeness / Concurrency Status
  - Back-In Angle Parking Policy (handout)
  - 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 and South 19<sup>th</sup> 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
- Planning Commission Work Plan



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## **Subcommittees**

- Impact Fees
- TMP Updates
- Vision Zero

## **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 (Raymond)
- Tideflats Subarea Plan Stakeholder Group
- BPTAG Liaison
- Planning Commission Liaison
- Parking Technical Advisory Group Liaison
- Sustainable Tacoma Commission Liaison