



Minutes

Meeting: Regular Meeting
Time: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 5:30 P.M.
Place: Conference Room 243, Tacoma Municipal Building, 2nd Floor
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

- I. **Call to Order 5:31 PM**
- II. **Roll Call/Introductions** – Commissioner Leighton was absent. The Commission voted to excuse Commissioner Skaught for the September 16, 2019 meeting.
- III. **Approval of Minutes (September 18, 2019)** – Meeting minutes were approved with no changes.
- IV. **Public Comment on Agenda Topics & PTAG Report Out** – There was no public comment.
- V. **Business Items (5:45)**
 - a) Sound Transit Tacoma Dome Link Extension Update (Curvie Hawkins, Andrew Austin, Tim Bates)
Andrew Austin reiterated the Commission’s involvement through the Sound Transit Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) project process. Curvie Hawkins, Project Development Director, provided a brief overview of the Tacoma Dome Link Extension timeline. The project is still in the planning phase, which extends to 2022 and includes public participation, and draft and final EIS work. The design phase will be 2022 – 2025. Curvie presented the alternatives for the Tacoma Dome and East Tacoma station EIS. The Sound Transit Board directed Sound Transit staff to examine an alignment and station “close to the Sounder” corridor as well. The Board asked staff to review pedestrian/bicycle access across I-5 at the East Tacoma station. Tim Bates, Project Manager, provided a more detailed overview of the “close to Sounder” option. He explained that over the past two years of project development, the community, elected leaders, and citizen advisory groups voiced additional comments/concerns regarding an alignment that places TDLE close to Sounder to create a transportation hub. In order to better analyze the new option, ST staff developed *Guiding Principles*. The principles focused on Development Capacity, Comfortable Urban Environment, and Great Multi-Modal Hub.

Andrew handed out the ST Board motions that identified the preferred alternatives and direction to evaluate the “close to Sounder” option. CM Mason voiced concerns about focusing on Freighthouse Square incorporation, when there are several other successful businesses outside of Freighthouse Square. CM Mason recommended that the language include being a good neighbour to others. CM Skaught asked how the Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (TODAG) works with this project. Andrew explained that ST will be working closely and will provide the same presentation to them at their next meeting. Co-Chair Nyland was pleased to see the inclusion of pedestrian access, since it was a focus of the Commission. He asked that the project include consideration of how the





Link would/could extend. Tim explained that future expansion is a consideration/criteria for evaluation. Co-Chair Nyland asked what was behind the “close to Sounder” option. Tim explained that the idea came from the desire to keep both close together and minimize the footprint impact of TDLE. There will be a conversation of compromises and trade-offs. CM Gardner was interested the choices to get from Tacoma Dome to downtown Seattle. CM Alonzo asked if the station boxes on the map were to scale. Tim explained that they are rough estimates, but meant to be about the length of the platform. The stations will vary depending on pick-up and drop-off areas, equipment, and improvements. CM Alonzo asked the relationship to bus routes. Andrew explained that as high capacity transit increases and develops, bus service would be replaced or decreased. There haven’t been any decision points or discussions to date.

b) WSDOT Intersection/Corridor Analysis (Manual Abarca, Lisa Ballard)

Manual Abarca, WSDOT Olympic Region Traffic Design Engineer, explained that Who WSDOT Is changing. They are more than freeways, tolls, and bridges. They are working towards community engagement and implementing their Strategic Plan, which has a vision to have a safe and sustainable approach. Manual provided an overview of Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE). It is a performance based approach to review intersection control. Traditional devices were stop, yield, and signal control. Newer devices include roundabouts, HAWKS, medians, etc.

Co-Chair Nyland asked if this is applicable to WSDOT only projects. Manual explained that it is any project on a state facility. He provided an overview of the ICE process on the SR 7 Bus Rapid Transit project. Most often, the projects are intersections only, but SR 7 requires a corridor review. Upon meeting with Pierce Transit, City of Tacoma, Pierce County, and other agencies, the groups identified that 4 intersections would need to be reviewed for feasibility of a roundabout. Some locations were not chosen because of a need to remove/demolish buildings. Manual showed a YouTube video (Roundabout Rodeo2) that highlighted a project with King County Metro, City of Shoreline, City of Seattle, and WSDOT to test and

CM Gardner asked the locations of the 4 roundabouts. Tina Lee, Pierce Transit, stated that it was S 76th (in Tacoma), 121st, 136th and near 176th. CM Stevens asked what the other intersections were proposed for a roundabout that did not move forward. Manual explained that the group reviewed essentially all intersections at a high level and paired the number to the 4 identified above. He also explained that through the design process there could be more or less locations. Josh Diekmann explained that the City has provided feedback and asked for additional information to help make an informed decision. CM Mason asked if WSDOT would do a rodeo. Her concern is that SR7 is a freight corridor and semis will have problems getting around the roundabouts. She explained that the roundabout at Pt Defiance has been problematic. Josh explained that the City is working with WSDOT on the ferry traffic that has been causing delays and lack of queues. He also explained that roundabouts will see minor collisions do still occur and folks may still drive through them or dump trucks may tip over taking them too fast. Tina explained that Pierce Transit has participated in rodeos before and the drivers take into consideration the folks they would train. CM Alonzo asked what type of





outreach is conducted to familiarize folks with roundabouts. Manual stated that there are a variety of media tools to educate drivers, which include radio, mailers, or demonstration driving scenarios. CM Skaught asked if the roundabouts will be consistent in size. Manual stated that they will be as consistent as possible, but they are meant to be somewhat flexible in size to accommodate the purpose. Co-Chair Nyland asked if there is data regarding use of roundabouts by people with disabilities. Manual stated that he has not seen a large body of study specific to that topic. WSDOT does have policies for installing rectangular flashing beacons to enhance pedestrian crossings. For example, in Lacey they have installed these beacons. Lisa explained that the City of Seattle has asked the same questions and staff will bring lessons learned to Tacoma. She also noted that crossing 2 lanes is often easier than crossing 4; however, there is something to the drivers' actions of a hard stop vs. yield. CM Miller has similar concerns about being a bicyclist traveling through a roundabout where you have to look behind and in front. Manual explained that WSDOT includes those considerations as part of design. CM Mason asked WSDOT to consider school locations/crossing.

c) Elections (Jennifer Kammerzell)

Jennifer explained that the Bylaws state that an annual election will occur in October of each year. She gave an overview of the duties of the Chair and/or Co-Chair position. Co-Chair Nyland and Co-Chair Moore are interested in continuing. The Commission moved and approved to retain them as Co-Chairs.

VI. Other Business/Updates

- a) Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (Justin Leighton, Bruce Morris, and Matt Stevens) – The next meeting is October 21, 2019 from 4-6pm in Room 248. Jennifer will follow-up with Ian Muncie to include CM Stevens and CM Morris on correspondence.
- b) SR167 Bicycle & Pedestrian Steering Committee (Justin Leighton) – No update was provided.
- c) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Jennifer Kammerzell/Jane Moore) – Co-Chair Moore attended the September meeting. The group discussed the scooter share program and where folks should ride. They also discussed the corridor of the month – S 37th Street between A and I-5, and the Fawcett Avenue Traffic Calming project.
- d) Planning Commission Agenda – The September 16, 2019 meeting was cancelled.

VII. Staff Reports

- a) Responses to Commission Inquiries – Jennifer explained that the powerpoint presented to IPS on the Transportation Commission was provided in the agenda email. The last page of the agenda includes the recommendations and requests that IPS Councilmembers asked of the Commission to review in the future. Josh explained that City Council approved a resolution on I-976 opposing the initiative.
- b) Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects – No updates



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- c) Upcoming Public Meetings & Events - 2019 American Planning Association Washington Annual Conference (Oct. 16-17) and Short Course on Local Planning (Oct. 10 at 4PM Municipal Building), Pierce County Trails Conference is October 17 at the Pierce County Environmental Building

VIII. Commissioner Comments

CM Alonzo asked what the process was to fill the vacant District 4. Folks are allowed to apply at any time throughout the year. City Clerks' Office and IPS have committed to interview candidates for District 4 when applicants are identified. Jennifer encouraged folks to spread the word.

Co-Chair Nyland asked what size of development requires pedestrian cut-through. Jennifer will provide a link to the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan and the page that references the development regulations.

CM Mason asked if the new theatre at the Tacoma Mall triggered a traffic study. Jennifer explained that it was required and improvements coincided with the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan and traffic impacts associated with the larger development.

IX. Public Comment

X. Adjourn (7:21)



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