



Minutes

Meeting: Regular Meeting
Time: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 5:30 P.M.
Place: Conference Room 243, Tacoma Municipal Building, 2nd Floor
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioner Skaught, Miller, and Gardner were excused absences. Commissioner Gardner arrived at 7:15 PM.

III. Approval of Minutes (December 18, 2019 and January 15, 2020)

The minutes for both meetings were moved and approved as provided.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

Jay Herring provided comment on transit access to the Eastside of Tacoma.

V. Business Items

a) Pierce Transit Destination 2040 Update

Darin Stavish was not able to attend and present on Destination 2040 (Long Range Plan).

CM Leighton provided some additional guidance on

CM Leighton voiced concerns about service on Ruston Way, which is expensive and does not serve a high density area. He also voiced concerns about BRT on South 19th Street, which is a proposed Light Rail route. CM Mason and CM Morris also voiced concerns about prioritizing service to Ruston Way when there are other needs in underserved neighborhoods. They discussed the poor ridership results from the Downtown to Defiance trolley, limited right-of-way for transit and access to transit stops, and cost to operate.

The group discussed that the service increases are based on a sales tax increase. Many other local transit agencies have an investment by Cities and sales tax. CM Leighton would like to see a focus on the core elements of service. The Commission decided to provide a comment letter to Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Council Committee (IPS). Co-Chair Moore and CM Leighton will draft the letter based on previous comment letters and reiterate the alignment with the TMP. If time allows, the draft letter will be presented at the March 18th meeting for approval. If time does not allow, the group was in support of the draft. Jennifer asked the Commission to provide general comments directly to her that would be provided as input on the letter.



- b) Pierce Transit Bus Rapid Transit Update (Alexandra Mather, Sean Robertson)
- Sean and Alex provided a project update on the Pierce Transit BRT. They highlighted the alignment, bus selection, and timeline. Sean provided an overview of the traffic analysis of SR7 between S 38th and 121st Streets that analysed impacts to the corridor and side streets, including Yakima and McKinley Avenue. Pierce Transit also saw this as an opportunity to standardize their fleet vehicles. They are looking at battery electric buses, with three doors and 60 foot articulated. They would then plan for charging stations as part of facility planning too. Staff has also been looking at branding and naming – suspension, mountain, and ripples.
- CM Leighton asked what happened to the proposal for a reversible lane. Sean explained that the proposal would adversely impact access to businesses and did not pencil out. Co-Chair Moore asked if the stations would be consistent across all future BRT lines. Sean and Alex stated that for maintenance purposes would be great, but it is nice to have stations represent each line. It has not yet been decided. Sean was open to the Commission's ideas. CM Leighton said that having different names and colors would be helpful for each line, but the structure could vary. Sean explained that they are doing 15 presentations in February with additional open houses in April. They will start soil testing in March, which is part of design. The plans is to start construction in Spring of 2021.

CM Leighton asked what the long term timeline is. Sean explained that 30% design is scheduled to be done in March. The environmental documents should be completed in June. These documents need to be completed prior to starting 60% and discussing property acquisition. 90% is scheduled for November. CM Leighton asked what the rating was for Small Starts Grant. Alex said they were medium-high and would apply after 60%. CM Leighton asked if roundabouts are still a discussion point. Sean explained that there are several locations still being considered, including some in Tacoma. CM Leighton asked if there is a benefit to BRT for roundabouts. Sean stated that it is not ideal with median lanes and if there are 3 lane roundabouts. They would not impact service. Alex explained that the roundabouts were not budgeted. Sean explained that they are looking into a long-term lease with WSDOT for the median lanes, and possibly getting a credit for building the roundabouts.

CM Leighton asked for all the locations that the City/WSDOT is requiring review of. Sean stated in the City limits is 56th, 60th, 76th, and 96th at a cost of \$1.5M approximately, and would require additional ROW. CM Leighton requested a policy discussion/presentation on the City and roundabouts. CM Leighton asked what the width of the roundabouts would be. Sean explained that they are approximately 125 ft diameter. Co-Chair Nyland voiced concerns about access for people with disabilities at roundabouts.

- c) Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 11 Amendments: Micromobility (Liz Kaster)
- Liz Kaster, Active Transportation Coordinator, provided a brief overview of micromobility, specifically the proposed Request for Proposals (Lime pilot program) and proposed code changes to complement micromobility usage. Liz reviewed the pilot program with Lime, including ridership, 86,434 unique users, and 346,623 trips taken. The scooters are currently on winter break and will return mid-March. CM Leighton asked what the comparison of 26 injuries translates too and how this compares to other modes. Liz doesn't have that comparison, but will provide at a future date. Liz explained that as a result of feedback, staff and Lime have set speed

caps and piloting scooter parking zones. These are specifically on Ruston Way. CM Leighton asked if there could be a prompt on the device that says “reminder, don’t park on the sidewalk”. Liz will look at how to incorporate this in the RFP. Liz has been working closely with BPTAG and presented to Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities. The plan is to advertise the RFP in March and select a vendor prior to June 1, 2020. CM Alonzo asked if for feedback on why Lime pulled out the bikes. Lime stated that the cost to maintain the bikes outweighed the number of riders that used them. CM Alonzo asked what the RFP term was. Liz said it was a 1 year term with an option to renew. CM Leighton asked if other cities are following this same term agreement. CM Mason was concerned that the rates would go up if there is only one vendor. Liz will include addressing the rate impacts and rate model. CM Morris asked how many vendors are interested. Liz stated that Spokane required scooter vendors to also provide bikes and they only received 4 vendors submit. There are at least 10 scooter vendors interested. CM Alonzo asked what the fee may be. Liz stated that for scooters, it could be \$10,000 for year and \$100 per vehicle each year. There are discounts to the fees that include low-income programs, citywide distribution, and year round service.

Liz also provided a brief overview on proposed code changes related to where scooters/micromobility can be ridden, helmet usage, bike sales reporting, and definitions of coasters and micromobility. The code changes would help to make the City consistent with state law, Transportation Master Plan, reflect current trends and technology, and reduce barrier to increase alternative transportation. CM Alonzo asked if any vendors requested the code changes. Liz stated that they are staff and public comment requested.

- d) 6 YR Transportation Improvement Program – Adds and Deletes (Jennifer Kammerzell)
Jennifer Kammerzell recapped the need and purpose of the 6 YR Transportation Improvement Program, which is required to be adopted each year by state law. She provided an handout of the proposed 8 new projects and 2 completed projects. The group discussed each project that included bridge demolition, bridge repairs, new streetlights, ADA curb ramps, TMP conflicted corridor study, and Vision Zero Implementation. The Commission asked for clarification of the River Street Bridge Span Repair location. Overall, they did not have any concerns with the new or completed projects.

CM Leighton asked when the City will complete a corridor study for N 21st Street. The City recently installed trees in the median, which may have to be removed when the bike facility is completed. Josh explained that TPU was required to replace the trees removed. They worked with the City’s Urban Forester and Public Works on locating the trees to minimize impacts to sight distance and tree growth. This project could be considered as a priority for the conflicted corridor study funds.

- e) Transportation Master Plan Amendment Overview (Jennifer Kammerzell)
Jennifer asked Commissioners to review the TMP and the 2018 amendments, and prepare for a discussion in March on potential known changes. This item was deferred until March 2020.



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VI. Other Business/Updates

- a) Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (Justin Leighton/Matt Stevens/Bruce Morris) – CM Leighton stated that they chose Chairs. The next agenda will be a walking tour of the Dome District (Monday, February 24)
- b) Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Committee (Richard Gardner/Jane Moore) – CM Gardner attended the February 19 meeting and reported back on the naming and design.
- c) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Jennifer Kammerzell/Jane Moore) – January Meeting – Vision Zero, S 21st Street Crossing, Micromobility RFP, and 6 YR Transportation Improvement Program
- d) Planning Commission Agenda – 2020 Annual Amendment-Heidelberg-Davis Land Use, Public Scoping Hearing: @Home in Tacoma-AHAS Planning Actions

VII. Staff Reports

- a) Responses to Commission Inquiries
- b) Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects – Josh explained that the SR167 Gateway stakeholder group analyzed the cost for the recommended trail option and is requesting agency partners to consider applying for grant funds to complete the preferred SR 509 Shared Use Path route. The City of Tacoma has other trails prioritized for grant applications, but the City of Fife is committed to use their slot to apply for the grant. They are asking that the City commit in 2023-2024 a \$200k Grant Match Request. The Commission agreed that this is an appropriate use of Streets Initiative Funds. CM Mason suggested the City talk with the City of Federal Way about their planning effort.
- c) Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

VIII. Commissioner Comments

CM Leighton shared that I-976 is still on hold.

Co-Chair Moore reported that the Step It Up group conducted a survey on walking that included over a 1000 responses. She also shared that the Tacoma to Puyallup Cohort reviewed the feasibility study and determined that the most reasonable route is along SR167, but to consider other routes, such as on River Road.

Co-Chair Nyland shared that he will be on a panel for the DOTG Walk Forum on February 24, 2020.

IX. Public Comment

X. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

ID	PROJECT	STAFF LEAD	PROJECT STATUS	NEXT MILESTONE FOR DECISION/REVIEW	NEXT COMMISSION FEEDBACK DATE
1	Impact Fees	Public Works	Advertise for consultant mid-March	Kick-off with Consultant	
2	Vision Zero	Public Works	Advertise for consultant mid-March	Kick-Off with Consultant	
3	6-Year Transportation Program	Jennifer Kammerzell	Review added and deleted projects	Review TC 2/19/20	Recommendation TC March 18th
4	Transportation Master Plan 2020	Jennifer Kammerzell	Preliminary review, advertise for consultant mid-April	Review TC 2/19/20	
5	Street Initiative Progress Reporting – Capital and Active Transportation Projects & Programs	Public Works	2020 report in development		
6	Amend Bylaws	Co-Chairs	As needed		
7	TMP 101 – What is Transportation Commission relationship to TMP, Why is it important	Jennifer Kammerzell	Ongoing, as-needed		
8	Tideflats Subarea Plan	Stephen Atkinson	In planning		
9	Safe Routes to School Implementation and Programs	Carrie Wilhelme	Annual update		
10	Hazardous Sidewalk & Missing Link Sidewalk Program	Mark D'Andrea	Annual update		
11	Capital Project Status Annual Update	Sue O'Neil	Annual update	Q1 status report sent in January	
12	Schuster Parkway Planning	Stephen Atkinson	Advertise for consultant		
13	Prairie Line Trail Continuation	Sue O'Neil	Apply for grant funding		
14	Hilltop Links to Opportunity (Design)	John Kulju	In design		
15	Micromobility – Bike and Scootershare	Liz Kaster	Update IPS January 15th	Recommendations IPS February 19th	2/19/2020
16	Tacoma to Puyallup Connection	Liz Kaster	Select preferred route		
17	Sound Transit –Link Extension	Sound Transit	In construction		
18	Sound Transit - Central Link Station Location	Sound Transit	Preparing for public comment period		
19	Sound Transit - 19th Extension	Sound Transit	In planning		
20	WSDOT – SR167 and I-5 HOV	WSDOT	In design		

21	WSDOT I-5 Tacoma Mall Off-Ramp	WSDOT/Public Works	Study completed, need funding	
22	Pierce Transit – Pacific Avenue High Capacity Transit	Pierce Transit	NEPA, Design	February, April, June, August
23	Pierce Transit - Bus Rapid Transit	Pierce Transit	In design/environmental review	Review TC 2/19/20
24	Pierce Transit - Long Range Plan	Pierce Transit	To be released January 21st	Review TC 2/19/20
25	Metro Parks – Ruston Way	Metro Parks		
26	“Envision Our Waterfront Tacoma” Pierce Transit Franchise Agreement - handout	Public Works		
27	BPTAG Work Plan (annually)	Jennifer Kammerzell		
28	PTAG Work Plan (annually)	Rachel Lindahl		
29	Planning Commission Work Plan (annually)	Lihuang Wung		
30	System Completeness / Concurrency Status (assess every 2 years 2020)	Transportation Commission		
31	Performance Tracking (assess every 2 years - 2020)	Transportation Commission		
32	TMP Amendment Update (every 2 years 2019)	Transportation Commission		
33	TMP Full Update/Assessment (every 5 years - 2020)	Transportation Commission		
34	Affordable Housing and Access	PDS	IPS Recommended Work Plan	
35	Bike Boulevards - Increase facilities, wayfinding, and use	BPTAG	IPS Recommended Work Plan	
36	Pierce Transit- Support higher frequency and future increases	PDS	IPS Recommended Work Plan	
37	Vision Zero - Support development and implementation	Public Works	IPS Recommended Work Plan	
38	Neighborhood Greenways - Include in TMP and focus on traffic calming elements	Public Works	IPS Recommended Work Plan	
39	Bike Friendly City - Strive for silver status and prioritize network of protected bike facilities	BPTAG	IPS Recommended Work Plan	