



Minutes

Meeting: Regular Meeting
Time: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 5:30 P.M.
Place: Zoom meeting by web or phone

To join by computer, click on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/join> or <https://zoom.us/j/99953656397?pwd=eWQ2NE1maHhqUjNHK2poVUg2STNNUT09>

To join by phone, call:

1+ 253-215-8782

If you are asked for a Meeting ID, enter: 999 5365 6397

If you are asked for a Password, enter: 382 281

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Co-Chair Nyland.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioner Matt Stevens was excused absent.

III. Approval of Minutes (July 15, 2020)

The minutes were not available for review and approval. They will be reviewed at the September 16, 2020.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

There was no public comment.

V. Business Items

a) Bus Rapid Transit Update

Tina Lee, Pierce Transit, provided an overview of the Pierce Transit Bus Rapid Transit project on Pacific Avenue that extends from downtown Tacoma to Spanaway. She reviewed the station locations, and vehicle type, which will be CNG. Tina discussed pedestrian safety, intersection changes, and u-turn opportunities. As a result of community input the 28th Street station will be moved to 26th Street in downtown Tacoma. Tina also provided an overview of the bus alignment, which includes dedicated bus only lanes and shared lanes with general purpose traffic. Pierce Transit is evaluating queue jumps where the bus can shift to a general purposed traffic lane ahead of cars waiting at the signalized intersection. Theses locations are S 38th, 56th, 72nd, and 128th Street. She also reviewed station design including the amenities at each station to make service, quick, easy, and safe. Tina explained that it will take 28 months to build the corridor. For this reason, they are proposing to phase construction.



Tina provided an overview of public outreach, which includes an online open house and survey. The information is translated in to Spanish and Vietnamese, which are most prevalent along the corridor. The Stakeholder Committee has not been met over the summer due to the pandemic, but plans to reconvene this month. Tina explained that the next open house is August 27, 2020 at 5PM on Zoom on ridebrt.com. It will be recorded for folks that cannot attend.

CM Skaught asked how COVID-19/pandemic has impacted the project. Tina explained that ridership has dropped to 60%. This is significant, but that Route 1 (Pacific Avenue) continues to be the highest ridership route. CM Morris asked if the roundabout at 152nd Street was being removed. Tina stated that the roundabout at that intersection has been removed and confirmed that there are no roundabouts proposed in the City limits. CM Gardner asked how often the drawings are being added to the website. Tina explained that it depends on when drawings are completed.

b) Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group Report (Justin Leighton and Jennifer Kammerzell)

Jennifer Kammerzell explained that the Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (TODAG) generated an accomplishment and work plan report, which was forwarded to the Commission in July. She presented the highlights of the report that included a recommendation and work plan. TODAG will be presenting to the City Council Study Session on August 25, 2020. The resolution that created TODAG states that the group would advise the Transportation Commission and materials reviewed by the Transportation Commission. CM Leighton explained that TODAG has not met since March 2020, due to the pandemic. He did not feel that the report was well vetted by the overall group because of the limited meetings. He proposed changes to better recognize the Puyallup Tribe as a key stakeholder, revise the discussion regarding Development Oriented Transit, address the East Tacoma station, and acknowledge that the group has not had a chance to discuss the report. CM Mason also serves on TODAG and acknowledged that there has not been good discussion or contribution by members. He encourages TODAG focus on the intent of the creation that is BRT on Pacific Avenue, Sound Transit Link Extension, and Sound Transit Link Extension on South 19th Street.

It was discussed that the Commission can provide comment to TODAG or City Council. The group discussed that they support the 'Close to Sounder' alignment option. The group also discussed that the proposed work plan conflicts with oversight of other Committees, Boards and Commissions, such as reviewing the Hilltop Link Extension project. The Commission asked that Co-Chairs and staff work with Planning and Development Services (PDS) and TODAG to create a process for review. CM Skaught is also concerned about the process and lack of presentation to the Transportation Commission prior to presenting to City Council. Jennifer stated that she will reach out to PDS staff regarding delaying the Study Session presentation, the Planning Commission comments, and defining how TODAG advises the Commission. If the presentation cannot be delayed, the TODAG Co-Chairs should acknowledge that the Commission has concerns about the scope, inclusion of equity, and the work plan. The Commission recommends that TODAG presents to the Commission prior to future reporting or recommendations.

c) Transportation Master Plan Amendments Update - Subcommittees (Dan Pike)

Dan Pike provided a brief overview of the Transportation Master Plan Amendment

subcommittee descriptions. After the July Transportation Commission meeting, he provided a poll to Commissioners of the subcommittees and asked for Commissioners to sign up. The three subcommittees are Performance Measures, Project List, and Subarea Plan/Policy incorporation. The group discussed the tasks and timeline for review. The group also discussed that subcommittees could meet once a month depending on scope of work.

- d) COVID Impacts/Budget (Jennifer Kammerzell)
Jennifer did not have any specific items to share except the schedule for the Biennial Budget process which is captured on the following website:
(https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/office_of_management_and_budget/2021-2022_biennial_budget_development). Co-Chair Nyland recommended that folks participate in the Budget Balancing Tool. Jennifer explained that City Council received a presentation on 8/18 regarding community outreach. There were more than 850 responses to the Budget Balancing Tool, paper surveys, and through virtual meetings. City Council would like to see more community input and more representation of the historically underserved communities.

Jennifer explained that the Office of Management and Budget proposes providing a presentation to the Commission in October, after the City Manager presents the Public Works Department budget to City Council. CM Alonzo asked what types of impacts are expected. It was explained there is a significant decrease in sales tax. CM Mason stated that the budget for infrastructure is important and the impacts to Streets Initiative projections is important. Co-Chair Nyland asked for clarification regarding the budget and if it is primarily related to the General Fund, how does that impact Public Works or transportation projects. Jennifer explained that the Biennial Budget discusses all revenues (such as General Fund and Real Estate Excise Tax) and expenses (such as staff labor that is not funded by projects or ongoing programs). CM Leighton also shared the potential impacts by I-976.

VI. Other Business/Updates

- a) Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (Justin Leighton/Matt Stevens/Bruce Morris) – The group met 9/17/20 as discussed in item #2.
- b) Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Committee (Richard Gardner/Jane Moore) – No new meeting reports out.
- c) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Jennifer Kammerzell/Jane Moore) –Vision Zero and Transportation Master Plan, Cedar-Pine Bike Improvements, 2020-2021 Planned Bike Improvements, and New Member Recruitment
- d) Planning Commission Agenda – 2020 Comprehensive Plan Amendments, TODAG Report, 2020 Annual Report, and 2021 Work Plan

VII. Staff Reports

- a) Responses to Commission Inquiries – no comments
- b) Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects – no new comments



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- c) Upcoming Public Meetings & Events - Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Council Committee will not be holding Commission, Board, and Committee report outs or interviews this year due to the cancellation of meetings.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

No comments provided.

IX. Public Comment

Nick Heerman, Parking Enforcement Office, provided comment.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.