



City of Tacoma
Transportation Commission

Jane Moore, Co-Chair, District 2
Gerrit Nyland, Co-Chair, City Manager Appointed
Luis Alonzo, District 3
Richard Gardner, At-Large
Justin Leighton, At-Large
Evette Mason, At-Large
Erin Anderson, At-Large
Bruce Morris, District 4
Jacki Skaught, District 1
Matt Stevens, City Manager Appointed
Vacant, District 5

Minutes

Meeting: Regular Meeting
Time: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 5:30 P.M.
Place: Conference Room 243, Tacoma Municipal Building, 2nd Floor
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

Join by computer, click on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/join> or <https://zoom.us/j/98722456000?pwd=OVZwNGp6Qi9FUDdvcW1WMUJpUDRnQT09>

Join by Phone: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 987 2245 6000

Passcode: 969420

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I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Nyland called the meeting to order at 5:47 PM after the special joint meeting with the Planning Commission held at 5:00 PM that same day.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioner Morris was absent.

III. Approval of Minutes (January 20, 2021)

The minutes were moved and approved with a proposal of how to note public comment.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

No members of the public provided comment.

V. Business Items

a) Impact Fees (Jennifer Kammerzell)

Jennifer Kammerzell provided additional information on the Impact Fee Program, which was presented to the Planning Commission and Transportation Commission earlier that day. Commissioner Leighton had asked for the 2018 Impact Fee report and copy of the presentation, the date that comparable cities adopted impact fees and what their development rate has been, and would like to see good data points to demonstrate true impacts to development growth. Commissioner Skaught asked if the evaluation would include commercial development. Jennifer shared that the evaluation does include commercial uses. For simplicity of presenting information, the team focused on residential impact fees, but will bring other comparisons to future presentations. Jennifer shared that the City intends to conduct outreach with the development community and other stakeholders to help formulate what future outreach should look like. Impact Fees can be very technical, but the needs of the community can shape the program framework. Commissioner Alonzo asked if impact fees can pay for street paving and having a list of what it is eligible would be helpful. Jennifer stated that future reports outs will include that information, but in general, eligible projects would be improvements that must increase capacity. For example, new sidewalks provide capacity, new acres for a park, or adding bays to an existing or new fire station would be eligible. Commissioner Mason asked if any impact fee programs are based on the value of the project or just the trips generated. Staff will follow-up with future consultant presentations. Commissioner Mason also recommended that certainty of off-site costs can be a benefit of impact fees. Commissioner Gardner asked if funds collected have to be spent in the area that the



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development occurs. Josh Diekmann shared that the Commission and City Council would define where those funds would be spent. Commissioner Leighton would like to evaluate exemptions and how they are utilized. Commissioner Nyland would like to know how the fees would be spent and collected – pedestrian vs. parking. Jennifer shared that there will be several presentations on Impact Fees in the upcoming months.

- b) Puyallup Avenue Corridor Grant and Concept Discussion (Jennifer Kammerzell & Co-Chairs)
Jennifer Kammerzell shared that Transit Oriented Development Group (TODAG) did not approve a letter of recommendation for the Commission to consider. She and the Co-Chairs would like the Commission to discuss components of a letter that the Co-Chairs can draft and send to Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee (IPS). Commissioner Leighton asked for clarification on the intent of the presentation to IPS. Jennifer explained that staff is not asking for a recommendation of IPS, but presenting the work conducted and recommended by TODAG, BPTAG, and Transportation Commission. TODAG was formed by City Council out of comments and concerns by business members of the Tacoma Dome District in response to the Puyallup Avenue Corridor project. Commissioner Mason shared that at the last TODAG meeting, the group shifted from parking concerns to deprioritizing a freight/transit lane. Commissioner Stevens asked if City Council would be reviewing the TODAG letter. Jennifer said that Council Member Thoms is included on the draft letters and was the sponsor for the formation of TODAG. Co-Chair Nyland recommended that if TODAG provides a letter, the Commission drafts a letter in response to TODAG and BPTAG. It was moved and approved by the Commission to allow the Co-Chairs to draft a letter that comments on the process and reaffirms the recommendations made in 2017.
- c) 6 Year Transportation Improvement Program Annual Amendment (Jennifer Kammerzell)
Jennifer Kammerzell provided a presentation on the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) annual amendment process. State Law requires that all cities and towns review and adopt a funding plan for capital transportation projects that typically include roadways, bridges, bike facilities, trails, and complete streets. She also stated that the TIP is a planning document, but intended to be realistic and not a wish list. The Transportation Master Plan (TMP) serves as the visioning document that includes all of the projects that the City would like to see built. The TIP would pull projects from the TMP directly or that meet the policies outlined in the TMP. The City is proposing to remove 12 projects and add 12 new projects. Of the 12 proposed for removal, two projects are proposed for consolidation with other existing programs (2019-2020 Street Lights and Fishing War Memorial Segment D Project) to improve future funding applications and spending; ten projects were completed, which include sidewalks on S 19th between Cedar and State Street, East 11th Street Bridge Study, and N 21st Street Pedestrian Improvement projects. The twelve new projects were vetted against the TMP to ensure consistency and are projects that would be eligible for future funding. Projects include the Manitou Elementary Safe Routes to School project that ranked well in the application process, S 21st and C Street Signal that was awarded a grant funding due to the number of collisions, and Sound Transit Access projects at Tacoma Dome and South Tacoma in preparation of future Sound Transit funding. Jennifer will present to IPS in April and will provide an additional presentation of the complete TIP draft to the Commission at the April meeting. It will then be presented to City Council with adoption planned for June 2021. Commissioner Leighton asked if the City knows the cross-section of the 6th Avenue Business District and if there is an opportunity to engage Pierce Transit. Jennifer shared that the City recently applied for a grant on 6th Avenue that included parking protected bike lanes and bus islands/curb bulbs. Pierce Transit was part of that process and provided a letter of support. Unfortunately, the City was not awarded the grant. Commissioner Mason identified a clarification under LID 8669 for multiple property owners or if it's an individual. She was also in support of Manitou Elementary School. She asked if the N 21st Street Improvement project is in the TIP. Jennifer shared that the overall project for N 21st Street is not in the TIP, but it is in the



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TMP. Commissioner Skaugt asked if any funding for Sound Transit projects are in jeopardy of funding based on current revenues. Jennifer said that she will follow-up.

VI. Other Business/Updates (6:45)

- a) Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (Justin Leighton/Matt Stevens/Bruce Morris)
No additional comments.
- b) Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Committee (Richard Gardner/Jane Moore)
No meeting to report on; however, Commissioner Gardner shared that the website has additional maps.
- c) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Jennifer Kammerzell/Jane Moore) – 2/8 Special Meeting Active Transportation Accomplishments & Work Plan, Vision Zero
- d) Planning Commission Agenda – 2/17 Impact Fees and Home in Tacoma

VII. Staff Reports (7:00)

- a) Responses to Commission Inquiries & Staff Comments
- b) Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects – Jennifer shared the need for additional funds from Streets Initiative Fund in the amount of \$30k for bike lanes Mildred S 12th – N 9th with ramps at N 9th & Scott Pierson Trail and bike lanes S 15th Fawcett to Prairie Line Trail. E 64th Street sidewalks and cycle track installed to cover project overages. The Commission moved and approved to allocate the funds, and would like to see an update on the Streets Initiative Fund and ensure that the funding is not being taken from another project. A report will be provided this Spring.
- c) Upcoming Public Meetings & Events
No additional meetings.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Gardner shared that the E 64th Street project has sidewalks and landscaping along most of the corridor, and has seen several pedestrians utilizing the new sidewalks.

Commissioner Alonzo expressed concern over the increase in racing and reckless driving, and supports increasing infrastructure and de-emphasizing enforcement in moving towards Vision Zero. Co-Chair Moore shared that Safe Routes to School has replaced the “E” that stands for enforcement with encouragement and Vision Zero has de-emphasized traditional enforcement strategies.

IX. Public Comment

Chair Jenn Halverson-Kuehn, BPTAG, shared that the group discussed the incident at S 9th & Pacific Avenue, damage that vehicles can do, and importance of infrastructure in reaching Vision Zero.

X. Adjourn

Co-Chair Nyland adjourned the meeting at 7:19 PM.





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