



Minutes

Meeting: Regular Meeting
Time: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 5:30 P.M.
Place: Virtual, Zoom

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I. Call to Order

Chair Nyland called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioner Stevens was excused absence. Commissioner Westergreen was absent.

III. Approval of Minutes (October 20, 2021 and November 17, 2021)

A correction was made to the October 20, 2021 minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected.

The November 17, 2021 minutes were not available for review and deferred to the January 19, 2022 meeting.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

No members of the public provided comments.

V. Business Items

a) Infrastructure Projects & Funding

Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works, provided an overview on the proposed Federal Infrastructure Investments packages. Washington state will receive an estimated \$8.6 billion for public transportation, federal-aid highway apportioned programs, bridge replacement and repairs, expansion of EV charging networks, and broadband coverage. It is anticipated that the funds will be distributed through a grant process. The criteria for each grants is unknown and will determine project eligibility. Jennifer listed a sample of projects that the City submitted prior to the adoption of the Infrastructure Bill. Projects included reconstructing the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge, Puyallup Avenue Complete Streets, Links to Opportunity J Street Bike Boulevard, East 64th Street Phase II, ADA Improvements/Curb Ramp Programs citywide, Safe Routes to School Projects, and S 38th & Steele Street Intersection improvements. CM Serad asked if these projects would be funded by Infrastructure Package or city funds. The intent is to apply for Federal Funds provided the projects meet the grant criteria and would score well. Another consideration will be grant match requirements and city fund availability. Chair Nyland asked what the S 38th & Steele Street project included. Jennifer shared that the project was primarily for signal timing, channelization, and pedestrian crossing improvements.

Jennifer presented a list of projects that City Council, City Staff, Bicycle & Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group, and Transportation Commission (Commission) have voiced as priorities. These projects include analysing the conflicted corridors identified in the Transportation Master Plan, I-5 Pedestrian/Bicycle



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Crossings, Pine Street Protected Bike Lanes, A Street Bike Boulevard, East 11th Street Bridge Demolition, Sheridan Avenue Complete Streets, New Traffic Signals (E 84th & McKinley and N 30th & Orchard), and Vision Zero Safety Priority Projects. Chair Nyland asked when the grant criteria would be released. Josh Diekmann, Public Works, stated that staff and the City's Government Liaison are closely following the movement and release of the funds to ensure Tacoma is well equipped to compete. CM Gardner supported many of the projects on the list. He also mentioned that with the amount of funding available, there may be challenges securing consultants or contractors.

b) 2021 Accomplishments

Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works, provided an overview of the Transportation Commission's 2021 accomplishments. Projects that the Commission participated in included the Amended 2021 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program, Active Transportation Updates, Climate Action Plan, EV Charging Stations, Home in Tacoma (letter of recommendation), Impact Fee Framework Study, Outdoor Dining, Puyallup Avenue Corridor Project (letter of recommendation), Sidewalk Program – Unfit/Unsafe/Low-Income/Missing Links, Tideflats Subarea Plan, and Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group Progress Report No. 2 and No. 3 (letter of recommendation). CM Serad asked how much funding was allocated to the Unfit/Unsafe program and if there are any remaining funds. Jennifer did not have that information, but will provide the previous presentations. CM Serad asked why the Low-Income Missing Link Sidewalks was unsuccessful in spending funds. Chair Nyland responded that the Commission directed staff to reimagine how to engage with qualifying property owners and requested a status report in March 2022. The Commission continued review of potential grant projects, Safe Routes to School Action Plan Implementation, Streets Initiative Annual Report for 2019 and 2020, and Vision Zero. Jennifer shared that the Commission reviews partner agency projects including Pierce Transit BRT and Pilot Project for Microtransit Zone, Sound Transit Tacoma Dome Link Extension, Sound Transit South Tacoma Sounder Station Access Improvements.

In 2020, the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability (IPS) asked the Commission to consider the following projects/programs in a future workplan: Affordable Housing and Access, Bike Boulevard Program Expansion, Bike Friendly City – Silver Status, Neighborhood Greenways, Pierce Transit higher frequency, and Vision Zero development and implementation. Jennifer shared that these accomplishments will be presented to IPS. Staff proposes that the 2022 Work Plan is on the January 2022 agenda. Chair Nyland recommended that Commissioners think about what should be included on the 2022 workplan. CM Serad asked for a copy of the bylaws and any governing documents. (Carrie Wilhelme provided a copy of the bylaws and links to the Open Public Meetings Act trainings to the new members.)

c) Elections

Chair Nyland asked for nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs. CM Stevens relayed to Chair Nyland that he declined a previous nomination. Chair Nyland, CM Morris, and CM Gardner were confirmed nominations. Chair Nyland asked the Commission to vote on the preferred structure of Chair and Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs. One person voted in support of the Chair and Vice-Chair structure. Four people voted in support of the Co-Chair structure, which passed. CM Gardner rescinded his nomination due to limited availability to perform the duties of Co-Chair. The candidates provided brief comments of why they are running for the position. The Commission voted unanimously to elect Gerrit Nyland and Bruce Morris to the Co-Chair positions.



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VI. Other Business/Updates

- a) Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (Matt Stevens, Erin Anderson) – TODAG received perceived a presentation on the Climate Action Plan Update and discussed the Future of TODAG.
- b) Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Committee (Richard Gardner)
- c) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Troy Serad, Susan Reehill, Jennifer Kammerzell) – CM Serad shared that Council Member Walker attended the meeting to discuss here priorities and future workplan items for BPTAG. Chair Jenn shared that BPTAG also heard from Sound Transit on the South Tacoma Station Access projects. She noted that CM Walker voiced support for becoming an Aging Friendly City.
- d) Planning Commission Agenda - [Planning Commission Agendas and Minutes](#)
CM Serad noted that the link to the minutes is broken. (Jennifer checked and confirmed access to agenda/minutes). Jennifer shared that Planning Commission discussed the annual amendments.

VII. Staff Reports

- a) Responses to Commission Inquiries & Staff Comments – No staff responses or comments were provided.
- b) Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects – Jennifer shared that the City submitted the J Street Bike Boulevard project for the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant.
- c) Upcoming Public Meetings & Events – No public meeting or events were noted.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

CM Serad shared that he is interested in creating Quiet Zones throughout the City and that a potential partnership with Sound Transit might be a feasible solution to fund the project. He also discussed an interest in utilizing Tacoma's Transportation Benefit District to support transit expansion and operation. He discussed Senate Bill 5528 that promotes enhanced service areas with Sound Transit. He recommended that Pierce Transit provide a liaison to the Transportation Commission that can provide updates on operations/delays/cancellations and an annual or biennial state of the transit system presentation/report. He is also interested in discussions of a Bus Rapid Transit Stream Expansion. CM Gardner stated that Pierce Transit recently formed a Community Transportation Advisory Group (<https://www.piercetransit.org/community-transportation-advisory-group/>)

IX. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

X. Adjourn

Chair Nyland adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.



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