



City of Tacoma Transportation Commission

Gerrit Nyland, Co-Chair, City Manager Appointed
Bruce Morris, Co-Chair, District 4
Richard Gardner, At-Large
Erin Anderson, At-Large
Troy Serad, At-Large
Matt Stevens, At-Large
Joe Korbuszewski, District 1
Rubén Casas, District 2
Austin Goble, District 3
Vacant, District 5
Pamela Wrenn, City Manager Appointed

FINAL Minutes

Meeting: Transportation Commission
Time: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 5:30 P.M.
Place: Virtual, Zoom

Join by computer, click on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/join> or <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87316891624?pwd=ZEJBMml3VWZSOTd1cjE5ZjNGT0VoUT09>

Join by Phone: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 873 1689 1624

Passcode: 747000

I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Nyland called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM

II. Swearing in of New Commissioners

CM Korbuszewski, CM Goble, and CM Wrenn took their oath as administered by City Clerk Doris Sorum.

III. Roll Call and Introductions

- a) Icebreaker: In honor of the Week Without Driving, share a memorable transportation-related experience that did not involve a car. Commissioners introduced themselves and shared their response to the icebreaker.

IV. Approval of Minutes (August 17, 2022)

CM Gardner moved to approved the minutes and Co-Chair Morris seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

V. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

No members of the public provided comments.

VI. Business Items

- a) Parking System Update and Curb Management (Information and Comment) – Rachel Barra, Parking Services
Rachel Barra, Management Analyst and liaison to the Parking Technical Advisory Group (PTAG), provided updates on the off-street, on-street, enforcement, and parking management. Rachel explained that in residential areas, there has been a shift in parking dynamics with people working from home and increasing weekday-daytime occupancies, 311 requests for life safety violations (blocking crosswalks/sidewalks), ADA parking stalls, and requests for Residential Parking Zones. Rachel shared that enforcement activity essentially stopped during the pandemic except for life-safety issues. They are rolling out with a softer approach with warnings and slowly bringing back parking officers as need and funding allow.

Rachel provided an overview of the 2019 Parking Assessment Study, which focuses in downtown. The City will be conducting another assessment in 23-24. Rachel also shared data regarding off-street parking occupancy between 2019-2022 that is still currently lower than early 2019 with a 20% occupancy. CM Casas recognized that there may be areas where people are parking on planting strips and does not appear to be captured in the study. He also noted that cars are parking illegally and do impact other types of mobility. CM Goble also shared that abandoned or cars being worked on impact neighborhood parking. He also asked if



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the City owns the garages being paid for and where the revenues go. Rachel explained that the City does own the facility and revenues go to paying down the bond, but PTAG is exploring opportunities to reuse or re-purpose off-street facilities to address other needs. CM Wrenn asked how parking management is being planned to address the expansion of Link. Rachel shared that there hasn't been planning efforts, but the intent is to watch how parking may impact Link usage and mode shift. CM Korbuszewski noticed that large vehicles block sidewalks when parked in angle parking. He also noted that the sale of RVs and trailers has increased, which means they are parked on-street, and asked why they are not tagged as no violation. Rachel noted that if it moves every 7 days and is licensed, it is in compliance with code. If someone is living in the RV, it is deferred to Code Compliance.

Rachel also shared the PTAG work plan for the remainder of 2022, which includes developing a curb management framework. The pandemic and new mobility tools have changed how curb space/on-street parking may be needed. They intend to have a PTAG Framework Action Plan completed in December. Commissioners provided feedback on specific conflicts in the curb space within context of curb management. Feedback included short term parking needs (on-demand food/carshare, deliveries/Amazon), safety of parking maneuvers/conflicts with people pulling in/out of stalls, and parklets space. Commissioners also provided feedback on data collection needs, including availability of parking spaces and understanding how businesses use curb space. They also shared thoughts on parking management success/improvements, including increased visibility at intersections and transit oriented policy development with parking. CM Casas shared concerns about cars parked on planting strips and would like to further discuss.

b) Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan (Information and Comment) – Wesley Rhodes, Comprehensive Planning Wesley Rhodes, Senior Planner with Planning & Development Services, provided an overview of Picture Pac Ave, which includes the Pacific Avenue corridor between I-5 and south city limits. This is the first time the City has conducted a Subarea Plan in an area that is not required by State Law. The purpose is to support and leverage investments from the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. In addition to the Subarea Plan, this project will include a planned action Environmental Impact Statement and planned Action Ordinance to support streamlined permitting and growth predictability. Pierce Transit is a partner on this project; however, the plan is not looking at the actual design of BRT, which is a separate process. CM Morris asked for clarification of the northern edge of BRT. Wesley shared the route extends north to Tacoma Dome Station then through downtown to S 9th Street. The major elements include community visioning, zoning & urban design, transportation & connectivity, economic development, housing, and environment & sustainability with equity embedded in each element. Transportation & Connectivity will focus on equitable Transit Oriented Development (TOD), transit/bicycle/pedestrian connections, traffic & air quality, streetscape, curb management strategies, and shared infrastructure & investment priorities. Carrie shared that Pacific Avenue is shown as a High Risk Corridor in the Vision Zero Action Plan. Wesley explained that community engagement includes a soft launch in Summer 2022, visioning in Fall/Winter '22/'23, draft plan review Summer/Fall '23, and final plan adoption to be determined.

CM Korbuszewski asked how this project will accommodate bicycle access. Wesley shared that the plan will include that analysis. He recognizes there is a long range vision for bicycles and this may be an opportunity to comment on that vision. Carrie shared that the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) calls for a bike boulevard on A Street. CM Gardner explained that the South End Neighborhood Council (SENC) has been working with UW Tacoma on mapping and planning. He asked if there will be any consideration for incorporation with the Pierce County Comprehensive Planning effort. Wesley also shared that there will be an advisory committee





that Commissioners are invited to participated in. He has connected with SENC and intends to continue engaging with them, and has been working with Pierce County on future coordination regarding the two plans. CM Goble suggested having a clear roadmap of what folks are contributing too and providing information in an easily digestible way. CM Casas asked staff to clarify or ensure that folks understand what visioning for this corridor means. It appears that the community will be commenting on a defined or draft vision to comment on versus developing it. One of his goals recognizes that the City brings forth a vision that folks comment on and that a best practice would be to co-develop of a vision at the beginning. Wesley recognizes that determine the overarching goals and values that would feed into the growth scenarios and then bring that back to the community for further development.

Co-Chair Nyland recommends rezoning beyond a single block off Pacific Avenue and looking at more of the 15-minute walkshed. CM Serad provided comments that the BRT project will transform how SR7 is shaped and is used. The changes will require mitigation in the project area. There will be unanticipated positive and negative outcomes because of the \$250-million improvements. In terms of transportation planning, and well in advance of this transformation, how can the commission properly provide guidance on the development of this corridor? Outside of key zoning amendments, might this sub-area plan be benefitted by waiting for the completion of BRT in 2027? What can this sub-area plan accomplish that organic, incremental growth cannot, especially when considering existing city plans, regulations, and the ongoing zoning reforms in the area? Wesley shared that when a Subarea Plan works, it approves changes to both the zoning map and zoning code, which may include upzoning to support transit investments. It also helps to identify impacts (parks, transportation) and mitigation that are beneficial for future funding, streamlining development improvements and permitting, and ensuring development supports other priorities (housing affordability, environmental).

VII. Other Business/Updates

- a) Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (Matt Stevens, Erin Anderson) – TODAG did not meet.
- b) Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Committee (Richard Gardner) – CM Gardner shared a groundbreaking is scheduled for October 3, 2022 in Spanaway.
- c) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Erin Anderson/need another representative) – Carrie shared that BPTAG discussed Leading Pedestrian Intervals and No Right Turn on Red.

VIII. Staff Reports

- a) Staff Updates
 - i) Transportation Commission recruitment update – The City is advertising for District 5.
 - ii) Resuming in-person/hybrid - In-person hybrid meetings will return in October.
- b) Status of Grant Applications and Major Capital Projects – No updates
- c) Upcoming Public Meetings and Events
 - i) October is Walk to School Month
 - ii) Proctor Neighborhood Plan Kick-Off: Sept. 29

IX. Commissioner Comments

CM Gardner shared that is happy to provide information to new Commissioners regarding the background and current status of Bus Rapid Transit Route 1.



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X. Public Comment

Carrie recapped written comments regarding arterial paving.

Larry Leveen provided comments regarding Forever Green Trails, Walk & Roll Pierce County Coalition, Pierce County Transportation Advisory Commission, and the upcoming Pierce County Trails Day.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.



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List of Groups to Attend or Follow

- Neighborhood Councils
- Neighborhood Business Districts
- Hilltop Action Coalition
- Tacoma Dome Business District
- Schuster Parkway/Ruston Way Stakeholder Committee
- WSDOT SR167 Bike/Ped Stakeholder Group
- Sound Transit TDLE
- Tideflats Subarea Plan
- Planning Commission
- Parking Technical Advisory Group
- Sustainable Tacoma Commission

2021 Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee Recommendations

- Affordable housing and access
- Bike boulevards – Increase facilities, wayfinding, and use
- Pierce Transit – Support higher frequency and future increases
- Vision Zero – Support development and implementation
- Neighborhood Greenways – Include in TMP and focus on traffic calming elements
- Bike Friendly City – Strive for silver status and prioritize network of protected bike facilities





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