



**City of Tacoma  
Transportation Commission**

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

---

**FINAL Minutes**

**Meeting:** Transportation Commission  
**Time:** Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at 5:30 P.M.  
**Place:** Hybrid: 747 Market Street, Room 243 or 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 Stevens called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.*

**II. Roll Call**

*CM Anderson and CM Nyland are excused absences.*

**III. Review of Minutes (June 21, 2023)**

*CM Morris made a motion to approve the June 21, 2023 minutes. CM Serad seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

*Ayes: 7 – Gardner, Serad, Casas, Grellier, Goble, Stevens, Morris, Korbuszewski*

*Nays: 0*

*Abstain: 0*

*Non-Voting: Wrenn*

**IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics**

*No members of the public provided comment.*

**V. Business Items**

*The presenter for Home in Tacoma was not available at the start of the meeting, so Co-Chair Stevens recommended Agenda Items A and B be switched, so the Climate Action Plan letter was presented first.*

- a) Climate Action Plan Letter of Recommendation (Discussion and Recommendation)  
*Carrie Wilhelme, Public Works, presented the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's comment letter regarding implementation the Climate Action Plan. The Commission supported sending a letter to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Council Committee. CM Wrenn agreed to take the lead on writing the comment letter. CM Grellier agreed to support CM Wrenn in writing the letter. The Commission discussed the policies and actions that should be highlighted in the letter, including but not limited to, a shift away from single occupancy vehicles, supporting transit and active transportation users that are impacted by climate change, and strengthening goals/policies in the update of the Transportation Master Plan to more closely align with the Climate Action Plan.*
- b) Home in Tacoma Phase 2 (Information and Discussion)  
*Alyssa Torrez, Planning and Development Services, presented an overview of Home in Tacoma. The first phase*



The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any of its programs, activities, or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Carrie Wilhelme at (253) 442-9813 (voice) or TTY-711.



*adopted a new housing growth vision, updated housing policies, enabled Missing Middle Housing in Tacoma's neighborhoods, called for actions to ensure Tacoma gets housing growth right, and called for actions to make housing more affordable. The current phase, Phase 2, will implement the City's new housing growth strategy through zoning, standards, affordability and anti-displacement steps, and actions to support housing growth. She described the proposed increases for low- and mid-scale density, e.g. units per low size, etc. She discussed the neighborhood amenities and infrastructure that would be needed to support housing growth, which includes increasing tree canopy, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and transit support. She also shared the new State House Bill that requires cities and towns to update zoning to allow for increased density.*

*The project was delayed due to the adoption of the House Bill. It is anticipated to be adopted in February/March 2024. Alyssa also shared a summary of feedback received. The Commission discussed parking requirements, access to transit, density minimum and maximums, higher density on Vision Zero corridors, and the need for impact fees.*

## **VI. Other Business/Updates**

- a) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Joe Korbuszewski) - *Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works, shared that BPTAG's June agenda included a presentation on bike parking in parks and the McKinley Hill Neighborhood Plan and streetscape design.*
- b) Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Committee (Richard Gardner) - *CM Gardner shared that the Pierce Transit Board received a presentation on July 10, 2023 on a value-engineered design that removes center islands and a roundabout. The focus was on Federal Transit Agency rating and providing an interim express bus service. The next Board meeting is August 14, 2023. The Commission discussed the timing and content of a response letter. Co-Chair Stevens agreed to draft a letter in response to the July 14, 2023 Board Meeting. CM Casas made a motion to send a comment letter. CM Serad seconded the motion. The Commission approved the motion. CM Serad and CM Gardner agreed to support Co-Chair Stevens in drafting the letter. The Commission also discussed writing a letter after the Pierce Transit presentation that could be forwarded to the News Tribune, PT Board, and City Council.*
- c) Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan Advisory Committee (Richard Gardner and Troy Serad) - *CM Gardner shared that the project has kicked off with community engagement.*
- d) Proctor Neighborhood Plan (Matt Stevens and Gerrit Nyland) - *Co-Chair Stevens shared that the Committee is reviewing a draft action item list for spending the allocated \$50k.*
- e) McKinley Neighborhood Plan (Troy Serad) - *CM Serad shared that there was a community event on July 15, 2023 to No Parking curb areas red and storm drain stencils.*

## **VII. Staff Reports**

- a) Staff Updates  
*Jennifer Kammerzell commented on the News Tribune Bus Rapid Transit article posted July 10, 2023.*
- b) Status of Grant Applications and Major Capital Projects  
*Carrie shared that the City will be submitting an application for a Transportation Alternative Program to fund preliminary engineering and outreach for Portland Avenue Vision Zero Improvements: E 27<sup>th</sup> to 56<sup>th</sup> Streets.*
- c) Upcoming Public Meetings and Events  
*No additional meetings or events were noted.*





---

**VIII. Commissioner Comments**

*CM Wrenn shared the Sound Transit's 2023 Transit Development Plan that does not include the Tacoma City Council's previous comments. The Co-Chairs agreed to write a letter that reiterates the City Council's previous letter.*

*CM Serad shared that Pierce Transit released its Stream System Expansion Final Report. CM Serad provided written comment as well that is included as an attachment to the minutes.*

*CM Grellier shared a citizen's comment and questions about the status of automated enforcement.*

*CM Stevens would like a presentation WSDOT, specifically in response to the recent fatal collisions.*

**IX. Public Comment**

*No members of the public provided comment.*

**X. Adjourn**

*Co-Chair Stevens adjourned the meeting at 7: 48 PM.*





If you have difficulty understanding English, you may, free of charge, request language assistance services for this Department information by calling (253) 591-5560, or email us at: [cwilhelme@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cwilhelme@cityoftacoma.org).

- **Aviso a personas con dominio limitado del idioma inglés:** Si a usted se le dificulta entender el inglés, puede solicitar servicios de ayuda con el idioma, de forma gratuita, con respecto a ésta información, llamando al (253) 591-5560, o enviando un mensaje de correo electrónico a: [cwilhelme@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cwilhelme@cityoftacoma.org).
- **Thông báo dành cho những người có khả năng Anh ngữ hạn chế:** Nếu quý vị gặp khó khăn trong việc hiểu Anh ngữ thì quý vị có thể yêu cầu các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ cho các tin tức của Bộ dành cho công chúng. Các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ này đều miễn phí. Nếu quý vị muốn biết thêm chi tiết về các dịch vụ phiên dịch hay thông dịch, xin vui lòng gọi số (253) 591-5560, hoặc email: [cwilhelme@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cwilhelme@cityoftacoma.org).
- **영어 미숙자를 위한 공고:** 영어를 이해하는 데 어려움이 있으신 경우, 교육부 정보 센터에 일반인 대상 언어 지원 서비스를 요청하실 수 있습니다. 이러한 언어 지원 서비스는 무료로 제공됩니다. 통역이나 번역 서비스에 대해 자세한 정보가 필요하신 경우, 전 화번호 (253) 591-5560 또는 이메일주소 [cwilhelme@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cwilhelme@cityoftacoma.org) 으로 연락하시기 바랍니다.
- **Paunawa sa mga Taong Limitado ang Kaalaman sa English:** Kung nahihirapan kayong makaintindi ng English, maaari kayong humingi ng tulong ukol dito sa inpormasyon ng Kagawaran mula sa nagbibigay ng serbisyo na pagtulong kaugnay ng wika. Ang serbisyo na pagtulong kaugnay ng wika ay libre. Kung kailangan ninyo ng dagdag na impormasyon tungkol sa mga serbisyo kaugnay ng pagpapaliwanag o pagsasalin, mangyari lamang tumawag sa (253) 591-5560, o mag-email sa: [cwilhelme@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cwilhelme@cityoftacoma.org).
- **Уведомление для лиц с ограниченным знанием английского языка:** Если вы испытываете трудности в понимании английского языка, вы можете попросить, чтобы вам предоставили перевод информации, которую Министерство Образования доводит до всеобщего сведения. Этот перевод предоставляется бесплатно. Если вы хотите получить более подробную информацию об услугах устного и письменного перевода, звоните по телефону (253) 591-5560, или отправьте сообщение по адресу: [cwilhelme@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cwilhelme@cityoftacoma.org).



The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any of its programs, activities, or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Carrie Wilhelme at (253) 442-9813 (voice) or TTY-711.

**Written Comment – Commissioner Serad  
July 16, 2023 Regular Transportation Commission meeting**

---

Pierce Transit posted online its Stream System Expansion report a few months ago. I discovered the report by coincidence on June 28.

On page 97 of the final report, it is revealed that Pierce Transit planners intend to alternate BRT trips to either Downtown or Tacoma Dome. This results in half the frequency to each terminus and mistakenly treats them as equals. They are not. Tacoma is the urban heart of Pierce County and is the destination of, or transfer point for, the majority of area commuters. Tacoma Dome Station is neither of those things.

The decision to alternate termini is not rooted in the guidance of advisory groups, at least as far as I am tracking them, nor does it have any relationship with transit planning best practices.

Pierce Transit was advised to terminate buses either at one or the other. Now, this is a lose-lose situation that is the direct result of poor light rail planning here in Pierce County, and flawed Sound Transit financing requirements that force a BRT detour to Tacoma Dome. While choosing one terminus would never satisfy everyone, all Pierce Transit had to do was pick one and stick with it.

Instead, the agency seeks to do both, branching the BRT line near the urban core, precisely the area where transit should be condensing. This will degrade the transit experience for every BRT rider heading to Downtown or transferring from there. It needlessly complicates the scheduling of a single busline on a single road with only modest ridership. We may spend over \$170 million to reduce corridor travel times by 8 to 11 minutes one way, and then see those savings erased for many by a transfer penalty that could add upwards of 15 to 20 minutes of additional time, just so that Tacomans can travel to and within their own city.

For Pierce Transit and the management of this project, a good place to start is to pick a terminus and move forward.