



City of Tacoma  
Transportation Commission

June 21, 2024

City of Tacoma  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Subject: City Charter Amendments – CBCs

Dear Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Council Sub-Committee:

The Transportation Commission submits to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability (IPS) Council Sub-Committee our concerns about omitting the Transportation Commission from the city charter as part of the City Charter amendment recommendations. We believe doing so would negatively impact our objectives and the city's goals for long-term planning and climate action.

First, the Transportation Commission works concurrently with the Planning Commission to promote thoughtful growth and development through the city's Comprehensive Plan. The Transportation Commission is responsible for updating and implementing the Transportation Master Plan (TMP), which addresses the city's short-term and long-range transportation planning and includes the project list. Transportation design and investments are critical elements to effective and efficient urban planning, and the TMP is an essential policy tool for implementing related changes.

Moreover, the Transportation Commission oversees the implementation of Vision Zero, a crucial program aimed at eliminating all traffic fatalities and serious injuries while increasing safe and accessible mobility for all. This priority necessitates citywide support and the collaboration of various Boards and Commissions.

The Transportation Commission's emphasis on reducing transportation-related emissions also aligns to the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's efforts to implement the city's Climate Action Plan. Many of the city's climate goals and action items will be implemented through dramatic changes to our transportation system and related updates to the TMP.

We are concerned that not including the Transportation Commission in the city charter alongside the Planning Commission and the proposed Climate Accountability and Sustainability Commission would negatively impact the support and capacity for the Transportation Commission and reduce our contributions toward the city's planning and climate change commitments. Therefore, we recommend that IPS propose to the full City Council that the Transportation Commission also be added to the city charter.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter. Thank you for your consideration.

Bruce Morris  
Transportation Commission Co-Chair

Matt Stevens  
Transportation Commission Co-Chair

Cc: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Director, Public Works Department