



City of Tacoma

Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market St., Room 243 at 5:30 PM

MINUTES

Monday, September 23, 2019

I. Call to order and approval of minutes (5:36 PM)

Susan Reehill and Theresa Beaulieu were excused. The minutes were approved with one correction to the date at the top of the page.

II. Introductions

The group introduced themselves and where they work.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Business Items:

a. Corridor of the Month: S 37th (focus on M – Thompson Ave)

The group discussed the importance of this corridor and potential once improved. Many conducted site visits. Currently there are 18 sharrows between Alaska and Thompson.

- The pavement condition is bad with potholes, especially west of Thompson. 311 requests regarding pavement condition are not being heard.
- The pedestrian push button at Pacific did not work; however the one at Thompson did.
- The yield signs at the traffic circle at S 37th is confusing. The vegetation has been overgrown in the traffic circle as well. (The City has a process to notify abutting property owners of yield and stop sign removal when located at a traffic circle.)
- Cars are speeding closer to the post office and between Thompson and Pacific Avenue. Alex avoids the area when school is in session due to poor parent and student driving behavior.
- M Street is difficult to cross due to the volume and speed. It needs curb cuts, marked crosswalk, and pedestrian beacons.
- Google maps routes you over the 37th Street bridge, but Apple maps does not.
- The BIKE ROUTE ENDS signs by the bridge does not make sense, since the bridge is part of the bike route.
- More signage is needed for wayfinding and to show you are on a bike boulevard.



- The bollard on the east side of the bridge entrance is not needed, since cars cannot go through. The bridge looks like a dead end and needs more signage to show access to the bridge.
- Vegetation at the bridge is unwelcoming.
- S 37th Street is the only way to cross I-5, since there aren't any facilities on S 38th, 56th, or 84th overpasses.

The group requested that the next intersection or corridor of the month be a summary of previous intersections and status of proposed improvements.

b. Scooter Share Update and Feedback: Where to Ride, Speeds

Chair Jenn provided a brief explanation of the status of the scooter share program, which includes a slow zone in downtown Tacoma and Ruston Way. She asked the group to provide feedback on its current pilot program and what changes should be considered for the permanent program. The group said that UWT riders/scooters don't slow down. They said that they like the idea that kids might be able to ride scooters as a mode option. They asked staff to consider mirroring bike use on sidewalks in business districts similar to restricted bike use on sidewalks in those areas, and allow them on sidewalks where bikes are allowed. They should always yield to pedestrians. They do not want a law on age. They wanted to defer the helmet requirement conversation to staff and best practices.

c. Fawcett Avenue Traffic Calming Project

Dan Hansen, Engineer, provided a brief overview of the Fawcett Avenue traffic calming project that includes state funding for a portion of the corridor. The project includes pedestrian, bicycle, and ADA improvements along Fawcett Ave between S 21st and 6th Avenue. Dan highlighted the use of curb bulbs, mid-block crossing, push button beacons, and landscaping to slow traffic and improve access. The group expressed concern about the curb bulbs and making it feel less safe as bikes are forced to merge with traffic. They also noted that the southbound signals are timed poorly for bicyclists, which results in stopping at every intersection. They recommended more traffic diverters over other improvement types, to minimize traffic volume and speeds. They do not like the angle parking near the Grand Cinema (which is head-in). They also prefer chicanes over traffic chokers.

V. Updates

a. Report from Transportation Commission

Agenda topics were Transportation Master Plan – Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan Project Additions and Sound Transit TDLE & South Sound Expansion Updates

b. Staff Updates – No staff updates

c. BPTAG at other active transportation meetings

VI. Adjourn (7:30 PM)