



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: October 11, 2011

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Moore, Phil Coughlan, Jim Gawel, Steve Garrett, Elaine Ott, Dale Anderson, Bill Anderson, Dan Dzyacky

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: Carol Shiflett, Bliss Moore, Ellen Moore

OTHERS PRESENT: Kristina Walker, Stadium High School Students (Jake, Kate, Henry, Cole, Karla), Ian Munce, Kristi Lynett, Lisa Rennie, Bob Mack, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the August 9, 2011 Meeting Notes**

The August 9, 2011, meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **Review of the October Agenda**

The October agenda was approved.

▪ **Stadium Bike Club**

Downtown On the Go and Stadium High School applied for a 2010 Sustainable Tacoma Grant and were awarded \$5,000 for the formation of the Stadium Bike Club.

- There are approximately 1,700 students at Stadium, with the student body made up of two neighborhoods (North end Tacoma and NE Tacoma).
- Four students currently ride from NE Tacoma on a regular basis. Riding from NE Tacoma can take a good hour; riding from the North end can take anywhere from 2 to 15 minutes.
- Stadium Bike Club Successes
 - Bike to School Week - to promote this week, students put on a spring pep rally, appeared on TV Tacoma; produced screen printed posters and bike Stadium banners; and daily announcements were made on the intercom.
 - To raise awareness, pamphlets were distributed reminding students of the law to wear a helmet when riding.
 - A bike maintenance instructor was brought in to show students how to fix and maintain their bikes.
 - Students held an outdoor breakfast at the bike racks and gave out bike-related prizes (helmets, water bottles, etc.) based on how many days each person bikes to school.
 - From May 16 to 20, the Bike Club had 154 bicycle trips, or 760 miles total (50 students biked on Bike Stadium Day).
 - Students have expanded people's thinking of carpooling and other sustainable ways to get to/from school. In just a short timeframe, they have seen a major shift in the way students think about transportation.
 - Being active participants in the Bike Club has allowed its members to improve on their presentation, budgeting and event planning skills.

- Stadium Bike Club Goals
 - Place more emphasis on safety; create a safety program on wearing lighted helmets.
 - Obtain on-campus covered bike parking.
 - Carpool matching - allowing students to match up with friends/other students; promote other modes of transportation (bus).

Stadium Bike Club students are committed to continuing the bike club in 2012 with hopes to keep it going even longer.

▪ **Transfer Development Rights (TDRs) – Ian Munce**

The Landscape Conservation and Local Infrastructure Program was passed in the 2011 Legislature (EESB 5253, effective July 22, 2011) to conserve farms, forests and habitat while providing for city infrastructure needs

- The Cascade Land Conservancy and others were able to get the Growth Management Act amended to put TDRs right into the Act itself.
- TDRs - when trying to protect resource lands, the intended property is still private property and people have rights for development, even though it may be limited rights. There is a huge interest in conserving natural resource lands. In the urban areas, the focus is on development in mixed-use centers, and one way to do that is to increase height allowances. The notion of TDRs is to have the people who want to build an extra four stories purchase the right from the farmers and the timber interests so that property will be in conservation easements in perpetuity; it is recorded right on the deed to the property (can also be done with setbacks, parking, etc.).
- Eligible for cities in Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties - Counties are being told to count all the development rights that are available in each county for forest, timberlands and critical areas by next spring. Those rights will be allocated to all the major cities; the cities will then be asked to plan for that many units.
- King County was awarded U.S. EPA grant in 2010 to advance regional TDR
 - Tacoma is a partner with King County and is receiving \$109K of grant funds
 - Tacoma is also a partner with WA DOC and is receiving \$100K from a separate EPA grant
 - Intent of funds - to help Tacoma develop its TDR program with a regional component
- TDR Partnership Components
 - Identify priority TDR “sending site” areas in Pierce and King Counties (agricultural and forest lands, habitat for endangered species, trails)
 - Amend zoning code to make TDRs one of the density options in identified city receiving areas
 - Establish a “transfer ratio” (amount of commercial/residential square footage per TDR)
 - Infrastructure funding / amenity funds

The Council supported this legislation and is now very interested in the details: how much, when, what is the commitment, and how would it work. City staff will provide these answers to Council within the next month. By next spring, Council will need to make a policy decision as to where their priority receiving areas are. The City will be working on this program for the next three years.

▪ **Growing Transit Communities Program**

Partly because this region is doing some of the leading planning work in the country, the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) was selected for a project funded by Housing and Urban Development. It was designed to take Vision 2040 and Transportation 2040, the long-range regional plans, and help move those forward. The PSRC was awarded a \$5M grant in October 2010 for this implementation project to move Vision 2040 forward.

- Partnership for Sustainable Communities (2009) – a new federal partnership with EPA and WSDOT
- Partnership Livability Principles – put transportation investments in place to make mixed-use communities work
 - Provide more transportation choices
 - Promote equitable, affordable housing
 - Support existing communities
 - Coordinate policies/leverage investments

- Social Equity as Primary Outcome
 - Housing, jobs, services – it is designed to ensure people are not displaced when redevelopment takes place
- Long-Range Transportation Plans
 - Work with the communities around the station areas to be inclusive
 - Change the zoning in a selective way
 - Make sure affordable housing is part of the mix
- New Approach to Participation – resources to engage diverse communities in planning for development around new station areas
- New Emphasis on Affordable Housing – local policies and financial tools to encourage a variety of housing choices along light rail corridors
- Innovative Tools and Demonstration Projects – out of the \$5M, there are two demonstration projects (Northgate and Tacoma/south downtown). The south downtown project is in partnership with UWT for the pre-approval of millions of square feet for development. Traffic plans will be done in advance; design standards will be put in place, including complete streets initiatives; work with Sound Transit to improve access to the station areas; coordinate with the Hilltop neighborhoods and the Thea Foss community. Staff is currently working with TPU and Public Works to determine infrastructure priorities. The intent is to build-up the south downtown Tacoma area so it has the same intense development that currently exist in north downtown.

▪ **Commission Subcommittees Updates**

Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee

- Anti-idle Campaign – Ellen Moore, in working with Jim Gawel, has offered to be the adult coordinator for college interns to be matched up with a few schools to look at some anti-idle campaigns. Staff sent emails out to those schools that were awarded grant monies from the 2010 Sustainable Tacoma Grant program, as well as schools that were registered as Washington green schools. To date, staff has received several good responses. Ellen will follow up with those to get at least one or two moving forward this fall on a campaign, utilizing the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's idle reduction cookbook and other free materials.
- Food Policy Recommendations
 - Staff had previously met with the SMT and briefed the Commission. Following that meeting, staff had some follow-up discussions with a few managers regarding their concerns/questions on some of the items in the food policy recommendations. Staff recommended to the Commission that some of the recommendations be moved along separately. Some items are already moving forward, but there are other items that have to do with the City (i.e., events, meetings, staff, vending machines, etc.) that the Wellness Committee would be a much better venue than the Office of Sustainability. Staff met with the Human Resources Department's Wellness Committee, who, in previous years, tried unsuccessfully to implement some of these programs and/or policies. The Wellness Committee is making this their priority for first quarter 2012.
 - The City's Public Assembly Facilities manager (Dome, Convention Center) presented to staff a picture of a healthy-to-go 15-foot kiosk display of healthy foods (sandwiches, fruits, nuts etc.). The idea would be to have one particular area in the Dome where the public could choose healthy foods options.
 - Cleaning up domestic fowl codes - City staff has been coordinating with Pierce County, as they have proposed some changes to their county codes. Staff has been able to obtain their background research and information and what they will be proposing. The TPCHD would like to see some changes more on the health inspector/nuisance side.
- Members met with the City's BLUS department. BLUS staff expressed an interest in the Sustainable Building Advisors (SBA) Program, a nine-month executive-style training session, one weekend a month, which is currently only available through Seattle. The program teaches a holistic view of sustainability. TCC had previously signed on to host the program, but not enough students enrolled. To substantiate having the program offered locally, there is a need for an organization that is willing to host it on a larger scale (25-30 students at \$2K/each).

Waste Reduction/Recycling Subcommittee

- The residential EOW food composting pilot is going well. Solid Waste will be looking at developing some draft ordinances in 2012 to expand the program citywide, and, hopefully, expand the commercial food composting pilot as well.
- Phonebooks – the recommendation is to wait and see what happens with the San Francisco lawsuit, as an opt-in program will have more participation and reduced solid waste disposal costs for Tacoma.

Outreach Subcommittee

- 2011 Sustainable Tacoma Grant applications are due by October 28. Information has been advertised in several newspapers (including El Aguila, a bilingual newspaper) and is posted on the STC website.
- Members will give a short presentation at each Neighborhood Council meeting. Sign-up sheets and talking points were distributed to the Commission.
- 2012 Sustainability Expo – an email exchange to place where the different universities that have hosted the Sustainability Expos over the last several years agreed to have Tacoma take the lead on the 2012 expo.

▪ **Staff Updates**

Staff met with the King County Green Building Team to learn more about their municipal green building policy. They have a Sustainable Cities program with many resources to help the broader community and are more than willing to share these resources.

- The presentation on the Community Solar Projects draft report is scheduled to go to EPW on October 26. In reviewing the 'recommended actions,' the project should not pose any significant costs to the City aside from some staff time for coordination, some potential outreach and marketing, two potential investors, and possibly doing some preliminary design work. By end of week, members will re-review the draft report recommendations and reply to staff with their comments. The draft will then be forwarded to Council for preview prior to their EPW meeting. TPU will be presenting the Community Solar Project Report to their Board on October 13.
- There will be two open house public comment sessions on the Statewide Energy Strategy (Spokane and Tacoma). Tacoma's will be held on October 12, 6:00 – 8:00 pm., Carwin Auditorium.
- October 12, 12:30-1:30 pm., UWT - the Sustainable Lecture Series will feature Mayor Strickland speaking on "From Gritty to Green."
- UWT campus news – UWT now has two zip cars available on campus. They have negotiated with Full Circle Farms to have produce delivery on campus, eligible to the public; the renovated Joy Building will be getting LEED Platinum status.

▪ **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, November 8, 2011, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.