



Parking Technical Advisory Group General Meeting Minutes

Zoom Remote Meeting Hosted in Tacoma, WA 98402
Thursday February 2, 2024 - Occurs First Thursday, Monthly

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.
Members Present	Steph Farber Co-Chair, Joe Loran Co-Chair, David Schroedel, Stephanie Sarber, Robyn LaChance,
Members Absent	James Sinding
City Staff Present	Rachel Barra (Public Works), Eric Huseby (Public Works)
Guests Present	Eric McMillan (Republic Parking NW) Natalya German (Republic Parking NW) Ida Saucedo (Republic Parking NW) Alyssa Torrez (Planning and Development Services) William Reynolds (Rick Williams Consulting)
Regular Business	<p>PTAG Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No updates provided <p>Transportation Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core work plan focus is updating the TMP this year. Curb Management will be a component of that. PTAG's 2024 efforts align with the TMP goals. <p>City Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RPZ 12 is now active and fully enforced.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 70 parking stalls within the zone. Biggest RPZ in the RPP to date.◦ 125 unique addresses within the zone.◦ 69 accounts created.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 42 accounts purchased annual permits▪ 63 permits approved overall. (6 low-income annual permits). (57 annual permits).



- 30% of the overall permits are additional permit purchases tied to an address.
- Relaunching recruitment efforts. Mid-summer 2023 we launched a recruitment effort. However, with Rachel's absence the posting didn't circulate as planned. Therefore, we are giving it another round. The recruitment posting for the 3 positions is now LIVE on the PTAG page. A press release will be circulated today. Applications are due Feb 22. Everyone will get an email blast as a reminder to help spread the word.
- Transportation Commission:
 - Their 2024 work plan focuses on updating the TMP this year. Curb Management will be a component of that. PTAG's work this year will align with the TMP goals.

4:30 p.m.

Public Comment

- No public comment

Agenda Items:

Alyssa Torrez, Senior Planner with Planning and Development Services. Comprehensive Planning

**Informational
Update-
Home in Tacoma
proposal**

Key points in the presentation included:

- Tacoma is updating the zoning codes to allow more mid-scale housing types. This will be the biggest zoning change the city has gone through since the 1950s.
- The Planning Commission is asking for public comment on the Home in Tacoma phase 2 zoning and standards package and on environmental review (EIS) of potential growth impacts.
- The public hearing is set for March 6, 2024. March 8, 2024 is the cut-off date for public comments.
- Monday, February 5, 2024- An online interactive map will be posted on the HIT webpage that shows the existing zoning and what is being proposed. The map will also have a comment feature for folks to submit their thoughts.
- Parking requirements are tied to the UR zones. The proposed high intensity zoning has less parking requirements since they are located near transit corridors.
- PTAG members agreed they would like to submit a position letter on the proposal.

Questions:

Eric H- In terms of bonus considerations, what were the triggers?



Alyssa- If you have affordable units or retaining an existing site.

David S- How does the lot splitting bill from state legislature (min 2000 sq ft) impact these units/lot counts?

Alyssa- The main idea in HIT is that it is consistent with state bills. We are allowing smaller lots down to 2400 sq fit. So, you can still build 4 units on those smaller lots.

Steph F- On one of your earlier slides you mentioned council and commission priority is to prioritize complete neighborhoods. What is a 'complete neighborhood.'

Alyssa- Some neighborhoods have gaps in their resources. A complete neighborhood is where you can get access to schools, grocery stores, transit, parks, and things like that within a 15-minute walk.

Ida S- Was a parking impact study done? encouraging public transportation etc sometimes take change in mindset which may cause stress in parking for current residents?

Alyssa- There wasn't a specific parking impact study that done. But parking is a part of the Environment Impact statement. Which is a part of the HIT package we are putting out

Robyn L- What is the action you are looking for in June? What would success look like? Really, I am asking for more clarification on next steps.

Alyssa- Success will be when council adopts it in July. Right now, we are looking for public comments on the Planning Commission level.

Discussion- Results from Downtown Employee and Resident Survey

William Reynolds, consultant, Rick Williams Consulting

Key points in the conversation/presentation/training included:

- Intent of this presentation is to get reaction. The findings from this survey will feed into the re-assessment of various permit and regulation options.
- Goals of the survey:
 - Assess commuter habits by day of the week (detailed mode split)
 - Assess resident car storage needs
 - Evaluate the visitor parking experience to track over time.
- Survey had 589 responses.



- 38% of respondents visit downtown but do not live or work in downtown.
 - 58% respondents work in downtown.
 - 12% respondents live in downtown. 6% of those individuals also work in downtown.
- Employee Findings
 - 20% of overall weekday work trips are remote or work-from-home trips (20% non-resident/27% resident)
 - 28%+ of weekday work trips by residents who work Downtown are on foot or by bike or scooter (lower on weekends)
 - 21% of all employees at least occasionally take transit.
 - 71% of Downtown Tacoma residents who work downtown report that they walk to work at least occasionally.
 - 18% of Downtown Tacoma residents who work Downtown report that they bike to work at least occasionally.
 - Tuesdays and Wednesdays are the days with the highest amount of employee related trips to Downtown (among all modes, excluding days off/remote work).
 - The vast majority of those who currently work remotely at least occasionally expect to continue to work remote about the same in 2024 (75%).
- Employee - Key themes
 - Many employees park all-day on-street, using Flowbird.
 - Employees perceive the available parking options to be too expensive (particularly compared to \$1/hour on-street).
 - More than 50% of both Downtown employees and Downtown resident would like to have more long-term (4+ hours) parking options.
 - Employees perception is that parking enforcement is very aggressive.
- Resident Findings
 - 3-4 years is the estimated median length of time as resident.
 - Estimated bedroom per household: 1.5
 - Estimated vehicles per household: 1.4
 - Estimated vehicles per bedroom: .9
- Resident – Key Themes



- Residents perceive the need for an on-street permit parking option, or more affordable (and secure) off-street parking options.
 - 50% of Downtown residents would like to have more long-term (4+ hours) parking options.
 - 50% of Downtown residents have a desire for improved sidewalks and crosswalks.
 - Personal safety concerns/vehicle break ins are the top priority concern among residents.
 - 40% of Downtown residents pay for overnight parking.
 - 27% of Downtown residents have parking included in their building.
 - 33% of Downtown residents park on the street
 - 54% of Downtown residents typically move their primary vehicle by 9AM.
- All Users
 - Visitors generally perceive finding parking to be moderately difficult.
 - 4% rated the walking experience in downtown as “fantastic.” This rating is a bit lower than expected.
 - Biking is rated fairly low.
 - 1 in 8 perceive transit to be “fantastic.”
- All Users - Key themes
 - 21% comments expressed strong desire to invest a safe, pleasant walking environment.
 - 20% of comments expressed a desire for fast, efficient, safer transit service.
 - 20% of comments expressed a desire for safety/lighting/security improvements.
- Next steps- Near Term
 - Desire for more flexible long-term parking options. Revised off-street monthly options? 4 hour on-street areas? Improved communication of off-street options? Mobility wallet? Intern on-street permit option?
 - Investments in pedestrian safety and streetscaping. Ensure users feel safe parking and walking several blocks. Look into improving lighting, cleanup, maintenance.
- Next steps- Longer Term
 - Investments in improved transit service. Improving route frequencies/span of service. Safety



- Improvements.
- Active transportation investments.
Protected bike lanes. Secure bike parking. E-bike charging options.
- Multimodal Wallet investments
Create flexible options for discounts on transit, bike parking, car share, scooter share, etc.

Questions:

David S- This doesn't jive with what I feel on the ground. Tuesday and Wednesday are the biggest activity days in Downtown. How would you reconcile that with the data and other anecdotal pieces?

William R- This data is saying the same thing but it is showing it in a different way.

David S- Can you speak to the map in the corner? It's a little small to read.

William R- It's the zip codes showing where respondents are from.

Steph F- From your work, are there any communities outside Tacoma that perceive costs as too low or that enforcement isn't strict enough?

William R- Any downtown where you have to pay for parking folks tend to say the pricing is too high. However, what does stand out with Tacoma is that they perceive enforcement as a threat. People share they have acquired several hundred dollars of tickets, yet they are not utilizing the readily available long-term parking. There seems to be a disconnect on communication as to where it would suit folks better to park for their long-term needs.

David S- Are you able to tell where these respondents are working?

William R- We did leave it as optional for folks to share that info. It wasn't required in the survey. Generally, half of the respondents did share and we can summarize that up.

Robyn L- When you mentioned that residents shared concerns about safety. I know that from an employer stand point who has employees that share the same concern, What you're saying is that the results didn't show as strongly from an employees perspective?

William R- No, I shouldn't have said it that way. It did, it just didn't show up as much as the others. Safety is one of the key themes for employee findings.

Eric H- With the comments related to transit. We recently had the light rail come back online. Did you see any comments in regard to that? Particularly thoughts on cost to light rail?



- William Reynolds- There were a few scattered comments requesting for 'making the light rail free' again. But it didn't rise to the level of it being a key theme

David- For the next steps, one thing I think about when it comes to considering more options to pursue is that the survey results can't be a stand-alone piece. Any options we consider need to be considered with occupancy data as well. How do you see the next steps working in merging these various pieces of data we have?

William R- We don't have great spatial data that ties to where the perception of parking and traveling are at. For the next steps, I'd recommend looking at maps with occupancy.

Understand where we identify where parking is available during peak hours. And as we look at those areas, think about if it's an area where you would consider some of the flexible parking options.

David S- I do want to point out the resident numbers. This is the highest-density, most alternative mode environment. There are no parking requirements for development. Yet we are still seeing that units on average have 1 vehicle per unit.

Adjournment

Steph Farber ended meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Acronyms and Terms Used:

- PTAG- Parking Technical Advisory Group
- RPZ- Residential Parking Zone
- RPP- Residential Parking Program
- TMP – Transportation Master Plan
- Public Hearing- an opportunity for citizens to provide and receive information associated with the decision to be made by the Planning Commission or City Council.
- HIT- Home In Tacoma project
- UR- Urban Residential (in the context of land use zoning codes)
- Environmental impact statement- is a government document that outlines the impact of a proposed project on its surrounding environment.

