



City of Tacoma
Transportation Commission

Justin Leighton, Co-Chair
Jane Ann Moore, Co-Chair
Gary Hofmann
Michael Hutchinson
Judi Hyman
Yoshi Kumara
Jacki Skaught
Andrew Strobel
John Thurlow
Kristina Walker

MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Meeting
TIME: Wednesday, July 16th, 6:00pm
PLACE: 9th Floor Visibility Center, Tacoma Municipal Building
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402
PRESENT: Judi Hyman, Jacki Skaught, Andrew Strobel, Gary Hofmann, Yoshi Kumara,
John Thurlow, Jane Ann Moore, Justin Leighton
ABSENT: Mike Hutchinson, Kristina Walker

1. CALL TO ORDER

Justin Leighton called the meeting to order at 6:12pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Mike Hutchinson and Kristina Walker were absent. Kristina notified the chairs in advance that she would not be present. Jacki Skaught arrived at 6:22pm.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting minutes were approved as written.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Amend Bylaws to Change Meeting Time and Frequency – Justin Leighton

Commissioners reviewed the proposed bylaws, and approved the motion to begin holding two meetings per month (1st and 3rd Wednesdays) starting at 5:30pm.

No other questions or comments.

b. Transportation Master Plan – Outreach Update – Justin Resnick

Justin presented a PowerPoint updating the Commissioners on the public outreach efforts for the Transportation Master Plan thus far, including farmers markets, community cleanups, and other one-day events. The outreach team has gathered comments by mode of transportation on large printed maps of the City in addition to handing out surveys specific to public transit to inform the letter to Sound Transit regarding their Long Range Plan. There are a couple more outreach events happening in July, but then the remaining efforts will occur in August or September when the TMP has more information to share with the public.



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<http://www.cityoftacoma.org/publicworks>

Dan Grayuski Comment: We intend to do an additional survey on more general transportation issues for future outreach. The Commission's input on this survey would be valuable.

Justin Leighton Comment: Appreciates the addition of frequency of service to the transit survey by staff and notes that frequency, span, and weekend service are very important to people. We could add frequency to the web survey.

c. Transportation Master Plan – Bicycle & Pedestrian Mode Update – Justin Resnick and Jane Moore

Jane briefed the Commission on the content of the May and June meetings.

Justin presented a PowerPoint summary of the pedestrian analytical frameworks that BPTAG reviewed and explained the 20-Minute Neighborhood concept that they selected to identify the pedestrian network. The group also selected potential corridors for enhanced bicycle facilities, such as buffered bike lanes and cycle tracks. The next BPTAG meeting will focus on the draft pedestrian and bicycle networks, supportive policies for the Transportation Element, and level of service.

Justin Leighton Comment: May want to review the transit improvement recommendations to determine if any additional bike & pedestrian improvements are needed to support the transit network.

Judi Hyman Question: Is there a freight task force and when will goods movement be dealt with?

Dan Grayuski Response: The auto and freight modes will be covered in future meetings.

No other questions.

d. Streetcar Task Force – Justin Leighton

Justin Leighton introduced the vision of Councilmember Mellow and Mayor Strickland for this TMP to address expansion of streetcar service in Tacoma. The intention is to form a task force of 3 members of the TC and potentially members of BPTAG or other groups.

Judi Hyman Question: Would other citizens be involved?

Justin Leighton Response: Sound Transit and other agencies have their own groups that might be interested in either participating or contributing.

Justin expressed his interest in being a member of the group. This task force would present any work and recommendations to the TC for review and approval. If any other Commissioners would like to be on the Task Force, contact Jennifer Kammerzell and Justin Leighton.

Dan Grayuski Comment: The efforts of this potential group should be coordinated with the local transit service planning efforts that the TC is currently undertaking.

e. Transportation Master Plan – Transit Mode Follow-Up – Tim Payne and Dan Grayuski

Tim presented a PowerPoint that helped the Commissioners decide on the appropriate role of transit in the City. TC members do feel that the transit is an essential component of mobility in Tacoma. Commissioners also feel that improving transit capacity and connectivity between growth centers, business districts, and neighborhoods is important. Discussion of whether it is the transit agency or the City that has control over improving transit resulted in agreement that the City does have some control given its governance over the right-of-way. Members agree that the City should maintain street conditions and provide transit priority where possible.

Current trends in Pierce Transit's ridership system-wide show significant decreases, which is notable given the TMP's goals for transit.

Justin Leighton Comment: Identifying the streets on the transit network should be a collaborative process with transit planners.

John Thurlow Comment: The streets that make up the transit network should have guidance and standards set.

Are all corridors and centers in Tacoma equal priorities? Should there be a hierarchy of streets given the type of transit they hope to support?

Justin Leighton Comment: Pierce Transit does have a hierarchy of routes based on frequency and span so it makes sense to identify the corridors as well.

Tim reviewed the different types of transit and the densities that support them.

Andrew Strobel Comment: Identifying desired transit streets and setting a level of service for these corridors is important, especially as an indicator to developers.

Should the City establish a prioritization system for achieving desired transit levels of service? Commissioners expressed concern over coordination with transit agencies and available funding. There was not agreement on whether the City should identify priorities given its lack of control over service but the option of Tacoma forming a transportation benefit district to purchase transit service that it values came up. Tacoma could focus primarily on the areas it controls, such as street condition, transit priority, and pedestrian and bicycle access.

Andrew Strobel Comment: As long as the City is focusing on planning a transit priority network then it should coordinate planning and funding efforts.

Justin Leighton Comment: The City should be collaborative in these efforts with transit agencies.

Tim set next steps of identifying where key centers and corridors are and how the City would like to connect them via transit. Transit level of service is the other important piece for the City to decide on in order to serve the growth it expects.

Jacki Skaught Question: What about the freight and auto modes?

Tim Payne Response: At some point in the future we will put all of these networks together to decide on where conflicts and synergies will occur.

Justin Leighton Comment: This TMP will be visionary and not necessarily financially constrained. It will be up to the City and other bodies to identify grants and other funding opportunities to make these projects happen.

Justin Leighton Question: What will we see at the next meeting?

Tim Payne Response: We'll look at a potential network hierarchy and service criteria.

Yoshi Kumara Question: Will this build off of our discussion on HCT?

Tim Payne: Yes, it will be a continuation of that conversation but will likely get more specific.

Justin Leighton Comment: Agrees that the HCT work didn't require specifics but that this effort will.

5. Other Business

Judi Hyman updated the TC that City parking staff will be going to various meetings to announce the residential permit program fee update. There will be a special meeting in the North End given that 90% of permits are there. The Parking Task Force will also recruit for members. There will be specific efforts on the Stadium, Dome, and Theatre Districts.

Justin Leighton Question: When the task force develops a policy, will that recommendation go to the TC or elsewhere?

Judi Hyman Response: The Parking Task Force advises the City Manager and does not require Council approval unless it involves changing a code.

Justin Leighton Question: Isn't there some effort going on regarding communicating parking to the public?

Judi Hyman Response: The City Manager's office has hired a parking consultant for outreach.

Judi Hyman Question: Are we doing TMP work at every meeting once we go to two a month?

Justin Leighton Response: We'll take agenda items as we need.

Jane Moore Comment: We'll also reactivate our Long Range Planning efforts within the group to understand our future work plan.

John Thurlow Question: How does one get formal feedback to BPTAG on the corridors they are identifying?

Jane Moore Response: The existing map is from the Mobility Master Plan so it's been adopted. The TC should make amendments to it for this TMP.

Justin Leighton Comment: There should be regular amendments through an agreed upon process.

Jane spoke on the North Downtown Subarea Plan, which has an open comment period currently and does include a transportation section. Most of the mobility section is pretty good, especially for pedestrians, bicycles, and transit. The parking section, however, contains some issues that Jane, Justin, and Kristina disagree with. The proposed plan wants to increase on-street parking in the Stadium area given the parking loss that has occurred recently. A few have drafted a letter of response and the Commission passed a motion to finalize this letter and submit to the Planning Commission.

6. STAFF REPORTS

Tacoma 2025 will happen July 25th at the Convention Center from 6 – 8:30. Their efforts do tie into transportation so the survey is important. The consultants are holding an open house for BPTAG, the Transportation Commission, and the Sustainability Commission on this coming Monday, July 21st at 4:30 in the Council Chambers.

The budget workshops began on Monday and will be continuing. Justin Leighton attended and spoke to the importance of following existing plans and concepts. There is also an online survey.

Jane Moore Question: On Tacoma 2025, the PC got a full presentation and the packet included information on a Steering Committee that will include the Transportation Commission. Nadia is the staff member overseeing the Steering Committee, which has been meeting already. Jennifer and Josh can update the TC on what their involvement should be. The TC wants to clarify their role in this group.

Jennifer stated that there will be interviews at the next IPS meeting for current members whose terms are expiring. There are also individuals applying for the open seat.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Evette Mason applauds the enthusiasm and energy of the group and looks forward to discussing the freight mode. This past Friday, one of the last arterials in the Port of Tacoma (E 11st St viaduct) was closed to all road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit. The Puyallup River Bridge won't allow large vehicles, which means everyone will have to use Lincoln, I-5, and SR 509. She also requested clarification on the draft employment and population maps distributed to the Commissioners because they look inaccurate in the Port area.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.