



## MINUTES

- MEETING:** Regular Meeting
- TIME:** Wednesday, August 6th, 5:30pm
- PLACE:** 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Visibility Center, Tacoma Municipal Building  
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402
- PRESENT:** Judi Hyman, Jacki Skaught, Andrew Strobel, Gary Hofmann, John Thurlow, Jane Ann Moore, Mike Hutchinson, Justin Leighton
- ABSENT:** Kristina Walker, Yoshi Kumara,

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Jane Moore called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

### 2. ROLL CALL

Yoshi Kumara and Kristina Walker were absent. Yoshi and Kristina notified the chairs in advance that they would not be present.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting minutes were approved with minor spelling/grammatical corrections.

### 4. BUSINESS ITEMS

#### a. Pacific Avenue/Tacoma Avenue Bridge Projects – Josh Diekmann

Josh provided handouts of the WSDOT Pacific Avenue overpass detour route that can be found on their website. He met with BPTAG and is working jointly with them to identify pedestrian wayfinding solutions. One proposal includes providing signage to destination sites with approximate distances. The project will start mid-September with the north side of Pacific Avenue. Justin Leighton mentioned that WSDOT has a good PowerPoint that includes Pierce Transit detours. Transit will continue to serve the Pierce County Health Department, as well as access to Route 34 that serves Lakewood. Temporary stops along the new route will be provided as needed.

The Tacoma Avenue Bridge Project has started creating pedestrian detours near G Street and Thompson Avenue.

Michael Hutchinson asked if WSDOT brought up the closure of I-705 for vault removal. Josh responded that the City is aware of the project and working with them to coordinate detours, closures, and impacts.



Judi Hyman stated that it would be helpful to provide two detour routes since drivers tend to follow where they are told to go, which can cause problems.

Andrew Strobel asked what the duration of the closures would be. Pacific Avenue will be closed for approximately 11 months and McKinley Avenue would be closed for approximately 18 months.

No other questions or comments.

**b. TMP Update/Survey – Kendra Breiland** (*This agenda item started at 6pm to accommodate the presenters that were delayed due to traffic.*)

Kendra updated the commission on the TMP status. She refreshed the commission on the scope of work, including development of goals and policies and networks for each of the modes. The TMP is still on-track with the schedule.

Kendra presented on the two-stage process for draft networks for each of the modes. First, looking at the needs of each mode independently, then layering the modal network together and developing LOS standards. We are currently in the first stage, but moving to stage two in September and October. Another project phase that is beginning soon is understanding funding availability for transportation projects in Tacoma.

Justin Leighton asked if the High Capacity Transit (HCT) transit map will be the City's final transit map. Kendra Breiland responded that it doesn't touch on the local service component, which will be a part of the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Kendra also offered to have some one-on-one talks with Pierce Transit. (Update: this meeting occurred on August 14<sup>th</sup>.)

*Jane Moore question:* Can we review [the transit layer] more when Justin is back as he will be gone August 20<sup>th</sup>. Kendra responded that this could be accommodated, as we will be looping back to all the modes.

Kendra Breiland also presented the idea of an all modes survey to the commission. She shared a "survey question cheat sheet" to start the conversation around the types of questions that should be asked, the format of the survey, and the ultimate goals. There has been good response on the website to the transit survey. Would an online survey be appropriate for the overall TMP survey?

Commissioners had a number of specific clarifying questions. Basic takeaways from the discussion included:

- Survey should be short: 3-4 questions, 3-4 minutes.
- Question responses should allow for responses that include multiple modes as most folks use multiple modes in a typical day/week.
- The green triangle, while an adopted city prioritization, is too "wonky" for use in a public outreach survey and steers the conversation too much.
- Questions should be visionary, asking people what they want to see, not what's on the ground today.

Andrew Strobel asked how the survey information would be distilled into something useful. Justin Leighton shared that surveys help guide him, but is not the end-all-be-all of a decision. Helps TC make those decisions.

Jacki Skaugt: Interested in structuring the survey to be as simple and quick as possible. Also interested in administering it in a way to get the most diverse mix of people to take the survey. Suggested online as well as various physical places, McKinley, the mall, festivals, etc.

Andrew Strobel asked about the City's budget for in-person surveys. Kendra Breiland responded that she will talk with City staff about cost-effective approaches to outreach.

### **c. TMP Freight & Auto Mode – Aaron Gooze**

Aaron Gooze got the commissioners up to speed regarding the progress to date on planning the auto network and oriented them to the auto projects map. Projects came out of a variety of plans (current TIP, Comp Plan) and thoughts by Public Works staff. Project types included new capacity (widening), new signals, roundabouts, intersection modifications, railway grade separations, and road diets.

Justin Leighton and Judi Hyman had clarifying questions about the maps. Specifically, Judi was concerned about the Brewery District project (listed on the map as project 17). Josh Diekmann responded to her question and shared that this is an important pedestrian and vehicular connection.

Kendra Breiland and Aaron Gooze shared the intent of the exercise – to identify key corridors for autos and freight in the layered network. Commissioners responded by identifying a variety of corridors where freight and auto mobility should be key considerations. Rather than document all of those corridors here, Fehr & Peers is developing a map showing the key freight and auto corridors, per commission feedback. In addition, we have included some of the high-level discussion items below:

- City arterials tend to be important auto/freight mobility corridors, e.g., Jackson, Pearl, Mildred, Yakima, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, N 11<sup>th</sup>, Cedar, Pine, Alder, Oak.
- Focus should be on both moving cars (both capacity and traffic light synchronization) and providing a welcoming aesthetic (street trees, medians, undergrounding utilities).
- What to do with SR 705 – Tacoma's "viaduct"?
- For freight, layer should be designed with the industrial zoning map, connections to I-5, heavy haul routes, and City freight mobility plan in mind. Evette Mason suggested that grade separation and emergency response within the port should also be a consideration.

## **5. Other Business**

Judi Hyman updated the TC that the Parking Task Force is proposing to increase on-street parking to \$1/hour to encourage long-term parkers to utilize off-street parking facilities. The Parking Task Force is working to set their 2015 Work Plan, which will include updates to the existing parking system and license plate recognition.

There were no updates to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group.

## **6. STAFF REPORTS**

Tacoma 2025 appeared to be a success with approximately 220 participants that broke up into 7 focus groups. Several Commissioners were in attendance. Josh and Jennifer facilitated discussions around the Built & Natural Environment that ranged from High Capacity Transit, Pothole Repair, Parks & Trails, and Solar Power. As soon as the results or summaries of the event are available, Jennifer will send them out.

There will be a joint Transportation Commission and Bicycle & Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in Room 708 of the Municipal Building. The Co-Chairs and Staff are also looking to schedule a joint meeting with the Planning Commission on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **8. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.