



City of Tacoma
Transportation Commission

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

MINUTES

MEETING: Transportation Commission Meeting
TIME: Wednesday, October 1, 2014 5:30pm
PLACE: Council Chambers, Tacoma Municipal Building
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402
PRESENT: Justin Leighton, Jane Moore, Yoshi Kumara, Andrew Strobel, John Thurlow,
Mike Hutchinson, Kristina Walker, Judi Hyman,
ABSENT: Gary Hofmann, Vance Lelli, Jacki Skaught

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jane Moore called the joint meeting to order at 5:30pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Gary Hofmann, Vance Lelli, and Jacki Skaught were absent.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND 2015 WORK PLAN (JUSTIN LEIGHTON, JANE MOORE, JENNIFER KAMMERZELL)

Justin and Jane presented on commission composition and what was accomplished by the commission in 2014. Andrew will be authoring the report, which will be delivered to IPS. Justin recommended that the letter include the amount of outreach that was performed (number of people reached, neighborhoods represented, etc). Kristina recommended that the report separate informational items from commission actions. There was discussion over how to characterize accomplishments vs. updates. It was agreed that the section heading would be accomplishments and updates.

The report will also include the 2015 work plan. Major items include TMP update, 6-year Transportation Program Amendments, Comprehensive Plan Updates, Code Revisions & Updates, Complete Streets Updates, Technical Advisory Group Updates, Grant Planning, as well as other items related to Sound Transit Link Extension, Amtrak, the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan, trails projects, the Parklets initiative, and project updates including the Pt. Defiance entrance/gateway project. Commissioners discussed how to represent the MOMAP update and the Tideflats ITS Strategic Plan and the Tideflats Area Emergency Response Plan. Dan



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Grayuski of Fehr & Peers clarified that the MOMAP update will likely be rolled into the TMP and the Port Studies should be wrapping up in late 2014, with the approval process occurring in early 2015. John Thurlow asked whether F&P would be leading study and Andrew asked if these studies were being led through the City's Planning Department – Dan confirmed yes on both items.

Andrew stated that moving forward it would make sense to collaborate more with advisory committees (e.g., BPTAG and Parking TAG) to ensure that these efforts are properly characterized.

There was additional discussion of how to characterize efforts related to transit – both Sound Transit and Pierce Transit. Jane suggested that the report be generic in referring to them as “Transit” efforts.

B. SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (JENNIFER KAMMERZELL)

Jennifer will be going to IPS next week and wanted to review with the commission changes she has made since she last reported. Jennifer described that some projects were deleted because they were completed and some new projects were added.

Background: The 6-Year program focuses on capital projects, not maintenance projects. Judi Hyman asked about the City's new app for reporting maintenance issues. Andrew reported that he had tried it and it worked. Jennifer stated that she receives maintenance requests via the app.

Jennifer presented on new projects, including:

Funded:

N. 21st Street (Proctor-Pearl St) – arterial rehabilitation and complete street upgrade. Jennifer says this project has been on the books for a long time, but hasn't moved forward due to the cost of undergrounding utilities.

Added Projects (Unfunded):

- Market Street - S 9th to S 11th
- Mildred Street - S 9th to S 12 Streets.
- Ruston Way Rehab
- S 38th - S Tacoma Way to I-5
- Tacoma Mall Blvd – S 38th to 56th Streets
- Connecting Stevens/Tyler across Tacoma
- Pedestrian crossing improvements Phase II

Commissioners had clarifying questions, but no major concerns were expressed over what is included on the list. Judi was curious about inclusion of improvements to 25th Street and a potential road diet along 21st Street – Justin confirmed that the 25th Street improvements have been implemented and that a plan is in place for the Prairie Line Trail improvements on 21st.

Jennifer mentioned that the list does not include any rails-to-trails, but that the City would look into this further.

Jennifer plans to present to the full City Council in November, but may get bumped to later in the year or early December.

Kristina asked about projects listed for potential funding by gas tax. Jennifer clarified that these are projects that are eligible for gas tax, but the precise projects to be funded are decided at the beginning of the year. There was additional discussion about the level of gas tax received – Jennifer reminded commission that financing will be discussed at a future meeting.

C. TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN – MODE LAYERING (DAN GRAYUSKI, FEHR & PEERS)

Freight/Auto:

Dan mentioned that this presentation is just a report back and asked commissioners that if we continue to run ahead schedule, if we can get more time at the next meeting.

Dan presented on the revised auto/freight layer based on information gathered since the last meeting from the commission and meetings with City staff and the Port.

Justin asked what T1 through T3 means on truck routes – Kendra Breiland from Fehr & Peers responded that T1 through T3 refer to a road's load bearing capacity, with T1 routes carrying the heaviest loads. Evette Mason from the Port inserted that SR 509 is the only T1 route in the state.

Mike asked about why some of the routes do not connect. Justin referred to the analogy of a river, with streams and tributaries. Dan and Kendra agreed with Justin's analogy adding that roadway segments can continue to carry trucks even if they are included on the map, but that due to dispersal of traffic, they may not carry a high percentage of trucks, making special truck-oriented treatments potentially unnecessary.

Judi asked why so few auto priority streets are included in downtown for accessing the freeway. Dan described how downtown's excess street capacity is metered by freeway congestion and thus additional auto priority streets may not be needed within downtown. Kendra reminded the commission that they will have the opportunity to weigh in during their homework assignment.

Justin asked that Yakima Street be extended as an auto/truck priority route to 38th Street.

Mike asked about the data that the commission would have available to them. He wanted to know why Orchard is included in the auto network. Justin responded that Point Rustin's classification as a Mixed Use Center (MUC) confirmed inclusion of Orchard within the auto/truck priority layer. Andrew thinks that the auto priority line on Orchard could be extended further south. There was additional back-and-forth by Andrew and Mike about whether this corridor makes sense or not.

Justin would like to see existing and future traffic volume and congestion maps. Dan responded that a lot of data would be available at the next meeting. Dan confirmed that modeling data would be available again at the next meeting.

Dan then presented on the freight priority layer, as well as existing freight volumes. John Thurlow had a question about the inclusion of portions of Marine View Drive within Northeast Tacoma. Justin expressed a desire for recommendations to be documented based on who was

consulted and who made the recommendation. Dan reiterated that this information is in draft form and that commissions will have the ability to edit/comment.

Other routes called out: Tyler north of 56th, Marine View drive from 11th north; McKinley Hill from 38th to above I-5; D Street between Tacoma Dome and Auto Museum; Pacific Avenue from 74th to I-5.

Justin indicated that he would like to see the above changes made. Andrew clarified that high freight percentages shouldn't always dictate freight priority routes. The TC should also be driving where freight routes are.

All Modes:

Layered Network:

Kendra presented on the homework assignment and layers (Land Uses/MUCs, Pedestrian, Bike, Transit, Freight, Auto). After Kendra's presentation, the following questions/comments were made:

Jennifer asked how commissioners' comments should be provided – hand markups at the next meeting or scan and email beforehand. Kendra responded that either way is fine but an early return would be great.

Justin asked about the bike/pedestrian layers and whether they were taken directly out of MOMAP or created by BPTAG. Kendra replied that these layers were created through work with BPTAG over the spring and early summer.

There was discussion about high capacity transit (HCT) and whether it meant Light Rail or BRT. Dan provided the definition of HCT and stated that we were not being modal specific. Justin added that the Transportation Commission is working on streetcar network and it will be an agenda item in late November.

Justin requested a version of the map with all layers shown citywide. Kendra confirmed this will be added to the digital packet that is sent out October 2nd.

Judi requested that we consider the Pedestrian Priority Improvement Initiative intersections (\$3.5 million). Kendra confirmed this could be mapped for the next meeting.

Andrew and Jane asked if the Commission should address pedestrian priority locations that should be added outside the 1-mile walkshed. Kendra confirmed that the Commission is free to make any revisions they see fit. Andrew and Jane provided examples of where they'd like to add facilities: nearby transit (Andrew); 6th to 12th on Proctor (Jane).

Justin asked what defines a pedestrian street and provided examples including sidewalks, crosswalks, and ADA compliance. Kendra confirmed that these were good starting definitions.

Justin suggested that BPTAG join the next meeting. The TC discussed and decided to invite BPTAG or a representative.

On the maps, Justin caught that some facilities were shown outside of City boundaries and that these should be taken off. Lastly, Justin mentioned that he is concerned about the land

use/transportation nexus and that our recommendations make sense vis-à-vis what the Planning Commission recommends for land use changes.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

A. PARKING TASK FORCE

Judi invited everyone to tomorrow night's parking task force meeting, which will present the task force's recommendation to be forwarded to the City Manager.

B. BPTAG

None.

6. STAFF REPORTS

Jennifer invited everyone to the October 8th IPS meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Map clarification - Evette Mason from the Port also mentioned that East 11th is now closed. It will take \$40M to reopen and probably shouldn't be shown.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.