



City of Tacoma  
Transportation Commission

Jane Ann Moore, Co-Chair  
Justin Leighton, Co-Chair  
Judi Hyman  
Yoshi Kumara  
Vance Lelli  
Evette Mason  
Jacki Skaught  
Andrew Strobel  
John Thurlow

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## MINUTES

**MEETING:** REGULAR TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

**TIME:** WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016, 5:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** 9<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR VISIBILITY CENTER, TACOMA MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
747 MARKET STREET, TACOMA, WA 98402

1. **CALL TO ORDER**  
Co-Chair Leighton called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS**  
All Commission members were present.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
Co-Chair Moore moved to approve the minutes of February 17, 2016.  
Seconded by CM Mason. Voice vote was taken and carried.  
The minutes were approved.  
  
Co-Chair Leighton stated that Item 4b – 2017 TMP Annual Amendment Package would be heard first to allow the presenter for Item 4a to arrive.
4. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
  - b. **2017 TMP ANNUAL AMENDMENT PACKAGE**  
Jennifer Kammerzell stated the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) was adopted by the City Council in December of 2015 as an element of the Comprehensive Plan, which is typically updated annually in June. She stated the TMP already needs some amendments such as adding performance tracking and updating project criteria. She discussed some other potential amendments, including pedestrian crossing projects, bicycle/railroad conflict projects, Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan projects, and pedestrian implementation strategies. She then provided the schedule for amendments that would be considered by the City Council in June of 2017, noting this Commission would be reviewing the proposed amendments between April and July of this year with the goal to have a list of amendments ready by the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. She noted if they are approved, staff will transmit the package of amendments to the Planning Commission in September.  
  
Co-Chair Leighton suggested adding an updating schedule/process as an amendment to the TMP. He also suggested adding an application process for suggested amendments to the TMP, similar to the application process the Planning Commission currently has in place.



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Ms. Kammerzell concluded by reviewing next steps, which include to present findings and recommendations to this Commission between May and August of this year, submit any approved proposed amendments to the Planning Commission in September, participate in the Comprehensive Plan annual amendment adoption process from September of this year through June of 2017, with Council consideration in June 2017. She requested feedback from Commission members on the items discussed today and asked for any other additional proposed amendments.

Co-Chair Leighton stated he would like to further discuss an application process for amendments at a co-chairs meeting with staff. (After further discussion with staff and co-chairs, the amendment packet process will follow the Planning Commission's process with a call for TMP amendment proposals using an application form that will be reviewed by the Transportation Commission). CM Lelli inquired about the status of a study of Puyallup Avenue. Josh Diekmann noted the study is slated for this year but won't be done in time for the June 2017 amendments. CM Strobel suggested incorporating the City's Environmental Action Plan measurements for emissions into the TMP's performance measures.

c. PIERCE TRANSIT DESTINATION 2040 COMMENT LETTER

Co-Chair Leighton announced that Item 4C- Pierce Transit Destination 2040 Comment letter, would be heard now, to allow the presenter for Item 4a to arrive. He then stated this Commission received a presentation in January from Darren Stavish of Pierce Transit on their draft Destination 2040 Plan, noting that the Plan is now final and the Council's IPS Committee has asked this Commission to provide a comment letter.

Commission members then discussed the Plan. Co-Chair Leighton expressed concern about routes in the Plan that are outside of Pierce Transit's service area, or on roads that do not currently exist, such as the cross-base highway. He also expressed concern that the Plan doesn't include the span of routes; identify capital needs; or include information on a schedule or process for updates. He also noted that routes with more than 10 passengers per service hour should be prioritized. Co-Chair Moore expressed concern about equity implications, noting the Plan includes more frequent routes but coverage is lacking. She noted there is no plan for multi-modal integration, and stated Pierce Transit should consider strategies to keep fares affordable, especially for those who are low-income and/or transit dependent. She also suggested not to increase free parking at transit centers and to add bicycle-parking.

CM Strobel expressed concern that most future growth in the plan is outside of Tacoma city limits. Discussion ensued regarding the methodology used for the Buildable Lands Report in the appendices of the 2040 Plan. Co-Chair Moore inquired if the term "accidents" could be referred to as "crashes" and/or "collisions". Co-Chair Leighton suggested that Pierce Transit should work with Intercity Transit for routes from Tacoma to Olympia. Discussion ensued regarding how an area gets added to Pierce Transit's service area. Co-Chair Leighton also noted there are too many scenarios. CM's Kumara and Hyman added that that the Plan is vague and there are no specific implementation strategies. Co-Chair Leighton stated staff and the

co-chairs will formalize the notes from today to prepare a comment letter.

#### 4. BUSINESS ITEMS

##### a. PLANNING COMMISSION WORK PLAN

Stephen Atkinson, Planning and Development Services (PDS), reviewed the Planning Commission's 2014-2015 accomplishments, including the 2015 Comprehensive Plan update that included the new Transportation Master Plan, Mixed-Use Centers Study, affordable housing/infill regulations, the Narrowmoor Conservation District, various Municipal Code cleanup; and Development Regulations for billboards, marijuana, and work-live/live-work. He highlighted City projects that have won awards, including the Prairie Line Trail and Greater Downtown Subarea Plan, and noted the Amtrak Station Design Citizens Advisory Committee received the 2015 Landmarks Preservation Commission Award, and the PDS Department won a "Lifetime of GMA" achievement award.

Mr. Atkinson then reviewed Planning's work program for 2016-2017 which includes the Tacoma Mall Neighborhood Subarea Plan, Infill design guidelines, Capital Facilities Program 2017-2022, and various development regulations. He stated Planning will also continue regional coordination on the LINK expansion, Amtrak station design, Vision 2040 update, JBLM Joint Land Use Study, and Growing Transit Communities Compact. Co-Chair Leighton asked if transportation-related items would be forwarded to this commission. Discussion ensued regarding coordination between this Commission and the Planning Commission and Planning staff.

Mr. Atkinson asked if there's anything in particular Planning should be looking at with regard to transportation. Co-Chair Leighton stated Pierce Transit is working on Bus Rapid Transit for Pacific Avenue and where the stations will be located, and that it would behoove the City to think about up-zoning when that comes to fruition. CM Strobel noted the Eastside/Portland Avenue Business District area zoning needs review/updating.

##### b. 2017 TMP ANNUAL AMENDMENT PACKAGE

This item was presented earlier in the meeting.

##### c. PIERCE TRANSIT DESTINATION 2040 COMMENT LETTER

This item was presented earlier in the meeting.



## 5. Other Business/Updates

### a. Parking Technical Advisory Group (PTAG)

CM Hyman stated the PTAG is currently finishing their occupancy study on paid parking downtown, and are assisting UW-Tacoma with assessing their parking needs. She also noted license plate recognition is currently being negotiated with the City.

### b. Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG)

There was no BPTAG report.

### c. Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Status

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting under Item 4a – 2017 TMP Annual Amendment Package.

### d. Planning Commission Agenda

This item was not discussed due to the earlier presentation from PDS on the Planning Commission's work plan.

### e. Commission Comments

Co-Chair Leighton reminded Commission members that staff requested feedback on the bike share program that was presented at the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Discussion ensued regarding bike share. Commission members commented that Tacoma is not ready for bike share yet and needs better bicycle infrastructure for it to be safe. CM Strobel noted he would like to see a market study on the demographic Tacoma would be trying to get for a bike share program, which will be included in the comment letter. CM Kumara stressed that Tacoma's infrastructure is not safe for a bike share program. Jennifer Kammerzell noted that Diane Wiatr, Active Transportation Coordinator, requested that this Commission provide a comment letter on bike share to the Council's IPS Committee. Co-Chair Leighton asked CM Kumara to assist with preparing the letter.

CM Kumara provided an update from the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan stakeholder group.

CM Thurlow noted the importance of the TMP aligning with the State Route 167 extension in the next few years because it will have a large impact on State Route 509.

CM Lelli inquired about bicycle/pedestrian access on Pacific Avenue when the McKinley Way bridge is demolished. Josh Diekmann explained that the Pacific Avenue overpass would serve all modes.

Co-Chair Moore stated the Council's IPS Committee is receiving a presentation on Safe Routes to School (SRTS) on April 13, 2016 and she asked if Commission Members are supportive of her attending the meeting to provide public comment to state that this Commission supports SRTS and wants to see it receive funding now. Commission members concurred that they are supportive.

Co-Chair Leighton stated that the new Link extension connecting the University of Washington and Capitol Hill to existing light rail service from downtown Seattle to SeaTac airport opens this weekend and it bodes well for Sound Transit's ST3 ballot measure this fall.

CM Strobel noted Sound Transit's draft ST3 Plan will be out soon and asked if the Commission could receive an update on it at the next meeting.  
*(The April agenda is full, but co-chairs and staff will review when would be most appropriate.)*

Co-Chair Moore announced community event, "Tahoma to Tacoma", regarding the benefits of a trail network connecting Mount Rainier to Point Defiance Park, occurring on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at 1102 A Street.

#### 6. Staff Reports

Josh Diekmann updated the Commission on grants staff have applied for or are preparing to apply for, for projects including the intersection of Taylor Way and State Route 509, Safe Routes to School, and the State's ped/bike program. He noted staff won't be applying for any FAST Act grants at this time, but they do show promise for the future. Co-Chair Leighton asked if the City will be applying for Tiger grants.

Jennifer Kammerzell stated she and Co-Chair Moore recently presented the TMP to the Council's IPS Committee. She stated the Committee wants feedback from this Commission on Pierce Transit's Destination 2040 Plan, Safe Routes to School, and complete streets. Discussion ensued regarding the Commission's oversight with regard to Prop 3.

#### 7. Public Comment

None.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.