



City of Tacoma  
Transportation Commission

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

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## MINUTES

**MEETING:** REGULAR TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

**TIME:** WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 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 Moore called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS  
CM Hyman was absent (unexcused) All other Commission members were present.  
  
Co-Chair Moore called for introductions and announced new Commission members Andrew Austin and Gerrit Nyland, in attendance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
Co-Chair Leighton moved to approve the minutes of March 16, 2016. Seconded by CM Strobel. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were approved. Co-Chair Leighton stated that commission inquiries and responses will now be italicized and underlined in the minutes from now on to make them easier to track. He noted there will also be a new section on the agenda for responses to Commission inquiries located under Staff Reports.

Co-Chair Moore then announced that the first item that will be presented tonight is Sound Transit's ST3 Plan which was not on the printed agenda. She then introduced Eric Chipps of Sound Transit.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS
  - a. SOUND TRANSIT – ST3  
Eric Chipps, Sound Transit, provided background information on Sound Transit's ST3 Plan, which proposes \$50 billion in projects over the next 25 years, paid for by a combination of new local tax revenues, existing taxes, federal grants, bonds, fares, and other sources. Mr. Chipps stated Sound Transit has begun the process to shape a ballot measure that voters will consider in November 2016, adding that ST3 will build upon the existing mass transit system of light rail, commuter rail and bus service throughout King, Snohomish and Pierce counties, which includes connecting Tacoma to Seattle via light rail. He noted the draft plan must be approved by Sound Transit's board by the end of June. Mr. Chipps then reviewed the draft plan components.

Commission Member Skaught arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Commission Member Lelli arrived at 5:42 p.m.

Commission Member Thurlow arrived at 5:44 p.m.



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Mr. Chipps stated Sound Transit is in a public comment period for ST3 now through the end of April and noted an Open House for it is being held tomorrow at the Evergreen State College Tacoma Campus. Discussion ensued regarding whether the Commission plans to formally comment on ST3. Co-Chair Leighton asked why Sound Transit couldn't jump start the process to prepare for the extension of light rail to the Tacoma Dome while simultaneously building in Federal Way to speed up the process. CM Austin asked if the plan assumes that Seattle-Tacoma bus service would end when the rail connections are complete, and suggested commenting on bus service if the Commission chooses to formally comment on ST3. Co-Chair Leighton also suggested commenting on timing. Co-Chair Leighton asked CM's Strobel and Austin to prepare a formal comment letter on ST3. (A comment letter that included the Commission's discussion and concerns was sent to the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Council Committee on April 25, 2016.)

Co-Chair Moore announced that the Commission needed to officially call Roll Call. All Commission members were present except CM Hyman. Co-Chair Moore noted that CM Hyman's absence is unexcused because she did not provide notification of ahead of time.

b. PROPOSITIONS 3 & A (Tacoma Streets Initiative Implementation)

Reid Bennion, Public Works Director's Office, provided a brief background on Propositions 3 and A. He then reviewed the spending plan and residential project selection. Co-Chair Moore asked how the division of the funds was developed. Mr. Bennion stated the division was developed by the Mayor, City Manager, and stakeholders. Co-Chair Moore noted that the division of the funds is not mentioned in the language of the ballot measures. Co-Chair Leighton requested the information on who was a part of the Mayor's stakeholder group regarding how the funds would be divided.

(The propositions that make up the Streets Initiative, were the result of years of public engagement and recognition that something had to be done about city streets. That included 3 different citizen stakeholder groups listed below, two council actions to dedicate more funding towards street repair, and a failed proposition vote. The Mayor's 2015 State of the City Address committed to placing a proposition on the ballot to fix streets again. The Mayor and City Manager then worked with staff from Finance, Budget and Public Works to understand what amount of work could be completed with different proposition proposals. The Mayor also worked with local businesses that opposed Proposition 1 and voiced concerns about initiative impacts. The final proposal was presented by the Mayor July 14<sup>th</sup>.)

-2011 the Mobility Stakeholder Funding Task Force recommended to maintain or increase existing programs & funding, submit Levy Lid Lift ballot measure to Citizens, and establish a Transportation Benefit District Fund.

- 2012 the Citizens Neighborhood Street Improvement & Safety Task Force recommended dedication of sustainable funding to address the growing maintenance needs.

- 2013 the Fiscal Sustainability Taskforce found that the City must reach fiscal sustainability, preserve its fiscal integrity, and be mindful of the issue of competitiveness as it develops City budgets.

The City's expenditures are generally in line with its peer cities, but this could change if cost drivers are not addressed.

2014 Citizen Survey

11% of participants gave a positive rating for street repair

83% of participants would like the City to spend more on street repair

-2014 Tacoma 2025

Improve and maintain Tacoma's streets. Tacoma's residents are concerned about the condition of their streets; maintenance is a top priority.

Additionally

In 2013 the City Council stepped up to dedicate funding to street repair.

In 2013 the City established the Transportation Benefit District, which this year will generate \$2.4M for Street Maintenance.

We also set aside Gross Earning Tax revenue for road repair. For Utilities at that pay 8% Gross Earnings Tax we now dedicate 2% (Surface/Wastewater, Solid Waste, Water, Rail, Cable) of their gross earning to road maintenance and improvement. This year that revenue will generate \$6.5M for Street Maintenance;

And Prop 1, which would have raised an additional \$10-11M annually for Street Maintenance, failed.

Discussion ensued regarding how Public Works plans to partner with the utilities to leverage the dollars.

Erik Sloan, Public Works Street Operations, reviewed Public Works' residential maintenance criteria, pavement management and pavement life cycles, and utility coordination. CM Thurlow asked if neighborhood groups have the option of choosing which streets are repaired. Discussion ensued regarding other cities' half-street/Right-of-Way restoration policies.

Jennifer Kammerzell reviewed Transportation Commission criteria for capital project selection. She then reviewed proposed arterial street improvements, and active transportation, overlay, and mobility projects under the capital projects side. Discussion ensued regarding why some of the projects are listed under active transportation, and why some would be grant funded if they are developable. Co-Chair Leighton noted that the area of S. 19<sup>th</sup> and Union would be a good candidate area for depaving. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed arterial street project, Taylor Way from SR 509 to East 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

Jennifer Kammerzell then reviewed mobility capital projects. Discussion ensued regarding the City's Hazardous Sidewalk Program and the length of time it takes for some repairs to be made from the initial time of complaint Co-Chair Leighton asked if the Transportation Commission could champion some type of a no-interest loan program in the City for homeowners for sidewalk repairs. [The Sidewalks Program Coordinator responded that the abatement program is the only current tool for City sidewalk reconstruction to recoup the loan payments under RCW statute. Staff will follow-up with a future discussion.]

Discussion ensued regarding prioritizing the projects. Jennifer Kammerzell stated she would compile a list for presentation to the Commission at the May meeting.

Reid Bennion concluded the Propositions 3 and A presentation by reviewing the new fund that was created to separate initiative funding and spending from other existing funds, as well as the new dashboard/open data program for citizens to access information about the proposition-related projects and spending. He noted next steps include a presentation to the City Council on June 14<sup>th</sup> at their Study Session, an information campaign June through September, and an ongoing work with this Commission. Co-Chair Leighton expressed frustration that he has yet to see a plan for how this Commission will be engaged in the Proposition 3 process per Council Member Mello's amendments to Resolution No. 39236, which transmitted the Proposition No. 3 ballot measure to the Auditor for the General Election. He then requested staff formalize the plan and send it to the Commission. (Staff is working on a memo with the City Manager that will better define and memorialize the Commission's involvement in the Street Initiative projects based on the resolutions adopted by City Council. It is expected to be completed prior to the June Transportation Commission meeting.)

#### c. 6 YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Jennifer Kammerzell provided background information on the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (Six-year TIP) She then reviewed projects proposed to be added including North 21<sup>st</sup> Street: Adams to Pearl; St. Helens streetscape; Taylor Way Rehabilitation; Northshore Parkway: Nassau to East City limits; South 21<sup>st</sup> Street: Jefferson to Tacoma; Fawcett Avenue: South 19<sup>th</sup> to South 21<sup>st</sup>; Tideflats area short-term Intelligent Traffic Safety (ITS) improvements; Union Avenue: South 19<sup>th</sup> to SR 16; Lister Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project; First Creek Middle School Safe Routes to School Project; South 74<sup>th</sup> Street; Tacoma Mall Boulevard to West City limits; and South Tacoma Way: South 47<sup>th</sup> to 56th. Discussion ensued regarding the amount of work that will be needed at the intersection of SR 509/Taylor Way. Co-Chair Leighton asked if non-profit organizations are exempt from paying into Local Improvement Districts (LIDs) (Non-profits are required to pay into LIDs. They own the land that the improvements are tied to, and can sell the property at any time during or after an LID is completed.)

Ms. Kammerzell concluded by reviewing next steps, including review and recommendation by the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee on April 13<sup>th</sup>, City Council public hearing on May 10<sup>th</sup>, and City Council consideration on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Commission members asked if a letter of support from the Transportation Commission would help with grant applications. Co-Chair Leighton asked if depaving, would need to be listed in the Six Year TIP to be able to apply for depaving grants.

#### 5. Other Business/Updates

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

There was no PTAG update.

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

Co-Chair Moore announced that BPTAG Co-Chairs Dave Cook & Dan Hansen were in attendance and deferred to them for the update. Mr. Cook & Mr. Hansen announced that Diane Wiatr, Active Transportation Coordinator, and BPTAG liaison, is leaving the City. Commission members requested to know if Diane Wiatr's position will be filled. (The Active Transportation Coordinator position will be filled. The position description may change to better align with Public Works and Environmental Services' goals. Mr. Cook & Mr. Hansen also stated that the work plan and goals will be a topic at their next BPTAG meeting on Monday. They also noted that BPTAG would be

interested in helping with prioritization of mobility projects.

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

This item was not discussed.

**d. Planning Commission Agenda**

Jennifer Kammerzell stated current Planning Commission topics are the Capital Facilities Program update, bike share feasibility study, and Historic Preservation Program update. Co-Chair Moore asked if the Transportation Commission's letter regarding bike share was sent out.

**e. Commission Comments**

CM Mason stated she recently saw a Pierce Transit bus high-centered on a bulb-out/curb near 11<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets and asked about City/Transit coordination. Jennifer Kammerzell responded.

Co-Chair Leighton stated the City is holding an event called T-Town: Play, Explore, Learn, City Services Expo on May 7<sup>th</sup> and he was asked if the Transportation Commission would like to host a booth at the event. Commission members decided not to.

Co-Chair Leighton stated that Pierce Transit approved their Destination 2040 Plan the day the Transportation Commission submitted its comment letter.

**6. Staff Reports**

**a. Responses to Commission Inquiries**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting, and Jennifer Kammerzell reminded members that Commission inquiries, requests and responses will be italicized and underlined in the minutes from now on.

**b. Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects**

Jennifer Kammerzell stated grant applications have been presented at recent meetings, and this Commission will continue to receive monthly updates. She also noted that staff will be submitting some by the end of this month, and she will be submitting a Safe Routes to School grant on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**c. Upcoming Public Meetings & Events**

Jennifer Kammerzell stated Sound Transit is holding a public meeting on the ST3 Draft plan tomorrow at the Evergreen State College Tacoma campus, and they are holding a meeting on Link light rail station locations on April 27<sup>th</sup>, also being held at the Evergreen Tacoma campus.

**7. Public Comment**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.