



MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Transportation Commission Meeting

TIME: Wednesday, May 18, 2016, 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: 9th 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 5:37 p.m.

2. Roll Call/Introductions

CM Austin was absent (Excused) CM Kumara participated via telephone.
All other Commission members were present.

3. Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Moore moved to approve the minutes of April 20, 2016.
Seconded by CM Strobel. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes
were approved. Jennifer Kammerzell noted one response addressing
Co-Chair Leighton's inquiry about a no-interest loan program for hazardous
sidewalks was inadvertently left out of the minutes and it will be added.

4. Business Items

a. Pierce Transit Northeast Tacoma Demonstration

Tina Lee, Pierce Transit, provided information on the Route 63 NE Tacoma
Express bus demonstration project, which started in September of 2015
and offers connections to downtown Tacoma and Federal Way. She stated
Pierce Transit is proposing to continue operating Route 63 commuter express
service as-is to downtown Tacoma, and would also continue to partner with
King County Metro, which operates the Route 903 as a connecting service
to the NE Tacoma Express and to the Federal Way Transit Center.
Ms. Lee stated the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners will take
action on this proposal at its June 13, 2016 meeting. Ms. Lee then reviewed
public outreach conducted, transit maps, average weekday boardings, a
required Title VI Service Equity Analysis, and timeline for the public
comment process Pierce Transit is currently in.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost per passenger, a proposed
uber-type service, and another proposed pilot project for a seasonal weekend
trolley-type service from downtown Tacoma to the Ruston waterfront and up to



Point Defiance Zoo from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Co-Chair Leighton stated he would like to hear more about the proposed trolley project as it progresses, and is interested in hearing about it from City staff as well. Co-Chair Leighton asked Ms. Lee to return to this Commission for another update in a few months. Co-Chair Leighton also asked CM Thurlow to draft a comment letter on Route 63 and submit it to staff and the Co-Chairs by May 25th. *A comment letter was provided to Pierce Transit on May 27, 2016. Staff will coordinate with Pierce Transit and Community and Economic Development Department to provide a presentation on the Ruston Way Trolley Pilot Project.*

b. Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan

Elliot Barnett, Planning and Development Services, provided introductory comments on the purpose of the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan and guiding principles. He then reviewed proposed planned actions for the street network, bicycles, pedestrians, and transit. Discussion ensued regarding how this subarea plan aligns with the Transportation Master Plan (TMP); and how staff's prioritization of items for this subarea plan aligns with the prioritization in the TMP. Josh Diekmann responded.

Mr. Barnett continued his presentation by discussing collaboration with Pierce Transit and reviewing other transit opportunities. He then reviewed the watershed approach, regional treatment and emergency overflow, permeable pavement, bioretention "rain gardens", tree canopy targets, and parks. He stated next steps include a stakeholders meeting on May 25th, and submission of the draft Subarea Plan to the Planning Commission this summer. Co-Chair Leighton requested that Mr. Barnett work with staff to return to this Commission this summer with the transportation-related piece of the subarea plan before its submittal to the Planning Commission. *The Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan team will present the draft in July and request comments from the Commission for the public hearing. The draft will not be ready in time for the Commission's meeting prior to submittal to Planning Commission. Transportation Commission comments will be provided to the Planning Commission prior to public hearing and addressed during the Planning Commission public hearing.*

Jennifer Kammerzell stated that the third agenda item for today was supposed to be the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program, but it has been deferred until next year.

c. Street Fund Initiative – Active/Mobility

Jennifer Kammerzell stated last month the Commission received a presentation on the Street Initiative funds, and today she will be discussing the active transportation piece, that is planned \$2 million per year for the

next ten years. She then reviewed mobility-related capital projects, including Safe Routes to School (SRTS), (flashing beacons) and (funding the SRTS Implementation Plan); Walk the Talk- Pedestrian Safety Improvements; ADA Transition Plan; Short-term bicycle projects, bike lane striping, missing link sidewalks, and hazardous sidewalk program. Ms. Kammerzell noted that she has been meeting with school representatives on the SRTS items, and plans to present to the school board. Co-Chair Leighton requested to know when that school board presentation will be so that Commission members may attend. *Staff will follow-up when it is scheduled, which is tentatively planned for Fall.* CM Mason suggested also potentially presenting to the Joint Municipal Action Committee. Discussion ensued regarding the ADA Transition Plan, and Co-Chair Leighton requested that the City's upcoming update of the ADA Transition Plan be added to the Committee's work plan. *Staff have reached out to the ADA Coordinator to schedule a presentation date.* Discussion continued regarding why bike lane striping would be paid for by mobility funds; and adding additional infrastructure investments with other proposition funds, to the extent possible, when streets are being repaved. Co-Chair Leighton stressed the importance of not missing an opportunity to complete infrastructure when it's possible.

Ms. Kammerzell asked Commission members on how they would like to prioritize the mobility projects. Co-Chair Leighton stated he wants to focus on pedestrian and bicycle modes; and Commission members stated it would be beneficial to have visual references, and to know the approximate cost of each project, the areas with the greatest need, the impact to the neighborhood, equity in districts, system completeness, what would be more cost effective, and which projects would have the most benefit for the cost. Commission members requested staff bring this information back for review at the next meeting. CM Strobel stressed the importance of leveraging the dollars with future grant opportunities.

Commission members requested a list of projects and/or a communication plan for the street repairs that will be paid for by proposition funds. Co-Chair Leighton requested to know which streets are being done, the priority, how it compares to the TMP, and the City's plan to meet the goal. *An update on the Street Initiative Funds will be provided at the June meeting and a more in-depth project presentation in July/August.*

5. Other Business/Updates

a. Parking Technical Advisory Group (PTAG)

CM Hyman stated the PTAG has recently received presentations on Zipcar expansion at UW-Tacoma, and a new citywide food truck pilot program. She stated PTAG is also finalizing a scofflaw boot program.

b. Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG)

BPTAG Co-Chair Dave Cook stated BPTAG sent a letter that proposes to replace Diane Wiatr's former position with two FTE's. He stated at their next meeting, they plan to generate a list of potential bicycle/bikeway projects for this commission to review. Co-Chair Leighton requested they include prioritization and scope. Mr. Cook also noted the BPTAG is going to receive a presentation from Engineering staff on a bicycle connecting path between 6th Avenue and Center Street via Tyler Street.

c. Planning Commission Agenda

Josh Diekmann stated recent Planning Commission items include the Capital Facilities Program, an update on the Urban Forestry Program, and public hearing for the Annual Amendment process.

d. Commission Comments

CM Skaught commented on her experience participating in the City's T-Town Expo event on May 7th.

6. Staff Reports

a. Responses to Commission Inquiries

Jennifer Kammerzell stated she will respond to any remaining inquiries from the April meeting in June. Co-Chair Leighton requested information on the street initiative fund and plans; and also stated he wishes to have further discussion with staff about a revolving loan program for property owners for sidewalk repairs. *Staff will coordinate a meeting with the Co-Chairs and Sidewalk Program and LID program managers to discuss the potential for this type of program.*

b. Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects

Josh Diekmann provided a brief update and noted that staff have submitted enough grant applications recently that it may warrant a larger presentation in the next couple of months.

Jennifer Kammerzell provided an update on the hiring of a consultant for a Safe Routes to School implementation plan.

c. Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

Jennifer Kammerzell reminded Commission members that the next

Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan stakeholders meeting will be on May 25th.

7. Public Comment

Two students from Steilacoom High School introduced themselves and stated they were in attendance for a civics class requirement.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.