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MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Transportation Commission Meeting

TIME: Wednesday, June 15, 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 Moore called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Roll Call/Introductions

CM Mason was absent (Excused)

All other Commission members were present.

3. Approval of Minutes

CM Kumara moved to approve the minutes of May 18, 2016.

Seconded by CM Thurlow. Voice vote was taken and carried.

The minutes were approved.

4. Business Items

a. BPTAG Priority Projects

Dave Cook, BPTAG Co-Chair, stated that one of the challenges that cyclists experience in Tacoma is the lack of connectivity within the existing bicycle routes. He noted often, a bike route will end without clear direction of where to go next. He stated he and fellow BPTAG member Dan Hansen reviewed the new Pierce County Bike Map and tried to fill in some gaps. He noted BPTAG's goal with this list is to complete some connectivity gaps that might not otherwise qualify for grant funding. He also noted they attempted to factor in crash data, proximity to schools, and have added a couple of longer range visions for implementing the bicycle portion of the Transportation Master Plan (TMP).

CM Skaught arrived here, at 5:35 p.m.

Mr. Cook then reviewed the first proposed route, Stevens/Tyler from South 6<sup>th</sup> to Center Street. He stated this route is intended to connect the bike lanes between N. 7<sup>th</sup> and Center Street, and would provide an excellent connection to Foss High School and between the northern and southern parts of Tacoma. He noted Diane Sheesley in Public Works Engineering recently submitted a grant for this project in two phases.



Co-Chair Leighton and CM Austin arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Mr. Cook reviewed the rest of the priority project proposals, including 6<sup>th</sup> Ave between Broadway and Sprague, North Pearl between S. 46<sup>th</sup> and Point Defiance, South 8th between Tacoma Ave and Pine, and South J Street between South 6<sup>th</sup> and South 19<sup>th</sup>. Discussion ensued regarding South J Street being a bike boulevard and the type of bicycle features the Commission would like to see on it. Mr. Cook then reviewed the remaining proposals, including South 15<sup>th</sup> Street between South Yakima and Pacific, and South Adams between South 66<sup>th</sup> and the Sounder Station. He concluded by reviewing a brief list of other potential additional projects. Discussion ensued regarding the intent of BPTAG's proposal and next steps. Co-Chair Leighton noted the proposal for South 8<sup>th</sup> between Tacoma Ave and Pine can be reviewed as part of an amendment process to the TMP.

Co-Chair Leighton also requested to know if any of these proposed areas will be included in the streets initiative-funded road repairs. *South 8<sup>th</sup> is the only residential street and is not in the current residential packages. It does have a fail/poor rating, which makes it a potential candidate, not considering potential utility concerns. As for the remaining projects, a portion of N Pearl will likely be completed as part of the Pt. Defiance Roundabout construction and Stevens/Tyler was a grant candidate last year and staff will continue to pursue grant funds. As with other TMP projects, these are grant eligible and could be part of the Active Transportation portion of the Street Funds Initiative.*

Co-Chair Moore noted that CM Mason's absence tonight is excused and that all other Commission members are present.

b. Sound Transit Special Meeting

Co-Chair Leighton stated the Sound Transit Board held a special meeting on June 2nd and updated their ST3 plan, and directed staff to prepare a final resolution for a November 2016 ballot measure. He noted the resolution will be considered by the board at their June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. He then discussed collaborative efforts to communicate the desire to get central link to Tacoma faster. He then reviewed changes made to the ST3 proposal including timeline improvements. He stated he provided public testimony at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> special meeting, and discussed the need for local jurisdictions to work together to help speed up the timeline for ST3 projects. He also noted Sound Transit is developing templates for jurisdictions to approve.

c. Street Funds Initiative – Active Transportation

Jennifer Kammerzell stated this is a follow up to the May 18<sup>th</sup> presentation of proposed streets initiative-funded active transportation capital projects to be prioritized. She stated the Commission requested follow up the potential costs, as well as information on the areas with the greatest need and which projects would have the most benefit for the cost. She then reviewed

sample estimated costs for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) flashing beacons, SRTS implementation plan, Walk the Talk – Pedestrian Safety Improvements, ADA Transition Plan, bike lane striping, missing link sidewalks, and Hazardous Sidewalk Program. Discussion ensued regarding the Hazardous Sidewalk Program. Co-Chair Leighton stated he is interested in the City creating a zero-interest revolving loan fund for homeowners for sidewalk repairs, and noted he has spoken to City Council Member Mello about it. Jennifer Kammerzell stated that she is working with the City’s Sidewalk Program manager about the potential for this type of program. Discussion continued regarding the need to prioritize the active transportation projects and proposed a sub-committee of 4-5 Commission members to further review the projects and criteria with her in between regular Transportation Commission meetings. CM’s Nyland, Hyman and Austin volunteered; and Co-Chair Leighton stated one of the co-chairs will also participate.

d. Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Performance Measures Status

Jennifer Kammerzell provided a handout of draft TMP performance measures and their status. She stated staff are collecting data and are working to better understand the performance measures. Discussion ensued regarding some of the performance measures and the definition of terms in the document such as “need” and “community”. Co-Chair Leighton asked how a new performance measure would be added to this document. Jennifer Kammerzell responded that would be an amendment to the TMP. She then stated her goal is to bring these performance measures back at the July meeting with more information. She noted the Council’s IPS Committee has also requested an update on the performance measures. Co-Chair Moore requested the excel version of the performance measures. *Jennifer sent the spreadsheet to the Commission on June 17, 2016.*

5. Other Business/Updates

a. Parking Technical Advisory Group (PTAG)

CM Hyman stated the PTAG is on break for the summer. She and Dana Brown of Public Works Engineering discussed the growth of the Market Street/Jefferson Ave area, and some upcoming canvassing and potential new parking regulations in that area. CM Hyman stated the PTAG meetings will resume in September and at that time they will be focusing on multi-use centers and parking. Discussion ensued regarding micro-housing and parking.

b. Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG)

There was no report.

c. Planning Commission Agenda

Jennifer Kammerzell stated she would email the Commission members the current topics for the Planning Commission. *Jennifer will add Planning Commission agenda topics to the Transportation Commission Agenda, if available.*

d. Commission Comments

CM Lelli stated he would be absent from the July 20, 2016 Commission meeting.

Co-Chair Moore inquired about the dashboard for the streets initiative.

Jennifer Kammerzell noted that topic will be on the July agenda. *The topic is scheduled for August or September, as part of a larger discussion on project selection and project spending/completion status.* <http://tacomastreetinitiative.org/>

6. Staff Reports

a. Responses to Commission Inquiries

Responses to May 18, 2016 Commission inquiries were in the minutes.

b. Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects

Jennifer Kammerzell briefed the Commission on a recent call for TIB, HSIP, and FAST grants, and discussed their timelines. Discussion ensued regarding the TIB grant.

c. Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

Sound Transit will hold an ST3 public meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center.

CM Kumara announced that the next meeting of the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan stakeholders will be held at Marlene's Market next Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5 p.m.

CM Austin announced "Know your Ropes" walking events on Wednesdays in the Hilltop beginning June 22<sup>nd</sup> running through August. Jennifer Kammerzell announced there will be a Lincoln Neighborhood Walkability meeting in the Lincoln Neighborhood district project office on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

7. Public Comment

1. Public comment was heard from Robert Hill, citizen.

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