



MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Transportation Commission Meeting

TIME: Wednesday, **August 15, 2018**, 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conf. Room 243, Tacoma Municipal Building
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

A Motion was made to excuse Co-chair Leighton, CM Nyland. The motion was seconded and approved.

3. Approval of Minutes (July 18, 2018)

Motion was made to approve minutes and seconded.

Changes were requested to the following:

CM Mason said page 2, 5a second paragraph, last line in italics should read "if" it is not readily available.

CM Mason asked for clarification regarding the prohibition of crossing railroad tracks. CM Miller explained that you can be fined.

CM Hyland wanted to clarify that as part of the PTAG update. Page 7 first paragraph – the line should be changed from "and the buffer" to "is in line with the best practices".

Minutes were approved with corrections.

4. Public Comment for Items on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

5. Business Items

a. Schuster Parkway (Diane Sheesley)

Diane Sheesley provided a summary of the Schuster Parkway Promenade project update. She stated that this project has been in the works for several years. A grant was received for \$1.17M from PSRC to design the



Schuster Parkway Promenade. She explained that over the past 3 years, staff worked with consultants to study and identify design and alignment alternatives. She provided an overview of each alternative, which included the design, cost, and environmental impacts. She was asked to come back to the Transportation Commission in September for a recommendation on the alignment.

Co-Chair Moore provided comment at the July 2018 IPS presentation and has been invited to participate on the Stakeholder Committee. As part of the IPS presentation, Council Committee asked staff to reach out to key stakeholders for feedback.

Diane highlighted each of the 4 alternatives.

1. Elevated causeway (above roadway with walls \$30-\$45M),
2. At-grade option (next to roadway with walls \$45-\$50M),
3. Old Spur Line option (a mix of at-grade and elevated with walls \$35-\$40M)
4. Enhancements to existing (minimal improvements \$4M).
 - a) Alternative 1 includes a road diet to 705.
 - b) Alternative 2 includes a road diet to South 4th Street. She showed a video model of traffic speeds, volumes, and movements with Alternative 2, which adds 20 seconds to future travel times.

Diane also showed a cross-section of a proposed cycle track, which includes a buffer between cars and cycle track using rumble strips and cylinder cones.

CM Hyman asked if staff considered impacts from Light Rail and drivers taking alternative routes, likely Schuster Parkway. Diane explained that they did include those considerations, including trips from Point Ruston, Point Defiance, but they did not include credits for mode shift in the PM Peak hour. Diane also pointed out that the alternatives show a shift from cycle track to shared use path at Garfield Gulch because the community preferred a shared use path. *She is asking for feedback regarding the switch in facility types.*

CM Miller voiced concerns about the speed of cars next to a cycle track that does not have a barrier and foresees issues if the road cyclists have to weave between a cycle track and shared use path. She explained that road cyclists do not mesh well with recreational cyclists and recommended a bicycle track be done the whole way or not included at all.

CM Mason asked for clarification about a cycle track and mixed use sidewalk or cycle track and standard sidewalk. Diane stated that the alternative is a cycle track and standard sidewalk to minimize impacts to the

hillside. The sidewalk could be wider where feasible, but would typically be 5ft.

CM Skaught has concerns about the road diet, but recognizes the importance of bicycling. She also has concerns about the mudslides that regularly occur in the Fall and Winter. Diane stated that with the road diet, the speeds would decrease to 30-35 mph during AM Peak (7AM – 9AM) due to congestion and reduced roadway widths.

CM Skaught asked if Pierce Transit would be using Schuster Parkway. Diane stated that it is in the TMP and there is the Downtown to Defiance trolley. CM Skaught also pointed out that there are several events that happen on Thea Foss and on Ruston Way, which will lend itself to congestion at South 4th and on Schuster Parkway.

CM Miller asked about community outreach and process. *Diane, consultants, and the stakeholder committee will be working on the best way to solicit community feedback.*

Jennifer will be sending out the attachments, open house dates, and link to updated website.

CM Skaught asked about participation from BNSF.

Diane explained that she has reached out to BNSF and they have attended a few meetings, but have not provided official responses. They do own the property and could change the outcome of the overall project.

b. Transportation Master Plan Project List (Jennifer Kammerzell)

Jennifer provided an overview of the TMP project list.

Jennifer stated that when she brought forward the Streets Initiative fund project lists last month discussion came up about where we are with projects listed in the TMP and why projects on the TMP were not being moved forward for funding or being considered for Streets Initiative funds - specifically E. 56th St. Sidewalks Infill and N. 21st St. Ped. crossings. Jennifer explained the list is based on scoring – the higher the total the higher the priority. The costs noted are very general estimates from the consultant.

CM Mason brought up the conversation at the last meeting about some money being available and the proposal was that the money be applied to S. 56th. Were there other projects that scored higher previously and is S. 56th even on the list? Jennifer responded that this was the reason for bringing up the project list so that discussion could be made as to what was missing and what refinement may be needed. How to prioritize sidewalk infills or new sidewalk, etc. Jennifer stated as we are looking at the list it

would be good to determine how detailed we want to get as far as the smaller projects are concerned.

CM Mason brought up McKinley on pg. 5 – project ID 137 as an example. She said if we leapfrog over projects on the list, then we will never get those on the list completed. She feels we should honor the list we have with the understanding that it needs to be reviewed and updated.

Jennifer said that this discussion feeds into a letter that Justin was going to draft and submit to IPS to reiterate the existing project list. She also said that projects do come up that might be Council priority but may not be on the list.

CM Brown asked how the equity column was measured for each project. *Jennifer said the 'Communities of Opportunity' map was used and she could provide it to the Commission.*

CM Miller asked how projects are removed from the list? Are any currently underway? Jennifer said the idea is that as they get done we would highlight it and note it was completed. One performance measure is how many projects we are completing in areas of low income. Another measure is how many projects are completed overall. When the City applies for funding an initial question should be whether or not it is on the TMP. If it is not in the TMP but the project could score very well the City might still apply for funding. CM Miller said the list is overwhelming and was wondering what projects have actually been moved off of the list. *Jennifer said she will provide feedback on what has been completed, funded (or partially funded).*

CM Mason said that this goes hand in hand with the Streets Initiative.

Co-chair Moore said the other thing to remember is that the list doesn't go in numerical order – a lot of the projects scored the same and are in the top tier, but the first one listed is not necessarily the most important. Jennifer said a majority of these projects are taken from the mode maps – auto, freight, bikes, etc. Every network that you see on the map translates to a project. The idea is to get the spine of networks for each mode in place.

Jennifer said she is asking today if the letter from the Commission will be in support of the 2 projects mentioned earlier, but re-emphasizing the current project list.

CM Hyman asked if anyone has spoken to the Council members about the project list. Jennifer stated that the letter will help get that message across to Council members.

6. Other Business/Updates

a. PTAG (Judi Hyman)

CM Hyman stated that there was a Stadium District Open House in August with at least 25 people in attendance. It included some education on what the Parking Task Force can do and tools to manage parking. There were concerns about Light Rail and the loss of parking, but the understanding that it is a great opportunity for the District. They are happy about the residential parking that is coming. There were concerns about Stadium High School parking impacts.

b. Sound Transit TDLE Stakeholder Group (Raymond Williams)

CM Williams provided an overview of the last stakeholder meeting, which focused on station location refinement and operation and maintenance facilities. The group reviewed public comments from the Open Houses which included comments about 9 potential route alternatives. Sound Transit will be having 3 open houses in September.

CM Hyman asked if they talked about impacts to routes, such as cost, environmental impacts. CM Williams said they haven't gotten to that point. Josh mentioned there would be a survey available beginning September 1st through Sept. 21st – the link will be send to the Commission when it becomes available.

The link to Federal Way should be complete by 2024 and to Tacoma Dome by 2030.

Jennifer said that staff could work with the Commission if a letter is needed.

c. BPTAG (Jane Moore)

BPTAG has not met, but they will be meeting in August.

d. Planning Commission Agenda (Jennifer Kammerzell)

Planning Commission canceled their August 15th meeting.

The outline Agenda for the Planning Commission was inserted into the TC meeting agenda and included in the handouts.

e. Commission Comments

CM Skaught stated that John Thurlow's memorial will be September 8th at the Sand Bar at Browns Point Blvd. Center. She asked if the Commission would want to say or send something to the family. She also explained that the family asks any donations be made to the League of Women Voters.

Co-Chair Moore traveled to Copenhagen and reported that it was a very informative event with mayors from Tacoma, Fife, and Puyallup, Dennis Hamberg, Puyallup Tribe of Indians Tribal Council, and WSDOT Secretary of Transportation. The group will be meeting in August and September to discuss next steps. November 15th there will be a community meeting and report out from the group.

CM Skaught asked how they fund everything in Copenhagen. Co-chair Moore said that they have huge taxes which helps them fund everything. The tax on cars is 180% tax on the price of the vehicle. They are trying to encourage people not to use cars. They do not allow free right turns for vehicles as they found this creates more pedestrian collisions. The bike lanes are full of riders – helmets were not required.

7. Staff Reports

a. Responses to Commission Inquiries

Jennifer added responses to the minutes in italics.

b. Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects

Jennifer explained there are none to report on.

c. Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

Taylor Way Rehabilitation project Open House – August 23rd at Fabulich Center.

8. Public Comment

Richard Gardner introduced himself and let the Commission know that IPS is proposing him for an At-large position for City Council next week.

Meeting adjourned 7:23 pm.