



CITY OF TACOMA
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 16, 2015

GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT: Anne James, Kris Symer, Dave Cook, Janet Higbee, Jennifer Halverson-Keen

OTHERS PRESENT: Dana Brown, Diane Sheesley, Meagen Kula, Jane Moore, Josh Diekmann, Diane Wiatr, Emily Campbell

- **Meeting called to order at 5:38 PM**
- **Call to order, introductions, and approval of minutes**

Diane reported that no new BPTAG Members have been selected thus there will be no new members at today's meeting.

The minutes were approved with the addition of Jennifer Halverson-Keen's name to the "Group Members Present" portion.

- **So. 56th Street Improvements** – Diane Sheesley

Diane Sheesley discussed the proposed improvements along So. 56th St. from Grandview to Tacoma Mall Blvd. The first phase goes from Orchard to S Tacoma way, and the 2nd phase goes to Tacoma Mall Blvd. This project has funding for "just overlay" which includes ADA additions. They would like to take out center turn lane from Orchard to S Tacoma Way, except for 3 intersections with signaled turn lanes. For these areas with turn lanes, they plan to apply for a grant to remove planting strips and add bike lanes. If they don't get the grant, they will add bike sharrows to the roadway.

Dana Brown explained that the goal of these improvements and this discussion is to get pedestrians and bicyclists to the Tacoma Mall and the Sounder Station safely.

Diane Sheesley mentioned that the phase 2 improvements on S 56th are focused on automobile travel, and that there are alternatives for this phase. She requested the group's thoughts about these alternatives and about getting pedestrians and bicyclists to the Tacoma Mall Transit

Center. The group discussed east-west options for connecting existing facilities to the Mall or Transit Center.

- 43rd was discussed as an option for a bicycle boulevard.
- 47th was discussed as an option for a bicycle lane because of the wide lanes. Dana mentioned that this area is designated for high-density housing. This option doesn't have a lot of auto traffic in certain areas. Flume Line Trail terminates on 47th, making this an attractive option. The group discussed how to then get from 47th and Oakes/Pine to the Transit Center.
- Diane Wiatr suggested that the group do a site visit. Diane Sheesley said the group should give feedback by the end of July. The group is interested in going on a site visit. A Doodle Poll should be created, and Diane Sheesley should be invited to the site visit.
- Diane Wiatr mentioned her concerned about biking around S 54th / S Railroad St and Tacoma Mall Blvd, and suggested visiting this location during the site visit too.
- Diane Sheesley noted that she plans to look into having signage for bikes in this area

Dana Brown spoke about long-range plan for the WSDOT site near where S 56th crosses Tacoma Mall Blvd and passes over the highway, mentioning the plan to get rid of clover-design.

- **Transportation Master Plan Updates and Next Steps**— Jennifer Kammerzell [jkammerzell@cityoftacoma.org] and Josh Diekmann [jdiekmann@cityoftacoma.org], City of Tacoma Public Works

Josh Diekmann gave an update on the Transportation Master Plan (TMP). He said that the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan is another opportunity to give feedback on similar topics. Last week they began another round of public outreach because a draft of the TMP came out recently. Discussion points are as follows:

- Next Monday is a City-wide open house for the Transportation Master Plan at Freighthouse Square from 6:00-7:30pm, which group members are encouraged to attend.
- At the end of March and into April the City's Comprehensive Plan will be presented at each district, and the TMP element will be discussed. These are other opportunities for group members to be present and give comment.
- Josh highlighted the anticipated population growth in the City as a reason to plan ahead and to create a transportation network to support that growth. The TMP's Goals and Policies and Modal Priority Map are 2 key aspects that should be reviewed carefully by the group members because they will be central to creating a priority list.
- The official comment period for the TMP ends April 1st, though comment will be accepted later
- High-level discussions are in the TMP (such as modal prioritization), while details about design are not (such as planter strips)
- Josh mentioned that the TMP includes some implementation strategies about selecting and prioritizing projects through performance measures, and explained that through the TMP they are redefining how the City certifies capacities of roads, i.e. by expanding concurrency to include more transportation modes than just automobile delays, termed "system completeness".
- Josh requested the group's feedback on the project lists, requested that the group re-read the Vision Statement, and reiterated that they review the Goals and Policies
- Josh mentioned that comments are compiled through public meetings and through a

- special email dedicated to TMP comments.
- Completion of the TMP is scheduled for October, though there is a “hand-off” of the TMP to the Comprehensive Plan (CP) when they will begin to integrate the TMP into the CP.

Diane Wiatr suggested that the group have an ad hoc meeting or dedicate the next BPTAG meeting (4/20) for commenting on the TMP. Josh wants comments on modal priorities and networks by the 1st of April, so the group will set up a time to meet prior to the next BPTAG meeting. Diane requested a “clean” and large map for review, as well as the bike and pedestrian crash information overlaid on that map

Josh said there is a goal of 0-crashes and fatalities in the TMP, and he will find the crash data from the TMP and provide this to the Group

It is recommended that members of the group attend the Comprehensive Plan district meetings in addition to attending the TMP Open House. Jane Moore suggested that members of the BPTAG reinforce to the Planning Commission the importance in planning for all modes of travel.

The group agreed that it would be good to have one or more members at the Comprehensive Plan District Meetings, and each group member present chose a district meeting to attend.

The group discussed having an ad hoc meeting on in late March or early April to review the Transportation Master Plan. Emily will create a Doodle Poll to determine the best date and time for the group (April 6-12, 4pm-8pm); relevant attachments will be provided. Diane will find a room for the meeting. Josh will provide a large map for the group’s review by that date, including an interactive electronic map with layers of collision data and modes that the group can turn on and off.

- **Bicycle Boulevards – Diane Wiatr**

Diane displayed the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) webpages on bike boulevards. Dave voiced the concern that bike boulevards will become too attractive to cars because of their design, and asked if there are traffic calming design features that are incorporated into bike boulevards to take this concern into account and deter heavy auto use. Diane noted that major arterials adjacent to these bike boulevards provide traffic flow that encourages automobiles to stay off these bike boulevards.

Diane reported that she heard someone at the Washington Bike Summit recommend that jurisdictions should map and prioritize “low stress bike routes” for bicyclists.

- **Discussion of BPTAG member terms and new members —Diane Wiatr**

Diane reported that a number of people applied for the open BPTAG positions, and she is hopeful that these new members will be at April’s meeting. She reported to each member of the group about their respective remaining BPTAG service term.

- **Question about meeting on the 4th Monday rather than the 3rd (in light of the annual shift during MLK and President’s Day, except Memorial Day) — All**

The group discussed moving the BPTAG meetings to the 4th Monday of each month, and discussed changing the meeting start time to 5pm. Diane suggested waiting for the new members to vote about changing the meeting start time. The group proposed switching the

meeting date and time to the 4th Monday of the month at 5-7pm, and to implement this shift starting in June. The group briefly discussed moving the location to Center of Urban Waters, but decided to keep the meetings at the Tacoma Municipal Building.

- **Reprioritization of short term MoMaP projects — All**

This item was tabled due to anticipated length of discussion. Agenda item 9 (Public Comment) was moved up.

- **Public Comment**

Maegan Kula, Downtown on the Go Coordinator, spoke about the Walk Tacoma series, which is starting in 2 weeks (on April 1st, 2015). She noted that past Walk Tacoma events have brought in nearly 150 people per walk. This is a 9-event walk series around the downtown Tacoma area, bringing in local historians and others to lead the walks. Maegan brought posters and rack cards advertising the series to hand out to BPTAG members. April 1 (national walking day) is the kickoff for the walk series as well as the Walk Around the World campaign which has the goal of logging enough walking trips on the Pierce Trips Calendar to cumulatively “walk around the world”. Downtown on the Go is offering incentives for those who participate. They hope to “walk around the world” by the fall 2015. Maegan noted that the Pierce Trips Calendar, and this campaign, includes more than just work commute trips.

Dave suggested having kids log their trips too, perhaps through their school’s computers. Diane displayed the updated Pierce Trips Calendar, which allows people to input different modes of travel and reasons for the trips. Logging one trip and/or attending one walking event allows participants to receive a free t-shirt. The first walk is on April 1st at Wright Park beginning at noon.

The group discussed moving the Public Comment period to the beginning of the agenda in the future.

- **Updates**

- a. **Water Ditch AKA Flume Line Trail Open House Meeting – March 18, 2015, Asia Pacific Cultural Center (4851 South Tacoma Way), 5:30pm**

Diane noted that the Flume Line Trail Open House is Wednesday. The group wants to have at least one member at the meeting to interact with the public and comment on the Trail.

- b. **Pt. Defiance Park Public meeting**

Diane said that this meeting will focus on transportation, and mentioned that this is a special opportunity because Pt. Defiance is such an attractor for bikes and cars in the City. Jennifer will try to attend this meeting

Jane Moore asked that the group take a close look at the Transportation Master Plan to see that the goals and policies of the Mobility Master Plan were successfully translated into the new document.

The group briefly discussed the presence of automobiles at Pt. Defiance, and some members mused that it would be nice to have an electric shuttle bus take people from parking lots into the park. Another suggestion was to have smaller shuttles that could bring people around 5 Mile

Drive.

- **Reprioritization of short term MoMaP projects — All**

Janet went on a bike ride on Pearl, and would like for Pearl St. to be maintained as a bike-able road, instead of converting it to a truck route because it is a great connector. Diane visited Pearl St. and said that she was advised that there is a way to direct cyclists to take a left off Pearl St.. Diane suggested that the group discuss Pearl when they meet to discuss the Transportation Master Plan.

Diane reported that she visited So. 66th St. with Steve from Alta Planning: Steve suggested some bikeway options between S. Tacoma Way and the Star Center, and to have bike lanes from the Star Center to Tyler. Alta Planning will draw up concepts for the BPTAG to review on this concept.

Diane presented a postcard made by previous BPTAG Member Kendal Reid, and reported that he is doing well and says hello to the group.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm

Follow-up items:

- Emily to create Doodle Poll for finding a time to do a site visit of the So. 56th St improvements
- Emily to create Doodle Poll for finding a time to meet, review, and provide comment on the Transportation Master Plan (April 6-12, 4pm-8pm); relevant attachments will be provided (www.cityoftacoma.org/tmp)
 - BPTAG members to review the TMP prior to this meeting, with special attention to the Goals and Policies as they compare to the Mobility Master Plan
- BPTAG members should strive to attend
 - TMP Open House at Freighthouse Square on March 23rd, 6-7:30pm
 - Pt. Defiance Park Public Meeting at the Pt. Defiance Zoo on March 26th, 6-7pm
 - Comprehensive Plan district meetings
 - Flume Line Trail Open House Meeting at the Asia Pacific Cultural Center on March 18th, 5:30pm