



## **CITY OF TACOMA BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** April 25, 2016

**GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anne James, Dave Cook, Dan Hansen, Ben Storrar, Janet Higbee

**OTHERS PRESENT:** James Parvey, Chris Larson, Emily Campbell

- **Meeting called to order at 5:45 PM**
- **Approval of Minutes**

The March minutes were approved with the following changes:

- During Diane Sheesley's updates on the S. 56<sup>th</sup> Street Improvements, language was changed to reflect that having a sidewalk on 56<sup>th</sup> "helps to mitigate" cyclists concerns, rather than is a "good option to mitigate" concerns.
- During Shawn Phelps's Pierce County Bike Map update, someone will fact check the statement that "Josh mentioned that S 38<sup>th</sup> to I-5 is currently in the works to be painted as a bike lane so it might want to be included."

- **Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

- **Conversation among BPTAG members on prioritization of the work plan items. – All**

Diane Wiatr, the Active Transportation Coordinator and BPTAG staff liaison, recently left her position with the City and the position is now vacant. This Group needs support from within the City, and to not have someone in that position is a real loss to the Group. The Group wants to know how to best advocate for a new person in Diane's position. This is especially important now that there is dedicated funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects.

The Group reviewed their 2016 work plan that Diane put together before she left. Diane suggested doing easier things first. On the work plan, the first two categories of work will likely be done first; these include building-out the on-street bikeways network and near term bike projects that are consistent with the Environmental Action Plan. Discussion touched on the City of Tacoma's Complete Streets Resolution, comparing a resolution to a municipal code law. The work plan includes discussion of whether or not this Resolution should be an ordinance. The

Group also talked briefly about working towards Tacoma becoming a silver level Bicycle Friendly Community. The BPTAG generally supports the work plan as outlined.

- **Conversation with City staff about Props 3 and A, Work Plan expectations for 2016, and importance of building the on-street bikeways network. Update from City staff about the Active Transportation Coordinator position and upcoming BPTAG meetings.** – Jim Parvey and Chris Larson, Public Works

The Group requested an updated on Diane's position. Jim informed that they are committed to replacing her position, and noted that the City is considering whether the Active Transportation Coordinator (AT Coordinator) position is better suited for the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS) or Public Works. Staff is meeting soon to figure this out, and they will take into consideration that outreach and education seems better suited for OEPS.

Chris Larson talked about how his group in Public Works does transportation work and gets involved during bicycle and pedestrian initiatives such as Safe Routes to School. It would be beneficial to have Diane's position in his group because pedestrian improvements and bike facilities are involved in most if not all new projects. BPTAG asked Chris if there are currently any bicycle or pedestrian advisors in Public Works. Public Works has an ADA person and everyone is current on compliance requirements regarding project design. The group briefly contrasted the weight of consideration given to ADA compliance *laws* with bike lane and other *recommendations*. Jim noted that the City adopts state or federal design manuals as ordinance, such as the Right of Way Design Manual.

The AT Coordinator would help with project design, doing things such as figuring out how to connect the City's bike grid and having long-range vision of bike/ped projects. BPTAG wants to make sure the work plan items are good grant applicants and will want support in this regard. BPTAG asked if Diane was involved in how the position will look moving forward and Jim informed that she wanted the position to be in Public Works. Everyone wants someone hired very soon. BPTAG noted that it is most effective for the Group to give advice early on in project design.

BPTAG wants to know if they can be involved in the hiring or interview process as the new hire will be their main liaison to the City. Dan Hansen volunteered to be involved in the hiring/interview process. Jim isn't sure of the process and timeline, but thinks someone from BPTAG can be present at the interviews. The Group wants to know if they should make an official recommendation on what department the new hire should be located. They may write a letter including a recommendation to hire an additional person to support the AT Coordinator.

Jim Parvey will come to BPTAG meetings until the position is filled, and will work with support staff to organize meeting details and agendas.

Chris Larson gave a background of the initiatives funded by Props 3 and A. \$175 million will be dedicated over 10 years, which includes \$125 million for residential streets and \$20 million for Active Transportation at \$2 million per year which will include things like Safe Routes to School, missing/hazardous sidewalks, bike lanes, and leveraging grants. Maintenance costs include repainting bike lanes and maintaining existing bike boulevards. The Safe Routes to School initiative will help inform where work will be done. The Group wants to be able to give input on which projects get done. Public Works met with the Transportation Commission to get direction on their priority projects which helped inform what grants to pursue.

Projects in focus include:

- E 64<sup>th</sup> from Portland to Pacific – currently doing design work, may involve grants, includes active transportation
- S 21<sup>st</sup> from Jefferson to Tacoma Avenue – bike/ped facility will go north-south through local development, and the City wants an easement through a site for a bike/ped facility

- St. Helens – continue bike facility to the north, potentially connect with Local Improvement District
- Puyallup Ave, from Portland to Pacific – will consider multi modal options. Considering the expense of Mildred improvements, BPTAG member Janet just wants a bike lane in the Puyallup Ave area. Member Anne noted that at a recent Transportation Commission meeting people seemed to want all modes planned for on Puyallup Ave. Member Janet also noted that pedestrians want attractive and comfortable places to cross the road. Member Dave mentioned that intersections are the most important and people who are unfamiliar need to be guided through with design and infrastructure. He also mentioned that these expensive areas are the critical places than can make a big difference at getting people more comfortable with riding. This area is also important because Amtrak will be bringing more folks in. The Group wants to stay involved with planning this corridor.
- Pine to M Street Flume Line Trail – currently applying for funds for construction
- Prairie Line Trail from S 21<sup>st</sup> to S 25<sup>th</sup> – looking for funding to connect this trail to the Flume Line Trail
- Pipeline Trail – the Group asked if the City can put down dirt so that people can access the trail before it is formally constructed. They see good support for the project in Tacoma and want it to be accessible even if it's not fancy.

BPTAG Member Dave asked how feasible the work plan items are, and noted that Diane generally ordered work plan items from more easily accomplished to more challenging. Someone asked about the disconnect on Stevens from 6th Ave to Center Street, and the City is looking at funding for this. A Member asked if the \$125 million of paving money can be used to stripe bike lanes, and the Chris Larson said the City should review this. Chris mentioned that it would be good to have a prioritized list of repaving locations from BPTAG and the Transportation Commission.

BPTAG requested that they be kept informed on when budget meetings are so they can advocate for funds dedicated to bike/ped issues and initiatives.

- **Updates:** Bike Swap on April 30<sup>th</sup> at UPS (Union and N. 14<sup>th</sup>) 10 – 2pm
  - Bike Month Bike Everywhere Challenge – lots of activities and please record your bike trips at [PierceTrips.com](http://PierceTrips.com)
  - BPTAG adds other updates

No other updates were provided.

- **Good of the Order** – All

There should be a sign-in for future BPTAG meetings.

Potential BPTAG members should be recruited through Tiffany Odell, Business Districts and Neighborhood Councils.

### Topics for May

- Janet's possible wayfinding signage locations for the Scott Pierson Trail
- Create a prioritized list of repaving locations

- **Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.**