



CITY OF TACOMA
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 26, 2018

GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Cook, Theresa Beaulieu, Leon Nettels, Andre St. Hillaire, Jennifer Halverson-Kuehn, Anne James

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Kammerzell, Meredith Soniat, Jane Moore Hally Bert (DOTG), Diane Sheesley, Chris Saleeba (Alta)

I. Meeting called to order at 5:39 PM by Jennifer Halverson-Kuehn

- **Approval of Minutes** – January minutes were approved and seconded.

II. Public comment: Hally Bert with Downtown on the Go, provided comment on upcoming bicycling and walking events – Friday Forum series, Transportation Advocacy Day (3/19), and Bike to a Business.

III. Introductions: Each member briefly introduced themselves.

IV. Project Update: Stevens/Tyler/66th (Diane Sheesley)

- Diane provided an update on the grant funded Stevens/Tyler/66th Bike and Pedestrian Connector. This project would connect the Water Flume Line Trail at Clement to Tyler St via S 66th St, provide connections at S 56th to future bike lanes, and provide connections between N 7th almost to 19th. Diane shared with everyone that they were successful in getting a grant for 1.6 miles of bike facilities as well as pedestrian facilities at 12th & Stevens, 6th & Adams and the bike ramps at 56th and at the roundabout.
- The City is working on hiring a consultant to design and evaluate Stevens/Tyler between Wright Ave to 19th to address the demands of Cheney Stadium & Foss HS.
- Advertising for construction towards end March, so construction should be in June – August.

Leon asked how they would do the other side of South Tacoma to waterfront. Diane said that was going to be sharrows. One block to S. Puget Sound will have a bike lane and from there it will be sharrows. Leon asked if it was going to be repaved. Diane said not at this time.

Question: What is the timeframe for the section on Tyler by Cheney for the design that is not going to be striped? Diane said design process will continue through end of year and then they will look for a grant. In the meantime there will be public engagements and she can come back as well.

Dave asked if there will be pucks to trigger lights in the roadway at 12th. Diane said we will be going to gridsmart so it will be camera detection. There will be one installed at 56th & Washington.

- Diane also provided an update on the South 56th Street project and the revised project schedule per PSRC funding. Co-Chair Cook asked if Diane would come back at a later date to provide a more detailed presentation and discussion on S 56th Street.

V. Links to Opportunity: Bikeway Connectivity Options (Chris Saleeba, Alta Planning)

- Chris Saleeba, Alta, provided an overview of the bicycle options for Links to Opportunity. Alta conducted an analysis for both corridor options: J Street and L/M Street.
- J Street: Challenges include 6,500 Average Daily Traffic, 30 mph speed limit, hospital zones on each end (surface lots and traffic), and the crossing at Division. Benefits include signalized crossings at major arterial crossings. With this in mind, they are proposing two design options that would include sharrows through the corridor, speed humps, bike lane and bike box at intersections, and either curb extensions at crosswalks and in between blocks or chicanes with a meandering street to calm traffic. They also looked at a cycle track and shared use path as options.
- L and M Streets: Challenges include one-way streets, private property owned by the hospital that blocks through connections and jogging of the path, and need for signalization at main intersections. Benefits include the lower volume and speeds.

Theresa asked if bike lanes on both sides were considered to salvage the trees on J Street. Staff indicated that there were several factors, the number of driveways on the east side, moving the curb, and concerns from the hospital.

Jenn stated that she is comfortable bicycling on J, except for near/in front of the hospital where drivers are distracted or in a rush. Chris stated that a hybrid option may be viable.

Anne voiced concerns about crossing the tracks twice if using L and M Street. Staff explained that bicycles on Division would be directed to N Yakima then to N 3rd or N 4th due to the proximity of the tracks next to the curb.

Leon stated that he prefers J Street for its connection to Wright Park and its transition to other connections throughout the City. He also pointed out that to get to downtown from L and M, requires crossing tracks on MLK.

The group also discussed the benefits of I Street, although further from MLK, which include less traffic and slower speeds. There isn't a signalized crossing, specifically at 19th which has sight distance concerns.

Diane mentioned that we would need to add illumination if we were to use J as a bike facility.

The group expressed preferences:

Leon – prefers J with a hybrid option near the hospitals with separated bike, car, and ped facilities;

Jenn – prefers J provided that traffic does not divert off J and there is added protection near hospitals;

Anne – prefers J mostly because of the jog to the north and having to ride further north on Yakima to get south;

Theresa – prefers J as she currently rides J and I; Andre – prefers J as it provides better connections to downtown and south;

Dave – prefers J for a logical connector to other networks in the Transportation Master Plan.

Leon asked if the speed limit could be reduced on J, which staff indicated would be possible. He also asked if vehicle through put could be limited, but staff discussed that emergency vehicles use J Street between the hospitals. City staff has also been cognizant of the neighborhood effects that would result in diverted traffic.

VI. Intersection of the month: Tacoma Ave & N 6th (Jennifer Halverson-Kuehn)

Jenn gave an overview of North 6th & Tacoma Avenue. She highlighted the sight distance problems due to the slope, curve and location of the stop signs, which requires cars to pull past the Stop sign and up to the sharrows. She also pointed out the lack of curb ramps, a bike route sign that is missing “ENDS” on the southeast corner, curb ramps do not align crossing 6th Ave, signs blocked by trees, poor lighting, and poor condition of the sidewalk.

Jennifer suggested making it a 4-way intersection as opposed to 5.

Anne asked what the crash history is for this intersection. Staff will provide additional information.

VII. Co-chair position opening

Dave brought up the need for a Co-Chair. He explained that as a Co-Chair they meet once a month ahead of the regular meeting for about an hour to review the upcoming agenda and future projects/topics. Co-Chairs also keep meetings on track and help write or review BPTAG correspondence. Jenn volunteered for the position.

VIII. Updates

a. REPORT FROM TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Jane explained that the Commission received an update from the Pierce Transit High Capacity Transit project, 6 Year Transportation Improvement Program, and Streets Initiative Annual Report.

b. STAFF UPDATES

The bike swap will be April 28th at UPS. Second Cycle will host a used bike purchase 101 – to talk through types of questions to ask before you get a used bike. Space Works will be hosting a bike themed display on Commerce and 11th Street. Bike month planning is underway – more information to follow.

c. BPTAG UPDATES

Dave attended the railroad crossing meeting at Old Town. Best information he got was that there is only one person working for Burlington Northern and they cover 5 states. Dave was impressed that the COT has garnered the attention and is getting the work moving along.

IX. Other Items

Meredith recognized Anne’s service on BPTAG with a “key to the City”

X. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.