

# Amtrak Station Relocation Citizen Advisory Committee

## Meeting Notes

Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 708 – Monday, March 11, 2013 – 4:30 pm

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### Attendees:

- Keith Stone (Dome District)
- David Talcott (Huitt-Zollars)
- Milt Tremblay (UWT)
- Janice McNeal (Dome District)
- David Boe (City of Tacoma)
- Mike Bergman (Sound Transit)
- Alisa O’Hanlon (City of Tacoma)
- Aaron Winston (BLRB Architects)
- Chris Larson (City of Tacoma)
- Cheri Gibbons (City of Tacoma)
- David Smelser (WSDOT)
- Todd Huber (Brown & Haley)
- Sean P. Ragudo (AIA SWW)
- Rob Henson (City of Tacoma)
- Jori Adkins (Dome District)
- Ed Davis (Hillside Development Council)
- David Schroedel (Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce)
- Jane Moore (Coalition for Active Transportation)
- Tina Lee (Pierce Transit)
- Brian Borgelt (Freighthouse Square)
- Melissa Flores Saxe (Sound Transit)
- Ian Munce (City of Tacoma)
- Ko Wibow (AIA SWW)
- Les Gerstmann (AIA SWW)
- Su Dowie (Foss Waterway Development Authority)
- Don Erickson (Chair, City of Tacoma Planning Commission)
- Elizabeth Burris (New Tacoma Neighborhood Council)
- Edward Berntsen (National Railway Historical Society)
- Kim Bedier (City of Tacoma)
- Kurtis Kingsolver (City of Tacoma)
- Ed Brooks (Bamboo Property Management)
- Rick Semple (Dome District)
- Frank Davidson (WSDOT)
- Erin Hunter (Sound Transit)

### Welcome

Chair Erickson welcomed the group.

### Overview of the WSDOT Point Defiance Bypass Project

David Smelser, Cascades High Speed Rail Program Manager for the Washington State Department of Transportation, provided an overview of the Point Defiance Bypass project and provided handouts of his presentation to the group. Highlights of his presentation are as follows:

- The Pacific Northwest High-Speed Rail Corridor is a 467 mile corridor with 300 miles of track located in Washington. Some of the tracks are owned by BNSF and some are owned by UP.
- The Federal Government has supplied \$794.9 million for high-speed rail capital investments. There are 20 projects proposed in Washington which will build additional rail-line capacity, upgrade the tracks, utilities, signals, passenger stations, and advanced warning systems.
- Shooting for 88%-90% on-time accuracy and 79 mph train speed through proposed by-pass and improvements.
- There are five projects underway in 2012 including King Street Station retrofit, Everett upgrade, Seattle-Vancouver track upgrade and a grade separated track at the Port of Vancouver, and six others starting this year in 2013.

- The Point Defiance Bypass Project work includes track upgrades, new tracks, safety equipment, and a new station. Construction is set to begin in 2015 with service starting in 2017.
- FHS probably a lease or purchase. Off-street parking (82 spaces) to be leased in surrounding area. This option also requires an agreement with Sound Transit. Unlike Seattle and Portland's "signature" historic stations Tacoma's will be a moderate, but not a minimal station.
- WSDOT is very concerned about on-going maintenance costs since these are not covered in the \$1 M construction budget.
- The next steps for WSDOT in the process are to continue to reach out to stakeholders and continue into the design phases of the project. 30 percent design is the next project milestone.

### **Overview of the Sound Transit Trestle Upgrade**

Melissa Saxe, Project Manager for the Tacoma Trestle project, provided an introduction to, and update of the project. Highlights of her presentation are as follows:

- The ST2 Transit Plan was approved by the voters in 2008. Currently scheduled for completion in 2020 but Sound Transit is pushing to move this up to 2017.
- The scope of the project is to replace the existing wooden trestle with a new double track bridge, keep the existing commuter trains and freight trains operational while constructing the new double-track bridge, issue a RFQ to procure a new design consultant services contract, and to continue to seek Federal, State, and local grants to advance the project by 2017.
- The length of the Tacoma rail trestle is approximately .65 miles long.
- The project is ranked #2 out of 28 projects vying for grants from the legislature. Estimated \$1.8 M for conceptual and preliminary engineering.
- Preliminary project milestones are to have conceptual engineering complete in 2013, to have preliminary engineering complete by 2014, to have final design of the project by 2015, to have construction of the project in 2016, and to the facility operational in 2017.

### **Review of the proposed Amtrak station location and area**

Aaron Winston, American Institute of Architects Southwest Washington Chapter, provided a brief overview of the project area. The presentation included a map display for the benefit of the group.

### **Next Meeting**

- History of planning in the Dome District (Ian Munce)
- Discussion and identification of issues relating to the Amtrak station relocation (AIA SWW Chapter)
- Principles of transit-oriented development – (Tina Lee, Pierce Transit)
- AIA's ten principles for livable communities – (Aaron Winston, AIA SWW Chapter)

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on March 18, 2013, at the Tacoma Municipal Building in Room 708 at 4:30 pm.