



## CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

**DATE:** February 14, 2012

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jane Moore, Phil Coughlan, Steve Garrett, Bliss Moore, Dale Anderson, Ellen Moore, Dan Dzyacky

**COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Elaine Ott, Jim Gawel, Carol Shiflett, Bill Anderson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Diane Wiatr, Kristi Lynett, Lisa Rennie, Bill Smith, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the January 10, 2012 Meeting Notes**

The January 10, 2012, meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **Review of the February Agenda**

The February agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **Work Plan Implementation Discussion**

Due to staff budget changes the Commission would prefer to prioritize the work plan to ensure that the highest priority items are addressed. Items will be prioritized based on if driven by the Commission mandate and on potential CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.

The Commission went through and noted the top two or three items from each category. In some instances, items were grouped due to the level of Commission involvement necessary and an overlap of the items focus. The prioritized work plan may be revised if any items are affected by current budget constraints.

The finalized work plan will be presented to the City's Senior Management Team.

▪ **Presentation: Update on Mobility Master Plan – Diane Wiatr**

Mobility Coordinator/Planner, Diane Wiatr, presented an update to the Mobility Master Plan that was passed by Council in June 2010. The Mobility Master Plan was designed to lay out a network of bicycle connectivity and pedestrian improvements, as well as any action items on how to achieve them. Since it was passed in 2010, the following strides have been made:

- In late spring or early summer of this year, 13 miles of bike ways will be constructed on Park Avenue going North/South on South 96<sup>th</sup> to South 40<sup>th</sup>.
- The City received its first comprehensive Safe Routes to School grant for Sheridan Elementary School for both infrastructure and bike/pedestrian safety improvements for the Washington State Department of Transportation.
- In October 2010, the Bike and Pedestrian Action Committee, consisting of volunteers to act as an advisory committee to oversee the implementation of the Mobility Master Plan, was formed. They have been very helpful in the strides the City has made and the focus for the future.

- There are over 800 miles of arterials in the City of Tacoma and only 25 miles with bike lanes. In order to reach our goal of increasing the percentage of arterials with bike lanes, every Public Works street and corner project is including bicycle/pedestrian facilities in the design process.
- In August 2011, the Mobility Master Plan won the Vision 2040 Award from Puget Sound Regional Council.
- The safety education campaign called “Drive Better” was completed, and work is currently beginning on more educational campaigns to address conflicts between cars and pedestrians, and cars and bikes, and on the use of helmets and lights.
- 2.6 miles of new sidewalks and two pedestrian intersection improvements were completed, with two additional intersections and 1.89 miles of new trails currently being designed.
- The City worked with a robust list of community partners to host the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Tacoma-Pierce County Bike Month. Participation in the Commuter Challenge more than doubled and over 1000 people attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tacoma Bike Swap.
- The first bike cage has been constructed in downtown Tacoma at Park Plaza North. It is only \$24 a year for access and is very safe for people to use.

Going forward:

- The City has applied for a \$1.5M discretionary grant to add pedestrian facilities along the new 13 miles of bike lanes.
- Actions need to be taken to install curb ramps for all school intersects and paint all intersections.
- Work has begun on compiling and comparing the bike and pedestrian counts over the past three years. Preliminary observations show an overall increase in people biking and walking, particularly downtown near the UW/Tacoma campus.
- By Friday, staff will finish applying for bicycle friendly status from the league of American bicyclist for the City of Tacoma. Currently the hope is to achieve bronze status and if successful, it would be an incredible achievement for Tacoma.

#### ▪ **Staff Updates**

- Sustainability Expo, Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – The Commission will have a booth and are looking for volunteers to help.
- Legislative Updates
  - HB 2370 – To include health in the state transportation system policy goals. Currently in the House Committee on Transportation.
  - HB 2326 – Increases motor vehicle liability coverage required for property damage and certain personal injury protection benefits.
  - HB 1144 - Concerning renewable energy investment cost recovery program; passed by the House Committee on Technology, Energy and Communications.
  - HB 2783 - Concerning coal transition power.

Additional legislative updates will be presented at a later date.

#### ▪ **Public Comment**

There was no public comment

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.