



## CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

**DATE:** October 9, 2012

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bliss Moore, Ellen Moore, Dan Dzyacky, Nick Cutting, Jane Moore, Karen Hamilton, Phil Coughlan, Kimberlie Lelli

**COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Bill Anderson, Holly Williams, Carol Shiflett

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Justin Leighton, Alysen Laasko, Bill Smith, Kristi Lynett, Diane Wiatr, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the September 11, 2012 Meeting Notes**

The September 11, 2012 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **Review of the October Agenda**

The October agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **Utility Life Cycle Inventory Data – Bill Smith, Senior Environmental Specialist**

Tacoma is the first life cycle city in the U.S. As a life cycle city, Tacoma collected data from all of the five City utilities: *Tacoma Power* and *Tacoma Water* are managed under the umbrella of Tacoma Public Utilities which also includes *Tacoma Rail*, a short-line railroad operated by the City primarily serving the Port of Tacoma and its customers. The other three utilities, *Surface Water*, *Wastewater* and *Solid Waste*, are general government utilities under the umbrella of the Environmental Services Department. Following the collection of data from the five utilities, IERE staff utilized the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) SimaPro software and EPAs Traci Impact Assessment Method to perform the analysis.

Since 2000, the three Environmental Services utilities have received 49 awards for environmental and operational excellence from the WA State Department of Ecology (DOE) and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). The Central Treatment Plant has received eight gold designations from NACWA since 2000 and the North End Treatment Plant has been a platinum recipient since 2007. In addition, the DOE has rated both plants as outstanding since 2007. Gold awards are given to treatment plants that consistently meet all NPDES permit limits during the year, and platinum awards are given to treatment plants that achieve gold status for five consecutive years or more.

*Carbon Footprint*

- Tacoma Power's energy portfolio consists of 93 % hydro, 4% nuclear and only 2% coal. This results in the City's energy profile being extremely carbon light compared to the national average where coal accounts for 48%, natural gas 21% and hydro only 7%.
- Solid Waste - its collection fleet has been using B20 fuel since 1997; one of the early adopters.
- Wastewater - benefits greatly from hydropower generated electricity; also capture the methane from the digesters and use it to heat buildings.

- Tacoma Water - actions to reduce energy usage, utilize gravity whenever possible in distribution system and energy efficiencies in water treatment. The City's geographic location is a benefit not only with hydropower but also with the transmission emissions.

#### *Ecotoxicity*

- Represents direct effects of releases of toxic materials on organisms.
- Solid Waste - benefits from burning biodiesel and lower than average leachate generation.
- Wastewater - uses less chlorine than average treatment plant.
- Tacoma Water - chlorinates the water to kill pathogens but chlorine is removed prior to distribution.

#### *Eutrophication*

- The process of concentrating nutrients in water bodies which leads to overgrowth of algae and can eventually cause loss of oxygen in the water column, killing fish. The nutrients come primarily from agriculture and human wastes, but internal combustion engines are also a source.
- Fewer air emissions from hydro power, and more than average use of electric vehicles.
- Solid Waste - B20 use; less leachate from landfill.
- Wastewater - processes to remove nutrients from the water; TAGRO is not included in the data as bio-solids are a co-product.
- Tacoma Water - benefits from the geography.

#### *Land Use*

- Land use is an important impact for all food products. Agriculture uses about 40% of the land surface of the planet.
- Tacoma Power - owns and operates six hydroelectric projects. When full, the reservoirs total over 24,000 acres. Transmission lines are also included in the land use category. Tacoma Power utilizes the reservoirs for recreation and has developed four campgrounds that provide a total of 542 campsites.
- Solid Waste - operates a landfill (49 acres) that opened in 1961 and closed this year.

#### *Ozone Depletion*

- Ozone depletion occurs when reactive and persistent substances interact with the beneficial ozone in the upper atmosphere or stratosphere; carrier for pesticides.
- Tacoma Power/Water - both have grounds maintenance departments that have integrated aggressive pest manager programs.
- Solid Waste/Landfill – captures CFCs from all of the appliances.

#### *Acidification*

- The destruction of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems through the wet and dry deposition of strong acids and ammonias. The primary emissions are the sulfur oxides which create NOX emissions.
- Power - hydro mix; fewer transportation emissions.
- Landfill - methane flare, B20 creates more NOX than standard diesel.
- Wastewater - burning methane creates NOX emissions
- Water – clean fleet and back-up generation

#### *Photochemical smog*

- Produced when oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic substances are present in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight.
- Tacoma Power - hydro generation and use of electric vehicles
- Solid Waste - burning methane in the flares and using B20 in the fleet
- Wastewater - burning methane to generate heat
- Tacoma Water – primarily transportation emissions.

#### *City's next steps*

- IERE is putting together an EPD panel for biosolids.
- Work to develop baseline data for our current processes in the ES utilities.
- Train additional staff on LCA; receive LCA manager certification.

▪ **Pierce Transit Proposition 1 Overview – Justin Leighton, Government Relations Officer**

Pierce Transit (PT) Service to Tacoma – 2011 data

*Fixed route*

- Tacoma gets approximately half of the total service that is provided to PTs (14) jurisdictions in their Public Transportation Benefit Area (PTBA) - county included.
- Six million boardings: \*38 routes (66%) serving Tacoma; 1,305 bus stops. (\*13 routes eliminated in 2011 – six served Tacoma)

*Shuttle - ParaTransit*

- Shuttle trips: 231,172 in Tacoma alone (\$43/per trip)
- Shuttle eligible clients: 3,461

*Vanpool*

- The vanpool program is about 85-92% cost recovery. The actual vanpool group pays for the program. PT pays the tolls for the 64 vanpools that cross the Narrows daily (\$61K); \$100K/annually is paid for tolls in general.
- PT needs 15 brand new vanpools a year just to maintain the demand; and another 10-23 vanpools a year in replacement vehicles just to maintain the current fleet; there is always a waiting list.

Today's Service to Downtown

*Fixed route*

- 18 routes; 698 bus trips come into the downtown core each weekday; 13,500 daily passengers travel to/from downtown

*Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) program*

- The state is working hard to mandate it; the cost for businesses to create garage parking is approximately \$42K a stall.
- 29 employers participate in business accounts program

*Shuttle ParaTransit services*

- 92,000 passenger trips to/from downtown in 2011 (25% shuttle passenger trips).
- 60,000 trips alone to multi-care facilities; 30,000 trips to DaVita. a very dependent healthcare community on the PT system.

PT funding -

- In a historical average, 71% is funded by sales tax; it is the one authority PT has through the state (no other options). Fare recovery is anywhere from 7-20%.
- Since inception in 1979, PT saw a consistent 5-6% growth annually. In December 2007, PT received a negative report from the Department of Revenue in which they saw 26-27 months of declined revenues. There was a little growth in 2010 followed by 11 months of declining revenues. Recently, PT has seen a couple of positive months with hopes to end the year at 0% growth.

Boundary revision

- New boundaries were established in May 2012; five cities left PTs district (Dupont, Buckley, Bonney Lake, Orting, Sumner and a large portion of unincorporated Pierce County).
- \$8M sales tax loss annually
- The percentage of ridership in all areas that were cut was less than one-half of one percent of PTs total ridership in those areas.

What cuts have already been made? (\$111M, 2008 through 2012)

- 31% management reduction; 43% bus and ParaTransit service reduction
- Two fare increases in two years.
- Three rounds of layoffs
- Eliminated community event bus services
- Cost of living and wage freezes for management and non-union employees
- Non-union employees pay more medical/dental costs
- Capital facility projects eliminated or delayed

Lost value to the community 2007 vs. 2012 projections

*Fixed route*

- Total boardings: 13.3 million vs. 10.9 million
- Average weekday boardings: 51,000 vs. 35,588

#### Bus ridership

- 56% comes from households with annual incomes below \$20K
- 45% do not have working vehicles
- 64% previously impacted by previous cuts

#### Approval of Prop. 1

- 23% service improvement over six years.
- 0.3% additional sales tax within service area
- Provide more week-end service, with later hours
- More frequent services; early and late night services; more direct connections
- Trunk route between Puyallup and Lakewood
- Restore special event services

#### Rejection of Prop. 1

- 53% service reduction by 2014
- Elimination of all week-end and holiday service (including shuttle)
- No service past 7pm
- Longer wait times; buses arrive less often; some will lose mid-day service
- No restoration of special event services

#### ▪ **Commission Research – Alysen Laasko, UWT Master’s Student**

As part of an internship for the Office of Sustainability, Alysen has begun research on mandatory recycling to ascertain what other communities have done, how effective has it been in increasing recycling rates, where Tacoma stands in relation to others, and what the City can learn as a community. Anti-idling is another potential research project that Alysen will pursue.

For her thesis, Alysen will be working on a plastic bag campaign at the Stadium Thriftway. A draft pre-campaign survey was created that would allow her to obtain customer information on how they use plastic bags, if they use reusable bags and if they are interested in changing their behavior.

#### ▪ **2012 Work Plan Action Items**

In review of the work plan, members were asked to identify the priority items that are either being addressed, complete, or may be on-going with the goal of getting a sense for what work needs to be addressed.

- BLUS green building work plan – request an updated presentation from BLUS; staff will send out the latest draft of the green building policy. (TPU has submitted their green building policy to their executive management team this week).
- Complete streets implementation – 2012 presentation given
- Community solar projects – staff appealed to Dept. of Revenue, no word yet  
NW Solar group is hoping they take up the offer of NW Seed in training-the-trainer.
- TPU staff previously anticipated their automated commercial energy benchmarking software would be ready for testing in November; there may be a slight delay)
- Waste reduction - residential composting, as it relates to the compost feasibility study in the Tideflats
- City is applying for a grant/award that would provide funds for climate adaptation planning (application due in one month). Staff is also putting in application to the UW's Evans School to get a master's student/team to assist in some of the climate adaptation assessment work on potential impacts/assess risks (2013).
- Reduced consumption initiative
- Members presented to neighborhood councils in 2012; will return to councils in February 2013.

#### ▪ **Staff Updates**

- Sustainability Expo, March 3, 2013; official first meeting is November 8.
- No funds are available for a 2012 Sustainable Tacoma Grant program
- EPW presentation, October 10, TMBN 16, Monica Dixon will give an update on “Active Living/Healthy Food”
- Author/Lecturer, Bob Doplett, Thursday, October 11, 12:30 pm., TMB 708

- Wapato Lake neighborhood sustainability outreach program – AmeriCorps volunteer, Christina Zinkgraf and newly-hired City intern will canvas the Wapato Lake neighborhood (door-knocking) Fridays and Saturdays
- CED will be divided into three departments: Permitting and Planning, Business Recruitment and Assistance, and portions of HR & HS to combine with Neighborhoods and Housing
- The Office of Sustainability will be renamed: Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability; with the addition of Mobility Coordinator, Diane Wiatr
- TPU submitted their budget to Council today and will also be doing some reorganization.

▪ **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

▪ **Objective for Next Meeting**

- Preliminary Survey Data on Plastic Bag Campaign

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