

Tacoma Permit Advisory Task Force
Virtual meeting
Meeting #28 – September 9, 2021, 10:30am

Task Force Members in attendance: Layne Alfonso, Clinton Brink, Jim Collins, Jim Dugan, Michael R. Fast, Ben Ferguson, Jessica Gamble, Jason Gauthier, Justin Goroch, Mandy McGill, Chuck Sundsmo, John Wolters

Excused: Joshua Jorgensen, Evan Mann, Claude Remy

Absent: N/A

10:37 AM: Welcome

10:37 AM: New items of interest

- Proclamation of Emergency Rule No. 4 ([media statement](#))
- Impact fee update (Presented to IPS committee on 9/1, listen [here](#) at timestamp 44:28)
- Home in Tacoma update (First IPS presentation is 9/8, materials accessible [here](#))
- Multifamily Tax Exemption Policy Review (First GPFC discussion is 9/21)
- Affordable Housing Permit Program website

10:48 AM: Fee in Lieu check in

Corey Newton stated that PDS had submitted legislative request regarding mitigation fees. Their program in partnership with PW was evaluating different pilot programs where the City could dedicate its financial resource. Steve Victor could describe concerns with statute.

Lynda Foster discussed the timeline of this being considered. It would be the end of September after the agenda was presented to the Council. Feedback regarding the timeline was requested from the Task Force.

Steve Victor welcomed questions and explained that legislation had a hard line between project-specific and generic fees and how they could be applied. He discussed with the City of Puyallup about their approach. The City of Tacoma was looking at ways that can make Tacoma's approach more secure.

Jason Gauthier asked to see the proposal that PDS submitted to be considered for legislation.

Corey Newton would share it with the Task Force.

10:55 AM: Civil engineer discussion update

Justin Goroch and Ben Ferguson had communicated via emails. Justin Goroch had a small list of names, and would review Tacoma's approach to curb ramps.

10:57 AM: More off-site discussion

Christopher Johnson presented PowerPoint and handout materials.

Michael Fast asked why, if there was no program from the City to build sidewalks, would the developers have to build them.

Jason Gauthier asked about funding that why Prop 3, approved funding for roads, was not included. Kurtis Kingsolver explained that \$2 million was non-motorized, SRFS match funding. It was low income grant money and only few hundred thousand dollars was for sidewalks, instead of millions.

Church Sundsmo had questions regarding how developers were not required to put in sidewalks in Tacoma. Kurtis Kingsolver responded with background and history of the City, discussing LIDs.

John Wolters wanted to see a fifth bar with street improvement for cars and freight, and dollar amounts under each bar. He asked about how it would poll if infrastructure improvements went in front of voters again. Kurtis Kingsolver indicated that it might be different if voted now but uncertain at a future time. From the initial initiative, voters focused on residential street maintenance, sidewalks and schools did not poll high.

Mandy McGill mentioned accidents and whether the accidents could be directly attributed to a lack of sidewalks.

Staff offered to gather more information and compile additional presentations on the subject if the Task Force deemed necessary. Associated date was not readily tracked or available at the moment.

The Task Force discussed strategy and priority to create more sidewalks – for example, sidewalk on one side of the street.

Ben Ferguson commented that if there was no plan, everything could be wasted. There should be a threshold for what would be dangerous/not accessible. There should be a defined standard so that it could be defensible.

Jim Dugan requested Justin Gorocho to bring this comment to the Civil Engineering Subcommittee.

Chuck Sundsmo inquired about a missing sidewalk inventory and priority areas that fee-in-lieu would be applied.

Lynda Foster reiterated the offer to set up a presentation from PW.

Corey Newton provided some background information. 75% of building stock was built since 1940. If sidewalks had been required on all projects, there would have been more of them now. If we were not requiring them, the problem would continue and could be making it more expensive to build in the future.

Jim Dugan paused the presentation for future meetings.

11:57 AM: Final comments

Jim Dugan asked Task Force members to review all slides in the presentation and asked that all comments be sent to Lynda Foster. He wanted to put together a white paper based on the discussion at this meeting.

12:00 PM: Adjourned