



City of Tacoma  
Transportation Commission

Justin Leighton, Co-Chair  
Jane Ann Moore, Co-Chair  
Gary Hofmann  
Michael Hutchinson  
Judi Hyman  
Yoshi Kumara  
Jacki Skaught  
Andrew Strobel  
John Thurlow  
Kristina Walker

## MINUTES

**MEETING:** Regular Meeting  
**TIME:** Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm  
**PLACE:** 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Visibility Center, Tacoma Municipal Building  
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402  
**PRESENT:** Kristina Walker, Judi Hyman, Andrew Strobel, Gary Hofmann, Yoshi Kumara,  
John Thurlow, Jane Ann Moore, Mike Hutchinson, Justin Leighton  
**ABSENT:** Jacki Skaught (excused)

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Jane Ann Moore called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

### 2. ROLL CALL

Jacki Skaught was absent.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting were approved.

### 4. BUSINESS ITEMS

#### a. Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project (Informational) – Mark D’Andrea and Ryan Abbotts

Mark D’Andrea, City of Tacoma Project Manager and Ryan Abbotts from Parametrix gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project.

*Jane Ann Moore Question:* Are open houses specific to the districts?

*Response:* Yes, too much information to combine.

*Justin Leighton Question:* Are any sidewalks being replaced?

*Response:* Focused on crossings, but some sidewalks.

*Kristina Walker Question:* Once ranked, was there a cost analysis to see if more projects could be done?

*Response:* Doing this now.

*Justin Leighton Question:* How does ADA planning factor into prioritization of projects?

*Response:* Working to get funds to do ADA improvements primarily at bus stops.



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*Kristina Walker Statement:* Tacoma got contingency funds for pedestrian projects.

*Response:* That is another process. Some of our projects will get funding from PSRC Funds. If that happens, we will move to next project on the list.

*John Thurlow Question:* Is project list available?

*Response:* Going to City Manager. When we get it back we will distribute.

No other questions or comments.

## **b. Transportation Master Plan**

### **Sound Transit Long Range Plan (Informational) – Chelsea Leary, Sound Transit**

Chelsea Levy from Sound Transit gave a PowerPoint presentation, including printed handouts of the slides and a Plan Modifications List. A corridor must be in the Long Range Plan to be in ST3. She reviewed what is in existing Long Range Transit Plan and asked the Commission to comment or support what is included in the current plan. There was general support for the projects in the current plan and some questions on transit alignments south of Tacoma.

*Andrew Strobel Question:* Is the inter-agency meeting next week?

*Response:* Yes, Sound Transit jurisdictions and tribes on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Pierce Transit Long Range Plan (Informational) – Darin Stavish, Principal Planner, Pierce Transit**

Darin Stavish from Pierce Transit handed out the Long Range Plan timeline, which also has a website now. The horizon year is 2040. PSRC received FTA funds for the Integrated Transit Network 2018 deliverable and PSRC asked Pierce Transit for their growth scenarios.

*Kristina Walker Question:* July is the stakeholder input solicitation period – how will that happen and do we have time to provide input for Tacoma?

*Response:* Pierce Transit is currently looking at Comprehensive Plans and other planning documents for projects. The stakeholder input schedule runs through September, so there is three months to provide input and this could happen sooner rather than later, depending on when you are ready.

*Andrew Strobel Question:* What does current LRP plan out for?

*Response:* Don't have one, only do 6-yr capital plans and revisions.

*Tim Payne Question:* How does this interact with PSRC 2050 priorities?

*Response:* A few different products. The Transit Supportive Toolkit is one tool. Local transit agencies do own plans. PSRC takes those plans and model it.

*Andrew Strobel Statement:* Recommends avoiding language that would limit Pierce Transit in the future. Need for flexibility. Also, the plan should be financially constrained to avoid FTA push back.

*Response:* A letter from FTA was received by the PSRC and this provided a wake-up call. The plan must be financially constrained.

Statement: wake up call to State Legislature.

*Kristina Walker Question:* Will Transportation Commission weigh in on this? What is public comment going to look like?

*Response:* Too soon to tell.

*Statement:* You may want to avoid soliciting public input over the holidays.

*Response:* May look at that.

*Kristina Walker Question:* Will the Transportation Commission be allowed to provide input during July-Sep?

*Response:* Yes.

*Tim Payne Question:* Transit performance measures are being developed by the Transportation Commission. We may want to jointly work on transit measures. City may have more aspirational goals than those assumed by Pierce Transit.

*Response:* Performance measures are coming from PSRC per MAP21.

*Follow-up Question:* Will the City contribute?

*Response:* The City will be part of process.

### **Transit Mode Wrap-Up & Recommendation to IPS for High Capacity Corridors – Dan Grayuski, Fehr & Peers and Tim Payne, Nelson Nygaard**

*Kristina Walker Question:* Why HCT for Sound Transit?

*Response:* Could be just HCT. What is not included in the Sound Transit Long-Range Transit Plan Update package could move into the Pierce Transit Long-Range Transit Plan.

*Mike Hutchinson Question:* How will our HCT corridor ideas get into Sound Transit LRP Update?

*Response:* Through the City's recommended HCT corridor package to be submitted during the public comment period which runs through July 28.

*Question:* Who colored lines on map?

*Response:* Consultant team did.

*Josh Diekmann Comment:* This is not the end of transit the discussion.

*Chelsea Levy Comment:* This is very detailed. General statements are acceptable.

*Kristina Walker Question:* Are we only working on what we intend to send to Sound Transit to inform the LRTP update?

*Response:* Yes, at this time.

*Andrew Strobel Question:* Explain the key for employment/population densities.

*Response:* The maps were reviewed and a clarifying statement was made about a TAZ not being an acre.

*Justin Leighton Statement:* One objective: need a high-level statement to IPS about what we would like to see in Sound Transit LRTP update.

Tim Payne continued his PowerPoint presentation.

The goal is to inform Sound Transit, so let's go through HCT Corridor ideas. Think about not only people in Tacoma but those who travel regionally to Tacoma to work. Are there other corridors that should be added?

*Andrew Strobel Comment:* To Ruston.

*Kristina Walker Statement:* Density won't support transit to Point Ruston.

*Justin Leighton Comment:* Missing in the conversation is what is quality transit (12-minute service headways and 24-hr service).

*Justin Leighton Statement:* West and North Tacoma are missing HCT service on the map.

*Response:* Based on what?

*Justin Leighton:* Westgate/Proctor to 6<sup>th</sup> Ave could be together. Also, Point Defiance is most visited area in the Pierce Transit service area.

*Yoshi Kumara Statement:* The HCT corridors should be supported with local bus service.

*Ian Munce:* Show the full build-out of population and employment, not just the future growth, and overlay the density maps on the HCT map.

The Transportation Commission discussed the HCT corridor recommendations as follows:

- Red Line (to Federal Way and Sea-Tac) is a very high priority. Modify not to stop at the Dome transit station, but to continue to Downtown Tacoma. The Transportation Commission strongly supports this HCT corridor with the extension to Downtown.
- Purple Line (19<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor). This is an extension of Link expansion to MLK connecting to TCC. The Transportation Commission supports this HCT corridor.
- Dark Blue Line (6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Corridor). Explore extending from Mildred Street to Titlow Park. The Transportation Commission supports this HCT corridor. Consider an extension to Titlow Park.
- Light Blue Line and Pink Line (Pacific Avenue/ SR 7). The light blue line needs to connect to a destination. Extend to Parkland/PLU. The Transportation Commission supports these HCT corridors with the extension of the light blue line to destination, such as PLU. Consider extending Pink Line to Westgate and Proctor.
- Green Line (local preferred alternative for Link expansion). The Transportation Commission supports the implantation of the local preferred alternative for Link expansion.
- Orange Line (Downtown, Tacoma Mall, Pierce College/Lakewood). The Transportation Commission supports this HCT corridor via either Tacoma Way or S 38<sup>th</sup> Street to Downtown. Consider extending past Lakewood to Dupont.
- Blue Line (Portland Avenue). This was looked at in the Tacoma Link AA and stopped at 72<sup>nd</sup>. The Transportation Commission did not indicate support for this HCT corridor.

- It was noted that the Yellow Line is the existing Tacoma Link line.

*Justin Leighton:* Consider an HCT corridor from TCC to Westgate/Ruston. Look at a Streetcar network to connect and interlace with. Show all of Tacoma on our mapping. Need flexibility when providing Sound Transit with our HCT corridor recommendations. We don't want to be constrained in the future by what we recommend today.

*Tim Payne Comment:* In our HCT recommendation package to Sound Transit it will be important to connect centers. Lines on the map make it more real. Lines are a representation of the corridor. We could broaden it out. We could remove the street network so the corridor does not travel on specific streets.

*Chelsea Levy (Sound Transit) Comment:* Show destinations you want to connect and pull the street grid off the maps.

*Jane Moore Motion:* Move to direct staff to form and work with a Task Force by Transportation Committee personnel to help staff form the HCT recommendation to IPS. Appointed were: Kristina Walker, Jane Ann Moore, and Justin Leighton. A letter will be presented to IPS with input from this Task Force and will include the HCT corridor recommendations discussed at this meeting.

The letter will include language about how the Commission has been working for the past two meetings on framing a position for the City with respect to Sound Transit's recently released Long Range Plan SDEIS (June 13, 2014). The official comment period ends on July 28, 2014 and the Commission is taking the following actions to draft a position for the City.

- 1.) We have appointed a 3 member task force to work with staff and consultants working on the Tacoma Transportation Master Plan to draft the details of the comment letter.
- 2.) We have directed staff to refine policy language that relates desired outcomes for the City (livability, sustainability, and economic prosperity) to the needs for enhanced transit connectivity, capacity, and mobility options. The policies are also to stress the importance of Tacoma's needs to be well connected to the region as well as connected internally.
- 3.) We have directed staff, based on review of early draft materials, to focus the comment letter in a manner that is more specific to Tacoma's growth and activity centers and expected levels of population and employment density with the emphasis on providing high capacity transit (HCT) connectivity between these locations rather than proposals that imply development on specific streets or assigned to specific HCT modes.

At this point the Commission is choosing to relate all of Tacoma's potential future needs for high capacity transit rather than attempting to segment those needs that might be fulfilled only by Sound Transit. In this manner we ensure the City receives the broadest possible consideration as Sound Transit works to update the current plan.

No other questions or comments.

**Sound Transit Link Expansion Station Location Recommendation – Chelsea Levy, Sound Transit**

Chelsea spoke to the handout and indicated that this is the type of feedback they are looking for. Chelsea explained what is happening at Theater District.

*Justin Leighton* requested guidance on letter.

*Kristina Walker*: 2 comments. Consider adding a station at Division Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Also, would like to see pedestrian/bike connections in station locations to the local and regional bus routes.

*Andrew Strobel*: Keep 4<sup>th</sup>/Stadium station location.

*Kristina Walker*: Add cost consideration statement to move station 500ft.

*Chelsea*: Need to expand maintenance base at Freight House Square (green box on handout). Sound Transit is looking at different grants. They got an \$8M PSRC grant for ROW and vehicles

*Jane Ann Moore* motioned to approve with minor edits, passed unanimously.

No other questions.

## **5. Other Business**

### **a. Parking Task Force.**

An update was given to the Transportation Commission on changes being proposed for on-street and off-street parking rates.

### **b. BPTAG**

An update was given to the Transportation Commission on actions taken by BPTAG to update the recommend bike and pedestrian network improvements and the potential for a joint BPTAG and Transportation Commission meeting in August.

### **c. Transportation Commission Meeting Frequency and Times**

*Andrew Strobel*: Meeting earlier is a good idea, change to 5:30. Maintain once a month or increase frequency to twice a month under special considerations/needs?

*Mike Hutchinson*: Should we create task force to decide this?

*Justin Leighton*: Need to meet twice a month till the TMP is done.

*John Thurlow*: Put on calendar, chairs could cancel if not needed.

*Judi Hyman*: Wants to complete a brainstorming thought session on Transportation and suggested a retreat for Commission members.

*Yoshi Kumara*: What is TMP schedule? Should schedule meetings based on the TMP schedule.

*Justin Leighton Motion:* meet twice a month starting in August, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays.

*Kristina Walker:* Second.

Vote: Six voted yes, one voted no (Mike Hutchinson).

## **6. STAFF REPORTS**

The TMP is on the IPS meeting agenda next week and TMP public outreach continues through July and Transportation Commission members are encouraged to attend. Commission members requested that the outreach events be put on Doodle and also requested copies of the outreach surveys.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## **8. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.