



City of Tacoma
Transportation Commission

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

MINUTES

MEETING: REGULAR TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING
TIME: WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2015, 5:30 P.M.
PLACE: 9TH FLOOR VISIBILITY CENTER, TACOMA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
747 MARKET STREET, TACOMA, WA 98402

1. CALL TO ORDER
Co-Chair Justin Leighton called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.
2. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS
Commission Members Kristina Walker, Yoshi Kumara and Gary Hoffman were excused absences. Commission Member Lelli arrived at 6:05 p.m. and Commission Member Strobel arrived at 6:25 p.m.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Co-Chair Moore moved to approve the minutes of July 1, 2015. Seconded by CM Hutchinson. A minor error regarding the attendance was noted and corrected. Voice vote was taken and passed. The minutes were approved.
4. BUSINESS ITEMS
 - a. SOUND TRANSIT TACOMA LINK EXPANSION LETTER– (JUSTIN LEIGHTON) – RECOMMENDATION
Co-Chair Leighton provided background information on the letter. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed relocation of the Theatre District Link Station and property owners in the area that may not be in support of the relocation. Discussion continued regarding adding a line in the letter encouraging additional outreach to property owners regarding potential impacts of the station relocation.

CM Skaught moved to approve the letter. Seconded by CM Hutchinson. Voice vote was taken and passed. The motion was approved.

Co-Chair Leighton stated the order of tonight’s agenda items is changing and business items C & D would be heard next, followed by item B.
 - c. BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES STATUS – (DIANE WIATR) – INFORMATIONAL (JENNIFER KAMMERZELL) RECOMMENDATION
Diane Wiatr, Active Transportation Coordinator, Environmental Services, provided background information on a what bicycle-friendly status is. She stated since 2012, Tacoma has been listed as a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. She noted bronze is the lowest level of recognition in the League’s five-level system, and staff would like the City to achieve a silver status. She provided a letter from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG) to the Transportation Commission, which notes that the BPTAG recommends that the City provide a dedicated funding stream to support bicycle and pedestrian transportation infrastructure and programming; and also calls on the Transportation Commission to include this priority in the current draft of the Transportation Master Plan (TMP). Discussion ensued regarding getting more support for getting bicycling, safety/walking, and Safe Routes to School curriculum taught in the public



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school system.

D. TACOMA MALL SUBAREA PLAN UPDATE – (DIANE WIATR AND JULIA WALTON) – INFORMATIONAL

Ms. Wiatr provided background information on the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan. Julia Walton, 3 Square Blocks, provided background information on efforts for a Subarea Plan in the Tacoma Mall area. She then reviewed PowerPoint slides of the staff core team involved, consultant team leads, the project overview, an aerial map of the Tacoma Mall subarea, key issues, and major project goals. Discussion ensued regarding the areas outside of the PSRC-designated regional growth boundaries.

CM Lelli arrived here, at 6:05 p.m.

Ms. Walton concluded by reviewing partners and stakeholders, schedule, design workshops, public engagement goals, and methods. Co-Chair Leighton suggested a few potential stakeholders to reach out to. Ms. Wiatr asked if anyone on this commission would like to sit on a Stakeholder Committee. Evette Mason noted that she has been recommended for appointment to this Commission; and if confirmed by the City Council, she would like to volunteer to be on the Stakeholder Committee. (Yoshi Kumara may be interested as well since this is her District.)

b. EAST 25TH STREET ONE-WAY STUDY – (JUSTIN BELK) – INFORMATIONAL/FEEDBACK

Justin Belk, Public Works Engineering, provided background information on the East 25th Street One-Way Study, stating the purpose is to investigate the feasibility of converting East 25th Street between East D Street to East G Street in front of Freighthouse Square to one-way traffic flow eastbound. He noted the idea came from early talks between the Dome District, citizens, and WSDOT and Amtrak teams during outreach regarding the Amtrak station relocation. He reviewed the existing and potential configuration and displayed other aerial maps.

CM Strobel arrived here, at 6:25 p.m.

Mr. Belk concluded his presentation by reviewing next steps, stating staff will continue design efforts in conjunction with Amtrak station frontage improvements between now and December; will seek input from BPTAG; and will hold a public meeting to receive input on August 13, 2015 at Freighthouse Square. Discussion ensued regarding bike lanes and loss of parking spaces.

E. IMPACT FEE PRESENTATION – (JOSH DIEKMANN) – RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Diekmann stated impact fees are a potential funding source that have not been fully vetted and he is seeking input on whether Commission members support studying them and/or support adding a statement in the TMP about studying them as potential funding mechanism. He noted that he would like a decision from Commission members tonight on whether or not to move forward with this. He then reviewed the definition of an impact fee, reasons to charge impact fees, alternatives to impact fees, rules for impact fees, what impact fees can pay for, and need. Mr. Diekmann concluded by reviewing impact fees in other jurisdictions and posed questions for further study. Discussion ensued regarding if there is a phased-in approach, if there are examples of other jurisdiction's impact fee processes, if developers will be dissuaded because the City already has a Business & Occupation Tax, if this is a one-time fee, and if different rates can be associated with different types of designated zones. Commission members requested that this item be studied further and noted they are not yet in support of adding a statement in the TMP, but noted the results of a study could be added as

an addendum to the TMP in the future.

5. Other Business/Updates

None.

a. Parking Technical Advisory Group (PTAG)

There was no update.

b. Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG)

There was no update

c. Commission Comments

CM Skaught announced that security's Badge #59 is missing and if anyone has it to please return it to one of the security desks.

CM Thurlow noted rebuilding Taylor Way may be proposed in the draft EIS for the Blair Hylebos Peninsula and just asked Commission members to observe it.

6. Staff Reports

Mr. Diekmann stated that staff presented the draft TMP to the City Council at their Study Session this week and staff will bring Council's comments to this Commission's attention as items are worked through.

Mr. Diekmann stated he met with the new president of Tacoma Community College today and she mentioned the idea of removing smoking shelters from their campus and installing more bicycle parking.

Ms. Kammerzell stated interviews were recently conducted for this Commission and Commission members Hyman, Skaught, and Moore were recommended for reappointment; Commission Member Leighton is being reassigned from the at-large position to District 3, and Evette Mason has been recommended for the at-large position. She noted CM Walker did not reapply; and the Council still needs to approve a resolution to confirm the appointments.

Ms. Kammerzell also reminded members that the Commission now meets once per month and the next regular meeting will be on August 19, 2015.

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Adjourn (7:27 PM)