



MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Transportation Commission Meeting

TIME: Wednesday, November 16, 2016, 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: 9th Floor Visibility Center, Tacoma Municipal Building
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
Co-Chair Leighton participated via telephone.
CM Thurlow arrived late at 5:39 p.m.

2. Roll Call/Introductions

Co-Chair Leighton moved to excuse CMs Nyland and Hyman.
Seconded by CM Strobel. Voice vote was taken and carried.

All other Commission members were present.

3. Approval of Minutes

CM Mason moved to approve the minutes the October 18, 2016 special meeting.
Seconded by CM Strobel. There was a minor edit regarding Co-Chair Leighton's
brief telephone participation. Voice vote was taken and carried.
The minutes were approved.

4. Business Items

a. Puyallup Avenue Corridor Project (Mark D'Andrea)

Mark D'Andrea, Public Works Engineering, stated the City is developing a
conceptual design for corridor improvements along Puyallup Avenue from
Portland Avenue to South C Street, noting possible improvements include
landscaping, lighting, new sidewalks and crossings, bicycle improvements,
enhanced transit facilities, and other amenities. He stated the focus is to
create a complete multimodal street and the design will be used for
future grant applications.

CM Thurlow arrived here, at 5:39 p.m.

Mr. D'Andrea then reviewed desired outcomes for the Puyallup Avenue corridor
project, the project team and scope; project schedule; study area, survey findings;
a stakeholder/public design charrette and site walk; public input; and opportunities
for Puyallup Avenue. Discussion ensued regarding funding; and future land use.



Commission members suggested that staff consider phased implementation, particularly if this allowed improvements to be constructed on the west end sooner rather than later.

Co-Chair Leighton noted that this area is a “conflicted corridor” in the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) and suggested that the Commission amend the TMP to define it as such.

b. Planning Commission Work plan (Stephen Atkinson)

Stephen Atkinson, Planning and Development Services, stated the purpose of today’s presentation is to review the Planning Commission’s 2016-2018 Work Plan and schedule, and find out which items the Transportation Commission would like to coordinate on. He then reviewed some items in the 2016-2018 Work Plan including: future land use implementation (area-wide rezones); a commercial zoning update; downtown plan integration with subarea plans; and mixed-use center street typology.

Mr. Atkinson then reviewed the project schedule and plans for public outreach and engagement. CM Strobel stated the Transportation Commission would be interested in transit-oriented development with regard to 20-minute neighborhoods.

Commission members would like to know more about how to provide comment on updates to the TMP. I.E, if modifications are proposed (other than the modifications proposed by the Transportation Commission), how will the Planning Commission seek feedback from the Transportation Commission? *Amendments to the TMP would be presented and vetted by the Transportation Commission and forwarded to the Planning Commission as part of their amendment process. Public Works staff will work closely with Planning staff to ensure that any proposed changes by Planning Commission to Transportation Commission recommended amendments would be brought back to Transportation Commission.*

c. Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan Project (Elliott Barnett)

Elliot Barnett, Planning and Development Services, reviewed the existing street network for the Tacoma Mall subarea and transportation issues including large blocks, lack of connectivity, traffic on arterials, safety, lack of bike facilities, gaps in pedestrian facilities, auto-oriented land use, and street conditions. He then reviewed proposed revisions to the street network and showed several first draft drawings outlining a three-tiered street system, large block connectivity plans, bike and pedestrian network, and priority projects. Mr. Barnett then reviewed potential funding strategies and asked for other suggestions. CM Austin suggested tax increment-type financing programs through the state, CM Skaught suggested looking into funding from the Community Economic Revitalization Board. Discussion ensued regarding impact fees.

Mr. Barnett concluded by reviewing priority early transportation actions, including the Loop Road Master Plan & demonstration project, Madison District Green Streets Phase 1, 38th and Steel Street channelization, studies for an I-5 direct access ramp, and transit center, and planning and coordination to pursue a Sound Transit bus connection, integrate projects into the Transportation Master Plan, and develop funding strategies. He stated next steps for this project include presentations to the stakeholder group, City Council, and BPTAG, followed by a Planning Commission rollout.

Public comment was heard from John Brekke, property owner in the mall area.

d. Street Fund Initiative – Active Transportation (Josh Diekmann)

Josh Diekmann reviewed a list of projects that Active Transportation Proposition funds could be used toward, including sidewalk inventory/mapping, ADA accessibility/transition plan, sidewalks hazardous/low-income, missing link sidewalks, Safe Routes to School Implementation, Pedestrian Safety/Vision Zero, design/study/safety analysis, bicycle & pedestrian education/encouragement, bike lane striping/small projects, partnerships (PT, TPS, Metro Parks), and small projects such as street eateries, wayfinding signs, etc. He requested feedback from Commission members on what may be under or overfunded. He noted the capital projects listed on his handout this evening are only populated out through 2019 which leaves most of the funds unallocated as of yet. Discussion ensued regarding the projects on the list. Commission members were agreeable with the projects and allocations shown this evening.

Co-Chair Leighton requested an update from staff on the revolving loan program for sidewalks. *A separate meeting with appropriate staff will be scheduled to outline a possible process/steps.*

5. Other Business/Updates

a. Parking Technical Advisory Group (PTAG)

There was no report.

b. Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG)

Co-Chair Moore stated recent BPTAG items include the Puyallup Avenue Corridor Project and the bike share planning study. She noted BPTAG is also considering developing new bike boulevard guidelines; and also transmitted a letter to the Council's Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee regarding the design for N. 21st Street, recommending Option 1. Brief discussion ensued regarding the status of the hiring of the new Active Transportation Coordinator.

c. Planning Commission Agenda

Upcoming Planning Commission agenda items were discussed earlier in the meeting under Item 4B.

d. Commission Comments

Discussion ensued regarding N. 21st Street, the design options, and the recent media attention. Co-Chair Moore stated she wants to transmit a letter to the Council's Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability (IPS) Committee to state that the Transportation Commission supports Option No. 1. because it is the option most consistent with the goals and policies of the TMP. She noted she would like it transmitted before the Council's December 6th Study Session. She also noted that she has started drafting the letter, and will finish and send to CM Austin and Co-Chair Leighton. Josh Diekmann offered City staff support, if needed. Discussion continued regarding how the goals and policies of the TMP are part of the Comprehensive Plan, and are not simply aspirational.

CM Strobel asked if the Commission's 2017 work plan includes amendments to the TMP. Co-Chair Moore indicated it is a topic for next month's meeting.

CM Strobel asked how the IPS Committee will be notified/kept apprised of the TMP amendment process.

CM Lelli commented on the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan and the Puyallup Avenue Corridor Project. He also noted that he is unable to attend the December 21st Commission meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding a possible quorum issue for the December 21st meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding impact fees.

Josh Diekmann stated staff presented on impact fees last year, but a feasibility study has not been done and would need funding.

6. Staff Reports

Josh Diekmann stated the North 21st Street Design Options will be presented at the Council's Study Session December 6th and the first reading of the Model Traffic Ordinance will be at the Council meeting that evening.

He noted progress is being made on the hiring of an Active Transportation Coordinator position and he hopes to have the position filled by the beginning of the year.

b. Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects

This item was not discussed.

c. Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

This item was not discussed.

7. Public Comment

1. Public comment was heard earlier in the meeting from John Brekke, resident.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.