



## MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Transportation Commission Meeting

TIME: Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conf. Room 243, 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.

The new Commission members were sworn in by Doris Sorum (City Attorney).

### 2. Roll Call/Introductions

a. Introductions were made by each member and everyone shared why they were interested in transportation and being on the Commission.

b. After introductions Co-chair Leighton recommended new members obtain a copy of the Commission By Laws. In particular he mentioned if they were not going to be able to make it to a meeting they let the Co-chairs know as well as staff since a Motion to excuse is required per the By Laws.

### 3. Approval of Minutes (August and September minutes)

a. August minutes - #4-change Chris Carnes to 'Karnes'; pg. 3 bottom paragraph – add 'Leighton'.

b. September minutes –pg. 2 on the bottom. Answer to the second to last question – take out 'removing' and add 'relocating'; pg. 3 under Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan add Co-chair Moore to list of people who attended follow up meeting;

c. Minutes were approved with changes.

### 4. Public Comment for Items on the Agenda

No public comment.



## 5. Business Items

**Item a. was moved to the bottom of the agenda.**

### ***b. Hilltop Links to Opportunity (Informational, Diane Sheesley, Ian Munce & Andy Micklow)***

Ian, Diane and Andy gave a presentation on the Hilltop Links to Opportunity Project, which stems from a partnership with Sound Transit. The project area includes Martin Luther King Jr Way between 6th Avenue and South 19th Street.

Andy discussed the Community Outreach and Engagement, which included utilizing grassroots organizations on Hilltop, door-to-door outreach, and a storefront office on 1120 S 11th. At this time there are 16 staffed office hours—includes the City, Consultant (AHBL) and Sound Transit. Hours will be expanded soon.

Co-Chair Leighton asked who was on the Hilltop Engagement Committee (HEC). Ian stated that there is a mix of residents and business owners, and will be sending the list to the Commission. The HEC meets the first Wednesday of each month at Bates Technical College in the Boardroom at 5:00 PM.

Co-Chair Leighton asked about concerns voiced and said that it was critical that not only businesses have a voice but residents as well.

Andy explained that gentrification and equity is a large concern as well as affordability in the area as Link construction goes in.

Ian explained that PDS is working on a grant with community training. The City will be working with Sound Transit – they have a project labor agreement.

CM Hyman asked about who has been showing up to the meetings.

Andy explained that in the last month, the people that walk-in are passersby and community residents, and the lunch crowd. She has also seen an uptick in students in the afternoon.

Diane gave an overview of the design phase (streetscape) of the project and the consultant team. She discussed how this project will coordinate with Sound Transit's construction timeline.

Co-Chair Leighton expressed concern about some of the community surveys and the framing of the questions – i.e. requesting opinions on street trees and whether or not they should be included, because there is City code that needs to be followed. Is someone from the City evaluating the surveys before they go out so that we are not giving out false narratives?

Ian stated that the City is not evaluating surveys beforehand, but when the community reports at the next meeting those questions/concerns to the survey questions will be part of the discussion.

CM Hyman asked if she had a cool idea for how to get bikes uphill, how she would convey that information.

Diane explained that it can be emailed, dropped off at the project office, or

submitted online at [www.cityoftacoma.org/links](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/links).

CM Mason said she remembered there was some concern from some businesses and residents about the stops-if they were on the middle of the street or the curb. Diane explained that this was vetted already and that there would be people unhappy with either situation, but the final outcome was a center platform.

Co-Chair Leighton asked if the minutes will be posted on the website and it was confirmed that they would be.

***c. Pierce Transit High Capacity Transit –Pacific Avenue  
(Informational, Darin Stavish)***

Darin gave an overview of the project and provided handouts, which included the feasibility study of High Capacity Transit on Pacific Avenue between downtown Tacoma and Roy Y. They have completed 4 Open Houses so far. The study includes evaluating various modes – retain fixed route, enhanced bus, bus rapid transit, streetcar, light rail. Pierce Transit is required to evaluate all modes, even if not cost effective or potentially feasible. The project began early 2017 and they hope to begin construction in 2019 if they receive funding next year. There is a virtual Open House on the Pierce Transit website.

The next Public Open House will be at UWT on Nov. 14.

CM Thurlow asked for examples of enhanced bus vs. bus rapid transit (BRT). Darin said that enhanced bus is a bus rapid transit light, similar to Metro King County Transit Rapid Ride. May have fewer stops and look slightly different from other transit buses.

Co-Chair Leighton stated that these are defined by the FTA. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) would include a more dedicated lane and is the recommended mode.

Darin went over the Service Plan and options that were analyzed, which includes headway times and stop/station spacing.

Co-Chair Leighton asked about the secured funding.

Darin explained that \$15M was secured through federal funds and another \$60M through ST3.

CM Hyman asked what would happen to Route 1 if BRT moves forward.

In a replacement option Route 1 goes away. Darin explained that the number of stops would likely reduce and ridership may be affected or increased. The outcome has not been vetted out.

CM Nyland asked what the improvement would actually be, e.g. what the time from Roy Y would be.

Darin stated that the project will create a model of the travel timing and ridership, and this will be available in February when the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of Open Houses begins.

CM Hyman asked if they include as a third model if you don't do anything except

enhance the Route 1 what that would look like?

Darin said the funds could not be used to enhance Route 1.

Co-chair Leighton explained that the goal is to reduce travel times, to make it more competitive with driving a car.

CM Nyland explained that this is a big part of the story to reduce travel times and increase ridership.

Co-Chair Leighton asked if an evaluation of right-of-way needs has occurred. Darin stated that they have not designed out how much ROW will be needed and have not brought this to the community at this time. This will be brought to the next round of Open Houses.

CM Mason asked about the sidewalk connection in the south end of the City, especially if the stop spacing is farther apart since the sidewalks are not all connected and not in the best shape.

CM Brown stated that lighting is an issue in the south end and not enough cross walks.

Co-Chair Leighton stated that this project should be a City partnership similar to Hilltop Links to Opportunity to enhance the corridor with the City being an active partner.

CM Warren asked if lighting and sidewalk enhancements could be funded by the \$75M?

Darin will follow-up on this.

Co-Chair Leighton asked for more information about equity and Title 6.

Darin stated that Route 1 did not have the specific data for income or diversity, but that the ridership lends itself to those that don't have vehicles. He also mentioned that outreach is being done in Spanish.

Co-chair Leighton added that transit agencies have to do an evaluation for Title 6 areas, which is racial and income diversity and that this corridor is one of the densest areas of Title 6.

In closing Co-Chair Leighton asked that Pierce Transit come to the Commission regularly with updates on the project and the Commission will write comment or support letters.

***c. Commission Elections (Jennifer Kammerzell)***

Jennifer provided an overview of the election process and clarified that the term was 1 year and was renewable annually with no term limit.

Co-Chair Leighton asked if anyone was interested.

CM Nyland stated he would be willing to Co-chair if either Co-chairs Leighton or

Moore would like to step away.

Discussion ensued regarding the best structure (Co-chairs or a Chair and Vice-Chair).

- i. It was moved and seconded to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair structure. Motion passes (no oppositions).
- ii. Per the Bylaws, the elections are to be held in June. Mason motioned to elect Leighton to Chair and Moore to Vice Chair until June 2018. Motion passes (no oppositions).

## **A. Other Business/Updates**

### ***a. Parking Technical Advisory Group (PTAG)***

CM Hyman stated that the group is making tweaks to the new Residential Parking Permit program. She gave an overview of the program that includes a petition, annual cost, and enforcement.

CM Warren asked if the program was location based.

CM Hyman explained the background of the program and the fact that the original parking system was very archaic. The new program is 2 hours or by permit and requires a petition. The focus is on residential areas that are close to businesses.

### ***b. Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG)***

Co-Chair Moore and Jennifer stated that presentations included E. 64th Street project and also the group is working on developing Pedestrian Implementation Strategies.

### ***c. Planning Commission Agenda***

The agenda was provided prior to the Commission meeting and one of the items on it was the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan.

### ***d. Commission Comments***

CM Mason asked how to bring forward concerns from the community. There are a variety of options – it can be brought to the meeting for Commission Comments, emailed to staff, or give direction to the appropriate department/group.

CM Hyman asked what happened to the Commission's wish list of projects/concerns.

Co-chair Moore said staff had added a list of the items on the workplan to the back of the agenda.

CM Hyman asked about specifically her request for a U-turn at South 21st Street and Pacific Avenue, because you can't turn left on Pacific Avenue.

Josh said there are a couple of potential options to bring it up including a one on one meeting, or add it to the work plan and bring it to the Co-chairs meeting.

Co-chair Leighton said we could add it to the Commission agenda – he said it sounds like it would need a traffic study.

Co-Chair Leighton asked about the Sidewalk Low-Income Loan Program and the update to the Hazardous Sidewalk Program. He heard that it is now on a waiting

list behind the comprehensive review of sidewalk replacement and planning. He hopes that this review be brought to the Transportation Commission .

Co-Chair Leighton stated that as part of the Puyallup Avenue Corridor Study it was brought up that if no other traffic studies are going to be done that Puyallup Avenue be designated on the priority list, which means removing it from the Conflicted Corridor List on page 105.

Jennifer explained that the study will be presented to IPS on October 25th, which will include a Hybrid option and discussion about the letters of concern (including the Transportation Commission letter). Since we amend the TMP every 2 years the amendment would be due now and since there are potentially more traffic studies we would not want to amend yet.

Co-chair Leighton asked who is working a hybrid. Jennifer said the project team is working on it.

The Commission reiterated the need for Conflicted Corridors to be brought to the Transportation Commission early and often.

CM Thurlow asked about the timing of when the Transportation Commission gets involved in projects or processes.

CM Nyland stated that when there is a deviation from the plan, there should be a justification that is brought to the Commission for review.

Co-chair Leighton said that would be the case when it applies to transportation.

CM Mason asked if we would be receiving a briefing on the hybrid option for Puyallup Avenue. Co-chair Leighton said that he would bring it up with CM Mello.

CM Thurlow asked if the TC review and comment was a required before proceeding beyond a certain point.

Co-chair Leighton said that this is a request to staff.

## **B. Staff Reports**

TMP amendments being presented to IPS on 11/1 although it could get pushed back. Jennifer mentioned that at the Planning Commission Co-chair meeting the Tideflats was brought up and will be coming up next year for the Commission to be involved with.

Josh stated that the Town Center ground breaking was last week. Public Works is part of the design review.

TIB will be announcing next month what grants were awarded for S. 21<sup>st</sup> St. Staff also submitted a grant for the Transportation Alternative Grant – it has to do with one of the comments that was made about Links to Opportunity and would continue the Fawcett Avenue Bike Blvd and provide east west connections up the hill to get to Hilltop.

Co-chair Moore asked about the Town Center – the pictures on the website do not

show a bicycle facility as is required in the TMP. Josh said he has not seen a final design and said some of the rendering they are using may be old.

Co-chair Moore said we need to make sure that the private facility has bike lanes.

Co-Chair Leighton asked the Commission to reconsider changing the structure to Co-Chair for him and Co-chair Moore, as they have operated well as a team.

***c. Upcoming Public Meetings & Events***

None discussed.

**C. Public Comment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.