



## MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Transportation Commission Meeting

TIME: Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conf. Room 243, Tacoma Municipal Building  
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

### 1. Call to Order

Co-chair Leighton called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call/Introductions

CM Skaught and Warren were excused from the meeting. Motion was taken and approved.

### 3. Approval of Minutes (October minutes)

Page 2, Item 5 – close to the bottom of the page. Where it says Sound Transit has a ‘budget labor agreement’ it should say ‘project labor agreement’.

Page 6, about halfway down – CM Mason asked if the TC would receive a briefing on the hybrid option for E. 64<sup>th</sup> – it should be ‘Puyallup Avenue’.

Minutes were approved with changes noted above.

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

No public comment.

### 5. Business Items

#### **Agenda Items a. and b. were switched.**

#### ***a. Capital Projects Update (Sue O’Neill)- Informational***

Sue provided several handouts and a presentation which included an overview of the Project Delivery group as well as a brief explanation of how projects become a project, referencing the Six Year Transp. Imp. Plan, the Transportation Master Plan (TMP), partnerships and Council driven requests to name a few. Funding for Capital projects is generally done with grant money with some exceptions such as use of City funds – REET, MVFT, etc., partnerships or private funds.

*Co-chair Leighton asked about the South Tacoma Way corridor safety improvements that were done between South M and South G Street. Didn’t we just*



*do a lot of work on South Tacoma Way? What's left to do on it?*

*Sue said that STW between 43<sup>rd</sup> & 47<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> to 66<sup>th</sup> was done previously so it was not the entire length, but also clarified that the latest grant is an HSIP grant specifically for signal and pedestrian crossing improvements along the corridor.*

Sue discussed current capital projects and their status referencing a spreadsheet which summarizes details for each project and is updated approx. monthly. At this time there are about \$136M in projects underway.

*Co-chair Leighton asked Josh if there was a way that the TC could get this project list and add where these projects are in the priority list in the TMP – just by the number in the TMP.*

*Josh clarified that Co-chair Leighton was referring to the Appendix of the TMP.*

Sue offered to share an update to the spreadsheet with the TC and they agreed that every 6 months or so would be helpful. She also said that the Commission is welcome to contact the Project Manager listed for a particular project if they have questions, but asked that Jennifer be copied on any e-mails so that she is kept in the loop. Likewise if the Commission would like to see a presentation they would be happy to present.

Co-chair Leighton commented that in order for the Commission to have input on a project it shouldn't be that they have to voluntarily go to attend an Open House and provide their input on a comment card, the process should be a more formal one where the Commission takes their comments to the City and advises on Transportation projects.

Josh also said that this could be revisited early next year when the list of projects we anticipate would be good candidates for funding is pulled from the priority list.

*CM Mason asked how you know the funding source for a project if it is getting money from Streets Initiative.*

*Sue said that it is listed in the funding source column and if you see 1085 that is the fund number for Streets Initiative.*

Sue showed everyone how to navigate the City website to get to the Capital projects web pages. She also pointed out another link once you are on the Capital project page which takes you to the ROW Capital Project tracking & moratorium map.

*CM Thurlow asked about Item 20 on the handout, Taylor Way lack of funding.*

*Sue said they just heard today that they should be receiving \$8.9M in funding.*

***b. Sound Transit Link Extension Update (Chelsea Levy & Susan Komis)***

Chelsea Levy provided handouts which reflected what was shown at the recent Open House on November 8. She also confirmed that construction starts next year and went on to provide details about the project.

*CM Hyman asked for more information about the prohibited left turns and if they were only in that direction as well as how people will be re-routed.*

*Co-chair Leighton said you would just circle the block to get there. Josh said that this was researched carefully and they found not as many cars made left-hand turns at these locations as you would expect.*

*Chelsea and Susan said this is just in NB lane and will require behavioral changes by pedestrians and motorists.*

*They tried to avoid mid-block crossings because they are not safe for pedestrians.*

Susan said that once the extension is complete there will be a cost to ride on the link.

*CM Mason asked if the fare charged would cover the whole trip.*

*Chelsea and Susan said that at this time they think it will be one cost for the whole trip since it is relatively short, but that has not been finalized.*

*CM Nyland said that he has heard from wheelchair users that they do not like having to employ the small lift that exists currently on the link. It does not exist on the light rail in Seattle. Is it because it's a different tram?*

*Susan said that they are different car styles. The link light rail in Seattle is a more sophisticated car so they don't require that lift piece (bridge plate); however the streetcars in Seattle are just like the ones here. She pointed out that there are probably some wheelchair users who could skip across the gap but if the bridge plate needs to be deployed it is pretty quick.*

Susan discussed the Traction Power Substations (TPSS) locations and design.

*CM Hyman asked about the parking strips that will be pushed out to allow for construction and asked if the parking spots were being relocated.*

*Susan said they were not relocated because there is not any room on that side of the street for parking.*

*CM Hyman asked how many spots were taken away for the project.*

*Susan said approximately 60 parking spots were removed.*

*CM Hyman asked approximately how many stalls around each station were removed.*

*Susan said she does but not with her, so she will look that up and send it to the group.*

*Co-chair Leighton asked if they could figure out how much sidewalk is being added or improved as part of the project as well as improving the crosswalks and adding ADA ramps.*

*Susan said that the sidewalks are not being improved but she will get the information to Josh. The City has a \$2.5M FTA grant – 'Links to Opportunity' – which will take care of the sidewalk improvements.*

Susan provided a timeline for construction and said that shortly after the beginning of the year there will be some utility work to get things relocated- gas, Century Link and TPU overhead lines. Sound Transit's contractor will be starting sometime in the Fall. There will be relocation and in some cases updating of the following – storm drainage, sanitary sewer and water main.

Chelsea touched on the ongoing outreach for the project.

*Co-chair Leighton asked whether or not they will start at one point- Old City Hall and work their way up or work simultaneously at several locations.*

*Chelsea said that they are working with the City so that work can be done simultaneously as that will help accelerate the schedule.*

*CM Nyland asked if the car builder has been identified.*

*Susan said yes it is 'Brookeville'.*

***c. Fast Foot (Passenger) Ferry (Ian Munce)- Informational***

Ian provided a brief presentation and mentioned that there has always been interest in a fast foot ferry – especially in Kitsap County and Bremerton but there were wake issues with the boat. For the last 10 years Kitsap County has been working on no wake boats as well as electric boats.

Monday night Pierce Transit Board took steps to see if a Fast Foot Ferry might work for Tacoma and may be putting out a scope of work for a feasibility study.

Foss Waterway is also interested and feels there is potential for using the elevator and stairs at the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge.

*CM Hyman asked what the process would be. Ian said there is no process yet.*

Co-chair Leighton gave more of an overview of the Kitsap county ferries. He has been on it several times and it is quite fast – takes about 30 minutes from Bremerton to Seattle.

He also pointed out that there is still a need for local bus service and feels that should take priority.

***d. Cancellation of December 20, 2017 Meeting***

***e. Leadership of the Commission – added item***

Co-Chair Leighton asked that someone take a motion that he and CM Moore work as Co-Chairs.

The motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

**6. Other Business/Updates**

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

CM Hyman stated that the group is continuing to work on the Residential Parking Permit program and trying to find a way to make it easier.

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

Co-Chair Moore said that they had a presentation on the Links to Opportunity project. The biggest issue is Division, 1<sup>st</sup> & Yakima by Wright Park because the current bike lane will need to be realigned so that their tires don't get caught in the tracks.

Also discussed was South 19<sup>th</sup> by Fred Meyer & Cheney Stadium and the possible addition of a signalized crosswalk. There are 2 bus stops on the north side of the street but it's a long way from the bus stops to the current intersections and crosswalks. They are much further apart than is specified as preferable in the TMP. Next meeting will be Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> – Pipeline Trail update will be provided and continued discussion of S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

*CM Miller asked how the advisory groups work with this group and if Co-chair Moore was the representative from TC.*

*Co-chair Moore said that she attends most of the BPTAG meetings so could be considered the TC representative. Also BPTAG asks for a report from TC at their meetings.*

***c. Planning Commission Agenda***

They did not have a quorum today so there was no meeting.

***d. Commission Comments***

Co-chair Leighton asked if PW would be getting a transportation planner on board. Josh said that the Transportation and Traffic Engineering group is understaffed so there is no dedicated person exclusively for transportation planning, although staff does this as part of their daily jobs.

We have requested a position in the mid-biennium budget request for an Associate Planner, but their focus would be more on the SRTS.

Josh said that he previously requested a planner and will bring the request up again in the next budget update.

Co-Chair Moore mentioned there were indications that the SRTS position might get removed from the budget before City Council can consider it. She would like the TC to say something in support of having a SRTS coordinator as it would be in line with at least 3 policies of the TMP – 2.3 –improve safety, 2.6-work towards safer routes to school, 3.8-equity in transportation.

CM Nyland's understanding was that the position would be half funded by the City and half by the School.

Josh said that this is not the budget proposal that was brought forward – it would be funded by the City.

Discussion ensued and it was determined that a letter should be written to the City Manager with a copy to Council and PW Director.

Co-chair Leighton asked for a motion to draft a letter of support for the SRTS coordinator position.

The motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Co-chair Moore let everyone know that there is a WSDOT conference coming up – ‘Innovations & Partnerships in Transp., Conference 3’ Tues. Dec. 5 – costs \$150.

*CM Hyman asked what happens if a lot of the TC members show up.*

*Co-chair Leighton said members can attend just avoid making a quorum in the corner and no business discussion. Also it was noted that 5 make a quorum now.*

*CM Nyland asked if there was funding from the City to pay for members to attend. Josh said we would look into it.*

## **7. Staff Reports**

### ***a. Responses to Commission Inquiries***

Nadine mentioned that the dockless bike program will be discussed at the next BPTAG meeting.

Josh elaborated on the program and previous discussions about having a bike share program in the City.

*CM Miller asked if you could unlock the bikes without an I-phone.*

*Josh said we are discussing that with Lime Bike but don't have an answer yet.*

Josh discussed the handouts provided by staff including the letter from Mark D'Andrea in response to the Puyallup Ave. corridor study comments, a Table which responds to questions that came up about Pierce Transit franchise agreements and expenditures and their current status. The advertising agreement is being updated so in future years the collections may be changing from what is noted on the spreadsheet.

*Co-chair Leighton said that the People's Pool ROW improvement was not near a bus stop and was not pre-approved by Pierce Transit. He said since it has been completed there is nothing additional to be done, but wants to make sure it is not noted as pre-approved.*

*Josh said he would look into this.*

Another question asked at the last meeting was whether or not a portion of the \$75M for the Pacific Avenue corridor could be used for sidewalks and lighting. The e-mail response from Pierce Transit was that it is constrained to those items which support transit – if they do and they don't cost too much, it could be included.

There is a WSDOT meeting tomorrow night at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Pacific about converting 32<sup>nd</sup> Street to one-way.

Horizon Development parking garage and access to Pacific Avenue. The plans have been reviewed but not finalized. It's anticipated that they will have access to Pacific Avenue between 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Josh is not sure what the justification was for granting that variance to allow access on Pacific Avenue. In some cases it's not possible to provide access at another location.

Making U-turns on Pacific Avenue – Josh will e-mail Judy a response.

Mid-biennium discussion – once we know those results we will provide them to the Commission so we know what impact it will have on the funding in coming years. Also eligible grants discussion will be a future topic.

Finally, the Commission asked for information about how the Planning Commission planned to tackle some of the items on their 2016-2018 work plan which related to Transportation. Specifically, the 20 Minute Neighborhood Baseline Analysis (achieving growth target), Street Typology & Designation System Review & Signature Trails Development.

Co-chair Moore asked how the Transportation Commission would be engaged in these items. Planning Department staff report that due to the addition of several interim regulations, the emergency public health declaration regarding homelessness, and staff time being dedicated to other items such as the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan, those three topics have been deferred.

The Planning Commission's calendar is expected to be focused on the annual update until at least next summer, and staff does not anticipate that these items will be on the workplan until at least next fall.

*Co-chair Leighton asked how they plan to include the TC in the discussions about transportation.*

*Josh said since they don't have a timeline yet they don't have an answer to that yet.*

Request for Fee in lieu discussion follow up – this was pulled from the Council Agenda yesterday, and Staff will likely be considering this in conjunction with an impact fees. We anticipate hiring a consultant next year to structure this program and address how it might best be tailored to fit the City of Tacoma.

This will be revisited in the Spring with the TC.

### ***b. Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects***

Grants – primarily covered in Sue's presentation, but we have the two projects that we are expecting to hear about Friday.

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

CM Hyman mentioned a Broadway Center fund raiser on Friday for Santa Rosa fires and Puerto Rican hurricane devastation. \$25 a ticker and 100% of proceeds go to the victims.

Open House Nov. 16 for E 64<sup>th</sup> Street at Good Hope Community church.

## **8. Public Comment**

Kimberly Freeman spoke to the Commission. She formerly sat on the Planning Commission when the Mobility Plan was adopted and wanted to bring up impact fees.

Since Pierce County is the fastest growing county in the nation she is concerned, especially when you see all the units going in at Point Ruston. Concerned with road, sidewalk, bicycle and transit improvements that are needed to match that

growth. She is excited to have the City capture those costs and is excited that we are going to look at impact fees.

She would like to see the meeting agenda posted on line prior to the meeting.

The idea of fast foot ferries is great but she agrees with Co-chair Leighton about our bus system needing improvement first.

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