



MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Transportation Commission Meeting

TIME: Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 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

Co-Chair Moore, CM Hyman, CM Miller, and CM Skaught were excused from the meeting. Motion was taken and approved.

3. Approval of Minutes (November minutes)

Minutes were approved with no changes.

4. Public Comment for Items on the Agenda

No public comment.

5. Business Items

a. 2017 Accomplishments & 2018 Work Plan Development (Jennifer Kammerzell)

Jennifer explained the process and said that the Transportation Commission (TC) gives a presentation for the IPS so they know what the TC has done over the previous year and what the plans are for the current year, and can provide feedback to the Commission as well.

Commission member term adjustments per Council request were briefly discussed. Jennifer went into the Accomplishments for 2017 which she pulls from agendas and correspondence throughout the year. Topics covered included:

- Capital project participation
- Transportation Master Plan Implementation & Amendments
- 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program Annual Amendment
- Streets Initiative Progress Reporting
- Capital Project Planning and Grant Review
- Agency Coordination (Pierce Transit & Sound Transit)



- WSDOT
- Commission Coordination (Planning Comm., Sustainable Tacoma Commission & PTAG, BPTAG) – there were no joint meetings last year.

CM Thurlow mentioned when the Commission looks at WSDOT SR 167 program this year, he'd like to point out the lack of planning by WSDOT regarding the interaction of the existing intersections and the overall impact to traffic.

Co-Chair Leighton said that the Commission identified in the TMP that they expect WSDOT to build a pedestrian bicycle throughput from NE Tacoma from one side of 167 extension to the other side to connect Marine View Drive. The timeline for the project is 2029.

Jennifer mentioned that WSDOT will be asked to come back and present to the Commission.

Jennifer went into the 2018 Work Plan and touched on the following topics:

- 6-Year Transportation Program (Annual Amendment)
- Transportation Master Plan Biennial Amendments (start accepting requests to amend in Winter 2018). Ready for Planning Commission by Fall 2019.
- Streets Initiative Progress Reporting – Capital and Active Transportation Projects & Programs (2017 Accomplishments and 2018 Work Plan)
- Amend Bylaws for elections since interview schedule has changed
- Project Participation – Jennifer provided a list of potential projects
- Agency Coordination
- Transportation Master Plan Biennial Amendments
- Updates to the Pierce Transit Franchise Agreement and Curb Ramp App

Question: What is the Curb Ramp App?

Answer: The City worked with UWT students to create this app on your phone. Our inspectors can enter information about each location they visit so that the City has an inventory and knows where improvements are needed. This will also help create accessible routes.

CM Leighton asked if the program included allowing the public to enter information.

The Curb Ramp program does not allow crowd sourcing, but there is an open sidewalk app developed by UWT that does.

Jennifer let the group know that the other handout was a calendar which she worked on with the Co-Chairs where Agenda topics are listed for the year, and asked the group to add their comments or any other projects they might think of.

CM Thurlow brought up the Waze app and how it diverts people to residential neighborhoods and was wondering if there is a solution to the unintended effect it has on side streets.

Josh said that he has not seen any literature that quantifies that, but thinks it is worth the City looking into.

CM Leighton mentioned an article he had seen related to the subject. Discussion ensued.

CM Mason brought up the E. 11th St viaduct study and said maybe the TC would like a briefing. She also asked if the Commission would want to be involved if the feasibility study for the fast foot ferries went through. Co-Chair Leighton said the TC would want to be involved in both.

CM Mason clarified the City was going to be giving \$30K for the study but Pierce Transit is the lead.

Co-Chair Leighton feels the Commission should draft a letter to Chair Mello and City Manager Pauli asking to be a part of the City interviews for a new economic development director. He feels the previous director did not read and understand the TMP.

Co-Chair Leighton asked that the hazardous sidewalks be included on the work plan – he has been trying for almost 2 years to create a low income revolving loan fund for people who cannot afford to pay for their broken sidewalk up front. He has been trying to get this to happen for some time with no results. Would like to work with staff to evaluate the program and identify policies and the financial gaps that need to be addressed by City Council and then advocate that in the budget a certain \$ amount is spent on hazardous sidewalks.

Co-Chair Leighton would like to draft a letter to Chair Mello and the City Manager saying we are requesting IPS direct us to do a full review with staff of the hazardous sidewalk program and come back to us by Sept. with recommendations of policy and financial changes.

CM Nyland said he is all for the letter and mentioned that he had also been working on this as part of the Disabilities Commission. The average amount of time it takes from someone noticing an unfit sidewalk to reporting it to the City to the sidewalk getting repaired is 11 years – that shows how dysfunctional the program is.

CM Mason made a motion to approve working on a letter to IPS regarding the hazardous sidewalk program – the motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

CM Thurlow mentioned when he went to the Neighborhoods USA conference there was a process for citizens to document sidewalk and curb conditions. It would be great to have an app that allowed citizens to input sidewalk conditions since we don't currently have a sidewalk inventory. Co-Chair Leighton said this sounded like the existing openSidewalks App from UWT. He will look into it as it would be a good grant to apply for.

Discussion ensued.

CM Mason asked if there was an opportunity to do some education on the different street symbols (primarily for bike lanes) – i.e. 26th & Pearl – dashed lines and green sections. It would be helpful to educate the community (maybe send out a

flyer) about the meaning of the signs.

Josh said that moving forward education is something the City needs to think about – not just signage but new traffic devices. Flashing yellow arrows, HAWK beacons, etc.

Co-Chair Leighton suggested talking to Meredith and doing some outreach in conjunction with Downtown on the Go (DOTG).

Jennifer said we would look into this and see how we can incorporate an education piece.

Co-Chair Leighton mentioned how dark it is around the school – in particular McCarver since he was just driving there this morning. The only lights were at the intersection and those attached to the building itself. *Is there any standard about how lit we make the streets adjacent to a school?*

Jennifer said this could be part of the walking audit being done by SRTS and look at sidewalks, lighting, etc. Josh said we can pull studies showing the number of accidents daytime vs night from WSDOT.

Jennifer said that she would include all the items proposed in the agendas each month and as new ones come up during meetings they can be added at any time.

CM Mason said as a reminder the Commission asked that Sue come back every 6 months or so with an update on Capital projects.

6. Other Business/Updates

a. Parking Technical Advisory Group (PTAG)

Rachel had a few items:

- End of 2017 PTAG wrapped up the discussion with residential parking program and what the zones would look like in areas of mixed use and drafted a letter and will present their recommendation to City Manager by end of January.
- No January meeting for PTAG
- In 2018 PTAG will be working on Stadium occupancy study and that will bleed into the Spring kicking off engagement with business districts & community about parking management in Stadium. That will continue to end of 2018.
- Staff received draft occupancy report for downtown and will be reviewing those result.

b. Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG)

Cancelled in December and no agenda for January available to share.

c. Planning Commission Agenda

No meeting but they have 2 vacant positions if anyone is interested in attending meetings two times a month for a few hours. Meeting time has been moved to 5 pm.

d. Commission Comments

Co-Chair Leighton said that he has been conversing with Planning Commission chair regarding Light Rail and HCT. Discussion about Zoning around the future central Link stations – Portland Ave & I-5 area. Making sure the right zoning is in place around the Tacoma Dome area. Future Link extension along 19th Street zoning considerations. Moving forward said that a few TC members could meet with Planning Commission to have joint committee discussions.

7. Staff Reports

a. Responses to Commission Inquiries

No staff reports.

b. Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects

No updates.

c. Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

No updates.

8. Public Comment

No public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.