



Minutes

Meeting: Regular Meeting
Time: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 5:30 P.M.
Place: Conference Room 243, Tacoma Municipal Building, 2nd Floor
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

I. Call to Order (5:31)

Co-Chair Leighton called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

No absences. Co-Chair Leighton explained that the agenda layout has been modified and the order will be modified as well to allow advisory group and liaison reports to be moved to Item 4a under Public Comment.

III. Approval of Minutes (August 15, 2018)

The minutes will be delayed to the October 17, 2018 meeting.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

- a) Kristina Walker from Downtown on the Go (DOTG) provided comment on the Schuster Parkway project.
- b) Liz Kaster from Puyallup Watershed Initiative (PWI) provided comment on the Schuster Parkway project.

Co-chair Leighton asked Kristina and Liz what they were looking for in regards to safety elements. Liz stated slower speeds and physical separation from cars.

- c) David Cook from Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory group (BPTAG) provided comment on the Schuster Parkway project.

V. Advisory/Liaison Reports

- a) Parking Technical Advisory Group (PTAG) (Rachel Lindahl)
Rachel explained that PTAG conducted 2 special meetings in the Stadium Area to discuss parking concerns, including consistent enforcement, how Link will impact parking dynamic and safety. Next steps will be to review the comments and identify appropriate tools to help address comments/concerns. They will also start to review the downtown occupancy study and assess parking management by areas. The group is looking at separating the whole parking district into small management zones (from 6th



Avenue to S 23rd waterway to Tacoma Avenue). That way parking strategies can be more adaptive to the prevailing land use.

VI. Business Items (5:45)

a) Schuster Parkway (Diane Sheesley, 15 minutes)

Diane Sheesley provided an update to the project, which includes a change in project timeline and scope. *Jennifer will email the August 15th presentation to the Commission, specifically new members.* Based on feedback from City Council, the stakeholder committee, community feedback, and staff, the project will be altering the scope of the project. The scope would include looking at interim and long term solutions, as well as conducting a more comprehensive planning process.

CM Skaught said that she was glad to hear that there would be other options, as she wasn't satisfied with the proposed options.

CM Gardner asked what feedback was provided as part of the outreach. Diane stated that they had heard a variety of comments regarding speed, physical separation, and cost.

Co-Chair Leighton asked about the traffic study that was done about potentially shutting down one lane. Diane explained that the study shows that Schuster Parkway can operate at acceptable levels with one lane southbound. Diane let the group know that Burlington Northern owns all of Schuster Parkway, and the City has a transportation easement with them.

Co-Chair Leighton asked about potential short-term solutions. Diane explained that is what the stakeholder committee hopes to identify.

Co-Chair Leighton asked about timeline. *Diane does not have a specific schedule, but is committed to coming back to Transportation Commission by the end of the year.*

Diane explained that the project will be tentatively presented to IPS on October 24, 2018 as an update rather than a recommendation.

b) Metro Parks Ruston Way Project (Andrew Austin, 15 minutes)

Andrew Austin, Metro Parks, provided an overview of Ruston Way ownership, historical operation, current operation, maintenance, and challenges. He also provided an overview of the project goal, objectives, partners and stakeholders, and next steps. The project is generally a planning project to prepare for capital investments and future improvements. Three focus area themes are transportation (equitable access and use of space), nature (where the land and The Salish Sea meet), and uses. *He explained that there is a survey available on the project website:*

<https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/envisionourwaterfront/>, and there will be numerous charrettes and outreach.



CM Brown asked how Metro Parks plans to reach out to South and Eastside communities. Andrew stated that they've been attending community events and speaking at community meetings, such as the Salishan National Night Out, Neighborhood Council meetings, and community centers.

CM Gardner asked about what the problems may be to establishing transit on Ruston Way. Andrew explained that the project has been following the Downtown to Defiance trolley data, but overall challenges include low ridership, lack of space for buses to operate outside of congested areas, and limited pedestrian access on the west side.

CM Nyland stated that focusing on any area to improve any mode would be good.

CM Miller shared concerns about challenges when riding a bicycle on street.

Co-Chair Leighton asked about considerations regarding the rise in sea level and costs of investments. Andrew explained that those are important conversations, but in the end there need to be repairs and improvements made.

Co-Chair Leighton stated that the approved project/plan needs to include TMP goals and policies, as well as future changes to the TMP. Andrew intends to keep the Commission apprised of the project progress.

- c) Committee Leadership – October Elections (Co-Chairs, 15 minutes)
Co-Chair Leighton and Co-Chair Moore explained that elections will be held in October. There is an option to vote on Chair and Vice Chair or Co-Chairs. The position runs the meetings, works with staff to plan agendas and follow-up on Commission inquiries, acts as a liaison to IPS, and helps to draft letters.

Jennifer said she would send out some By-Laws to the Commission.

VII. Other Business/Updates (6:30)

- a) Sound Transit TDLE Stakeholder Group (Raymond Williams)
Next meeting is September 27, 2018 – tonight was the Tacoma Open House.
- b) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Jane Moore)
The agenda included Schuster Parkway.
- c) Planning Commission (Jennifer Kammerzell)
September Agenda – Historic Preservation Code, JBLM Airport Compatibility Overlay District, & Future Land Use Map Implementation
- d) Commission Comments
Co-Chair Leighton asked that Work Items, similar to Planning Commission be added to the agenda.



CM Mason stated that Port of Tacoma will be hosting a free touch-a-truck event on October 6th at Port of Tacoma Administration Building.

CM Nyland asked that we add the district that folks represent to the agenda/minutes.

Co-Chair Moore stated that she attended the Pierce Transit BRT open house at UWT and was confused about the alternative to Puyallup Avenue. Co-Chair Leighton stated that the alternative is in response to the Dome District concerns about transit on Puyallup Avenue. CM Gardner stated that he attended the UWT meeting towards the end as well and that there were under a dozen people that had signed in. He said that the materials provided were similar to their previous handouts from the Spring.

CM Brown asked about what their outreach plan was. *Jennifer said that she would follow-up.* Other Commissioners stated that Pierce Transit has attended SENCO, a neighborhood meeting at Stewart Heights Park, the Washington State Fair.

Co-Chair Leighton asked that Commissioners come prepared to the October meeting or send questions to Jennifer before then, since Pierce Transit will be providing a presentation to the Commission in October.

Co-Chair Leighton explained that the Co-Chairs have voiced concerns that WSDOT leadership is not aware of our priority to have a pedestrian connection between northeast Tacoma and this side of the water once SR167 gets built. One of the TC biggest priorities is when 167 gets connected to the Port they want to make sure that pedestrian/bike Right-of-Way gets set aside. Co-chair Moore found this out through a conversation with the Deputy Secretary of WSDOT, Roger Millar while in Copenhagen. The Co-chairs will make a communication to the Secretary about this issue.

VIII. Staff Reports (6:45)

a) Responses to Commission Inquiries

BikeShare – Jennifer explained that an announcement will be made September 21, 2018 at PARKing Day about a pilot program for pedal bikes, e-bikes, and e-scooters. CM Nathan asked if there is a helmet law in Tacoma and Jennifer stated that there is a helmet law. It is recommended that BPTAG take the lead on evaluating and making recommendations about the pilot program.

CM Brown asked if there had been any conversations about connecting more bike lanes before investing in BikeShare programs. Jennifer said that several years ago when the BikeShare program came up, this topic was discussed. Some of the permitting fee will go towards improving bike facilities, similar to what is done in Seattle.

Biennial Budget – Jennifer stated that the City Manager will be presenting the budget to City Council on the October 2 Study Session. Public Works will be presenting their department budget to City Council on October 9 Study Session. This topic will be added to the agenda for October. *Jennifer will e-mail the information to TC.*



Impact Fees – Josh stated that he and Chief Duggan provided a presentation to City Council at Study Session on Impact Fees. Recommendation to Council is to form a Stakeholder group, hire a consultant to help us work through the remaining policy issues and come back to Council next year with recommendations.

Co-chair Leighton asked if staff had ever looked into the cost for a North 21st Street Design Cost Estimate. Is there a plan for what the street would look like between Proctor and Pearl on 21st? What would it take to create a master plan that Council could adopt? Josh stated that this would be a similar cost to Puyallup Avenue Corridor, which was about \$200,000.

- b) Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects – Jennifer said that Citywide Striping has kicked off. Thompson Ave was re-striped including bike lanes, Stevens was also partially striped, 6th Ave will be striped, weather dependent, and several school crosswalks have been done. They hope to be done with all striping within a month.

CM Mason mentioned that E. 56th Street sidewalks went before Council this week.

Co-chair Moore asked about the striping on Stevens and whether or not having striped it now makes it less eligible for grant funding to make it a protected bike facility as outlined in the TMP. Jennifer said that Stevens probably would not have scored well for grant funding to make it a protected bike facility, so at this point an interim solution is found. Co-Chair Leighton stated that the concern on Stevens is that a second stripe was not added, which would make it closer to a protected bike facility as outlined in the TMP. *Jennifer will follow-up on the project details.*

Upcoming Public Meetings & Events – Pierce Transit BRT Open Houses, Sound Transit Open Houses, PARKing Day

IX. Public Comment for items not on the agenda

There was no public comment

X. Adjourn (7:32)