



Minutes

Meeting: Regular Meeting
Time: Wednesday, October 17, 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 Moore called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

No absences. Commissioner Nyland and Commissioner Morris called in.

III. Approval of Minutes (August 15 & September 19, 2018)

Co-chair Leighton moved to approve the minutes. The Commission seconded and approved with one edit to the August minutes. Page 5 under BPTAG – ‘Planning Commission cancelled their August meeting’ should go under the next paragraph.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

a) Rick Semple provided comments on the Pierce Transit BRT item.

V. Business Items (5:33)

a) WSDOT HOV Program & Puget Sound Gateway Project

Gaius Sanoy provided an overview of the I-5 HOV project which includes the following locations:

1. I-5: M Street to Portland Ave. HOV – Complete Fall 2018
2. I-5: Portland Ave to Port of Tacoma Road NB HOV – Complete Fall 2018
3. I-5/SR16: Realignment and Connections – Complete 2019
4. I-5: Portland Avenue to Port of Tacoma Rd.SB HOV – Begins early 2019

He highlighted the progress made for M to Portland Avenue, which has been widened and includes the nearly completed McKinley Ave overpass. He also talked about the Portland Avenue to Port of Tacoma Rd segment that is nearing completion this Fall.

CC Leighton asked if the old southbound bridge will need to be taken down. Gaius explained that it will need to be demolished and traffic will need to be routed on the northbound bridge as an interim. The L Street bridge will need to be removed because of the pier locations.



CM Mason asked about what the lane shift will be when southbound is rerouted. Gaius explained that it would be 3 lanes southbound and 4 lanes northbound and it could be a 2 yr time period. There will be a collector distributor road for southbound that will exist as long as possible to route traffic from Port of Tacoma to Bay Street. Gaius explained that the project includes improving the sidewalks on Portland Avenue under I5. The plan is to add capacity by relocating the sidewalks behind the columns, with a barrier and widening them to 10 ft.

CM Miller asked if there would be a bike lane. Gaius explained that at this time, there isn't a bike lane, but there have been discussions with Sound Transit to potentially widen one or both sides.

CM Nathan asked why the lanes are being widened. Josh Diekmann stated that the lanes aren't necessarily getting wider, but the turn pockets are extending to provide better queue length and reduce conflicts.

CC Leighton asked that WSDOT include opportunities to improve lighting, incorporate art, and make it a more pedestrian friendly area. Gaius stated that WSDOT is committed to lighting and making it more pedestrian friendly.

CM Skaught asked what the limits of the project are, which Gaius explained it is intersection to intersection within WSDOT's ROW.

CC Leighton asked about timing and Gaius explained that it would happen in 2019.

Tom Slimak provided an overview of the SR167 project and updates. Phase 1 includes Meridian to the Port of Tacoma, which is approximately 6 miles with 5 interchanges proposed. Tom discussed the new trailhead for the Interurban Trail near 20th St, which also includes a trail that follows the new riparian area and continues to 70th Avenue. The trail will meet shared use path standards with gravel shoulders. The trail continues to 12th St, then crosses under the highway and ties into the Lower Hylebos trail and stream. A trail is also proposed from Taylor Way to Alexander Ave.

Tom discussed the construction staging and scheduling, which includes interim trail connections at the Interurban Trailhead (2019-2021) and then moving south (2021-2025). Tom provided an overview of the shared use path concepts between Taylor and Alexander. One concept includes utilizing the existing southbound 509 roadway as the trail base, which would tie-in to the City's current Taylor Way intersection improvements. The concepts have not been fully evaluated, but the core values are to provide connections to the existing trail and to Northeast Tacoma and Fife.

CM Gardner asked for clarification of access for trucks going to Taylor Way and Alexander Ave. Tom explained that freight access from SR167 to the Port of Tacoma is key to the design.



CM Mason asked if all of the lanes shown in the picture at Alexander Ave intersection are the same as existing. Tom stated that as part of the process, WSDOT is still evaluating the intersection control type and has a specific process to go through as part of the evaluation, but in general, the number of lanes would be the same. Tom explained that the next steps include forming a Bike/Ped Subcommittee in December (which will run through September 2019), continuing right-of-way (ROW) acquisition, develop stage 1A 30% design, and request for qualifications for the design-build project. CC Moore asked who would be on the Subcommittee. Tom stated that the Transportation Commission would likely be identified as a stakeholder. CC Leighton asked that the Transportation Commission be on the Subcommittee in addition to any other Tacoma groups, as the Commission has been advocating for the shared use trail and pedestrian and bicycle improvements. CC Leighton asked if there is community support for the trail. Tom said that the folks around Milgard and Hylebos areas are supportive.

b) Pierce Transit BRT project

Tina Lee provided an update on the BRT project, which includes scheduling, traffic considerations, station location, and lane configurations. She explained that as part of the public meetings, there were comments regarding stations locations. A new station may be added to Pacific Avenue and East 25th, and another removed/consolidated near South 96th and Pacific Avenue. Tina explained that they are doing additional traffic analysis to evaluate weaving/merging, operations across 512, and routing options on Puyallup Avenue.

CM Gardner brought up that current data will be skewed with the closure of McKinley Ave. Josh and Tina explained that they are using the best data they have, which includes some data from pre-McKinley Ave closure. Once the data is available, the project team plans to bring it to the community to discuss options.

CC Leighton asked about the mixed traffic and BAT (buses are on the right and only right turn vehicles are allowed) lane configurations. Tina highlighted the potential configurations that include both types and another hybrid option that includes an exclusive lane.

CC Leighton asked if the traffic analysis will include transit times and impacts to route timing. Tina explained that the analysis will include transit evaluation.

CM Brown asked if the hybrid option is considering the same number of stations. Tina explained that they are considering that as a worst case scenario. There may be an option to combine stations, but it depends on the type of bus and door locations (both sides or one-side). Tina provided an overview of the ridership and travel times for the various alternatives.



CC Leighton asked if the study really shows no significant traffic impacts between now and 2040 for no-build. Tina stated that it does.

CC Leighton asked what the difference is in travel time. Tina did not have the information, but will ask that it is included in the analysis and will report back. Tina is planning on providing a presentation to City Council in February and Pierce Transit Board in March with a recommendation. Tina provided an overview of the community engagement, which includes door knocking, multilingual outreach, and transit shelter and billboard advertising.

CM Nathan asked what the stations include. Tina explained that the stations will be “significant” with covered areas, ORCA card reader, ticket machines, raised stations, and the buses won’t have ticket machines to help expedite loading/unloading.

CC Leighton asked about the status of the federal grant. Tina said that they have not heard back, but have been approved as a project development phase and would hear in February.

CC Leighton stated that the City added a mobility project to the 6 Yr Transportation Improvement Program, which is an opportunity to help fund connections.

CM Mason asked if the fare would remain the same. Tina stated that they think it will be, but the Board has not made that decision.

CM Gardner asked about how the BRT will connect to the continuing Route 1 towards TCC. Tina explained that there will be a component of education so that folks know Route 1 on Pacific Avenue will go away, but that there will be a connection to the existing Route 1 towards TCC and that ensuring timing of the connections is appropriate.

CC Leighton talked about the benefits of consolidating stations and a hybrid option.

CM Gardner explained that as part of the route consolidation, the sidewalks will need to be improved.

CM Nathan asked about frequency of service. Tina stated that it will be a longer span over the day, but more frequent.

CM Nathan asked about connecting routes. Tina explained that it will be harder in certain areas because of the lack of growth in certain areas and the grant is only for capital and not operation.

CM Nyland voiced concerns that the community with disabilities is always concerned with lengthening the space between stations.

c) PTAG

Jennifer provided a summary of the last PTAG meeting. At the last meeting they continued discussion about Stadium outreach district. At the latest meeting they talked about potential parking controls mechanisms – signage, enforcement, occupancies, etc.



and what are the land uses by blocks and residential versus business. Next meeting will be to flesh out the recommended parking controls and look at sub zones within the downtown area.

d) Elections

CM Mason nominated CM Nyland, who accepted the nomination. Jennifer explained that CM Morris was also interested in a leadership position.

CC Leighton motioned to elect Jane and Gerrit as Co-Chairs. CM Skaught seconded the motion. CM Miller and CC Leighton stated that CM Nyland will bring experience and historical knowledge as part of any transition. The motion passed.

PTAG meets at 4:10 pm on the 1st Thursday of each month – CM Nathan or CC Leighton will attend.

CM Brown asked to be the BPTAG representative and was assigned as the liaison.

CC Moore asked who would be interested in being on the 2019 Work Plan Subcommittee. CM Miller, CC Nyland, and CC Morris would be on the Work Plan.

Jennifer will work with the subcommittee to organize a date. The subcommittee will also

work to assign Commissioners to Neighborhood Councils to help facilitate representation and dialogue.

VI. Other Business/Updates (6:55)

a) Sound Transit TDLE Stakeholder Group (Raymond Williams)

CM Williams explained that at the September 27, 2018 meeting, the Group were presented a summary of the outreach feedback. The goal was to make a recommendation to the elected leadership group regarding preferred alignment concepts. The main recommendation was to minimize disruption and impacts to the Puyallup River and historically sensitive areas. Josh explained that the elected leadership group accepted the Stakeholder group's recommendation and are holding a station technical meeting about the options in November. Jennifer will send out the options.

b) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Jane Moore)

The agenda included a discussion on the pilot Bikeshare Program. CM Skaught voiced concerns about some of the placements that obstruct streets or sidewalks. CM Miller asked what the City is doing about where the bikes and scooters can be placed.

CC Leighton asked if the City would or has included a no parking zone. Josh explained that this is a pilot program and the City is working through some of those issues and having those discussions with parks, business owners, and police regarding safety and enforcement. CM Nathan stated that as a Commissioner or person, folks can pick them up or move them. CM Brown asked about the helmet law. Josh and Jennifer explained



that the City is working with TPD regarding the helmet law and how some of the vendors are giving away helmets.

CC Moore explained that BPTAG will be evaluating the pilot program and providing a recommendation to the Transportation Commission.

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 as well. 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 about

VII. Staff Reports (6:45)

a) Responses to Commission Inquiries

Josh explained that the developer of the Town Center is no longer pursuing a vacation of Fawcett Avenue. The overall plan will no longer include a plaza, but would be required to include bike boulevard improvements.

Josh also stated that there might be delays to the Puyallup Avenue Bridge.

b) Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects – Jennifer stated that the City was contacted by WSDOT for field visits for the City's Mary Lyon ES, Whitman ES and 19th & Clay Huntington, which is a good sign for next steps.

c) Upcoming Public Meetings & Events – no updates

d) Commission Comments

CC Leighton asked about an update of the Street Initiative Fund projects.



CM Mason and CM Skaught asked about the Transportation Benefit District Board meeting. Jennifer and Josh will look into what was said.

CC Leighton moved to cancel the regular November meeting. The Commission seconded and approved.

VIII. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

IX. Adjourn (7:24)