



CITY OF TACOMA BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING MINUTES

DATE: December 15, 2014

GROUP MEMBERS

PRESENT: Justin Camarata, Aaron Knight, Dave Cook, Anne James, Paul Nordquist, Kendal Reid, Kris Symer, Jen

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Wiatr, Said Seddiki, Emily Campbell, Jim Parvey, Patrick Babbit, Justin Resnick

- **Meeting called to order at 5:35 PM**
- **Call to order, introductions, and approval of minutes**

Those present introduced themselves. November's minutes will be sent out to BPTAG Members via email to be approved following the meeting.

- **Water Ditch Trail Alignment Presentation – Dana Brown**

Dana handed out paperwork describing the Water Ditch Trail Alignment and discussed the progress and scope of this project, highlighting the four alternatives being considered for phase 2. He noted there is currently a contractor working on phase 2, and that the lowest level of service of all alternatives presented would be C. He noted that an open house and survey recently occurred to get community input on phase 3, and that phase 4 is actively being designed now. The City aims to have continuity of modes along corridors. Dana requested BPTAG feedback on the alternatives presented.

David spoke about his impressions from attending the open house and said that many people seemed to be in favor of alternative 1, a trail separated from vehicle traffic. Kris echoed David's comments, and added that she would like to see a design that put bike traffic up on a raised lane separated from vehicle traffic by a curb, and also separated from adjacent raised pedestrian traffic. This option would further separate and provide safety for bicyclists. Dana said they had not considered this option and was curious what they design standard for the concept is. This would likely be 12ft of raised infrastructure on each side of vehicle traffic, with 7ft for pedestrians and 5ft for bicycles. High speeds along the corridor encourage this option for increased safety.

Kris inquired about the cost of the projects; Dana and Said explained that they don't have cost estimates yet because they aren't basing their decisions and recommendations on cost. These alternative options will be brought to a Council Committee meeting. Diane commented that the experience for bicyclists and pedestrians would be essentially the same among alternatives 2, 3, and 4.

Regarding phase 4, the plan is to have a separated bike trail, reducing vehicle traffic from 4 to 3 lanes allowing for extra wide outside lanes so bikes can ride more safely with vehicle traffic if they choose to. There was mention of tradeoff between wide lanes with room for bikes and narrow lanes to slow traffic.

Dana handed out and discussed a letter from South Tacoma Neighborhood Council requesting to rename the Water Ditch Trail to the Historic Flume Line Trail. Dana mentioned the value of keeping the same name on projects for continuity when applying for grants, but explained that they are at the stage of adding signage and thus need to settle on a name. Council Member Walker wants to make sure as many people know about this potential name change. Dana briefly stated rationale for both names—a flume was used to carry water, and the water ditch right-of way is referenced in historic literature. The plan is to move forward with the name change, unless the group has concerns. If BPTAG chooses to write a letter advising on this topic, it should be done before the holidays.

Diane introduced Jim Parvey, the new supervisor of the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability, to the group. Jim thanked the group for their efforts.

- **Transportation Master Plan Update on Modal Prioritization** – Justin Resnick

Justin spoke about modal prioritization for the Transportation Master Plan (TMP); he passed out updated maps that show the locations of prioritized modes, and he requested to hear BPTAG Members' thoughts, concerns, and questions on particular corridors or other items. Justin mentioned that safe walkways and crosswalks as well as context sensitive design are the bare minimum standards for this portion of the TMP.

Along transit corridors there also needs to be a higher level of pedestrian facilities. The corridors lined in gray on the maps are those that the Transportation Commission highlighted as having many priority modes, and are where they need to choose the highest priorities. Modal priorities are discussed only for corridors with 4 or more conflicting modes of transportation. BPTAG Members examined the choice of a priority bike corridor near 6th Ave. Map markups and feedback are welcome from the group

Justin explained that the City is looking to have a system completeness standard with levels of service that take into account all modes of transportation rather than solely automobiles. The City is also working to come up with performance metrics that may include measures of safety, access, and equity. A visual differentiation on the maps

between trails and on-street bike corridors would be beneficial. 3 Maps detailing crash information were handed out. Outreach with Pierce Transit and the Port will be done this week, and public outreach will be done in January and February. To incorporate BPTAG comments before public outreach is begun, BPTAG comments should be in by January 12th.

Diane proposed that this topic be added to the January 12th BPTAG meeting agenda, at which time the group should reach a consensus and write a letter of recommendation following that meeting. Group Members should have personal recommendations/comments prior to that meeting. The Group requested electronic version of maps. Justin will send these to Diane to be sent to group.

▪ **Streetcar Subcommittee** – Justin Camarata

Justin Camarata presented the proposed streetcar routes for the new Transportation Master Plan. The routes connect centers and build off the existing alignment.

▪ **Letter of Support for APA/Health Grant for Tacoma Mall** – Diane asked the group if they would support a proposal for a grant that would include health issues in the development of the new Tacoma Mall SubArea Plan. The Group confirmed their support of this effort.

▪ **Light Rail Expansion and Bikes Report from Site Visit** – Anne James, Aaron Knight and Kris Symer. The Ad-hoc sub-committee went on a bicycle ride of the LINK light rail expansion route with Sound Transit's Sue Comis. Anne drafted a letter with the comments of the committee. Highlighted among those was to have safe passage for cyclists in all areas even where bike facilities were not going to be constructed. Center island station help achieve this goal in most areas. And pedestrians were also given consideration when providing input since pedestrian travel is of highest priority. Another general comment was to make certain that those cycling up Stadium would have safe travel on 1st Ave to connect to the bike boulevard on Yakima. Diane agreed to write a letter to Sound Transit with the comments and send it to Sue Comis.

▪ **Updates**

- BPTAG letter on 2015/16 Biannual Budget for Bikes/Pedestrians – Diane
- Prarie Line Trail and Tollefson Open House – Diane
- Seeking new BPTAG member due to Justin's retirement – Diane
- January and February BPTAG meeting date due to Federal Holiday – Proposed January 12 and February 9.

▪ **BPTAG Holiday Social and pizza party** – All