



CITY OF TACOMA BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING MINUTES

DATE: November 17, 2014

GROUP MEMBERS

PRESENT: Dave Cook, Aaron Knight, Paul Nordquist, Jen Halverson-Keen, Anne James, Kris Symer, Janet Higbee, Brandi Riddle

OTHERS PRESENT: Josh Diekmann, Diane Wiatr, Jane Moore, Emily Campbell

- **Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM**
- **Call to order, introductions, and approval of minutes**
- **Train Tracks and Bikes Citywide Evaluation—**Josh Diekmann

Josh presented about the City's desire to re-evaluate rail crossings due to recent incidents, with particular attention to bicycle crossings. He noted that the City has an incomplete inventory of rail crossings, and that there is potential to do a more complete assessment for the Transportation Master Plan. An unanswered question was posed about whether the list of crossings included just active or also inactive rail crossings.

Dave suggested the Group make an overarching recommendation for how to handle bicycle/rail crossings, and the Group's discussion included using filling, signage, and striping. Josh explained how frost heaves will likely disrupt fillings, and he stated that the rail agencies who maintain the crossings would likely be receptive to road markings.

Diane suggested Josh's group in Public Works compile these rail crossing locations on a master map. The Group could superimpose bike paths over rail crossings, and use the map to inform their recommendation. A subcommittee will be formed to address this; Dave will email the Group to ensure follow-up on this topic. The Group could conduct informal outreach through social networks to identify crossings that may be of particular concern.

- **Transportation Master Plan Update on Modal Prioritization—** Josh Diekmann

Josh noted that the Transportation Commission has examined areas where the prioritized mode of transportation is not clear. Jane stated that the Commission plans to reflect on the larger policies related to the topic of modal prioritization. Mode split targets are expected to shape the Commission's December conversation. The Group asked when they will have the opportunity to comment on this; Josh will find this out and report back to the Group.

- **Transportation Commission Meeting of Nov. 5 – Debrief of Multimodal Network—** Anne James

The Group discussed the corridor concept in an effort to clarify confusion and concern about multimodal prioritization. Discussion points included: if a corridor includes public transit, it also needs good pedestrian facilities; speed limits should be reduced to improve pedestrian safety; bike facilities on Puyallup are insufficient as transit freight is prioritized; there are not enough bike facilities on or around Portland Ave; and Level of Service goals will be dictated in part by mode prioritizations.

The Group asked if more than two modes of transportation can be prioritized on a corridor. At an upcoming Transportation Commission meeting, it is expected that a discussion of how many modes can be identified as priorities will be reopened. The point was made that prioritizing modes of transportation are not mutually exclusive, and that pedestrian safety is always a priority.

- **Amtrak Station Design and Bikes—** Anne James and Diane Wiatr

Diane spoke about the City's regulation that short- and long-term bike parking is required with new development. 10 short-term and 10 long-term bicycle spaces are required at the Amtrak station. Washington DOT is in discussion with Downtown on the Go regarding potentially getting a bike cage at the Dome station. This would likely include security cameras. Diane also mentioned that the New Tacoma Development Council is concerned with bike and pedestrian access.

- **Eco-Counter Demonstration—** Diane Wiatr and Emily Campbell, AmeriCorps Member

Emily demonstrated the online Eco-Counter program. She highlighted the existing counter locations on Division Ave and Park Ave, and demonstrated the various graphics that can be used to examine the count data, including pie charts, bar graphs, and table summaries, noting also that data can be viewed by month, week, day, hour, and even 15-minute increment.

- **LINK input for bikes along route – Create a sub-committee—** Diane Wiatr

Diane stated that a LINK expansion is being designed, and that the new design will potentially take into account a concern for interactions with bicyclists.

A sub-committee will be formed to advise on the bike route along the LINK rail, and will meet before December 11th to go on a bike ride along the rail area. Emily will make a Doodle Poll to determine meeting time.

- **BPTAG Response on 2015/16 Biannual Budget for Bikes/Pedestrians—** All

The Group reviewed the City's Proposed 2015-16 budget handouts with information about funding allocated to bike and pedestrian infrastructure. There was frustration in trying to understand the budget allocation due to a lack of clear information (such as a table), though it was believed that 1/4th of the infrastructure budget is allocated for pedestrian improvements. The group was frustrated and concerned that no money is specifically allocated to the Mobility Master Plan bicycle projects. There was discontent about the budget allocation not supporting accepted bicycle facility priorities, such as those that are laid out in the Mobility Master Plan, citizens' input, and the City's expectations (such as in the Safe Routes program).

The Group agreed that it is commendable that dollars have been dedicated to pedestrian projects, and agree that it is smart to match City funds with certain projects. It was reiterated that the Group has great concern that the amount of funding is not commensurate with priorities the City Council and the public identified, and that are identified in the Mobility Master Plan. The

Group would like to ask that money be allocated to implement bikeways that are listed as priorities in the Mobility Master Plan, on the order of ~\$500,000. The current funding did not seem commensurate with the 16% response rate in support of bike and pedestrian improvements per the public comments.

Diane agreed to draft a letter to the City Council voicing these concerns and the recommendation, and the Group Chairs will review it. It was suggested that the table of bike projects and progress (handed out at meeting) be attached to the letter.

▪ **Upcoming Events—**

Water Ditch Trail Open House – Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Wednesday, November 19, 4:30-6:30

Public Hearing on Proposed 2015-16 Budget- Council Chambers, Tuesday, November 25th @ 5:30

