



CITY OF TACOMA BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 27, 2017

GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Cook, Dan Hansen, Leon Nettels, Jennifer Halverson-Kuehn, Janet Higbee, Anne James, Cassie Head, Jolene Rogers,

OTHERS PRESENT: Meredith Soniat, Josh Diekmann, Jennifer Kammerzell, Aubrey Rosevear

Meeting called to order at 5:44 PM

▪ **Approval of Minutes**

January minutes approved with changes.

▪ **Public comment:** No public comment made during this meeting.

▪ **Introductions:**

1. Aubrey Rosevear was welcomed to the group as the latest member to BPTAG. Her membership will be official by the next meeting since some paperwork is still being completed.

▪ **Tacoma Streets Initiative – Active Transportation funding (Jennifer)**

The funding worksheet presented at the January meeting was revisited. Jennifer summarized it for everyone's benefit.

Summary: Last year the City put out a ballot measure which voters approved (Street Initiative). It was a tax to go towards street improvements and maintenance such as pothole repairs. The Street fund money has allowed the City to apply for more grants since we now have the match money needed to accept the grants. Each year we get a large amount of money (approx. \$10M) which we allocate to residential street repair. Half of the money also goes towards Capital projects which are usually new improvements such as curbs, gutters, trails and new roadway segments that are grant funded.

Capital projects was broken down into 2 more sections – Active Transportation & Arterial Freight to help with tracking and accountability. The Arterial Freight side is meant for grant projects such as signal improvements, Port of Tacoma Road, 56th St. corridor, etc.

The Active Transportation side is divided into 2 sections – we still break it down into grant funded (Capital Projects) and non-grant funded (Programs). The amount available can be adjusted as needed, but the Transportation Commission wanted to see what it would look if we started with \$500K a year.

If there were a project like E. 64th the money would not come from the Active Transportation side it would come from the Arterial Freight side.

The ADA transition plan and Low Income Sidewalks program both have a lot of money in them because they are programs that were lacking before. The sidewalks program used to require the resident to pay a portion of the repairs upfront which was a deterrent since it was not financially possible for every resident. The new program includes a loan program they can repay over a longer term.

The smaller projects towards the bottom of the list are the ones that BPTAG would be a part of – Pedestrian Safety/Vision Zero, Bicycle & Ped Education and Encouragement, Bike Lane striping.

Whatever money from the program is not spent will get carried over to the next year. There will be an annual report provided, and in 10 years if citizens see positive results from this initiative the goal is that they will vote to approve it again.

Question: Arterial projects with bike lanes – will that come out of the Capital side? - Yes it would come from the Capital projects money not out of the Active Transportation money.

Jennifer said we are going to provide this funding worksheet to City Council in the next few months to let them know how BPTAG & Transportation Commission would like to see the funds spent. Any input or feedback from BPTAG would be great.

Question: It doesn't seem like a lot is dedicated to the Safe Routes to School program but Jennifer mentioned that Council had allocated \$500K (REET) last biennium for 2 schools. We look for City Council to continue with that trend and we will also continue to apply for grants.

Overall group members were comfortable knowing that the money could be shifted and that there are actually additional resources besides those on this list.

▪ **Transportation Master Plan Amendments (TMP) (Jennifer)**

Jennifer explained the Master Plan so that Aubrey would have a better understanding.

Summary: The City created the first Master Plan in November 2015. The plan is Tacoma's 20 year vision of what they want to see their transportation network look like. The priority is that it considers all modes of transportation and is equitable.

There is a need to update the TMP – some projects need to be amended or added. The performance measures also need to be revised and improved.

Timeline to adopt the Amendments:

- **April 2017 – BPTAG change requests due to Jennifer**
 - **Requests will be reviewed by Transportation Commission then Planning**
- **November 2017 – Draft due to Planning Commission**

▪ **Intersection Report - Union Ave. & Scott Pierson Trail update (Jolene) - (not on Agenda)**

Handout was provided and discussed. Recommendations were to trim back vegetation to allow for better visibility, add green paint and signage. The push button is on the wrong side since the trail is on the opposite side so at some point it needs to be moved. Wider crosswalks would also be helpful. No matter what is decided we need to make sure WSDOT is on board since this is their property.

Jennifer requested the committee prioritize their recommendations. BPTAG will come up with a final list for Meredith.

- **Intersection Report on S 38th and Pacific Ave (Leon)**

There is no safe way to cross in that area (by the bridge) and it is unsafe for cyclists and pedestrians. The recommendation is to create a protected bike lane, but we still need to figure out how to cross safely since cars drive very fast along here due to the current configuration. There are no crosswalks or ADA accessible curbs. Some of this is in WSDOT's jurisdiction. Josh said a City study was done and if we added ramps on both sides it would cost about \$250K (one side only would cost about \$110K). That does not cover bicycle lanes – just pedestrian access. The City has thought about tearing out the ramps and putting in traffic signals instead then reselling the property.

A suggestion was made to do something similar to Prairie Line (multi use sidewalk), except on bridge since it's not wide enough. Bikes and peds would both use the bridge then transition.

Jennifer requested an aerial photo from the committee with drawn in areas of the proposed changes.

- **BPTAG Membership (Meredith)**

Aubrey will be our new youth representative.

A few members' terms are ending, but there are people who have applied. Interviews will be set up with potential new members and current members from the committee are welcome to be a part of the interview process.

Meredith will send an updated list of members and their term ending dates to everyone by e-mail. She will also check into attendance requirements and look into creating Bylaws for the committee.

- **Bike Month (Meredith)**

Bike month is coming up in May. There is a 'Meeting of the Bike Minds' at Puget Sound Pizza tomorrow to discuss events and draft calendar. The final calendar should be ready within next 2 weeks.

- **Updates:**

- **Bike Boulevard Subcommittee (Dave)**

Dave handed out the second draft and said he hopes that one of the amendments to the TMP will include some clarification on Bike Boulevard guidelines.

Major changes include:

- Proposing a Bike Boulevard 20 mph instead of 25 mph speed limit. The idea being it could be a pedestrian boulevard as well.
- More intricate pedestrian & bicycle activated beacons at crosswalks and major arterials.

Everyone approved the second draft so the document will be passed on to Meredith.

- **Report from Transportation Commission: (Jane Moore)** – No report at this meeting

- **BPTAG at other community/active transportation meetings**

- **Safe Routes to School (Leon)** – the second Stakeholder meeting was held February 2. The Stakeholder Assessment and Program toolkit were reviewed. The Action plan is still in progress and will be reviewed at the next Stakeholder meeting in March.

- **Regional Active Transportation Planning Mtg. held by PSRC (Cassie&Meredith)** –

Maps of East and West Pierce County were put up for everyone to comment on. They will be available online (PSRC) and Dan suggested the link be sent out to everyone so they could make additional comments.

- **Other Items:**
 - **Memo on N. 21st (Josh) –**

The memo is a recommendation from the PW Dept. about selecting an option. City Council has asked that we come back before them in Study Session on April 4. Right now the structure of the presentation is similar to the last Study Session. It will be open to the public but they do not take any public comment during Study Session.
 - **Traffic and biking concerns by the new Rheinhaus:**

Leon has been approached by a few people who asked him to pass on some of their concerns related to the Rheinhaus which just opened. It has become dangerous for cyclists due to more cars and the back in parking. Delivery trucks have been parked in the bike lane as well. Meredith and Jennifer will look into these concerns.
 - **Volunteer for next intersection of the month**

The committee selected the Rheinhaus location which was brought up by Leon at this meeting. Also a request for a bike rack at that location was made.
- **Meeting Adjourned at 7:25 PM**