



CITY OF TACOMA BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 20, 2014

GROUP MEMBERS

PRESENT: Dave Cook, Aaron Knight, Paul Nordquist, Kendal Reid, Brandi Riddle, Kris Symer

OTHERS PRESENT: Emily Campbell, Mark D'Andrea, Jennifer Kammerzell, Hannah Miner, Jane Moore, Diane Wiatr

- **Meeting called to order at 5:35 PM**
- **Call to order, introductions, and approval of minutes**
- **Pedestrian Improvements Update**—Mark D'Andrea, City of Tacoma Engineer, and Jennifer Kammerzell, City of Tacoma Traffic Engineer

The group discussed the citywide list of pedestrian improvements that were identified in public meeting. Mark explained that projects were ranked according to citizen input and criteria for location, such as proximity to schools and parks. A list and map of these improvements will be included in the Transportation Master Plan. Kris suggested that an additional column be added to the listing explaining why the non-highlighted listed locations will not be funded.

Construction has begun on these improvements. 61 sites are being attempted. 23 sites are striping only sites, which includes a total of 48 new crosswalks. 22 of these striping only sites, and 45 of these new crosswalks, have been completed. Construction on 39th and Yakima has begun. Construction for all sites will halt between November 24th, 2014 and the end of February 2015. Construction for all sites is expected to be completed by mid-August 2015.

- **Transportation Master Plan Update** – Jennifer Kammerzell and Jane Moore, Transportation Commission Co-Chair

The Transportation Commission is making progress on a first draft of the Transportation Master Plan, aiming to complete this by the end of December 2014. Transportation Commission will discuss the various transportation modes with respect to certain intersections/corridors with potential conflicts between modes. BPTAG members are invited to make comments and recommendations at the November 5th, 2014 Transportation Commission meeting. Jennifer will send links to the multimodal maps in preparation for this next meeting. The Transportation Commission will conduct public outreach after the holidays, which will likely include an online survey and attendance at neighborhood council meetings.

- **Pierce County Trails and Open Space Update – Kris Symer, BPTAG Co-Chair**

Kris shared several Pierce County trail system maps and noted challenges interpreting and cross referencing them due to lack of street labeling, the variety of information, and inclusion of multiple jurisdictions.

Referencing lists and notes, Kris presented the list of high, medium, and low priority trails in Pierce County. High priority trails tend to emphasize those that improve connectivity between neighboring communities and important destinations within a jurisdiction, and trail found within more urban and populated areas. Trails that allow a “handshake with neighbors”, including better connections to trails like the Cushman Trail just beyond the Pierce County boundary, were also prioritized. Lower priority trails were in less densely populated areas, such as those closer to Mt. Rainier. The option to reassess trail priority was given, but the group was satisfied with the list.

Diane suggested writing a letter to Pierce County with recommendations supporting these trail priorities. The group supported the idea, and it was suggested that the letter be copied to Forever Green Trails and the Transportation Commission.

- **TMP Bicycle Network Recommendation Revisions – Dave Cook, BPTAG Co-Chair**

Dave continued to guide the group through a list of small edits to the TMP bicycle network maps, beginning by noting the lack of plans for bicycle facility development in the port. The group discussed reassessing this, noting the high potential for improvement of the area and mentioning the challenges including poor road condition, presence of rail tracks and tanks, and trucks and trains constricting and blocking the roadway. It was suggested that a deeper analysis be done of this area, including its potential as a commuter route with the potential of connecting bicycle facilities to the new facilities on the Murray Morgan Bridge. It was suggested that someone look into the Port’s history and potential for bicycle facility development for the next meeting. The Shoreline Master Plan and the freight routes through the port would be additional resources to help inform the discussion.

Dave mentioned that the bike lane on 56th turns into a bike boulevard, asking if this change was in error. The group inquired about the change in width of the road. No concrete decision was made about editing this.

Dave inquired about a proposed bridge over I5 at 66th St., and the group discussed if this was the best place to locate such a bridge. It was mentioned that a recommendation be made to widen existing bridges in the future to accommodate a bicycle lane, or if a bicycle lane could be built adjacent to a potential new vehicular bridge in the future. No concrete decision was made about editing this.

- **Amtrak station design and bikes — Diane Wiatr, City of Tacoma Active Transportation Coordinator**

Diane spoke about concern for the long and short term bicycle parking facilities at the new Amtrak Station. It is possible that S 25th St. between D and G would become a one-way street to decrease traffic and make the area around the station more pedestrian friendly. There are concerns that the conversation is not including design features, such as a contra-flow bike lane on S 25th St. and long and short term bike parking.

Diane noted the possibility of the group writing a letter of recommendation to WDOT about bicycle parking. The group inquired about if new code requirements would impact the station's requirements for bicycle parking.

- **Feedback and Comments — Diane Wiatr**

- Downtown to Defiance comments included the following:
 - The event should be later in the day.
 - Host activities on both ends of the ride.
 - Tickets/vouchers be given for local restaurants.
- Potential Bike/Ped Count Locations: Murray Morgan Bridge
- There is funding for three additional Eco-Counter if the City is able to pay for installation. Eco-Counter location recommendations include: Murray Morgan Bridge, Scott Pierson Trail near Jackson, Tyler/Stevens, S 12th St/Proctor, N 26th St/Orchard/Stevens intersection, and around the perimeter of the City near Puyallup.

- **City of Tacoma Proposed Budget Meetings**

The City of Tacoma is hosting meetings to discuss the Proposed Biennial Budget. Hand-outs with more information on the budget and opportunities to give input were distributed to the group.

