



CITY OF TACOMA BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING MINUTES

DATE: January 25, 2016

GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Halverson-Kuehn, Kris Symer, Dan Hansen, Dave Cook
Ann James, Susan Reehill, Janet Higbee, Matt Stevens

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Wiatr, Emily Watts, Julia Walton, Elliott Barnett, Bob Daly, Shawn Phelps,
Taina Anderson, Jane Moore

- **Meeting called to order at 5:39 PM**

- **Approval of Minutes**

The December 14th minutes were approved with no changes.

- **Public Comment**

A member of the public asked if public comment was only made at the beginning of the meeting. It was noted that this is done so that if members of the public want to make a comment and not stay for the entire meeting, they have the opportunity to do so.

- **S. 56th Street Improvements (Washington to Orchard) – Diane Sheesley, Public Works**

Diane Sheesley did not attend the meeting.

- **Tacoma Mall SubArea Plan's transportation – Elliott Barnett**

Elliott introduced himself and about how he has met with the group on several occasions. The Tacoma mall neighborhood is a regional growth area. He passed out a handout showing the preliminary bicycle and pedestrian networks.

The study included 601 acres and the vision for the plan show more connections with streets, parks, bike lanes, etc. The draft land use included primarily mixed use in addition to residential and industrial, and the different land use intensities in these areas.

Red buildings are included for public use such as schools and community centers.

It was asked what the land use intensity means. It was noted that this is still being determined but will translate to things such as building height and different design standards.

The preliminary bike priority network includes routes already in the transportation master plan. An internal pedestrian loop is proposed that includes a bike boulevard connecting the 4 quadrants. It would be built with low impact development and lots of green space.

The blue dash lines include alternatives that would connect other trails. Challenges include the street car routes and intensity of traffic. Looking to create quieter alternatives for bicyclists. It was noted that Steele already has so many cars with many turning off that it is a dangerous area. One possible change is an off ramp closer to the mall but would most likely be a long term project. The mall has agreed to talk about but has officially agreed to nothing yet.

It was noted that there are concerns about riding on Union because as of now cyclists don't. One commission member noted that a 35th st and Cedar connection to Flume would be very convenient.

It was asked whether the multi-family area would grow in the future to become a housing hub. These areas would stay residential but it is undetermined if they would grow. People commuting to work from these areas would have to do so on Pine and Steele which are high capacity streets. A different entrance to the Tacoma mall way allow for different options getting in and out of the four quadrants and create a different character for the neighborhood.

It was asked what the timeline is for this project. Elliott mentioned that they have public comment and are currently doing policy analysis. A draft EIS should be ready by July or August.

The BPTAG agrees that they are on the right track. However it was mentioned that there is a need for divided spaces because traffic is so bad. A separate space would provide more safety and incentive for biking on the mentioned traffic roads.

The preliminary pedestrian priority network includes pedestrian only connection and priority streets. ADA streets must be kept in mind. West of the transit center there could be potential for a park. There is also an idea for a grand staircase keeping in mind storm water integration.

A new pedestrian overpass over I5 was brought up. Perhaps one with a separated trail. If there was one overpass with a trail is a second one necessary? Future plans and how this would work in context with the neighborhood will take more planning.

Elliott thanked the group for their time and will be back to speak to BPTAG soon.

- **Pierce County Bike Month** – Shawn Phelps, Pierce County Senior Transportation Planner

Shawn gave an introduction of the current 6th edition of the Pierce County Bike Month before giving the group updates on the new 7th edition.

Overall the current edition was busy and somewhat confusing because it covers such a large area but much of the Southern area of the county doesn't have routes to display. There are many pictures but it is very bright and cartoonish looking. The side contains bike laws, rules of the road, etc. They will be keeping most of this in the new edition.

The new 7th edition of the bike map will not have the pictures in the middle and will be less colorful. It zooms in on an urban area like a magnifying glass showing attractions and government buildings. The designations and legends are more simplified. Some things are more vague such as "unmarked roadway" which may or may not be paved.

It was asked by a commission member whether or not the map was color blind friendly. Shawn mentioned that they included different line thicknesses for this specific purpose as well as dashing. They will look into the websites that test color blindness in graphics for you. It is recommended they ensure the contrast with yellow lines and the background was clear enough.

Perhaps orange would show more contrast than yellow. Parks are represented with an olive green color.

The info panels included show a list of trails and the mileage of each.

It was noted that not every single street was marked or named which ends up making it easier to read. The symbols are more standard and all museums were included.

The back of the bike map shows the whole county including a topographical type map of Mount Rainier. This leaves quite a bit of blank space that the developers are unsure about what to do with at this time. The rural areas contain less detail. They also mentioned the bike lanes and networks going through JBLM.

Kris Symer and Shawn Phelps will work together to get the bike map in a drop box so that it can be distributed to BPTAG members.

It was asked if the map will show any connections to King County. There is a little piece of the BPA trail showing but it should be made clearer. Puyallup and Sumner goes quite a ways into King county and connects to trails.

It was noted that it'd be nice to see more topographical terrain marks throughout the map as a whole. Shawn mentioned again that this is still a working document.

The new map is expected to be out in April in time for Bike Month. It will fold the same way and there should be more contrast between the water and land. They will finish some touches to the route changes and be in touch with Kris to get the drop box set up.

BPTAG should review all of the yellow lines on the map and prioritize what should be included especially in the downtown area.

- **Bike share Planning Study Update–** Diane Wiatr

Diane met with the consultants at the Portland Bureau of Transportation. They are working on a project called BikeTown which is a partnership between Nike who is sponsoring a bike sharing program in Portland. The bikes will have no permanent stations but rather there are various locations for them to be locked by the user.

There will be a public open house February 25th at Evergreen Tacoma. The time is to be determined but keep it in mind for the future.

There are many considerations for a bike share program in Tacoma. The investment would need to be worthwhile. The City of Redmond is doing something similar, did a planning study, and is now in talks with Microsoft about having the company be a sponsor for a bike share program that would involve their campus.

- **Joint Transportation Commission/BPTAG Meeting and 2016 Work Plan on February 17, 2016 –** Diane Wiatr

The meeting will take place Feb. 17th at 5:30pm in TMB North. The agenda items will be relevant to both groups. First up is the 2016 work plan. BPTAG has had no clear work plan in the past. There has been no shortage of topics but it was always on a month to month basis. This meeting will help give some direction and long term planning. There will also be time to prioritize pedestrian and bicycle projects.

The Transportation Commission will oversee that money is spent efficiently, responsibly, and effectively. Jane Moore noted that she is curious as to how funding will be allocated. City Council is getting a report on this subject matter in a study session tomorrow.

Diane noted that there is tremendous need for repair and it is an enormous undertaking trying to figure out where to start and which get priority. Public Works will most likely be giving this information to City Council about where they see the largest priorities being; Where it will then go down to the Transportation Commission, and then to BPTAG whose job is to make connections in the overall system.

It was noted that there are too many projects to do and they won't be done all at once. Some have to be done at certain times of the year due to weather. There isn't enough money to fulfill all of the need and it is unknown how much money there is for Safe Routes to School or for pedestrian and bicycle project.

▪ **New Chair or Co-Chairs for BPTAG**– Diane Wiatr

Dave Cook is one of the current Co-Chairs and a second needs to be elected. Responsibilities of chairs include but are not limited to helping draft the agenda, keeping the meeting on track and on time, encouraging members to actively participate and perhaps on rare occasions speak at a public meeting or in front of city council.

Dan Hansen is willing to consider being a Co-Chair.

▪ **Safe Routes to School Update**– Diane Wiatr

The Puyallup Watershed Initiative has **dedicated \$10,000 if the city will contribute \$50,000.**

▪ **Updates**– Diane Wiatr

- **Environmental Action Plan**

- **Props 3 and A**

- **Ad-hoc group for wayfinding signage locations for Scott Pierson Trail**

Diane would like to create an adhoc group for wayfinding signage location for the Scott Pierson Trail. Would the BPTAG adopt this goal? The group decided yes. A map of the trail will be pulled up at the next meeting to be marked. Group members are asked to keep note if they ride on the trail about where it is hard to find or navigate. WSDOT is the agency who provided signage but after some was knocked down it was never replaced. The wind broke many of the blue signs that were bolted to the edge.

- **Two BPTAG members moving off the group**

▪ **Good of the Order** – All

Kris Symer proposes setting a top priority on 13 bikes lanes identified as being the most in need of updates or repairs. Now that there is funding, BPTAG should be giving guidance to public works and feels it is a good time to propose improving pot holes in the top 13 bikes lanes. The locations were already documents previously by the group. Dave Cook has the information that was initially gathered for paving. The worst of these locations are now the best as they were repaired but the medium worst are now what is in most need of repairs and updates. Dave will send the list and conditions to the group. Kris also nominated Dave to write an official letter about the subject matter.

- Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm.