

**Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
July 12, 2013**

PRESENT: Rick Talbert, Chair (Pierce County Council)
Aaron Pointer (Metropolitan Park Board)
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)
Anders Ibsen (Tacoma City Council)
Karen Vialle (Tacoma School Board)
Alisa O'Hanlon (City of Tacoma)
Nancy Davis (Metropolitan Park District)
Minutes taken by City of Tacoma

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rick Talbert called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance was Connie Ladenburg, Pierce County; Jennifer Joly, Pierce County; Mark Williams, Pierce County; Debbie Winskill, Tacoma School Board; and John Larson.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as published.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anders Ibsen moved for approval of the minutes of June 14, 2013. Karen Vialle seconded. The chair declared the motion passed.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Nancy Davis began the legislative update. Metro Parks was successful in receiving \$2.5 million for Point Defiance for the missing link which is the connection for the path from Point Ruston into Point Defiance. Parks also received \$5 million from the Department of Ecology ASARCO cleanup. Ms. Davis pointed out that on September 22, 2013, the partners will present Tacoma Downtown to Defiance event. Ms. Davis continued that there were various proposals for a transportation package, although the proposals did not pass. One of the parts of the Point Defiance project is the entryway into the park where nine roads come together that will be advanced in a transportation package. One current project is a pedestrian bridge over the state route where the ferries are. In Round 6, Parks is going to apply for a TIGER Grant. There was discussion on the possibility of making the TIGER Grant a joint application with the City and Metro Parks. The grant applications may be due in December or January.

Aaron Pointer asked if Parks had applied for any grants or funding for the water system in Point Defiance Park. Ms. Davis replied that there has been a discussion at a local policy meeting. Also, the City and Metro Parks are working on it and there may be funding available.

Jennifer Joly reported that the big news for the County was the state legislature opted not to pass the transportation revenue package. A few of the priority capital projects and policy bills passed including \$2.5 million for the North Dock project cleanup funded out of a new fund called the Environmental Stewardship Legacy Account. There was \$1 million for Ashford County Park which will complete Phase 2. Funding for flood plain projects was also received.

The County was able to pass a bill that amended the Growth Management Act which will allow the release of funds from state agencies when the GMA comp plan is under appeal. The other big policy measure was a competency evaluation bill which will assist with the backlog in the court system and jails with evaluating mentally ill persons. This will allow contracting with private individuals rather than relying on the state hospital to perform the competency evaluations.

Alisa O'Hanlon reported that the money for the Public Works trust fund has been taken for the next six years. The failure of the transportation package also affected the City which was hoping that it would provide future resources for infrastructure. Also, there will be no revenue from liquor profits. However, the community as a whole did well. There is \$3 million for improvements in storm water infrastructure in the south end enhancing an existing facility. There is \$500,000 for People's Pool and \$400,000 for the Eastside Community Center. There is funding for the Tacoma Art Museum, the Broadway Center, Tacoma Musical Playhouse, and the Chinese Reconciliation Park. Also, the UWT is receiving \$1.9 million for its science education facility and Bates Technical College is receiving funding for its communication center.

Connie Ladenburg asked about the types of projects funded by the Public Works trust fund. Ms. O'Hanlon replied that she was unsure. Ms. Joly replied that for Pierce County it is infrastructure so they will have to go out into the federal bond market for financing. It is a repayment loan program for low interest construction.

Tim Reid commented that the state is funding \$400,000 for the Eastside Community Center and asked about the consultant's study and sited an article in the newspaper. Chair Talbert stated that there are a lot of options for the location that need to be explored and the study will assist with that decision. There was discussion on the process the consultant will use to gather information and get as many options as possible within the time limit to create a report. At a previous JMAC meeting, it was noted that the consultant ARC Architects had been selected and public forums will be set up over the summer and into the fall.

Karen Vialle reported that for the School District the monies from the Public Works trust fund were shifted over to support McCleary. K-12 received about \$750 million and some policy bills were re-written. The Academic Acceleration bill was funded for \$2 million out of the operating budget. That bill automatically enrolls students that are qualified into AP and IB courses and it is felt that it will help lessen the achievement gap. There was funding put in for learning assistance. Tacoma is the lead on the Kindergarten Assessment bill. There was an increase in funds for maintenance, supplies and operation. At the last minute the legislature funded a reduction in class size and it is unsure how this is going to affect the school district.

Connie Ladenburg asked that part of the McCleary decision was to come up with a sustainable source for revenue for schools and did that happen? The answer was no. Ms. Joly replied that there was an effort by the House democrats to try to close some tax loopholes which would put more revenue on the table, but those were small steps and they would not take care of McCleary.

TACOMA LINK EXPANSION

Alisa O'Hanlon reported that in April and in May the Tacoma City Council and the Sound Transit board adopted a plan that will go into further study. The study is to look at the actual streets that should be considered for the expansion. It should travel from the northern terminus of the existing link up toward the Stadium district, then up to MLK to connect those centers. At this time, Sound Transit is in the process of reviewing the conceptual design, environmental impact, and some of the possible streets for the route. In the fall there will be more public forums and community discussions.

Tim Reid asked if the link would go to Point Defiance. Ms. O'Hanlon replied that it was considered as one of the original options along with Mt. Rainier and other locations in the area. Karen Vialle asked about the timeframe. Ms. O'Hanlon replied that it is a long term project and may be complete by 2018 – 2020. Ms. Vialle asked if the federal budget had funding for the project. Ms. O'Hanlon replied that the strategy is to apply for a Small Starts Grant and Sound Transit has been successful applying for this grant in the past. Anders Ibsen asked about the grant. Ms. O'Hanlon replied that the grant was looking for very well thought out projects that the needs have been assessed and the ridership, that a service is being provided that will be used. Mr. Ibsen continued that one third of the price needs to be a local match and what does that mean. Ms. O'Hanlon replied that the budget on the expansion is \$150 million. \$100 million will come through Sound Transit and ST2. The \$50 million from local sources does not have to be cash. There was discussion on the cost of the project and that funding had been set aside out of ST2.

Debbie Winskill asked about the future route traveling up Stadium Way after it has been re-done. Ms. O'Hanlon replied that there will be a decision on the alignment, i.e. economic development and ridership. Stadium Way does not necessarily fit those two criteria as one side of the street is a bluff and the other side has residences. Those details will be worked out through the public process.

DISCUSSION OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chair Talbert was informed that Vice-Chair Scott Heinze will no longer be attending the JMAC meetings.

Connie Ladenburg reported that another location has been found for PCTV. It will lease space from Bates communication center and the agreement also includes an internship with the students.

Jennifer Joly pointed out that the Department of Transportation is going to have three applications for the upcoming TIGER Grants, including SR-167. Also, the Bethel Skill Center was funded in the capital budget.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- Transportation Projects Update, Other High Priority Items, and Potential Ballot Measures (All Jurisdictions)

Future Agenda Items

Earth Economics (Metro Parks Tacoma)

Earth Week Citizen's Academy Update (Anders Ibsen)

Transport of Coal through Tacoma

Affordable Housing Policies (Anders Ibsen / Lauren Walker)

Foss/Hylebos Recontamination (Port of Tacoma, Spring 2013)

Update on Eastside Community Center (Metro Parks Tacoma)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, August 9, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248. Quarterly meeting with the CEOs.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Note: Minutes for August to be taken by City of Tacoma.