

**Minutes  
Joint Municipal Action Committee  
Quarterly Meeting  
August 9, 2013**

**PRESENT:** Aaron Pointer (Metropolitan Park Board)  
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)  
Debbie Winskill (Tacoma School Board)  
Clare Petrich (Port of Tacoma)  
Wayne Williams (Metropolitan Parks Tacoma)  
Carla Santorno (Tacoma School District)  
T.C. Broadnax (City of Tacoma)  
Clare Petrich (Port of Tacoma)  
Evette Mason (Port of Tacoma)  
Alisa O'Hanlon (City of Tacoma)  
Minutes taken by City of Tacoma

**CALL TO ORDER**

Tim Reid chaired the meeting for Rick Talbert and called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance was Kurt Miller, Tacoma School District; Connie Ladenburg, Pierce County; Mark Williams, Pierce County; Jennifer Joly, Pierce County; Kurtis Kingsolver, City of Tacoma; John Wolfe, Port of Tacoma; Julie Stoltman for Anders Ibsen, City of Tacoma; and Mary Kay Henley, Metro Parks Tacoma.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

There was not a quorum so approval of the agenda was deferred to the September 13, 2013 meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was not a quorum so approval of the minutes of July 12, 2013 was deferred to the September 13, 2013 meeting.

**TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS UPDATE**

Wayne Williams, Metro Parks Tacoma began by reviewing the top three projects should there be an opportunity for grant funding. Metro Parks just received \$7.5 million from the state budget to complete the Missing Link Trail from the shoreline promenade in to Point Defiance Park. It is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2015. The entryway to Point Defiance has eight streets converging. There would be a roundabout. There would also be a turnaround for Pierce Transit. The second project would be roadways and pedestrian enhancements throughout the park. Traffic management and the movement of foot traffic as well as mobile traffic, i.e., car and bike would be looked at along with ways to have a direct route from the entrance to the Zoo. The third project

would be looking at all the parks throughout the system and looking at street improvements and ADA accessibility.

Connie Ladenburg asked if any studies had been done regarding the parking and over-flow parking for the Zoo. Mr. Williams replied that the Destination Point Defiance initiative started with traffic and parking studies. As that moves forward, the parking issue is tied into the roadway and pedestrian traffic, so it is being looked at comprehensively. The public process will include possible alternatives.

Tim Reid asked about park property that is next to school property and if there was a committee to work together in partnership on some of the issues. Mr. Williams replied that an overview was recently presented to the Cabinet. Mr. Reid asked if there would be a master plan. Carla Santorno replied that every relationship is different. The school district has talked with parks about collaboration on an agreement. Aaron Pointer asked if Camp 6 was currently being used for over-flow parking. Mr. Williams replied that it currently is being used mostly for Zoo parking. Mr. Pointer stated that the bike/pedestrian walkway overpass in to the Park will be completed by 2015. On September 22, 2013, the walkway in to the Park will be open; however, the overpass will not be open. Mr. Williams stated that was correct and explained that the area being discussed was the entryway that goes down to the ferry landing.

Clare Petrich asked about the roundabout at the entrance to the park and the history of accidents at the entrance. Also, how would the influx of traffic from the ferries be regulated on a roundabout? Mr. Williams replied that he was not aware of the history of accidents at the entrance. The capacity of the ferry landing would be increased by 50% and that a roundabout was an efficient way to handle the traffic. Kurt Miller asked if the coordination of the building of SAMI and the enhancements had been considered. Mr. Williams replied that it was an ongoing process and Destination Point Defiance includes the Zoo, master planning, the aquarium, and SAMI as components.

Kurtis Kingsolver reported that for the City there are no projects lined up for the TIGER Grants. Future projects would include the Puyallup River Bridge, Puyallup Avenue from Pacific Avenue to the bridge, and Port of Tacoma as well as the entrance to Point Defiance Park. A big project that the City will be considering over the next two years is the Sound Transit expansion of the link light rail. Debbie Winskill asked when Stadium Way would be completed. Mr. Kingsolver replied that it would be open to traffic before school starts. There was discussion on the possible routes for the link light rail. Ms. Winskill asked about the funding for the project. Alisa O'Hanlon replied that link expansion was approved in the Sound Transit ST2 voter package and there is about \$80 million. The budget for the expansion is \$150 million. The Sound Transit board is researching to find a way to fund it not only through the approval of the tax measure, but also find federal funding contributing a total of \$100 million toward the \$150 million budget and the remaining \$50 million would be the responsibility of the local partners.

Debbie Winskill began the report for the School District stating that students from Washington Elementary will be transported to Hunt Middle School for the next year. Aaron Pointer asked how the Pierce Transit schedule revisions and prices were affecting the district. Ms. Winskill replied that it was harming the district and gave the example of Foss High School which begins at 7:30 a.m. The students travel from all over the city and are having problems making connections. Mr. Pointer asked for an estimate of how many students take public transportation. Ms. Santorno replied that all of the SAMI and SOTA students take public transportation. The estimate was 12,000 students throughout the district.

Kurt Miller asked City staff about the November ballot and if the 2% tax will be used for upgrades or if there were specific projects identified for the money. T.C. Broadnax replied that it is maintenance and other improvements, i.e., crosswalks, beacons for safety, bridge repairs. Mr. Kingsolver stated that there would be a piece set aside for grant match. Connie Ladenburg asked if the funding would help implement the Complete Streets policy. Mr. Kingsolver replied that the Complete Streets policy was for new construction and the grant is mainly for maintenance and is focused a lot on residential. Mr. Pointer asked what is meant by complete streets. Mr. Kingsolver replied that it is sidewalks, curb gutters, streetlights, and includes bike lanes and lighted pedestrian crossings and focuses on all modes.

Jennifer Joly had a report from Public Works on the County's top priorities. The County does not have an application ready for this round of TIGER Grants. Future projects would be the Canyon Road northerly extension. There are four different segments on Canyon Road in different stages of development. Tim Reid asked if SR-167 down to the Port would be supported in the legislature. The answer was yes. Ms. Ladenburg stated that the county is studying all of the bridges to determine the status. There are some that do not fit the use of traffic and truck size and the recommendation is to try to find funding for improvements.

Clare Petrich, Port of Tacoma thanked everyone for their support of SR-167 and turned the presentation over to John Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe stated that SR-167 is a top priority as a state-wide project of significance. The connection between Port of Tacoma Road and Interstate 5 is another important project, especially with the increased truck traffic. Portland Avenue is another challenge. The Port is also dependent on rail and there are plans for significant enhancements to the rail infrastructure in the tide flats. There are plans to rebuild some of the container terminals. The Port is also focusing on the waterways because the vessels are getting larger. Over the next eight years, between Port and private funds the Port will spend upwards of one billion dollars on infrastructure.

Evette Mason reported that the Port did partner with the City of Fife on a TIGER Grant application for the Port of Tacoma Road and Interstate 5 interchange. On August 22, 2013 going before the Commission will be an ILA between the Port and the City regarding Port of Tacoma Road itself to discuss partnering on the funding. Mr. Miller asked about the TIGER Grant. Ms. Mason replied that it is federal dollars for transportation projects and stands for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery.

## **POTENTIAL BALLOT MEASURES**

Carla Santorno reported that the school district has a replacement levy in February 2014. T.C. Broadnax reported that the City is proposing a 2% gross earnings tax levy on the utilities, i.e., natural gas, telephone, and power to support some of the basic maintenance related improvements. The tax is estimated to raise between \$10-\$11 million annually to go along with the current funding for maintenance of streets. Different options and alternatives have been looked at over the years. The tax is solely for the maintenance of the roads, permanent pothole repairs, crosswalks and beacons, sidewalks, ADA upgrades, and striping of the streets. There will be public outreach explaining how and where the funds will be expended. Mr. Pointer asked if the vote

would be for Tacoma residents only. The answer was yes. Mr. Pointer continued that the county residents would pay as well even though the monies would only be for the City of Tacoma. Mr. Kingsolver explained that the utilities serves the citizens outside the City limits so they pay into the utility and it is only on their gross earnings and it has been set up by State law. County residents pay into the structure of Tacoma Power as part of Tacoma Power. There was discussion on when the dams were built and the difference in the rates, the need to purchase power from Bonneville Power, the need for the tax and what it would be used for and some of the possible opposition from the business community. It was stated that it will take a 50% yes vote.

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

No items were discussed.

## **SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

- Eastside Feasibility Study Update (Metro Parks Tacoma)

### 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, September 13, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

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