

From: Kammerzell, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 5:14 PM
To: City Clerk's Office; McCarthy, Conor; Beale, Chris; Walker, Kristina; Ushka, Catherine; Woodards, Victoria; Hunter, Lillian; Hines, John; Thoms, Robert; Blocker, Keith
Cc: Bruce Morris; emason@portoftacoma.com; Gerrit Nyland; Jacki Skaught; Jane Ann Moore; Justin D. Leighton; Luis Alonzo; Matt Stevens; Richard Gardner; Sarah Miller; Foster, Lynda; Warren, Bucoda; Pauli, Elizabeth; Kingsolver, Kurtis; Diekmann, Joshua; Wingenbach, Sola
Subject: Public Comment on the Biennial Budget - Transportation Commission
Attachments: 21-22 Biennial Budget Comments 110920.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Afternoon Mayor and City Council,
The Transportation Commission respectfully submits the attached comments for consideration of the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kammerzell

Principal Engineer

City of Tacoma - Public Works Dept.

she/her

voice: 253.591.5511

jkammerzell@cityoftacoma.org

www.cityoftacoma.org



City of Tacoma
Transportation Commission

November 9, 2020

Tacoma City Council
747 Market Street, Rm. 1200
Tacoma, WA 98402

Subject: Transportation Commission Recommendations for the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget

To the Honorable Mayor Woodards and City Councilmembers

The Transportation Commission reviewed the proposed 2021-2022 Biennial Budget and is excited to see mobility as a key component to the City Council's priority of Access and Community Safety. The Commission supports the City Council's commitment to creating a livable city that provides residents with meaningful access to the things they need in their everyday lives no matter what neighborhood they live in, the color of their skin, what language they speak or any other aspect of their identity. The Commission also supports the need to invest in neighborhoods, create access to transit, create access to economic opportunity, create access to opportunities for youth, and create safe walkable conditions. The City Council's commitments are consistent with the Transportation Master Plan (TMP), which includes *protecting the community, providing mobility for all, and reinforcing Tacoma's land use vision.*

In consideration of the 2021-2020 Biennial Budget and city initiatives, the Transportation Commission encourages you to consider the following comments that *prioritize transportation funding based on the priorities of the Transportation Master Plan*, which are influenced by the Green Hierarchy.

1. Prioritize pedestrian facilities

The Commission supports the dedication of funds to make all streets in Tacoma safe for walking and those traveling with assistive devices. Missing sidewalks and hazardous crossings place our most vulnerable users at risk.

2. Complete bicycle connectivity projects

Significant investment is needed to provide a safe and connected system for bicyclists. The Commission recognizes that many of the easy projects are completed. The City needs to tackle the ones with the most significant barriers, such as crossing I-5 and prioritizing protected facilities over car lanes.

3. Prioritize actions and resources for the declared Climate Emergency

The Commission supports and agrees with the Sustainable Tacoma Commission recommendations to fund the Climate Emergency as an emergency. According to the 2019 Environmental Action Plan, transportation accounted for 73% of greenhouse gas emissions in Tacoma, where single occupancy vehicles contribute significantly to the overall transportation emissions. To reduce greenhouse gas emission, funding active transportation options, mass transit, and electrification is the right thing to do.

4. **Adequately fund the implementation of Vision Zero**
Upon completion of the Vision Zero Action Plan in 2021, providing seed money to begin implementation in 2021 demonstrates the City's commitment to saying one life lost in a crash is too many. The Commission will work to develop a funding plan that recognizes the need for a dedicated funding source to implement the plan.
5. **Honor the City's commitment to the Transportation Benefit District**
In 2015, Tacoma voters approved two ballot propositions to fund additional maintenance and improvements to City transportation infrastructure. The ruling on Initiative 976 should not change or displace funds from Public Works projects previously identified in the Transportation Benefit District. The City is responsible for those commitments to improve our transportation network.
6. **Recognize the successes of the 10-year Streets Initiative**
The work completed through the Streets Initiative funding is vital to the maintenance of existing road infrastructure and improvements to pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and freight infrastructure. Recognizing that these funds were in response to providing a dedicated funding source to alleviate impacts to the General Fund, and that future approval will be based on voter support, it is important to highlight in the Biennial Budget Book that the City has honored what the funds were intended to do.
7. **Implement Impact Fees**
Impact fees are a tool that will allow for development to directly address the increased demand for services created by their growth. It creates greater certainty for the development community and can be used as a tool to address the City's priorities for safe and convenient transportation.

The Transportation Commission's comments are rooted in the goals and policies set forth in the Transportation Master Plan, and the Commission feels that these comments correlate strongly to the City of Tacoma's strategic vision. These comments reflect the values and interests of residents throughout the City. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to a better Tacoma.

Thank you,

Sincerely,



Gerritt Nyland
Co-Chair
Transportation Commission



Dr. Jane Moore
Co-Chair
Transportation Commission

CC:
City Manager
Public Works Director
Planning Commission
Sustainable Tacoma Commission
Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group
Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group

From: Karla Rixon <rixon.karla@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 8:11 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: public comment for City Council Meeting 10 November 2020

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mayor, City Manager and City Council:

I support the families of Manuel Ellis and Bennie Branch. It's appalling that it's November and no action has been taken to fire and charge the officers involved in Ellis' murder. The terrible mishandling of Ellis' case shows deep flaws in our institutions that must be corrected, not rewarded.

Furthermore, please stop all cuts from non-police branches of the city budget. Austerity leads to reduced quality of life and further reductions in future city incomes.

Instead, cut the police budget by 50%. We get far less value from cops sitting in parking lots in their heated cars 'patrolling' all day than we get from literally every other service the city provides. This steep cut will both protect the people of our city from harassment and murder by men in uniform, and will provide plenty of funding for the other services we need.

I'm furious that you've ignored all our past calls to defund the police and have instead floated a pay *raise* for cops in the proposed budget while failing to fire cops we know were involved in a death that--whether you admit it was murder or not--didn't have to happen. That's why my final ask is that you fire City Manager Pauli and find a replacement who will actually be responsive to the people of Tacoma.

Thank you,

Karla Rixon

From: Karla Strivens <karla.strivens@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 1:31 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Cutting Firefighter Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

To the City Counsel,

I am extremely opposed to cutting the budget money allocated to the Tacoma Fire Department. We need to keep at the very least our current funding to keep our community safe.

Karla Strivens

Lifelong Tacoma Resident

From: Laura Svancarek <LauraS@downtownontheho.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 1:53 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Public Comment - Letter of Support for Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I am writing to express Downtown on the Go's support of aspect of the '21-'22 City Budget concerning safe mobility through a letter of support from our Board of Directors, copied below.

Thank you,

Laura Svancarek (she/her)
Downtown On the Go
CTR & Advocacy Coordinator
253-252-6638 Cell
www.downtownontheho.org
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

[Support our work!](#)

October 26, 2020

City of Tacoma
747 Market Street
Tacoma, WA 98402

RE: Letter of Support for City of Tacoma '21-'22 Budget

Dear Mayor Woodards, Tacoma City Council, and City Manager Pauli,

On behalf of the Downtown On the Go's Board of Directors and staff, I am writing to express our support for aspects of the 2021-2022 City budget concerning safe mobility.

Downtown On the Go is the transportation advocate and resource for anyone whose life is in downtown Tacoma. We work across sectors to make Tacoma a better place to walk, bike, and take transit.

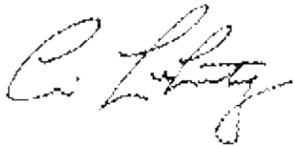
We are very pleased to see maintained funding for both the Vision Zero project and the Safe Routes to School program. Vision Zero presents an incredible opportunity to reflect on all modes of mobility in Tacoma through an increased focus on pedestrian and cyclist safety. We are excited for the changes that this project will bring to Tacoma's infrastructure, and support the focus on who is most impacted by traffic violence. Safe Routes to School focuses this conversation about safe movement on Tacoma's youth. We believe these programs are crucial to making Tacoma a more walkable and bikeable city, and hope to see the implementation of these programs continue to maintain an equitable focus on the parts of Tacoma which are most underserved by existing infrastructure.

Similarly, we are pleased to see continued funding for sidewalk and curb improvement projects across the city. With the recent I-976 ruling, we hope that the City will continue to use Transportation Benefit District fees on pedestrian improvements. The preservation of this funding is exciting and we look forward to seeing it used in ways which bolster the livability of Tacoma's residents. In addition to sidewalk repairs and ADA accessible curbs, we would encourage this funding to be used on ensuring that there are safe and accessible sidewalks at bus stops throughout the city. These missing sidewalks make thousands of journeys taken on transit less safe, particularly for those using mobility aids such as wheelchairs.

We would also like to express our support for continued work and study on the Schuster Parkway Promenade project, completing a critical trail connection between Point Ruston and Downtown Tacoma. Additionally, we support further work on the Prairie Line Trail project in Downtown. Complete and connected urban trails improve access to safe outdoor spaces and make Tacoma a more walkable and bikeable city. We believe these trail projects tie in with other initiatives such as Vision Zero by creating new corridors for movement of all people, with or without a car.

Thank you for maintaining funding for pedestrian-focused projects in the '21-'22 budget, and for your consideration on our suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ari Lewkowitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ari" being more prominent and the last name "Lewkowitz" following in a similar style.

Ari Lewkowitz
Board Chair

CC: Downtown On the Go Advocacy Committee

From: Kelsey Cole <kelsey@kelseycole.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:15 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: comment for 11/10 Budget Hearing re: TPL

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

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Hello,

I am a Tacoma resident from the Lincoln District and a patron of the Mottet Library.

I am writing to let you know how very important the library is to me and to my community. The Tacoma libraries provide all kinds of very valuable resources to residents, especially to the most vulnerable residents of our city who rely on the Libraries for things like internet access and resources that would otherwise be unavailable to them. The libraries are one of the last remaining public spaces where you do not have to spend a cent to occupy the shared space. Vibrant libraries are a sign of a healthy, creative and forward-looking city. They show that we care about our communities, that we desire to improve ourselves as citizens and that we support the exploration of our communities, city and the world at large.

In addition to providing boundless resources to residents, libraries have been found to reduce crime in communities, as referenced in this [New York Times article](#).

I find this quote particularly informative "Libraries, parks, rec centers, pools, free internet — those are all crime prevention activities and resources," said Caterina Roman, a professor of criminal justice at Temple University. She suspects that cities that will successfully weather this year's rise in violence are the ones that invested in these resources for years before the pandemic. And cities that further cut them will increasingly rely on policing strategies alone to reduce violence."

Please do not reduce the budget of the Tacoma Public Library. The Tacoma Public Library system is vitally important to our city and communities, especially in these unpredictable times, it is more important than ever that the Library remains consistently accessible to all residents of Tacoma. We need the Library more than ever and to reduce the budget at this time could do damage that would be very difficult to undo. Reducing the Library budget is short-sighted and will ultimately cost us more than it will save us.

Thank you,

Kelsey Cole

S. 34th St. Tacoma, Washington

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Kelsey Cole
206.910.6734
kelseycole.com

From: Jennifer Barfield <jennbar77@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:33 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Defund the Police

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Councilmembers:

Please listen to the people. Defund Tacoma Police Department by 50% and move these funds into programs that actually help the community.

I have seen cops involved in too many situations that do not require their presence. The community is better served by fully funding libraries and housing programs.

It is past time to reduce TPD's bloated budget and adopt a People's Budget that addresses the needs of the community, not cops.

Jennifer Barfield, Defund Police Tacoma

From: Z. B. <zephburt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:35 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Budget Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Tacoma City Council,

I'm writing to comment on the budget development process. Particularly with regard to the planned cuts to libraries and Fire/EMS. Y'all have managed once again to spectacularly mishear the voices of Tacoma residents. No one is saying Defund the Fire Department. No one is saying Defund EMS. And definitely no one is saying Defund the Public Library System.. What we're saying is Defund the Police. They're the largest expenditure in the General Fund and the steadily increasing police budget has done nothing to address the most pressing issues this town faces. In the past the city council has expressed a desire for residents to bring budgeting ideas to the table rather than just making demands. Here's an example of what our budget could look like if people's needs were put before the Police Department's bottom line.

Health 25.5m, 5.1%

Police 102.2m, 20.3%

Fire 116.9m, 23.2%

Access 90.8m, 18%

Affordable Housing 28.1m, 5.6%

Livable Wage Jobs 20.4m, 4.1%

Community Outreach 25.3m, 5%

Administration 48.8m, 9.7%

Non-Discretionary 45.2m, 9%

Police are still a large part of this budget. What we're asking for isn't unreasonable. What's unreasonable is cutting everything to bare bones to maintain the police department and expecting to have a thriving community.

Ms. Burt

<https://www.defundpolicetacoma.org/>

From: Barret Carpenter <barretcarpenter@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 4:22 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: public comment about library budgets

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

[Dear Tacoma City Council](#)

From: Cooper Hayes <hayes1017@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 4:18 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: TFD doing BLS transports

Hello,

I recently watched the 10/13/2020 city council meeting where Fire Chief Tory Green proposes having TFD BLS units respond to medical calls in the city. I have multiple comments about his slides.

For starters, I wondered about his old style of viewing Fire/EMS as a combined organization and how everything "stemmed from the Firefighter." I believe that style of thinking will bring us further into debt and is an old and outdated way of thinking. It appeared Chief Green believes the only place for EMS is in the Fire Dept. and by cross trained personnel. He mentions how it will take 6 months to train Firefighter/EMTs through the fire academy. That is a huge amount of time and money. Why not separate the EMS and Fire depts like other cities in the state such as: Wenatchee, Yakima, Spokane, Omak, and Grant County. These areas have a private EMS service and a Fire Dept. that work hand in hand to respond to EMS calls while keeping the Fire Dept. for fire specific calls.

He goes on to state Firefighters are utility players and have many skills to address multiple problems, which is true. However, how many of those wildland, HAZmat, Marine rescue, and tech rescue skills are needed on EMS calls? An old lady fell down at 4 in the morning, do we really need the multi-million dollar fire engine or ladder truck responding down the narrow streets to then have them "assess," the situation and call for another unit capable of transporting the patient to start responding to then finally start transporting the patient to the emergency dept? There are awfully quite a few long delays from 911 call placed to initiating transport to the emergency dept.

How EMS response actually works in the city is as follows.

1. 911 call is placed and received at the dispatching center. The dispatcher receives the information and sends the appropriate responding units. Either a FD truck, ladder, Battalion, safety, and/or paramedic unit.
2. Appropriate units are sent to respond.
- 3.*AMR is placed on standby for the call, in case the patient does not meet "ALS criteria," and sent to stage a couple blocks from the scene. AMR is not permitted to enter the scene of the call without FD approval/request.
4. FD arrives on scene and assesses the patient to either be transported via BLS (with AMR), which will require the FD crew to request them. Or the patient goes ALS and the TFD medic unit will transport them *if they are on scene*.

However, when only an engine or ladder truck is sent to a medical call, an AMR is still sent a standby request to stage a few blocks out from the call. If the patient then meets ALS criteria, the FD unit on scene will request for a TFD medic unit to respond. AMR has fully certified, and equally trained paramedics like TFD. Except, they are not sent to the ALS call because the patient meets ALS criteria and therefore will go via TFD medic unit. As Chief Green mentioned, when the patient has a medical emergency requiring immediate aid in minutes, **why wait for the TFD medic unit (all the way at the station), when there is a perfectly good ALS AMR unit a few blocks away?** It seems a lot better for the patient to receive immediate care by the closest paramedic unit rather than to have to wait for TFD specific care.

Chief Green goes on to state with the GEMT now is time to try and cash in on the reimbursement for transports for public agencies. But he goes on to say he has no idea how long the GEMT will last. So he wants to have a HUGE amount of funding to buy 8 ambulances, hire dozens for FF/EMT, train them, keep them on as potentially career positions, to then tap in the GEMT reimbursement? With the hopes GEMT has not run out of money yet, and then HOPE when the pandemic is over the economy will spike up in order to pay for the continuation of the BLS services? This sounds like a huge amount of overhead taxpayer money for a gamble.

Plus, what will happen to the AMR employees? Will AMR lose its BLS contract with the city? Will they be layoffed because

Tacoma has decided to pay millions of dollars more for equally trained, higher paid, TFD firefighter/EMTs? We are in a time of budget short falls everywhere. And Chief Green wants more money? Instead of switching over to breaking up the EMS response like other cities? Even New York City has a division specifically for EMS response, and Cleveland, and Boston. It seems we are going backwards in thinking when it comes to reimagining how Tacoma's EMS response should be compared to other cities.

--

Cooper Hayes
253-486-3014

From: Kit Burns <kburns.wcb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:12 PM
To: Woodards, Victoria; City Clerk's Office
Cc: Blocker, Keith
Subject: City Budget -Cable Franchise Fees - Redirect to . . General Fund - 20-0688

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Mayor,

Per my comments this evening at the City Council Meeting please note the following:

At the Council Study Session the City Attorney made a brief presentation on "Fees vs Taxes". Slide 5. The 2021-2022 Proposed Budget would allow for the "general use of the remaining \$2.6M in revenue" which appears to violate the information per the City Attorney, Bill Fosbre. Slide 10.

We have a need in the community for community wide broadband. A valuable use would be for these "excess funds" be used to ensure that all students have broadband. This would fill a critical need and serves the property owners in the community. There is a clear cut need that isn't being filled.

This could be a step to provide economic support benefiting community members.

An investment in the future of a child is an investment that provides a lifelong benefit to the community.

Incidentally I checked on who is monitoring the "The 12 Click Policy Goals". I asked using a PDR request. The response was essentially no one. I may have asked the wrong person, but they may not exist. I hope the 12 Click Policy Goals haven't been abandoned.

I would like my council member Deputy Mayor Keith Blocker to contact me regarding this; I would be happy to include you or other council member in our discussion.

1) I would like to expand on my suggestion and explore possibilities and 2) Find out how the 12 policy goals are being monitored and reported to the City. If they are.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Kit Burns
253-820-7392 cell

--

Kit Burns
PO Box 2341
Tacoma, WA 98401

"A nation that continues to spend year after year on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom" - Martin Luther King, Jr.

From: Dennis Townsend <townsend@mashell.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 5:54 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Dona Townsend
Subject: Written Comment: TPL Library Funding - Please Maintain

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

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Good evening Council Members;

I am writing to encourage you to maintain, as much as possible, the funding levels for the Tacoma Public Library system.

We will be encouraging the same with Pierce County's system as a separate advocacy.

We find that libraries are a valuable hub to the community just as good schools, parks and other amenities. We understand other needs may compete and budgets are stressed due to the pandemic, but libraries provide literacy, enrichment and educational opportunities as well as community involvement and act as a "hub" to many other services that makes them uniquely valuable, especially in this difficult time.

Our relationship with TPL is our involvement in Tahoma Audubon and the "Poetry In The Park" program, which they advocate with their support. The Audubon chapter's volunteers to place signs for set amount of time at area parks (Wapato in Tacoma); the library system advocates involvement with the public, youth and students. It is a harmonious blend of literacy, reading, and environmental awareness and has been very successful; we think this program would be jeopardized without help from the Library system.

Thank you for your consideration in keeping our libraries funded.

Sincerely,

Dennis and Dona Townsend

16212 Winchester Drive E

Tacoma, WA 98445