



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](https://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**May 14, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - Daniels and Ushka

Council Member Daniels arrived at 12:41 p.m.

### Briefing Items

1. [24-0519](#) Sound Transit Transportation Projects Update  
[Goran Sparrman, Interim CEO, Sound Transit]

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Goran Sparrman, Interim CEO, Sound Transit (ST), provided a brief introduction on ST transportation project update. Austin Neilson, Government and Community Relations Officer, ST, presented an agenda, and introduced Zac Eskenazi, High Capacity Transit Development Manager, and Curvie Hawkins, Project Development Director, ST. Together, Neilson, Eskenazi, and Hawkins presented the South Tacoma Station access improvements, including a project overview and next steps; Tacoma Dome Access Improvements, including public engagement; Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) project overview, noting Portland Avenue and Tacoma Dome Stations, and next steps; Sounder South Strategic Plan update, noting objectives and activities; and the T Line opening.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation and excitement of the T Line and rider participation; South Tacoma Station, federal funding and grants; Portland Avenue Station and TDLE, coordination with Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge; interaction between stations; construction on TDLE; Sounder survey, noting opportunity to do more; TDLE connection to downtown Seattle; age range data of T Line riders; impact of business around stations; Tideflats area stations, noting next steps in future planning; and participation and community engagement.

Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 12:41 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding game day scheduling, noting the 2026 FIFA World Cup; and adding more trains to current line, including access challenges to maintenance facilities.

2. [24-0520](#)

Home in Tacoma Project Phase 2 Update

[Brian Boudet, Division Manager, Planning and Development Services]

At approximately 12:46 p.m., Brian Boudet, Division Manager, Planning and Development Services (PDS), presented a brief overview on the Home in Tacoma (HIT) Project Phase 2 update and agenda. Alyssa Torrez, Senior Planner, PDS, presented the Planning Commission (PC) public hearing process; PC recommendation package; HIT and state housing mandates; and what was heard from community, noting top comments and topics. Elliott Barnett, Senior Planner, PDS, continued with HIT zoning, noting map densities, scale, and land uses; parking, including quantity required and standards; trees, noting tree credits and retention; and other key topics. Torrez concluded with the City Council tentative schedule.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for staff; tree banking and tiny forests; parking map; amendment process; PC recommendation, noting tree canopy goal and fee in-lieu; bonuses, noting building retention; parking requirement, noting definition of major transit stops; examples of non-residential uses; adjustments and next steps for fee in-lieu; single family housing, noting state mandate to remove that option; preserving buildings and trees in relationship to goals for adding growth; and monitoring outcomes.

3. [24-0521](#)

City of Tacoma Website Design Progress Update

[Amy Clancy, Director; Goldin Doles, Digital Manager, Media and Communications Office]

At approximately 1:40 p.m., Amy Clancy, Director, Media and Communications (MCO), provided opening remarks on the City website design progress and introduced Enzhou Wang, Assistant Director, Information Technology; Goldin Doles, Digital Manager, MCO; and Brian Cox, Communication and Marketing Analyst, MCO. Doles presented an overview; background, noting SiteCrafting was selected as a vendor; project goals, noting increasing accessibility and usability; next steps; outreach, noting community focused events; implementation, noting securing the Tacoma.gov domain; and design. Cox continued with the refreshed City of Tacoma logo; evolution of the logo, including variations and horizontal alternatives; and typography, noting new typeface. Wang concluded with the background on the technology development and process.

Discussion ensued regarding excitement for the .gov domain; migration of email addresses, Tacoma Public Utilities and Tacoma Public Libraries websites; servers, domain, and providers; logo design; responsibilities for content and policies; searchability; web stewards; community outreach, noting the 1-1 usability testing; ease of access for Council agenda material; chatbot feature; design, including photos and colors; collaboration with various City commissions, boards, or committees; main interface, noting organization based on topic not department; and updating the process for uploading content.

## Other Items of Interest

4. [24-0522](#) Council Consideration Request - Facilitation of Pierce County Climate Conversation Meetings  
[Council Member Rumbaugh]

Council Member Rumbaugh presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$20,000 of Council Contingency Funds to support Pierce County Climate Conversation, a multi-jurisdictional partnership to work collaboratively to address challenges brought on by climate change. She concluded by stating this resolution will provide the initial funding necessary for the work to continue and help achieve the countywide goal of reducing greenhouse gas by 45 percent by 2030, following the Pierce County Sustainability Plan 2030.

Discussion ensued regarding partnerships, noting funding; next steps; and advocacy at state and federal levels.

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Assistant to the City Manager Melanie Harding provided information on the special meeting for Charter review topics, including panel discussions, process, and next steps.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [24-0523](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, May 9, 2024  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

Harding stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming May 12-18, 2024, as National Police Week; recognizing the SOTAbots; and a Compassionate Tacoma recognition for the Tacoma Fire Buff Battalion. She concluded by stating no changes are expected to tonight's agenda and tonight's meeting includes community forum.

## Executive Session - Pending Litigation

**MOTION: Council Member Walker moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels**

**ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.**

**Ayes:** 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott and Walker

**Absent:** 1 - Ushka and Mayor Woodards

## Closed Session - Labor Strategy

**MOTION: Council Member Walker moved to convene to closed session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140 (a and b) to discuss labor strategy, not to exceed 30 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels**

**ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.**

**Ayes:** 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott and Walker

**Absent:** 1 - Ushka and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to executive session at 2:40 p.m.  
City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

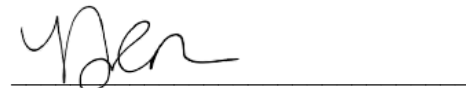
The executive session and closed session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 3:51 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "V. Woodards", written over a horizontal line.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "N. Emery", written over a horizontal line.

Nicole Emery, City Clerk