



## **MINUTES**

(Approved on June 18, 2025)

**MEETING:** Special Meeting and Joint Meeting with the Transportation Commission (hybrid)

**DATE/TIME:** Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Christopher Karnes (Chair), Anthony Steele (Vice-Chair), Morgan Dorner, Robb Krehbiel, Brett Marlo, Matthew Martenson, Jordan Rash, Payton Swinford

**ABSENT:** N/A

### **TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Rubén Casas, Richard Gardner, Penny Grellier, Kerri Hill, Joe Korbuszewski, Bruce Morris, Troy Serad, Quanah Spencer, Matt Stevens, Pamela Wrenn

**Absent:** Austin Goble

### **A. Call to Order**

Chair Karnes called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was declared.

Chair Karnes read the Land Acknowledgement.

### **B. Approval of Agenda**

*Vice-Chair Steele moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Rash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **C. Approval of Minutes**

*Vice-Chair Steele moved to approve the June 5 and June 26, 2024, meeting minutes. Commissioner Dorner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **D. Public Comments**

Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner, reported that there were no written comments received for public comment.

The following individuals addressed the Planning Commission:

(1) Kit Burns

Public comment ended at 5:36 p.m.

### **E. Disclosure of Contacts and Recusals**

There were no disclosures of contacts or recusals.

### **F. Joint Discussion Item**

- 1. Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Tacoma Dome Link Extension Project (TDLE)**

Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, provided introductory remarks. Austin Neilson and Diane Waitr, Sound Transit, presented an update on the TDLE project, including background, project timeline, an overview of the draft EIS, alternative comparison, Tacoma Dome Station comparison, Portland Avenue Station comparison, Portland Avenue Station comparison, Puyallup River Light Rail Bridge trade-off, and community engagement.

Discussion ensued regarding the alternatives, demolition of Freighthouse Square, communication/outreach to property and business owners, changing right-of-ways in the Portland Avenue station area, parking lots across from Freighthouse Square, alternatives that were eliminated, ST express services, multimodal connections, ridership, enhancing the pedestrian environment, mitigating loss, and drafting a joint comment letter.

*Transportation Commissioner Stevens moved to write a joint letter and assign the Transportation Commission's co-chairs and Planning Commission's chair and vice-chair to draft the letter. Vice Chair Steele seconded the motion. Commissioner Rash recused himself from the motion and the letter. The motion passed unanimously.*

Waitr presented the Tacoma Dome access improvements (TDAI), including potential projects, organizations, engaged, and next steps.

The joint session concluded at 7:02 p.m., and the Planning Commission meeting convened at 7:09 p.m.

## **2. Moratorium on Nomination and Designation of Historic Special Review and Conservation Districts – Revision to Workplan**

Reuben McKnight, presented the revised workplan, including an overview of the moratorium and the revisions to the workplan.

Discussion ensued regarding how nominations/designations and Home In Tacoma actions affect each other.

*Commissioner Dorner moved to approve the revised workplan for Historic Special Review and Conservation Districts. Vice-Chair Steele seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **3. Planning Commission's 6-Month Outlook**

Atkinson, presented the Planning Commission's tentative schedule, including South Tacoma coordination, One Tacoma open houses, key deadlines, and strategy to support the Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding open house/engagement process, streamlining the amendment process for project review, the South Tacoma Economic Green Zone, and public release of the One Tacoma update.

## **H. Upcoming Meetings (Tentative Agendas)**

(2) January 1, 2024, meeting cancelled

(1) Agenda for the January 15, 2024, meeting includes:

- Comprehensive Plan update – Policy Review

(2) Agenda for the February 5, 2025, meeting includes:

- Comprehensive Plan update – Request to Release for Public Hearing and Comment Period

## **I. Communication Items**

The Commission acknowledged receipt of communication items on the agenda.

## **J. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

*\*These minutes are not a direct transcription of the meeting, but rather a brief capture. For full-length audio recording of the meeting, please visit: <https://tacoma.gov/planningcommission>*