



# City of Tacoma

## Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Conference Room 248

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 878 2905 6704

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/87829056704](http://www.zoom.us/j/87829056704) Passcode: 614650

**January 11, 2023**

**4:30 PM**

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Chair Kristina Walker, Vice Chair John Hines, Olgy Diaz,  
Catherine Ushka, Joe Bushnell (alternate)

### Call To Order

Vice Chair Hines called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 4 - Diaz, Hines, Walker and Ushka

Chair Walker, Vice Chair Hines, and Council Member Diaz participated virtually.

### Approval of Minutes

1. [23-0025](#) Minutes of the October 26, 2022, meeting.

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2022, meeting.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Diaz.**

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

**Ayes:** 4 - Diaz, Hines, Walker and Ushka

### Briefing Items

2. [23-0016](#) Election of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

At approximately 4:38 p.m., Vice Chair Hines provided opening remarks on the election of the Committee Chair and Vice Chair.

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to re-elect Deputy Mayor Walker as Chair of the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee for the year 2023.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Diaz.**

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

**Ayes:** 4 - Diaz, Hines, Walker and Ushka

**MOTION: Vice Chair Hines moved to elect Council Member Diaz as the Vice Chair of the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee for the year 2023.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.**

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

**Ayes:** 4 - Diaz, Hines, Walker and Ushka

3. [23-0014](#)

Neighborhood Planning Program Update

[Lauren Hoogkamer, Principal Planner; Aneka Olson, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services]

At approximately 4:41 p.m., Lauren Hoogkamer, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Services (PDS), presented the McKinley Hill Neighborhood Plan update, including background, noting the creation of the pilot program and direction by the City Council; overview; coordination and alignment with other efforts; process; the steering group 2023 schedule; outreach overview, noting the steering group and committees, community events, surveys, the McKinley Neighborhood Fair, and focus group roundtables; and highlights, noting the McKinley Neighborhood Fair, community booster voting, and social pinpoint and language access. Aneka Olson, Senior Planner, PDS, presented plan implementation quick wins; and goals, objectives, and actions for business district vitality, transportation, open space, and development. Hoogkamer concluded by presenting next steps and the future of the program.

Discussion ensued regarding the McKinley Neighborhood Fair, developing business districts, implementation goals, how neighborhood plans work with other long-range planning projects, next steps, creating neighborhood plans for other neighborhoods and helping neighborhoods prepare to be part of those plans, and the costs and funding of neighborhood plans.

4. [23-0015](#)

## Mountain Division Updates

[Alan Matheson, Assistant Rail Superintendent, Tacoma Public Utilities;  
Jennifer Hines, Assistant Division Manager, Public Works]

At approximately 5:08 p.m., Daniel McCabe, Business Services Senior Manager, Tacoma Rail, presented the Mountain Division rail line divestment, including an overview, noting assembling the corridor, initial objectives in 1995, freight customers, and what Tacoma Rail maintains as the corridor operator; background; issues, noting insufficient revenue for long term sustainability, infrequent economic development opportunities, ongoing basic maintenance, the projected investment needs over the next ten years, the 2012 State Auditor findings of loans that needed to be paid back, Tacoma Rail being a Class III railroad, historic soil contamination near Lake Kapowsin, and seasonal flooding of Clover Creek near Military Road; the health, equity, and sustainability analysis, noting the efficiency of freight railroads for transporting bulk goods, no reduction in staffing as a result of the divestment, the rail line traversing historically disadvantaged communities, and providing an opportunity to reduce the number of City-owned locomotives; recommendations; purchase and sale; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding re-purposing the corridor for other uses; the loans; the Lake Kapowsin contamination, current cleanup efforts in partnership with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and who would be responsible for continuing cleanup efforts after a sale; how many employees work at Tacoma Rail; possible costs for potential buyers; cost of maintenance versus funds generated; freight transportation routes in the City and alternatives after the sale; possible uses of the proceeds; the timeline of the divestment piece within the City; funds needed for maintenance of the corridor; possible impacts on future projects in the corridor; requirements of the sales agreement; and possible impacts on train traffic in the surrounding area.

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to forward the Mountain Division rail line divestment to the full City Council for consideration.**

**SECONDED BY: Vice Chair Diaz.**

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

**Ayes: 4 - Diaz, Hines, Walker and Ushka**

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

5. [23-0017](#) January 25, 2023- Home in Tacoma Phase 2; 2023 Annual Amendments Update  
February 8, 2023- Tacoma Water Climate Plan; 2022-2024 Long Range Planning  
Work Program Update  
February 22, 2023-Trees and Construction Operations Plan;  
Neighborhood Planning Program Update

Cathy Sims, Committee Liaison, stated that the next meeting will be held on January 25, 2023, and will include updates on the Home in Tacoma Project Phase 2 and the 2023 Annual Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Regulatory Code; the February 8, 2023, meeting will include updates on the Tacoma Water climate plan and the 2022-2024 long range planning work program; and the February 22, 2023, meeting will include updates on the trees and construction operations plan and the Neighborhood Planning Program.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

## Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.



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Kristina Walker, Chair



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Katie Foster, City Clerk's Office