



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

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

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

**March 09, 2021**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:05 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - McCarthy

Council Member McCarthy arrived at 12:13 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

### Briefing Items

1. [21-0236](#) Pierce Transit Bus Stop Balancing Program

At approximately 12:06 p.m., Mike Griffus, Chief Operating Officer, Pierce Transit (PT), introduced Alexandra Mather, Government and Community Relations Officer, PT, and presented PT's Bus Stop Balancing Program, including the definition and purpose of bus stop balancing; how bus stops are balanced; average system speeds from 2015 to 2020, noting the five routes with the highest speed reductions; internal communications; and customer and community communications.

Council Member McCarthy arrived here, at 12:13 p.m.

Ms. Mather outlined the bus stop balancing tool, available on the PT website at [www.piercetransit.org/busstops](http://www.piercetransit.org/busstops), and opportunities for public feedback. Mr. Griffus concluded by reviewing existing routes and bus stops, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding the video and bus stop balancing tool available online, suggestions for new stop locations, outreach to underrepresented

groups and advocacy groups, possible impacts to seniors and people with disabilities, pedestrian safety and mobility concerns, sidewalk and shelter facilities, transit-oriented development and land use, ridership rates, and resources available to the City Council and public.

2. [21-0237](#) Advocacy Letter- Federal Government Request

At approximately 12:33 p.m., Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, presented a draft advocacy letter from the City Council to the United States Department of Homeland Security regarding private detention facilities and the Northwest ICE Processing Center, noting the context and past City Council actions related to the topic, recent federal government policies and actions to phase out private detention centers, upcoming meetings between City Council Members and U.S. Congressional representatives, and a request for the City Council to consider a motion to approve the letter.

Discussion ensued regarding Council Member support of the proposed letter, and next steps.

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to have the full City Council sign on to the advocacy letter to United States Department of Homeland Security regarding private detention facilities.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

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

**Ayes:** 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

3. [21-0238](#) Appeal to Local Improvement District No. 8663

The appeal was held later in the study session.

4. [21-0239](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 12:38 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented the system transformation update, including new items, noting work completed by the Heal the Heart of Tacoma Core Coordinating Team, the Workforce Equity Study, and Procedural Justice training for staff; the systems transformation update table, the next steps timeline, and the draft transformation timeline.

Discussion ensued regarding divertible calls, rescheduling the City Council’s implicit bias training, and Committee of the Whole meeting times.

**Other Items of Interest**

There were no other items of interest.

**Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports given.

**Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report**

- 5. [21-0240](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, March 4, 2021

City Manager Pauli stated there is one ceremonial on tonight's agenda, presenting the systems transformation update; one change is expected to the agenda, to amend Exhibit A of Resolution No. 40756 to add the name of an appointee who was inadvertently omitted from the resolution; and that Community Forum will be held tonight as well.

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The study session recessed at 12:39 p.m.

The study session reconvened at 1:32 p.m.

**Briefing Items - Continued**

- 3. [21-0238](#) Appeal to Local Improvement District No. 8663

At approximately 1:32 p.m., Mayor Woodards made opening remarks regarding the appeal of the Hearing Examiner’s decision and reconsideration of the formation of Segment 3 of Local Improvement District (LID) No. 8663, located at Mullen Street from North 47th Street to North 48th Street. Mayor Woodards requested that any Council Member who has had ex parte communication with any party involved in the appeal, disclose that information before the hearing.

Council Member Hunter disclosed a personal relationship with residents in or near the LID area and recused herself from the appeal hearing, due to the appearance of a conflict of interest.

City Attorney Bill Fosbre explained the appeal procedures as described in the Rules of Procedure of the Council and Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 1.70.

Ralph Rodriguez, LID Manager, Public Works, provided background information regarding LID No. 8663, and the Hearing Examiner's decision and reconsideration.

Discussion ensued regarding the amount assessed to homeowners, and the difference between LID and Streets Initiative funds.

Stephen and Gretchen Nogler and James and Gayle Totten presented their appeal.

Discussion continued regarding the City's LID process; rebuttals and responses; funding sources and costs to property owners; the timeline for this specific LID; property owner involvement, notification, support, and objections; City priorities related to curb, gutter, and stormwater improvements versus street improvements; methods to initiate LIDs; ownership changes; and the City Councils' role in the appeal process.

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to a Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(2) to discuss the quasi-judicial matter, not to exceed 20 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Hines.**

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

**Ayes:** 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Recused:** 1 - Hunter

The City Council convened to a Closed Session at 2:53 p.m.

The Closed Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 3:24 p.m.

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to deny the appeal of the Hearing Examiner's decision and reconsideration of the formation of Segment 3 of Local Improvement District No. 8663.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

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

**Ayes:** 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Recused:** 1 - Hunter

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk