



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers

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

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

August 02, 2022

12:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Blocker, Bushnell, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Daniels and Ushka

Deputy Mayor Ushka and Council Member Daniels arrived at 1:42 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Ushka and Council Member Daniels participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [22-0861](#) Bus Rapid Transit Phase 2

At approximately 12:00 p.m., Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, Planning and Development Services, provided opening remarks regarding Phase 2 of Pierce Transit's (PT) bus rapid transit (BRT) project, also known as PT Stream, and introduced Tina Lee, Planning Manager, PT. Lee presented background information about the project, including outreach and engagement work by the PT Board; and introduced Amber Stanley, Senior Planner, PT; John McMillan, Associate, KPFF Consulting Engineers; Oren Eshel, Senior Associate, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates. Stanley outlined the Pierce Transit Stream BRT system expansion study (SSES), including an overview, noting the network of stream corridors, the study timeline, and engagement and oversight; the four SSES corridors, noting alignment with existing routes and the various options; and future connection to the Sound Transit T Line extension and one of the corridors. Eshel reviewed the City's Equity Index, noting outcomes and equity analysis results; the SSES evaluation framework; the evaluation process; a scoring snapshot, noting measures related to density of low-income jobs, access to Regional Growth Centers and Centers of Local Importance; results of the Step 1 evaluation; and how results are weighted. McMillan further presented Step 2 of the evaluation process, and next steps. Boudet concluded by presenting input from the City's

Planning Commission, Transportation Commission, and Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group; and staff work to provide comments, which will be forwarded to the City Council.

Discussion ensued regarding lessons learned from the first BRT route, the importance of collaboration and partnerships, downtown connection options, Tacoma Dome versus Commerce Street stations, growth management and accountability, timing and possible conflicts with the Sound Transit light rail expansion, whether other corridors were considered, long-term plans, community engagement, the various corridors and route options, transit-oriented development, connecting business districts and Regional Growth Centers, providing regional connections, corridor scoring and priorities, serving riders, and the wide-ranging impacts of the expansion project.

2. [22-0862](#) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy Lid Lift

At approximately 12:51 p.m., Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget, provided opening remarks regarding the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy lid lift proposal, including the relationship to the City's overall revenue strategy, noting previous presentations, financial sustainability concerns, other related items, and upcoming presentations. Tory Green, Chief, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD), presented the proposal to place an EMS levy lid lift on the April 2023 ballot, including an overview; background; ballot language and limitations; the option for an EMS levy lid lift, noting 2019-2024 limits, available levy funds, and factors; TFD call volume, noting a 51 percent growth in requests for EMS incidents since 2006; call volume compared to available first responding companies or units; call volume per unit in 2021; proposed use of the EMS levy to add units and reduce financial impacts of EMS transportation; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding the available data; increased call volumes; concerns about staff; regional comparisons; advanced life support calls, noting calls from senior and long-term care facilities; comparisons of call volumes with the City's Equity Index; capital investments and options for expanding facilities and services; cost recovery rates; appreciation for staff; meeting the community's needs; requests for additional presentations and information during budget discussions; next steps; and ways to support the TFD.

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

3. [22-0863](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, July 28, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are no ceremonials and no changes expected on tonight's agenda. She further stated that tonight's meeting agenda includes appointments to the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma leadership team, and that a Committee of the Whole special meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m.

Executive Session - Review the Qualifications of a Public Employee

MOTION: Council Member Blocker moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) to review the qualifications of a public employee, not to exceed 10 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.

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

Ayes: 6 - Blocker, Bushnell, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Daniels and Ushka

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 1:33 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Ushka and Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 1:42 p.m.

The Executive Session was extended by 30 minutes at 1:53 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 2:32 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk