



MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Transportation Commission Meeting

TIME: Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conf. Room 243, Tacoma Municipal Building
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

1. Call to Order

Co-chair Leighton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call/Introductions

Co-chair Leighton excused CM Thurlow. The motion was approved and seconded.

3. Approval of Minutes (There were no minutes to approve)

Before moving on Co-chair Leighton said that Item 5.a. would be removed from the agenda –“Bylaw Amendment - Room Change” because there is no reference to the room in the bylaws.

4. Public Comment for Items on the Agenda

No public comment.

5. Business Items

a. *Removed from Agenda-Room change*

b. *Puyallup Avenue Corridor Project Comment Letter (Co-chairs)*

Co-chair Leighton asked everyone to read through the letter before discussing and let everyone know that he & Co-chair Moore worked on the letter and also incorporated a comment from CM Mason.

Co-chair Leighton said that in summary the letter includes the recommendation that there should be a more holistic review & planning of the corridor so it is not just one street.

Co-chair Leighton said that in speaking with Pierce Transit it did not seem they were being heard about their needs for a transit only corridor lane. They did say that they would be fine sharing the lane with freight as long as freight did not stop in the lane.



Co-chair Leighton mentioned that one item that was not conveyed by staff was a possible “couplet”. In ST3 it calls for increased capacity on Tacoma Link. In order to do that they need to have more trains. They can’t do that with the current configuration so the thought was that it would go WB downtown on Puyallup Avenue and EB on 25th. So there was a request that the planning needs to be thoughtful about what that might do to the corridor between G St and Pacific Ave.

The comments from BPTAG re walkability and bicycle needs were incorporated into the letter.

The letter has been broken down into Recommendations for easier reference in the future.

Unless otherwise noted answers to questions below were provided by Co-chair Leighton.

Question: CM Skaught asked what the boundaries of the corridor were.

Answer: Portland Ave. to C St.

Question: CM Skaught followed up with a question about the width of the corridor.

Answer: Speaking about it holistically it includes 25th – at this time it seems to be a much underutilized ROW. It could be used for bikes only or freight only.

Question: CM Skaught asked for clarification about the term corridor since Co-chair Leighton used it for both 25th St. as well as Puyallup, but then refers to the whole corridor as well.

Answer: We could use the term ‘streets’ as opposed to ‘corridor’ for easier understanding. Individual streets as a whole corridor of transportation that works together.

Co-chair Leighton also noted that the Sustainability Commission wanted to comment about this and in principal they agree with the letter, but in the future they will draft their own letter and send it to TC for consideration.

Question: CM Hyman asked about the on street parking removal language in the letter -do you mean remove on street parking altogether? Could we add language about reallocating the parking?

Answer: It could be reallocated so the language in the letter could be changed to say relocating when applicable.

Question: CM Mason said that in the TMP this is called out as a conflicted corridor so is this considered the study for this corridor?

Answer: Jennifer said that it would not be considered a study yet so no change would be made to the TMP. A study would include traffic counts, outreach and initial design and this is still going through another process.

Co-chair Leighton feels the study should be considered complete based on the work that has been done so far.

Discussion continued between members.

CM Mason feels in the future the study/review by the Commission should be done prior to the design phase.

Co-chair Moore moved to accept the letter with one addition to relocate parking whenever possible. The move was seconded and unanimously approved.

c. Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan Comment Letter (Co-chairs)

Co-chair Moore led this discussion. She said that after the presentation at the last TC meeting, there was a special follow up meeting attended by Co-chair Moore, CM Skaught, CM Mason and CM Nyland. The letter was drafted after that meeting.

Jennifer had pointed out that we might add a comment as to whether or not we would support impact fees for the development because that is part of their proposal.

CM Skaught asked that 36th Street be considered as part of the plan. She feels it could be improved and help alleviate some of the traffic. Discussion ensued.

The Commission discussed 37th Street so that they could make a determination and finalize the letter requested by the Planning Commission.

Co-chairs Moore and Leighton both agreed that putting 37th Street in is most consistent with the policies in the TMP. Discussion ensued.

The Commission agreed that more bike/ped access was necessary in the area but not necessarily that the road has to be right there.

Co-chair Moore recapped for the group and suggested they say rather than require 37th Street, we suggest it be more flexible so that with major development some sort of road (an East/West connection) with good bike/pedestrian infrastructure exists to split up the large block between 36th & 38th in the area between Pine and South Tacoma Way.

Impact fees were briefly discussed – the TC confirmed interest but said the issue of impact fees needs to be further researched before any determination can be made on the part of the Commission.

Jennifer said that it sounds like the group supports providing smaller block ped/bike connections – as per Section 3.6 in the TMP. Maybe include a comment about impact fees that refers back to the reference in the TMP which shows it is a potential future funding source.

Co-chair Leighton said that changes and comments from the meeting will be incorporated into the letter then sent to Planning Commission. Co-chair Moore had taken notes and briefly went over the revisions.

Co-chair Leighton moved to accept the letter and changes. The move was seconded and approved.

d. 2018 TMP Amendments-Performance Measures (Jennifer Kammerzell)

Jennifer began with the Performance measures and said that she is looking for approval to take to the Planning Commission. There are still some that need to be looked at.

The walk friendly communities' measurement has been added. The fossil fuel (HE3) still needs to be updated. ST1 needs to have a year added to the sentence. In E1 and E2 it was agreed that 'Tier 1' needs to be removed.

Co-chair Leighton asked that the start and end date be consistent throughout even if we have to say 2015 – N/A because something is new.

Co-chair Leighton asked if there is somewhere that we are going to require updating of this document. Possibly every 3 years – just a guarantee that these will be measured again.

Answer: Jennifer said that it does state this is a bi-annual report so it will be updated at that time.

Question: How often do we review the TMP?

Answer: Every 2 years.

Follow up question: Could we have a list of upcoming events/deadlines at the bottom of our minutes and include it in our agenda so that we are aware of it?

Answer: Staff will work on adding this information. We follow the Planning Commission's Comprehensive plans which are every other year and we would approve on the off year. They approve in 2018 so we need to have our amendments done end 2017.

Co-chair Leighton said there are 2 separate things -regular amendments that the Commission is working on, but CM Nyland is referring to a comprehensive review of the overall plan.

The suggestion was to add an overall review of the plan to the schedule – every 5 years possibly? Further discussion will be made on this topic at the Co-chair meeting next week.

Staff will work on a list which will be added to the agenda to remind the Commission of upcoming projects and review deadlines.

Co-chair Leighton made a motion to approve the Performance Measures with

changes. The motion was seconded and approved.

The next items for approval were the Appendices.

Jennifer gave a brief overview of the Appendices. BPTAG has seen both of these and approves. They are putting on their work plan to work on pedestrian strategies for the coming year.

Question: Is it possible to show the changes?

Answer: Jennifer removed the tracked changes because it got messy but these were presented at previous meetings so everyone agreed that Jennifer did not need to resend the tracked changes version.

Co-chair Leighton moved to approve Appendix C & D to be added to the TMP. The motion was seconded and approved.

A. Other Business/Updates

a. Parking Technical Advisory Group (PTAG)

No meeting this month.

Question: There is a parking garage that was approved for brewery district across from El Gaucho with egress onto Pacific Avenue – has that come to PTAG for discussion?

Answer: It did not come to PTAG.

The Commission feels that something like this should be brought to them for review since there are several issues with it.

Jennifer suggested the group could create the policies that would then trigger the code change. Staff will look into it.

The request is specific to the development of parking.

CM Mason brought up that we could add to the letter for Puyallup Avenue that moving forward the Transportation Commission would like to be part of any future planning.

b. Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG)

Next meeting is Monday – agenda is E. 64th St. Bicycle Improvements and Pedestrian Prioritization.

c. Planning Commission Agenda

Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan, Tideflats Moratorium and Marijuana. Also Jennifer will present Amendments to them on October 18.

d. Commission Comments

Next month we are re-appointing chairs. Next week are interviews - there are 6 applicants.

Next week is 2017 Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts – volunteers needed – 9/26, 27&28. The numbers are used to help justify funding.

Save the Date – Oct 19-Pierce County Trails Conference – “Using planning to help

trail building”. Ryan Mello is keynote speaker. \$25 – dinner included. Tickets are available at Eventbrite.

Co-chair Moore said 2 individuals have contacted her about Hood street south of 21st getting paved and since it is a part of the final phase of Prairie Line Trail which is not yet funded, there is concern that that it will become a vehicle street. So they are asking for sharrows or some marking to indicate it is a shared lane. Co-chair Moore recommended they bring this concern forward to BPTAG.

B. Staff Reports

a. *Responses to Commission Inquiries*

No responses because we are waiting for minutes.

b. *Status of Grant Applications & Major Capital Projects*

Transportation Alternatives Projects (TAP) submitted in September: Pipeline Phase 3; Water Flume Line Phase 3A; Hilltop & Brewery Connectivity.

c. *Upcoming Public Meetings & Events*

9/27 - IPS – Transportation Commission Interviews; Pierce Transit HCT Open Houses; Livable City Grant (UW)

Co-chair Leighton asked that the students come to the Commission before project end for comment.

C. Public Comment

Kit Barnes provided comment and said that he would send information to Jennifer to share with the Commission. Primary issue was the changeover to LED lights.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.