



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

March 19, 2019

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor McCarthy called the study session to order at 12:10 p.m.

Present: 7 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello and Ushka

Absent: 2 - Thoms and Mayor Woodards

Briefing Items

1. [19-0247](#) Tacoma Dome Link Extension and Hilltop Link Extension Construction

At approximately 12:10 p.m., Brian Boudet, Planning Manager, Planning and Development Services, provided opening remarks and introduced Austin Neilsen, Government Community Relations Officer, and Curvie Hopkins, Jr., Project Development Director, Sound Transit (ST). Mr. Hopkins presented on the Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) project, including timelines for the project to extend the Link light rail from Federal Way Transit Center to Tacoma Dome, and build the Operations and Maintenance Facility-South; the TDLE alternatives process and project timeline, including planning, design, and construction; TDLE Level 2 evaluation results; alternatives in the Tacoma Dome, East Tacoma, South Federal Way, and Fife areas; Tacoma Dome and East Tacoma station areas and options; final evaluation criteria categories; categorization of alternatives based on the Level 2 technical evaluation; a review of the feedback table; comparing station alternatives with more potential and those with greater challenges in the Tacoma Dome and East Tacoma station areas; a review of connections between the stations identified as having 'more potential' between the Tacoma Dome and East Tacoma areas; the full TDLE alignment locations with more potential between Tacoma and Federal Way; a summary of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping process; and next steps to reach a preferred alternative, with anticipated action by the ST Board in July 2019.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding the preferred alternative route alignments and stations, including connections to other areas, estimated costs, and impacts to existing roads, walkways, and businesses; placement and

design for the Tacoma Dome area station, including the idea for an underground station; East Tacoma station options, connections to residential areas, and the idea for a pedestrian overpass across Interstate 5; land use and transit-oriented development; the focus on the current public comment process; parking and access to light rail; strategies to simplify or reduce the EIS timeline; and the timeline for a Council resolution related to the project in May 2019.

Madeleine Greathouse, Project Director, ST, presented an update on the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension project, including a project overview; schedule from 2018 to 2022; status updates for the three construction work zones, known as Heading 1 along Stadium Way, Heading 2 in the Stadium District, and Heading 3 in the Hilltop District; and expansion of the Operations and Maintenance Facility on East 25th Street. Liz Satterthwaite, Community Outreach Specialist, ST, outlined community outreach and business mitigation, including an upcoming 'Loyal to the Local' outreach program. Ms. Greathouse discussed issues and responses to community concerns in the Hilltop area, including relocating the contractor's equipment laydown area. Ms. Satterthwaite noted several community outreach events are scheduled. Ms. Greathouse concluded with review of key issues and challenges to date.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding community interest in the project and ST's communication and outreach efforts.

2. [19-0248](#) Streets Initiative Update

At approximately 1:32 p.m., Kurtis Kingsolver, Director, Public Works (PW), provided opening remarks and a brief history of the Streets Initiative, and introduced Reid Bennion, Management Analyst II, and Erik Sloan, Pavement Manager, PW. Mr. Bennion presented an overview and background of the Streets Initiative, 2018 revenues, and 2018 expenditures. Mr. Sloan reviewed residential maintenance completed in 2018 and anticipated in 2019, including overlay, surface treatment, preventative maintenance, and gravel streets; and a map overlay showing completed and planned project areas. Mr. Bennion reviewed the 2019 capital projects list schedule, funding, and grant and partner funds; other Streets Initiative funded improvements; community feedback, including a comparison of 2017 and 2018 feedback by project type; and lessons learned related to design, project effectiveness, and outreach.

Discussion ensued regarding completed projects; areas that lack sidewalks, curbs, and gutters; focus and cost differences between repairing and replacing existing infrastructure versus full road improvements; long-term impact of

policies and development standards; coordination between PW and Environmental Services for street and stormwater improvement projects; staff responsiveness and positive impacts of the work done to date; after-action surveys and capturing positive responses; increasing communication and outreach to educate the public, highlighting progress, and inviting comment; and the impact of grant funding.

Other Items of Interest

Council Member Hunter discussed a documentary titled “Seattle is Dying”, related to homelessness in the Seattle area.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [19-0249](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, March 14, 2019

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated tonight’s City Council meeting agenda includes one proclamation, proclaiming March 2019 as Women’s History Month; a proposed amendment to Amended Ordinance No. 28576 related to accessory dwelling units (ADUs); and Citizens' Forum, which the City has encouraged residents to attend to speak about the proposed Click! public-private partnership.

City Manager Pauli stated the Public Utility Board took action on Resolution No. U-11070, approving an agreement between Tacoma Power and Rainier Connect related to a Click! public-private partnership, at a special meeting on March 18, 2019. She further stated that a resolution will be brought to the City Council meeting of March 26, 2019.

Council Members discussed proposed Resolution No. 40258 on tonight’s meeting agenda, related to affordable housing and ADUs. Discussion ensued regarding the Affordable Housing Action Strategy; staff strategy, timelines, and priorities; Council direction to staff; and previous discussions related to ADUs and affordable housing.

Executive Session - Pending Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Ibsen moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed 10 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 7 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello and Ushka

Absent: 2 - Thoms and Mayor Woodards

The Council convened to Executive Session at 2:50 p.m.
City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk