



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 16

December 10, 2013

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the study session to order at 12:07 p.m.

Present: 7 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 2 - Walker and Woodards

Briefing Items

1. 13-0377 Tacoma Link Expansion Project

Mayor Strickland announced the first study session topic is the Tacoma Link Expansion Project. Alisa O'Hanlon, City Manager's Office, provided background information on the Tacoma Link Expansion Project and introduced Chelsea Levy and Sue Comis, Sound Transit. Ms. Levy stated the information provided today was presented to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee last month, and noted Sound Transit is looking to identify which routes will move on to the next planning phase. Ms. Comis reviewed the Tacoma Link Expansion, including the timeline, project goals, expansion design standards, an overview of route alignments, transfer alignments, the proposed design option, evaluation criteria, community and environmental impacts, and community facilities. Ms. Comis then reviewed transportation, including on-street parking and bicycle operations; utilities; construction; consistency with land use plans; markets and major destinations served; and route distance maps, including Stadium Way, Broadway, and St. Helens Avenue.

Ms. Comis concluded by reviewing the economic development potential, capital cost comparison, and partnership funding. Discussion ensued regarding rail expansion in other cities, funding, route design options, the difference between street cars and link light rail, transfer alignments, traffic signal priorities, headways, impacts and costs to community facilities, the impacts of abandoned tracks, on-street parking, cost impacts to underground utilities, agencies that may increase ridership, and cost saving options. Deputy Mayor Campbell requested Sound Transit include the Broadway Center for the

Performing Arts in all stakeholder discussions; Mayor Strickland requested anyone interested in the project should be included in stakeholder discussions.

2. 13-0378 Neighborhood Council Review Recommendations

Mayor Strickland announced the next study session topic is the Neighborhood Council Review recommendations. Carol Wolfe, Neighborhood and Community Services, provided background information regarding the Neighborhood Council Program, and thanked community members for their input. Ms. Wolfe then discussed the Neighborhood Council Review, including goals, stakeholder involvement, best practices review, revision objectives, recommendations, program enhancements, and next steps. Mayor Strickland requested additional information regarding the demographic profiles of peer cities, and that staff provide training to Neighborhood Councils regarding government finances.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Agenda Review

Mayor Strickland called upon City Manager T.C. Broadnax for a review of tonight's Council agenda. Mr. Broadnax stated there will be one proclamation proclaiming December 9-15, 2013, as Computer Science Education Week in the City of Tacoma, a public hearing on the proposed sale of Tacoma Rail Mountain Division property, and Citizens' Forum tonight. He noted staff provided a memorandum with answers to Council's questions regarding Purchase Resolution Nos. 38792 and 38794 on tonight's agenda. Discussion ensued regarding the process for appropriating dollars for contract extensions.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk