



## City of Tacoma Transportation Commission

Matt Stevens, Co-Chair, At-Large  
Bruce Morris, Co-Chair, At-Large  
Richard Gardner, At-Large  
Quanah Spencer, At-Large  
Joe Korbuszewski, District 1  
Rubén Casas, District 2  
Austin Goble, District 3  
Troy Serad, District 4  
Penny Grellier, District 5  
Pamela Wrenn, City Manager Appointed  
Kerri Hill, City Manager Appointed

### Meeting Minutes

**Meeting:** Transportation Commission  
**Time:** Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.  
**Place:** Hybrid: 747 Market Street, Room 243 or Zoom

Join by computer, click on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/join> or <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87316891624?pwd=ZEJBMml3VWZSOTd1cjE5ZjNGT0VoUT09>

Join by Phone: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 873 1689 1624

Passcode: 747000

#### I. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

*Co-Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. CM Serad read a Land Acknowledgment.*

#### II. Roll Call

*All Commissioners were present for all or part of the meeting.*

#### III. Review of Minutes (August 21, 2024)

*CM Serad proposed a minor edit to the meeting minutes: Route 3, not Route 1, had improved to a 15-minute service; Route 1 already has 15-minute service. Co-Chair Stevens moved to approve the June 26, 2024 minutes with CM Serad's amendment. CM Casas seconded the motion.*

*Ayes: 7 – Spencer, Goble, Stevens, Gardner, Korbuszewski, Casas, Serad*

*Nays: 0*

*Abstain: 0*

*Non-voting: CM Wrenn, CM K. Hill*

#### IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

*Kit Burns: The current plans for S 56th Street do not align with the city's plans. Kitt has several drawings he will share with staff. He feels that coordination along 56th is lacking and may be representative of Tacoma's planning more broadly. He collaborates with the South End Neighborhood Council and has offered to meet with city officials to discuss these issues in person.*

*CM Stevens noted it's a great time to bring up these issues as the Transportation and Mobility Plan (previously Transportation Master Plan) is currently being updated.*



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## V. Business Items (5:45)

- a) Streets Initiative II (Information and Discussion) – Ramiro Chavez, Public Works Director/City Engineer, and Joe Franco, Special Assistant to the Public Works Director

*Ramiro Chavez, Public Works Director, and Joe Franco, Special Assistant to the Public Works Director, provided a presentation about Streets Initiative II (SI II), highlighting its foundational elements, including funding mechanisms from previous propositions and the focus being mainly residential streets. The next initiative aims to build on the success of prior efforts. The focus will be on arterial roads, multimodal transportation, and residential improvements, with particular attention to equity in project selection.*

*Commissioners expressed the need for clarity on how specific arterial roads would be prioritized, emphasizing the importance of transit use, supporting Home in Tacoma, safety, and multimodal considerations. Concerns were raised about balancing large projects with smaller, impactful improvements. Ramiro explained the next initiative is designed to be flexible and strategic, addressing community needs such as traffic calming and pedestrian safety. The plan for SI II includes extensive outreach and a media campaign leading up to a proposed ballot measure in April 2025.*

- b) Transportation Master Plan – 2015 Project Prioritization (Information and Discussion) – Jennifer Kammerzell, Assistant Transportation Division Manager

*Jennifer Kammerzell, Assistant Division Manager, provided an overview of the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) as previously completed, detailing the requirements set by the Growth Management Act (GMA) including forecasting multimodal transportation demand over the next ten years, assessing funding capabilities, ensuring compliance with multimodal level of service standards, and developing a multiyear financing plan that aligns with the comprehensive plan and informs the six-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She explained the current TMP's project list, found in Appendix B, outlines capital facilities and overall financial needs, emphasizing transparency and collaboration with various city, state, and regional partners. Jennifer also explained the development of modal transportation priority maps and how the current project list includes a diverse range of projects, totalling around 400. The current TMP prioritization criteria focuses on multimodal approaches, equity, health, environmental impacts, system preservation, and congestion management.*

*Jennifer explained for the updated TMP, the Commission must concentrate on defining criteria for project prioritization. Commissioners raised concerns about missing criteria, definitions, and the weighting of various factors in the prioritization process. Discussions highlighted the need to rank safety based on crash data or alignment with Vision Zero criteria and to reevaluate the focus on short-term projects in relation to long-term benefits. There was a request for concrete data to support measures, such as greenhouse gas emissions related to health impacts, as well as clear definitions for short, medium, and long-term timelines. Jennifer explained the next step was to bring some recommendation changes to the criteria to the Commission for their consideration and discussion.*



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c) Tacoma Dome Access Improvements Letter of Recommendation (Discussion) – Co-Chair Matt Stevens  
*Commissioners reflected on the presentation from Sound Transit and subsequent discussion from the last Commission meeting. It was discussed whether the forthcoming letter should focus on specific projects or broader themes related to the transit center's development. It was agreed by the majority of the Commission on the need to articulate a clear stance that funds should not be used for additional parking. Specific projects, such as ADA improvements and the Puyallup Avenue corridor, were identified as priorities, with an emphasis on safety and accessibility. Commissioner also noted the importance of public engagement. CM Serad was delegated responsibility of writing the letter of recommendation on behalf of the Commission.*

## **VI. Other Business/Updates (6:45)**

- a) Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (Joe Korbuszewski)  
*CM Korbuszewski stated that BPTAG received a presentation from Sound Transit on TDAI projects. During the discussion, BPTAG emphasized the need to use funds for multimodal improvements and that they did not support more parking. BPTAG will be writing a letter to Sound Transit.*
- b) Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan Advisory Committee (Richard Gardner)  
*CM Gardner explained the Committee held a meeting last Thursday and noted that while progress is being made, it is significantly behind the initial plan. They are focusing on buffering outside the corridor. The health department is nearing completion of a preventative health study. Additionally, the SR7 complete streets project from WSDOT is currently on hold for the corridor. The next meeting is scheduled for three months from now and will involve an alternative review.*
- c) South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan (vacant)  
*No updates at this time.*
- d) Joint TOD Task Force (Pamela Wrenn and Troy Serad)  
*CM Serad and Wrenn provided the update they heard a presentation from Sound Transit regarding the TDAI projects. Additionally, the City of Tacoma provided an overview of the Pacific Avenue sub-area plan.*

## **VII. Staff Reports (7:00)**

- a) Staff Updates  
*Carrie stated she is presenting about the progress to update the TMP at the next IPS meeting. A Pedestrian Commitment Act is being proposed by CM Walker and Deputy Mayor Hines and is on the same IPS agenda, but the details about the act are unknown at this time.*
- b) Status of Grant Applications and Major Capital Projects  
*The City of Tacoma will host a site visit from WSDOT at Stewart Middle School regarding the SRTS WSDOT Grant Application.*



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c) Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

*Co-Chair Stevens mentioned Home in Tacoma is going through a public hearing process. A proposal to resend a prior letter supporting Home in Tacoma was discussed and agreed upon.*

*On October 9th, Co-chair Stevens will present to IPS to provide an overview of the Commission's work plan and celebrate the accomplishments of the Transportation Commission.*

**VIII. Commissioner Comments**

*CM Casas provided the updated that UWT and Downtown On the Go are participating in Parking Day focused on reimagining parking usage.*

*Co-Chair Stevens reported that a pedestrian signal at Jefferson and 19th was run over and noted it was lucky there was not a pedestrian present.*

**IX. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

**X. Adjourn (7:30)**

*Meeting adjourned at 7:50.*



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## City of Tacoma Transportation Commission

### Future Agenda Items

*Streets Initiative Annual Report, TMP Overarching Policies, TMP Elements, Impact Fees, Vision Zero Annual Report*

### Public Comment

The public may give oral comments related to agenda topics at the beginning of the meeting and general comments will be heard at the end of the meeting. Speakers will have anywhere from 90 seconds to three minutes to provide comment, depending on time availability. The public may submit comments in writing by 5:00 PM one day prior to the meeting. Written comments should be emailed to [cwilhelme@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cwilhelme@cityoftacoma.org) and include "Transp Commission Meeting Comment" in the subject line.

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