

Summary Notes

Pierce County
Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC)
Thursday, January 28, 2021
9:00AM to 11:57AM

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Call to Order: 9:05AM

Roll Call: 9:05AM

Voting Members: Deryl McCarty, Paul Lubbesmeyer, Shelly Schlumpf, Scott Jones, Jessie Gamble for Jeremiah LaFranca, Tom Pierson, Jane Moore, Lindsey Sehmel, Katie Wilcox. There is a quorum.

Absent: Jeremiah LaFranca, Brian Devereux, Steve Gordon.

Non-Voting Members: Rob Allen, Diane Evans.

Pierce County PPW Staff: Brian Stacy, Toby Rickman, Rory Grindley, Jesse Hamashima, Gary Hendricks, Hilda O’Crotty, Neil Quisenberry, Mason Struna, Shawn Phelps.

Pierce County Non PPW Staff: Catherine Rudolph (Executive’s Office), Judy Hurley (County Council Office), Brianne Blackburn (Parks & Recreation).

Other: Jennifer Halverson Kuehn (Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department), Maxine Herbert-Hill (SR-162 Community Group).

Approval of Agenda: Deryl McCarty.

Transportation Project Ranking Presentation (Presented by Neil Quisenberry and Gary Hendricks): Neil Quisenberry reviewed previous information and discussion(s). Maintenance and Operations levels are currently sufficient with no changes needed. The County is doing a good job in addressing the 72 intersection projects. Corridor and Connector projects are assumed to be completed and developer driven. The 86 Avenue East project has been added back for the Commission’s consideration.

Reviewed maps and charts including a 2040 Traffic Impact Fee (TIF) corridor projects and intersection projects, vehicle delay hours with and without the project being completed, and concurrency project segment tiering.

Gary Hendricks presented on traffic modeling. He presented a regional overview of 2040 daily vehicle hours of delay per mile. This map shows congestion. He showed the impacts/benefits of each project that is up for consideration if the project is completed. The maps show delay hours of surrounding corridors as well. Negative numbers are drive times decreasing. Positive numbers are drive times increasing.

Completing the 122 Avenue E/Shaw Road East project improves delay time. With completion of the Military Road East project, the model reveals a slight increase in traffic and delay hours towards the bottom of the hill. Widening 94 Avenue East has benefits across the board. A benefit of the 94 Avenue Extension is it opens up the corridor alleviating some traffic on surrounding corridors including Meridian. The impact of the 86 Avenue Extension doesn’t show as much improvement as 94 Avenue East.

Discussion: During the presentation, a board member was concerned about 112 Street East not being one of the projects listed for prioritizing. He asked how much development needed to happen for this project to be completed. Concerned that this project is not being considered for prioritization. At one time, the project was a high priority but doesn’t seem to be as high of priority now.

Staff noted that 112 Street East is already programmed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) from C Street South to 18 Avenue East which does make it a priority. C Street South to A Street South is in the ROW phase. A Street South to 18 Avenue East is in the design phase.

Board member reported that it feels that there is a lot of variables that we should be looking at, just not traffic, such as sidewalks, etc.

It was noted that only a percentage of funding comes through TIF which means the rest of funding to complete the project needs to come from somewhere else.

Staff noted that without additional revenue, these projects may or may not happen. It was also noted that the monies collected from TIF funding stays in the region the funds were collected. TIF only provides approximately 35 percent of the total cost of the project.

A board member requested a map of the four geographical regions. Another board member requested staff to expand on Page 4 of the presentation where it states, "Corridor and Connector projects are assumed to be completed and Developer Driven". What do you mean by assume?

Staff noted that better wording would be presume, not assume. Corridor and Connector projects are to connect roadways as development occurs.

The Chair stated that we are not going to add projects that are already planned and/or are in process. Another board member stated that he feels that we need additional funding for improving 112 Street East. The money allocated to certain projects will not fund all future improvements that are needed. Feels improvements including sidewalks in front of Franklin Pierce High School should be completed. Money is being spent on design and survey but not on the actual improvements.

Another board member asked if money that is collected through TIF is being held. Staff stated that they are unsure and would need to research and inform the TAC in the future.

A board member noted that 363 homes are being developed at the Brookdale golf course and stated the project will affect 112 Street East and Franklin Pierce High School. Feels allocation is heavily directed to the east side. Would like to add 112 Street East as the seventh project on the voting/ranking page.

Another board member asked if we are going to discuss community support and constructability. The Chair gave an example using 94 Avenue East. He noted that when 94 Avenue East was started it was going to go through to Gem Heights. However, secondary to lack of community support and constructability, the project did not go through to Gem Heights.

The chair ran through the projects listed on Page 19 of the presentation adding 112 Street East as the seventh project. He noted that there might be constructability issues on Military Road East project. All the other projects seem buildable.

Staff went through an arial view of each project listed including 112 Street East. A question came up of whether the 94 Avenue Extension project will go through any wetlands. There doesn't appear to be any wetlands for constructing that project.

Summary Notes Approval: December 10, 2020, summary notes were approved as printed. 1st Shelly Schlumpf. 2nd Scott Jones. No opposition for approval of summary notes.

Officer Elections: Shelly Schlumpf was the only nomination for Chair. Shelly is a willing participant. There were no other nominations. Tom Pierson moved to elect Shelly Schlumpf by acclimation to be Chair. There was no opposition.

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Lindsey Sehmel volunteered and is willing to be Vice Chair. There were no further nominations. Paul Lubbesmeyer moved to elect Lindsey Sehmel by acclamation to be Vice Chair. There was no opposition.

Action Items: 1) Get map of four geographic locations as requested by a board member. 2) Hilda O’Crotty to add 112 Street East, delete notes column on Page 20, and email Voting/Ranking document to voting members. 3) Voting members to rank each project with 1 being the most important project and email back to Hilda O’Crotty by close of business day tomorrow.

Next Meeting: February 25, 2021.

Public Comment: Maxine Herbert-Hill respected the board member for speaking out for the 112 Street East project. She wanted to express to the commission how urgent it is to make Military Road East a high priority. It is a complex project that will take time.

Paul Lubbesmeyer wanted to thank everyone for listening to his concerns with the 112 Street East project. He hopes that TAC will consider it for priority ranking.

Move to Adjourn: 11:05 AM; Shelly Schlumpf moved to adjourn. No opposition for adjourning.