

Summary Notes

Pierce County
Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC)
Thursday, April 28, 2022
9:00AM to 11:05AM

Tacoma Mall Plaza
2702 South 42nd Street
Tacoma, WA 98409
Room 210

Call to Order: 9:08AM

Roll Call: 9:08AM

Voting Members: Deryl McCarty, Paul Lubbesmeyer, Shelly Schlumpf, Larry Leveen, Lindsey Sehmel, Brian Devereux, Tom Walrath, Jr. There is a quorum.

Absent: Tom Pierson, Steve Gordon.

Non-Voting Members: Rob Allen.

Pierce County PPW Staff: Melissa McFadden, Rory Grindley, Jesse Hamashima, Gary Hendricks, Hilda O’Crotty, Neil Quisenberry, Mason Struna, Shawn Phelps.

Pierce County Non PPW Staff: Judy Hurley (County Council Office), Brianne Blackburn (Parks & Recreation).

Other: Jennifer Halverson Kuehn (Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department), Rick Jones (SR-162 Community Group), Luke Korum (Korum Nissan), Jessie Gamble (Master Builders Association of Pierce County), Dale Maris (Maris Farms), Lora Butterfield (FME Chamber of Commerce).

Approval of Agenda: Chair Schlumpf.

Approval of March’s Meeting Summary: Motion to approve. 1st Deryl McCarty. 2nd Paul Lubbesmeyer. No opposition. Summary notes approved as printed.

Administrative Matters: Council confirmation in the appointment of new members to fill the vacancies of the TAC is scheduled for next week.

Introductions: Jesse Hamashima, Transportation Planning Supervisor; Hilda O’Crotty, Administrative Support; Shelley Schlumpf, Chair of the Commission and representing business; Rob Allen, Economic Development; Rory Grindley, Traffic Engineer; Melissa McFadden, County Engineer; Jessie Gamble, representing Master Builders Association of Pierce County; Dale Maris, representing agriculture; Tom Walrath, Jr., representing short haul trucking; Paul Lubbesmeyer, representing Spanaway/Parkland/Midland Community; Deryl McCarty, representing South Hill Community.

Councilmember Comments: No Councilmembers present for comment.

TAC’s Presentation to EIDC: Chair Schlumpf discussed her presentation on behalf of the TAC to the Economic Infrastructure and Development Committee (EIDC) on April 12. Her presentation included a review of the accomplishment of the TIF update, the prioritization of County Road projects, and recommendations on funding mechanisms. The Chair then presented on the Active Transportation projects that the TAC recently prioritized. She went over the principles of how the TAC Active Transportation working group prioritized the projects. She presented to the committee both Scenario 1 projects which are funded over the next 20 years and Scenario 2 which the prioritized projects are unfunded.

At the beginning of the presentation, she showed the EIDC a map showing congestion of State Highways and Pierce County roads leading to the State Highways. She noted that there is no funding for State Highway improvements except for a roundabout on Highway 162.

Prior to her portion of the presentation, Shawn Phelps presented on the Active Transportation survey results. Hugh Taylor requested that the survey data be provided to the County Council.

It was noted that the Active Transportation plan is a standalone plan that will go up for adoption to the Council. The Active Transportation plan will then be integrated into the Comp plan.

Discussion: A board member stated that Shawn and Shelly did a great job on their presentation to the EIDC. However, there is a long way to go to make Councilmembers understand that lower income and other demographics did not participate in the survey. We need to have a plan prior to creating the Active Transportation plan. Parks staff need to share with the TAC.

Staff noted that Parks trails projects should probably be a separate list. A staff representative from Parks stated that showing two trail projects for a 20-year plan doesn't fit. How do we make sure that trails are part of the plan? We need to decide what facilities are needed and how they interconnect.

The Chair noted that she read the Pierce County Code and Parks is on the list of departments who the TAC needs to invite to do a presentation. A board member stated that we need to show a link between the Parks plan and the Active Transportation plan. The public does not care who provides what project. We need to show that we serve the needs of the public. There are opportunities for better coordination between Planning and Public Works and Parks for funding/grants.

Another board member stated that we really need to look at schools. The chair asked the representative for schools if he has had the opportunity to reach out to other schools regarding Safe Routes to School. He noted that he hasn't had the opportunity yet.

He noted that school districts identify their needs and then they work with County staff on the Safe Routes to Schools Plan. Safe Routes to School was established in 2016 and is updated every 2 to 3 years. It has been updated twice.

A board member stated that the County should lobby legislature for funding. It was noted that grant funding for Safe Routes to School is very competitive and is hard to get.

Another board member said the County needs to have their own Safe Routes to School coordinator who is dedicated to applying for grants which is now becoming available.

A board member asked staff regarding the timeline for the Active Transportation plan going to Council for a vote. Staff stated that we need to finalize the plan for public review and then it goes back to TAC prior to going to Council for a vote.

The Active Transportation plan is separate from the six-year TIP. It will go separately to Council. It's a plan with no funding. Funding comes later. Ultimately it is up to our elected Councilmembers. TAC is only providing recommendations. Elected Councilmembers would vote on our funding recommendations or would send it to the Taxpayers for a vote.

TAC Work Program: Upon review of the Pierce County Code, the TAC needs to invite representatives from Accessible Communities Advisory Commission, JBLM, the Sheriff's Department, Parks & Recreation, and Emergency Management to a TAC meeting. The Chair would like to have each one come and present. Since the TAC just did Active Transportation, she would like to start with Parks & Recreation. The Chair will work with staff to schedule all presentations.

The Chair would also like to work on the 2024 Comp plan update. We can invite Angie (Silva) to give an overview. Then we can discuss transportation and develop a scope of work. The Commission can express interest of parts of the plan.

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After the April 12 EIDC presentation, the Chair asked Councilmember Mello if it was possible to get a presentation from PSRC regarding funding. He suggested contacting Representative Jake Fey to ask about funding options.

A board member asked if we can also have someone from the County come in and present on grant funding and on how it works. It was agreed that the TAC should have a refresher especially for new members.

Staff also suggested having someone from WSDOT come in and present. A board member suggested having the school districts come in and present on their needs.

The Chair noted that she would have the TAC Administrative Support email out a flyer on where your transportation money goes.

It was also suggested that the commission have a refresher on Traffic Impact Fees as well as Transportation Concurrency. Staff noted that Neil Quisenberry can present on Transportation Concurrency.

Public Comment: Lora Butterfield introduced herself to the Commission. She works for and represents the Fife Milton Edgewood Chamber of Commerce; and if approved by Council, will be a board member by May's meeting.

Rory Grindley notified the Commission that he gave his notice of intent to retire in June.

Rick Jones stated that he has no questions at this time. He reported that he has concern about a 100-acre park but will address it at another time.

Brian Devereux reported that there will be a lahar evacuation exercise tomorrow in the valley. Nine schools will be participating.

Action Items: Chair and Staff to work together to set up future presentations from the groups that are identified in the Pierce County Code as well as all the other requested presentations. Hilda to email board members the flyer on where your transportation money goes.

Motion to Adjourn: Adjourned at 11:01 AM.

Next Meeting: May 26 from 9:00AM to 11:00AM.