

**CITY of TACOMA**  
**TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP (TODAG)**  
**MEETING NOTES**

*(Reviewed and Approved on October 18, 2021)*

**MEETING NO.:** 20  
**MEETING DATE:** September 20, 2021

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**Members Present:** Chair Imad Bahbah, Vice-Chair Don Erickson, David D’Aniello, Kerri Hill, Chris Karnes, Janice McNeal, Cathy Reines, Roberta Schur, Laura Svancarek

**Visitors:** Tina Lee (Pierce Transit), Darin Stavish (Pierce Transit), Jennifer Kammerzell (COT/PW)

**Staff Support:** Brian Boudet (COT/PDS), Lihuang Wung (COT/PDS), Mary Crabtree (COT/PDS)

**ITEM 01: CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Imad Bahbah called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

1. The meeting notes of the July 19, 2021, meeting were reviewed.
2. There was no public comment.

**ITEM 02: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Update**

- (a) Tina Lee presented an overview of the Pacific Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, including advantages to BRT, a BRT route overview, lane types based on traffic priority, safety improvements, changes to the project maps, updated design development, station features, project funding community outreach, and the project timeline.
- (b) The group discussed roundabout costs and benefits, the savings estimate of the 64<sup>th</sup> to 84<sup>th</sup> bus lanes that were trimmed from the project, schedule and budget issues from betterments and utilities, the City departments working with Sound Transit, concerns regarding pedestrian crossing safety at crosswalks near roundabouts, construction schedule and project completion timeline, funding sources, incorporating art within station areas, and the spacing of stations.
- (c) Darin Stavish reviewed the BRT Stream system expansion study, including overviews of Corridors A and B, the Stream system expansion timeline, the Technical Advisory Committee, and study milestones.

**2. Debriefing of Comments on TODAG Progress Reports No. 2 and No. 3**

- (a) Lihuang Wung presented the Planning Commission’s comments regarding Progress Report No. 2, including overall concurrence with the report; praise for the evaluation criteria; a suggestion that there should be a reference to the L Street overpass; the timing should be now; and the scope should include reviews of industrial land in the vicinity of the station area, Lower Portland Mixed-Use Center, Portland Avenue Corridor Study, and Sound Transit’s program realignment. Mr. Wung outlined the Planning Commission’s comments regarding Progress Report No. 3, stating the document is well thought out; the evaluation criteria is an excellent tool, impartial, with equity factored in; that TOD policy recommendations are expected; questioned how to advance the implementation. He

- further outlined the Planning Commission's comments on TODAG's future, noting that TODAG should request to be reinstated at its presentation to the City Council.
- (b) Jennifer Kammerzell outlined the Transportation Commission's comments regarding Progress Report No. 2, stating that the Commission voted to forward the report to the City Council with two amendments – removing section E Future Considerations and the section regarding the I-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge span. Ms. Kammerzell reviewed the Transportation Commission's comments regarding Progress Report No. 3 (the "Tacoma TOD Toolkit"), stating that the Commission had several concerns and voted to not approve forwarding the Toolkit to the City Council. She further outlined the Transportation Commission's comments regarding TODAG's future, stating the Commission proposed that TODAG evaluate the member composition and TODAG may need to broaden the scope of the work plan.
  - (c) The group discussed next steps, revising Progress Report No. 2 with the amendments and forwarding to the City Council, timeline of the TOD Toolkit, and revising Progress Report No. 3.
  - (d) *Chris Karnes moved to empower staff to consolidate the comments from the Planning Commission and Transportation Commission to make appropriate edits to TODAG's Progress Report No. 2 and forward to the City Council. Seconded by Don Erickson. The motion passed.*

### **3. TODAG's Next Steps**

- (a) Mr. Wung outlined TODAG's next steps, noting that the group previously reviewed the document and there was a general consensus to follow Option B – "Mission Carried on".
- (b) The group discussed clarifying the recommendations, the importance of TODAG's work, and providing further feedback to staff.

## **ITEM 03: COMMUNICATION ITEMS**

### **1. "Transformational Development: Breaking Down Barriers to TOD"**

- (a) Brian Boudet stated it is an upcoming webinar and information on how to join can be found on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.