



**CITY OF TACOMA
GREEN RIBBON CLIMATE ACTION TASK FORCE
TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: October 30, 2007

Attendees: Bliss Moore, Galen Hon, Scott Morris, Jim Tutton, and Mike Jagielski.

Guests: Kimberly Freeman, Pierce County PALS, Professor Daniel Sherman and students, Sara Montone and Kylor Williams of the University of Puget Sound.

City Staff: Alisa O'Hanlon, Bill Smith, Diane Wiatr and Kathy Manno.

Co-chair Bliss Moore called the meeting to order at 3:40 pm and welcomed University of Puget Sound Luce Assistant Professor of Environmental Policy and Decision-Making, Politics & Government and Environmental Studies Program Professor Daniel Sherman and his students, Kylor Williams and Sara Montone, to the meeting. Professor Sherman's students, a team of six (two participating in today's meeting), are studying green house gas emission reduction. Professor Sherman indicated that students in his environmental studies class break out into teams to study real issues in areas of their own interests, attend organizational meetings such as these and offer their assistance and research skills. Professor Sherman and his students were invited to attend and actively participate in the remaining subcommittee meetings. Professor Sherman and his students offered to research any strategies the subcommittee wished them particularly to review and determine whether such strategies had been tried elsewhere and whether or not they were successful.

Co-chair Moore reported that Seattle's current assessment of meeting the Kyoto goals looks good except in the area of transportation. They have noted a slight increase in green house gas emissions (3%) over the 15-year period—transportation being one area of the biggest challenge in reducing green house gas.

▪ **Adopt Minutes of September 10, 2007 and October 1, 2007 Meetings**

- The minutes of September 10, 2007 and October 1, 2007 were approved and adopted.

▪ **Criteria For Prioritizing Strategies**

- Alisa O'Hanlon reviewed the criteria for prioritizing strategies. The purpose of today's meeting is to review the strategies already discussed to see if we have enough information to recommend the strategies by consensus. To help determine this, we should ask the following questions:

- 1) Does this strategy get us to our goals?
- 2) What is the cost?
- 3) Is it already supported by the State?

- **Parking**

- Diane Wiatr, City of Tacoma Commute Trip Reduction Coordinator, gave an overview of the City Manager's downtown transit/parking conversation update at the City Council Study Session on October 30, 2007.

- **Review and Discuss Revised Short-Term Strategies**

- Committee decided to discuss only short-term strategies today instead of short, mid and long term.
- Bill Smith distributed to committee members a packet which addressed "Strategies to Reduce Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) Use." The target audience for five recommendations being community; the remaining four, municipal government. Today the committee only discussed the five community target audience strategies. The following list describes the proposals identified under this strategy:
 1. Discourage the provision of free parking to employees who work in Downtown Tacoma and drive to work alone. Committee recommended this by consensus as high priority. The original language was agreed upon, but Diane Wiatr will work up the strategy in more detail for further discussion at our next meeting.
 2. Encourage carpooling, vanpooling and mass transit use. Committee recommended this by consensus as high priority. Scott Morris indicated that Pierce Transit's budget does include plans to increase the number of vans for vanpool use by 2012. Scott will provide additional information at the Nov. 6 meeting.
 3. Expand the outreach efforts for Pierce Transit's online ridesharing and carpooling systems. Committee recommended this by consensus as high priority. Committee recommends additional marketing efforts—potential impact of which would be additional dollars needed. This being a strategy also being recommended by the State Transportation Working Group to the State Climate Action Team may increase the likelihood of receiving state funding for this effort.
 4. Increase the supply of frequent, reliable and convenient public transportation. Committee recommended this by consensus as high priority. Committee agreed that the following action should be moved out of the mid-term action category to short-term action: **Research the feasibility of a streetcar system and other mass transit options to connect the employment centers of the City with the residential areas and other destinations.** Impacted stakeholders would not only be the general population and Pierce Transit, but also the business community. Barriers to implementation would be staff time and collaboration for storing of vehicles. Committee members believe that the City of Tacoma cannot implement this recommendation on its own, so may possibly recommend a study to see if the public sector could do so.
 5. Increase the supply of frequent reliable and convenient public transportation (mid-term action). This was the only mid-term strategy discussed today. Committee recommended this by consensus as high priority. At this stage committee recommends implementing the streetcar system and other mass transit options to connect the employment centers of the City with the residential areas and other destinations.
- Kimberly Freeman, Senior Planner, Pierce County Planning and Land Services proposed numerous ambitious and wide-ranging strategies in a five-page document addressing the following areas: reduce single occupancy vehicle strategies, reduce vehicle miles traveled, reduce emissions, land use strategies, and policy support strategies. Bliss requested that everyone on the sub-committee be forwarded an e-copy of this document to digest and review and for Bill Smith to possibly craft the new ideas Kimberly presented into the Subcommittee Recommendation Worksheets for discussion at the next meeting.

- **Next Steps/Next Meeting**
 - Staff will revise the Short-Term Strategies document for review/discussion at the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 6, 2007 at 3:30 pm at the EnviroHouse at the Landfill, 3510 S. Mullen Street, Tacoma, Washington.
- **Adjournment** -- The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.