




Agenda

Meeting: Regular Meeting (hybrid)
Date/Time: Wednesday May 22, 2024, 2:00 pm
Location: Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 243
Zoom Info: Link: <https://www.zoom.us/j/85831009869>
 Dial-in: +1 253-215-8782
 ID: 858 3100 9869

ITEM	LEAD	DURATION
Call to Order		
1. Review of Meeting Notes <i>(To be reviewed at next meeting)</i>		
2. Public Comment <i>(Written comments accepted via e-mail to planning@cityoftacoma.org, due by 5:00 p.m. the day before the meeting) (1 received (See C-1) in regards to changing the future extension of the T-Line from 19th to 6th Avenue)</i>	Chair Wrenn	5 min.
Discussion / Action Items		
1. Transportation Master Plan Update: Transit Element Introduction and Context – Brainstorming and Discussion	Nelson\Nygaard	80 min.

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¿Necesitas información en español? Cần thông tin bằng tiếng Việt? 한국어로 정보가 필요하십니까? ត្រូវការព័ត៌មានជាភាសាខ្មែរ?
 Нужна информация на усском? Потрібна інформація українською мовою? Contact TacomaFIRST 311 at (253) 591-5000.

Communication Items

- | | | |
|--|---------------|--------|
| 1. Future Agenda Items (tentative): | Chair Wrenn | 3 min. |
| a. Urban Form Element of the Comprehensive Plan | | |
| b. Development Supportive Transit-LOS | | |
| c. WSDOT Discussion Regarding Complete Streets | | |
| d. Existing Policy and Standards Review | | |
| e. Picture Pac Ave | | |
| f. Pierce Transit Long Range Planning | | |
| g. Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan
Coordination | | |
| h. Four Corners | | |
| i. South Tacoma Sounder Access | | |
| j. TDLE | | |
| <hr/> | | |
| 2. New Business / Closing Comments | Elected Chair | 2 min. |

Adjournment

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

Attachments:Call to Order Materials:

- C-1. Public Comment

Discussion Items Materials:

- D-1. Draft Transit Element Introduction



Public Comment

From: **Heather Stajgr** <heather@passiocreative.com>
Date: Thu, Apr 11, 2024, 13:27
Subject: T Line Extension to 6th Ave
To: <wilbert.santos@soundtransit.org>
Cc: <troyseradtacoma@gmail.com>

Good Afternoon Wilbert,

I recently learned through the 6th Ave Business District that there has been discussion about changing the T Line Extension from 19th to 6th Ave. I know many businesses may be hesitant for a thing like this as it will create major construction for a long period of time but I also can see what an amazing benefit it could be to link so many major metropolitan areas together. This change would link the dome district, downtown, stadium district and hilltop district with 6th Ave and University of Puget Sound (as well as part of Proctor)

I speak as a resident of 6th Ave and mother of two Tacoma Public School students. One is currently at Grant (future student of Hilltop Heritage Middle School and Stadium High School) the other at Stadium High School now but was a Hilltop Heritage Middle School student last year. The link is already a very valuable resource for our youth. I know for a fact many Stadium students use it everyday but there is a major hole for students that came from the Hilltop Heritage Middle School area. Those students currently walk from Stadium home because it only takes them to Tacoma General. Extending the line to the 6th Ave area could be a valuable resource to those children both linking them to their school and home but also giving them more ways to explore our city as well as creating a positive experience with public transportation. Students have a tendency of moving together. This could provide much more ridership than on the 19th line. The future is our children and this change could connect so many more.

I really hope this is something that the City of Tacoma and Sound Transit consider.

Thank you for your time.

Heather Stajgr

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Нужна інформація на уськом? Потрібна інформація українською мовою? Contact TacomaFIRST 311 at (253) 591-5000.



Draft Transit Element Introduction



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Нужна информация на русском? Потрібна інформація українською мовою? ☎ Contact **TacomaFIRST 311** at (253) 591-5000.

Tacoma TMP – Transit Element DRAFT (05/20/2024)

1. Introduction

A. Introduction

Transit plays an essential role in Tacoma’s transportation system. To deliver on its transportation goals, Tacoma needs a frequent and reliable transit network to provide access to jobs, schools, healthcare, and essential non-work destinations, relieve congestion, improve air quality, and improve accessibility of non-vehicular transportation alternatives, advancing equity through improving mobility for all. Transit can also reduce household transportation cost burden, through providing a more affordable alternative to driving and car ownership.

Transit in Tacoma is operated by Pierce Transit and Sound Transit, while the City of Tacoma plays an active role through managing the street system and right-of-way, and collaborating with transit operators to ensure services align with the city’s needs and goals.

Operator	Service	Description
Pierce Transit	Fixed Route Bus	31 bus routes on set schedules, plus additional regional express bus routes
	SHUTTLE	SHUTTLE is a ride-request transportation service providing door-to-door rides for qualifying persons with disabilities anywhere within ¼-mile of a bus route
	Vanpool and Vanshare	Provides vehicles for three or more occupants to share a commute, reducing travel by single-occupancy-vehicles
	Runner	On-demand public transportation that allows customers to book rides from a smartphone within dedicated microtransit zones, providing flexible rides and transit connections in the areas of Joint Base Lewis McChord, Parkland/Spanaway/Midland, Ruston Way, and Port of Tacoma Tideflats
Sound Transit	Sounder train	Heavy rail from Seattle to Tacoma

The Transit Element of the TMP will set out a roadmap for continued investment and improvement of Tacoma’s transit system. A robust and successful transit system in Tacoma will:

- Increase access to employment, housing, services and amenities
- Ensure transit is accessible and supports people of all ages and abilities
- Seek complementary infrastructure and service improvements

- Seek decisive mode shift to transit away from single-occupancy vehicles
- Drive reduction in GHGs through mode shift to support of CAP goals, and through fleet electrification
- Improve the health of citizens through the transportation system and through improved safety on our roadways, with a particular focus on high-risk, densifying corridors
- Showcase Tacoma as a human-centric city

B. Why is Transit important?

What role does transit play in people's daily lives?

Transit can make it easier for all residents to move around Tacoma and provides a range of options so that people can pick what works best for their purpose.

- A mix of transit services including fixed route, high-capacity, on-demand and shuttles can help people travel throughout the City no matter what context their trip begins or ends in. Seamless transfers between modes expands the reach of the network and the travelers who rely on it to get where they need to go.
- Transit can get a higher number of people where they need to go and ease congestion from single-occupancy vehicles. An effective transit network, which ensures ease of movement for passengers despite vehicular congestion gives people a reliable way to get to their destination on time.
- A robust transit network gives everyone the city the ability to move freely, including people who have no or more limited access to a vehicle, young people and older adults, and low-income households. Reducing barriers to movement for different users of the system makes for more equitable mobility outcomes.

Transit supports a thriving community, delivering better economic outcomes and a more people-centered built environment.

- Transit connects people to their local businesses, employees to their jobs, and residents of Tacoma to the broader region. It gets people to where they need to go to meet their daily needs, like grocery stores, schools and daycares, and to destinations that bring people together to create community, like parks, churches and cultural centers.
- Having good alternatives to driving can help reduce household transportation costs, alleviating cost burden. Money not spent on driving or car ownership can go towards meeting other needs, and frees up resources that can be invested back in the community through local businesses.
- Transit-oriented communities are friendlier for people, with development at a more human-scale, improved walkability, better connections to other modes, and support a more vibrant public realm. Transit investment can also spurn more housing development, which can improve housing affordability.

Transit contributes towards making Tacoma a healthier and more sustainable place to live.

Transportation Master Plan

City of Tacoma

- Transit plays a big role in connecting people to care. SHUTTLE gets people to doctors' appointments, transit connects people to hospital, clinics, and urgent care.
- Social determinants of health are non-medical factors which influence health outcomes. Transit-usage and living in a community that is more transit oriented can contribute to better health outcomes. People to use transit will most likely take an active trip to and from the stop or station. Transit-oriented communities are more walkable, bikeable, and help people live a more active lifestyle.
- Reduced drive-alone trips and the electrification of transit vehicles contributes to better environmental quality. Reduced GHG emissions and improved air quality have significant health benefits for Tacoma residents.

What are specific outcomes that emerge from this element done well?

- A robust transit network that responds to local contexts, and effectively gets people to where they need to go. High-capacity and frequent service where there is the highest demand, flexible services to bridge gaps, integration between these and all of the options that fall between. Service that is well-matched to its context and demand.
- Improved affordability, accessibility and reliability for all travelers in Tacoma.
- Reduced congestion, vehicle miles travelled (VMT), a lower single-occupancy vehicle trip rate, lower greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).
- People in Tacoma use transit. Healthy ridership, which people shifting onto transit from driving.
- Transit that helps accommodate growth of the city, while easing any pressures created by job and population growth like congestion or housing affordability.
- All residents in Tacoma can get to where they need to go, regardless of whether they have access to a car or not.

What groups or communities have specific needs and/or require special consideration?

- People with reduced mobility, folks using wheelchairs or other mobility devices. People with reduced mobility will need transit vehicles that can accommodate their needs, and various ways to access information on their transportation options.
- Low-income households may be eligible for reduced fare travel. People who are unbanked will need options to purchase fare with cash.
- Young people, children and older adults may rely on transit to make essential trips. Ensuring transit is easy and safe for them to use helps make the system better for everyone.
- People with limited English proficiency and people with low IT literacy will need access to information that is not limited by language or technology barriers.

C. What makes a transit-friendly city?

What key community outcomes will this element deliver?

Transportation Master Plan

City of Tacoma

- People who live, work or play in Tacoma are able to take transit to get where they need to go.
- Safe, affordable and reliable transit that residents of Tacoma are familiar with and use to get around.
- A range of transit options, which allow people across the city to go by transit no matter what part of the city their trip begins or ends in.
- Transit as a viable alternative to driving, reduced congestion from cars and better air quality.
- A connected city, with new developments to accommodate growth concentrated around transit and a more walkable and people-friendly urban realm.

What are features will people in Tacoma see, use, experience when this element vision is realized?

- Direct connections to transit and the destinations people want to go to.
- Safe and comfortable transit waiting areas, where people are protected from the weather, have readily accessible and easy to understand information about their trip.
- Transit that moves freely throughout the city, even during times with high levels of vehicular congestion.
- More walkable urban realm, spaces that people can enjoy and be proud of.

Who needs to be involved/represented to center equity and community?

- People who rely on wheelchairs and other mobility devices.
- Low-income households.
- People living in equity priority neighborhoods and those who have been harmed by transportation projects in the past.
- People who rely on transit to get where they need to go.
- People with limited English proficiency.

D. How does the XX element advance Tacoma's goals?

- **Hold on this section until goals are revised.**

Example from Seattle Transportation Plan below:

Transportation Master Plan

City of Tacoma

RELATIONSHIP TO STP GOALS

Transit plays an important role in meeting the Seattle Transportation Plan's goals for safety, equity, sustainability, mobility & economic vitality, livability, and maintenance & modernization.



SAFETY

Prioritize safety for travelers in Seattle with no serious injury or fatal crashes.

Transit is among the safest forms of travel. Implementing transit corridor improvements and community and mobility hubs can help provide safe, inviting public spaces where people access transit and while on board to support existing riders and increase transit ridership.



EQUITY

Co-create with community and implement restorative practices to address transportation-related inequities.

Affordable transit options enable people to live car-free, without costs to own, operate, and maintain a personal vehicle. Building out the transit network will provide high-quality, all-day travel options that increase access to jobs and opportunities, reduce barriers to using transit and make transit dignified and desirable for all. Transit also provides mobility and independence for those who don't drive, whether by choice or necessity.



SUSTAINABILITY

Respond to climate change through innovation and a lens of climate justice.

Transit encourages more trips using shared modes, like buses or light rail. It's one of the lowest emission travel modes since it carries so many people on one vehicle, and many routes including trolleybus and Link light rail are already carbon-free. Transit supports denser, more sustainable development and reduces driving trips—our greatest source of GHG emissions, air and water pollution.

D. CONTENT GUIDANCE

- Brief one or two sentence statement relating XX element to each TMP Goal

2. Context *(for brainstorming during meeting)*

Collaborate to set the context for the element, using the frame of opportunities, emerging trends, and challenges.

A. Element Context

- This is a chance to use local data, research, and/or community context to frame Tacoma’s mobility needs.
- Use this to outline the most critical needs to be addressed in the TMP. Focus on system or community-wide needs/issues that don’t fit into the opps, trends, challenges context below.
- Consider doing this section last.

A. CONTENT GUIDANCE

- 1 – 2 pages max (including graphics)
- Consider 1 or 2 powerful maps or graph using data to frame needs

B. What are key **opportunities** for Tacoma to advance transit?

- What are specific, actionable **opportunities** that have been identified by community, raised by policy makers, proven through study, etc.?
 - For TRANSIT, these might include things like light rail expansion, transit electrification, transit’s role in meeting climate goals, etc.
 - For PEDESTRIAN/WALKING, this might include record levels of Federal funding for street safety (SS4A).

B. CONTENT GUIDANCE

- 5-8 short bullets (if there are more prioritize top 8)

C. What **emerging trends** will affect transit today and in the future?

- What emerging trends are expected to influence policy or require new types of programs or investments?
 - a. For BICYCLING, this might include the rapid rise of e-bikes and small electric mobility devices and the need to adjust infrastructure to accommodate.
 - b. For TRANSIT, this might include adjustments to service investments to prioritize equity and all-day travel.

C. CONTENT GUIDANCE

- 5-8 short bullets (if there are more prioritize top 8)

D. What challenges will affect transit today and in the future?

- **What challenges must the TMP policies, programs, and project investments address?**
 - a. For TRANSIT, this might include concerns about customer safety and reduced ridership/changed travel patterns post pandemic.*
 - b. For PEDESTRIAN/WALKING, this could include the crisis of street safety and serious and fatal injuries on our streets.*

D. CONTENT GUIDANCE

- 5-8 short bullets (if there are more prioritize top 8)