Matt Stevens, Co-Chair, At-Large
Bruce Morris, Co-Chair, At-Large
Richard Gardner, At-Large
Felicity Waldron, At-Large
Joe Korbuszewski, District 1
Rubén Casas, District 2
Austin Goble, District 3
Bronwyn Clarke, District 4
Penny Grellier, District 5
Kerri Hill, City Manager Appointed
Christian Martínez, City Manager Appointed

**City of Tacoma**
**Transportation Commission**

# Final Meeting Minutes

**Meeting:** **Transportation Commission**
**Time:** **Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 5:30 P.M.**
**Place:** **Hybrid: Zoom or 747 Market Street, Room 243**

**Join by computer, click on the following link:**

**https://zoom.us/join** **or** **https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82666348811**

Join by Phone: **(253) 215-8782** Meeting ID: **826 6634 8811**

## I. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

*Co-Chair Morris called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Co-Chair Stevens presented the land acknowledgement.*

## II. Icebreaker/Roll Call

*With new Transportation Commission members present, everyone gave a short introduction, including a story about an interesting transportation experience.*

## III. Review of Minutes (September 17, 2025)

*Co-Chair Stevens recommended to adopt the minutes. CM Clarke seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.*

## IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

*No members of the public provided comment.*

## V. Business Items (5:45)

a) Parking System Update 2025 (Information and Discussion) – Rachel Barra, Public Works Dept.

*Rachel Barra presented an overview of Tacoma's parking management system, emphasizing that effective management focuses on balancing supply and demand rather than creating more spaces. The system is designed around clearly defined parking roles, coordination between different parking types, transparent pricing policies, performance monitoring, and centralized management. A technical advisory group supports community engagement and data-informed decision-making. The overall strategy integrates various parking components, including public, private, enforcement, and residential programs, guided by principles such as technology integration, monitoring, compliance, and user prioritization. Current efforts focus on organizational improvements, new tools and processes, and adapting parking spaces for broader community purposes.*

*Rachel highlighted trends showing increased downtown occupancy, high off-street vacancies, and inefficient use of short-term on-street spaces. The City aims to better match users to the right locations, streamline pricing, promote turnover, and encourage long-term parkers to use off-street options.*

*Commission members asked about expanding transit connections from off-campus parking to UW-Tacoma.*

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*Commission members also asked about improving compliance with parking rules. Rachel explained that clearer signage, stronger digital communication, and public education are key, with enforcement applied thoughtfully. She noted that improving coordination among city departments and redesigning parking layouts will be essential to addressing these challenges over time.*

b) Pedestrian Safety Update (Information and Discussion) – Liz Kaster, Public Works Dept.
*Liz Kaster presented an overview of pedestrian safety in Tacoma, noting that both the number and severity of pedestrian crashes are increasing. She reviewed key city policies that guide safety efforts, including the Transportation and Mobility Plan, Vision Zero Plan, and ADA Transition Plan. She discussed various safety treatments enhance safety for pedestrians. She also highlighted ongoing city projects and explained how locations are prioritized based on factors such as missing sidewalk links on arterial streets, funding availability, feasibility, and partnership opportunities.*

*Commission members discussed coordination with other agencies, maintenance of existing sidewalks, and the city's role in state-managed corridors such as Pacific Avenue. They emphasized the importance of Transportation Commission input on pedestrian funding and collaborative planning. Liz noted that while some local improvements are underway, broader corridor upgrades will require significant funding and interagency cooperation.*

c) Transportation Commission 2025-2026 Work Plan (Vote) – Carrie Wilhelme, Public Works Dept.
*Carrie Wilhelme presented the Transportation Commission's work plan, outlining its background, structure, and priorities. The plan includes mandated items such as the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program and key initiatives like Street Initiative 2.0, neighborhood greenways, Vision Zero, Safe Routes to School, and transit support. The Commission also contributes to projects including the Pacific Avenue Subarea Plan, Vision Zero Road Safety Audits, and the ADA Transition Plan. Carrie noted that while the work plan shared with the council did not receive comments, the Council appreciated the questions raised about the Commission's role, implementation of the Transportation and Mobility Plan, and ways to enhance transparency and public trust.*

*Carrie asked Commissioners if anything was missing from the work plan. It was noted since transparency is important, it should be added to the work plan on how to improve transparency.*

*CM Casas made a motion to adopt the work plan, amended to add "Communication and Transparency" to the list of priorities. CM Gobles seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously approved, leading to the adoption of the amended work plan.*

## VI. Other Business/Updates (6:45)

a) Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan Advisory Committee (Richard Gardner)
*Monthly Zoom meetings will continue, reviewing two goals at a time. The last meeting focused on the Housing Element and Growth Strategy. Overall, it appears to be on track and may be ready to go before the Council by next summer. A public outreach event will be held at the Moore Library on Saturday, November 15, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. More information can be found at the following link:*
*https://tacoma.gov/project/pacific-avenue-subarea-plan-environmental-impact-statement/*

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## VII. Staff Reports (7:00)

a) Staff Updates

*Jeff Jenkins, the current Public Works Director, will retire in December. An interim Public Works director will be appointed.*

b) Status of Grant Applications and Major Capital Projects

*No new grant applications.*

*A $2.9 million PWB loan was awarded for Street Preservation and Safety Improvements along S 12th St from S Grant St to S Cedar St. A determination on a TIB grant application along an overlapping corridor has not been made yet but is expected in late November.*

c) Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

*E 64th St ribbon cutting*

*Prairie Line Trail ribbon cutting*

## VIII. Commissioner Comments

*CM Gardner reported that safety improvements around Lincoln High School have been completed, including green paint on bike facilities, added protection, and other enhancements*

*CM Clarke noted that some parking friction along Tacoma Avenue S is helping to slow down traffic in the area.*

*Co-chair Morris shared that the City of Milton has launched its automated enforcement program.*

*CM Gardner added that recent Urban Design Board discussions have shown strong interest in transit-oriented design.*

## IX. Public Comment

*No comments from the public*

## X. Adjourn (7:30)

*Meeting adjourned by Co-Chair Stevens at 7:26 PM*

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**Future Agenda Items**

*Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan, Streets Initiative 2 Debrief, Streets Initiative 1.0 Annual Report*

**Public Comment**

The public may give oral comments related to agenda topics at the beginning of the meeting and general comments will be heard at the end of the meeting. Speakers will have anywhere from 90 seconds to three minutes to provide comment, depending on time availability. The public may submit comments in writing by 5:00 PM one day prior to the meeting. Written comments should be emailed to cwilhelme@tacoma.gov and include "Transp Commission Meeting Comment" in the subject line.

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