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
Christiano Martínez, City Manager Appointed

City of Tacoma
Transportation Commission

Final Meeting Minutes

Meeting: **Transportation Commission**
Time: **Wednesday, February 18, 2026 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 Stevens called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM, and CM Casas presented the land acknowledgement. Co-Chair Stevens recognized Councilmember Hines who was in attendance to listen to the Commission meeting.

II. Roll Call

CM Korbuszewski was absent from the meeting. All other Commissioners were present for all or part of the meeting.

III. Review of Minutes (January 21, 2026)

CM Goble moved to adopt the minutes. Co-Chair Stevens seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

Treveon Parish commented on the lack of equitable transportation in NE Tacoma, noting that he has advocated for changes to other organizations (e.g., Pierce Transit). He provided a history of previous bus routes to NE Tacoma that gave him greater opportunity. He also stated that he does not think the Runner is a very good service.

V. Business Items (5:45)

a) 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program Criteria (Discussion) – Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works Dept. and Carrie Wilhelme, Public Works Dept.

Carrie Wilhelme, Principal Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the previous Commission discussion, including a recap of the program, the current 2015 criteria compared to the 2025 TMP goals, and key discussion questions. She explained that the TIP is a required plan and list of projects based on anticipated revenues and desired projects. She also described how the plan connects to other documents; for example, some projects, such as those along arterials, must also be included in the Puget Sound Regional Council Regional Plan in addition to the 6-year TIP. She also debriefed about the conversation she had with the Planning Commission providing their feedback on possible criteria.

Reflecting on public comment, Commissioners pointed out there are many projects in District 2, though not necessarily in NE Tacoma, and discussion focused on whether projects should be more targeted within districts and how geographic parity supports representation. Jennifer Kammerzell, Division Manager,

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explained that impact fee districts differ from Council districts, with NE Tacoma having its own impact fee district. Commissioners additionally discussed whether more direct, small-scale neighborhood planning style program could inform the TMP. Jennifer explained that staff are not resourced to conduct small-scale neighborhood planning; instead, it is more effective to establish criteria that pull projects from the TMP rather than solicit additional community input. Commissioners expressed interest in tools such as mapping and Social Pinpoint to gather feedback and discussed participatory budgeting as a community engagement tool.

Councilmember Hines noted participatory budgeting is not funded this year, but he is making an attempt to reintroduce it as it has not been facilitated in every district as originally intended. Additional context was provided that impact fee districts were created to meet legal nexus requirements for impact fees. Carrie and Commissioners discussed reviewing different maps and options to better understand geographic distribution and ensure at least one project in each district.

Carrie explained how the 2015 6-year TIP criteria functioned, including the requirement for projects to meet specific criteria. A Commissioner noted that alignment with CFP criteria could be used as a basis for evaluation. A Commissioner proposed adding a qualifier that at least one project per district include a safety or health component.

Commissioners discussed the importance of alignment with other plans to avoid confusion, noting that the 6-year TIP should largely mirror the 2025 TMP goals. Proposed qualifier criteria included safety, health, readiness, and grant competitiveness, with grant funding potentially serving as a determining factor. There was concern that adding rigid qualifiers could result in projects being prioritized in areas where needs differ, as some areas may require safety improvements while others need transit access. Commissioners also noted that framing criteria as "financially responsible" or "required by state law" may not resonate with the public and emphasized the importance of community buy-in. It was acknowledged that available data and emerging grant opportunities often drive project selection, and discussion focused on striking a balance when grant opportunities arise without a clear nexus to the TMP. One suggestion was that projects meet at least two criteria, including a grant opportunity and one additional goal, while another proposed meeting at least three criteria, potentially including grant alignment and community request. Carrie and Jennifer will develop scenarios for further consideration.

Councilmember Hines asked about how the size of project influence decision making. It was generally agreed that scoping it as a big project could make sense, assuming it gets broken down into smaller parts as grants present themselves (like how Portland Ave is being done). There was additional concurrence about working with other organizations (e.g., Pierce Transit). Commissioners also offered feedback saying community input and deliverability should be priorities.

b) Co-Chair Elections (Vote) – Carrie Wilhelme, Public Works Dept.
Carrie reviewed the Co-Chair nominations from the January meeting and asked if there were any additional nominations. There were none. CM Gardner recommended a vote to confirm Co-chair Stevens and CM Casas as Co-Chairs for 2026. CM Clarke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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c) Streets Levy Community Committee – TC Representative (Discussion) – Carrie Wilhelme, Public Works Dept.
Carrie informed the Commission that CM Waldron will represent the Commission on the Streets Initiative Community Committee. She then asked for the Commission to provide guidance to CM Waldron on their priorities and hopes for the levy.

Commissioners noted that a successful levy will require more than just filling potholes. They emphasized that the levy should highlight improvements to safety and focus on how it can create more communal spaces. Commissioners also suggested that any feedback about "bad language" should be treated as guidance to do the opposite of what was done previously.

Commissioners mentioned the need to improve pavement on both residential streets and arterials, to message how trees will be planted as part of projects and emphasized the importance of community engagement and reaching out to neighborhoods that voted "no" to understand their concerns.

Commissioners agreed that the levy must go above and beyond standard city pothole repairs and stressed the importance of clear communication and advertising, so the public better understands the levy's impacts.

VI. Other Business/Updates (6:45)

a) Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan Advisory Committee (Richard Gardner)
CM Gardner provided updates from the last meeting on February 9th. The last meeting was on general concept of connectivity. He provided the list of goals/draft actions from the meeting.

VII. Staff Reports (7:00)

a) Staff Updates
Carrie informed the Commission that a Transportation Services and Parking Program Manager position is posted

b) Status of Grant Applications and Major Capital Projects
Carrie provided an update on three grant applications underway: TAP, HSIP and the WSDOT Safe Routes to School grant

c) Upcoming Public Meetings and Events
Council Study Session
- *February 24: Sound Transit Project Update*

IPS
- *February 25: Streets Initiative II and Parking Code Update*
- *March 11: 6-Year TIP Annual Amendment*

Tacoma on the Go
- *Feb 27: Housing and Transit: Building Connected Communities*
- *April 3: What's Next for Pierce County with Tacoma Mayor and Pierce County Executive*

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VIII. Commissioner Comments

CM Gardner commented on the Thompson 120 development on the north end of the Lincoln District. The project has begun demolishing four houses, which will be replaced with 100 apartments and 40 parking spaces. Transit frequency in the area is approximately every 30 minutes, noting limited transit with limited parking could have straining impact on the transportation system once the development is completed and occupied.

CM Gobles commented on the selection process for automated enforcement speed cameras. He said it is challenging to penalize drivers by placing cameras in areas where existing infrastructure encourages speeding, referencing historical inequity. He added that geographic parity should also be considered. Co-Chair Stevens noted that the reduction in speeds due to automated enforcement (AE) represents an equity improvement for the neighborhood. CM Waldron stated that historical inequities should be emphasized in decision-making.

IX. Public Comment

Treveon Parish commented on Streets Initiative II failure to pass. He stated that there is a lack of safe streets in NE Tacoma due to insufficient pedestrian infrastructure. He said he has heard from many Northeast Tacoma residents that the "no" vote was influenced by the perception it would not substantively impact NE Tacoma, noting a map with minimal focus roads in NE Tacoma. He also emphasized the importance of addressing SR 509.

X. Adjourn (7:30)

Meeting adjourned by Co-Chair Stevens at 7:35 PM.

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Future Agenda Items

Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan, Parking Code Update, Neighborhood Traffic Calming, Sound Transit Update

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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