Matt Stevens, Co-Chair, At-Large
Bruce Morris, At-Large
Richard Gardner, At-Large
Felicity Waldron, At-Large
Joe Korbuszewski, District 1
Rubén Casas, Co-Chair, 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, March 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 Casas called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM, and CM Goble presented the land acknowledgement.

II. Roll Call

All Commissioners were present for all or part of the meeting.

III. Review of Minutes (February 18, 2026)

CM Gardner moved to adopt the minutes. CM Waldron seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

No public comments.

V. Business Items (5:45)

a) Sound Transit Update: Tacoma Dome Link Extension, Tacoma Dome Access Improvement Project, T-Line Extension, ST Regional Bus Service (Information and Discussion) – Diane Wiatr, TDLE Development Manager and Matthew Mauer, Government and Community Relations

Diane Wiatr and Matthew Mauer from Sound Transit presented an overview of key Tacoma-area projects, including the Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE), Tacoma Dome Access Improvements (TDAI), and related system initiatives. Matthew outlined the Sound Transit Enterprise Initiative, which is evaluating ST3 projects to ensure financial feasibility. Diane described TDLE as being in the final Environmental Impact Statement phase and advancing toward 20% design, with a projected 2035 opening. She highlighted the preferred alignment, including Tacoma Dome and Portland Avenue stations, and provided a high-level overview of station access and layout.

Diane also summarized TDAI, a ST2 project focused on improving pedestrian, bicycle, ADA access, and parking at Tacoma Dome Station. A prioritized list of improvements is in development, with a Board decision expected in April and construction anticipated by 2032. While under review as part of the Enterprise Initiative, the project is not expected to be significantly reduced. Matthew noted that the T Line extension to Tacoma Community College is being evaluated and could be affected by Enterprise Initiative. He also outlined planned Sounder rail upgrades and regional bus service changes, including route adjustments, discontinuations, and added overnight service.

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Commissioners emphasized the importance of maintaining strong downtown connections and discussed prioritizing resources, including limiting design work on lower-priority projects. They expressed interest in future expansion to South Tacoma, the possibility of expanding the T-Line along 6th Avenue instead of S 19th St, and requested more clarity on how project deferrals are defined and implemented. Matthew clarified that 19th Street is not the preferred T Line alignment and that no staff are currently assigned to the extension, but future input could shape decisions. He committed to providing a clearer definition of "deferred project." Diane noted significant cost increases due to inflation and indicated that additional community engagement on TDLE stations will occur in the spring.

b) Pacific Avenue Health Impact Assessment (Information) – Erin Dilworth, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Erin Dilworth from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department presented a Health Impact Assessment for the Pacific Ave Subarea Plan, explaining it helps show how proposed policies and projects could affect health. She highlighted higher rates of asthma, certain cancers, and mortality in the area, along with challenges like low tree cover and higher heat, uneven sidewalks and safety concerns, and limited social connection. The plan is expected to improve health over time by making walking easier, increasing access to services, and attracting healthcare providers, despite short-term issues like traffic and pollution. Erin also noted that transportation, insurance, and vehicle access affect use of preventive care, including primary care, mental health, and pharmacies. The recommendations from the HIA included improving safety with Vision Zero strategies, preventing displacement, expanding preventive health services, reducing pollution, and making care more accessible through transportation and policy changes.

Commissioners responded positively, asking about comparisons with other marginalized communities, how insurance data was calculated, and transit access programs such as ORCA Lift. They supported continued health department involvement and expressed interest in applying this approach to other areas.

c) 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program: Adds and Deletes (Discussion) – Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works Department

Jennifer Kammerzell, Transportation Division Manager, presented updates to the 6-year program, providing a brief overview of the program and the criteria used to evaluate projects. She highlighted several key changes, including the removal of the multilingual Native American street signs project and the addition of six new projects, such as improvements on 6th Avenue and Tacoma Avenue, bridge capital projects, East D Street upgrades, Park Avenue greenway, and school safety improvements.

She also outlined next steps in the process, noting that the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee held its first review on March 11, with upcoming discussions at a City Council study session and additional opportunities for review before adoption.

VI. Other Business/Updates (6:45)

a) Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan Advisory Committee (Commissioner Gardner)

CM Gardner noted much of his update had already been covered in the presentation provided by Erin Dilworth from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

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b) Community Levy Committee (Commissioner Waldron)
CM Waldron shared an update on the Levy Committee work, noting that the group has held two meetings so far and has reviewed public survey data. She reported that revised levy language has received generally favorable feedback. She stated that the next meeting will focus on project funding and how levy resources will be allocated, with plans to align investments with the identified theme areas.

Waldron expressed confidence in the process, emphasizing that the group includes a broad cross section of stakeholders, including developers, community members, and labor representatives, which she sees as strengthening the effort and overall direction.

VII. Staff Reports (7:00)

a) Staff Updates
No staff updates

b) Status of Grant Applications and Major Capital Projects
Carrie said she didn't have any major updates on grants. The City is still applying for grants for Pine Street, Mann Elementary School, and South 12th between Union and Cedar, all of which were discussed previously.

c) Upcoming Public Meetings and Events
April 15: Walk Tacoma – Greening Tacoma: Connecting Parks and Places
April 22: IPS meeting – discussion on 30% review level of Schuster Promenade
April 28: Tacoma Parks Bond Initiative

VIII. Commissioner Comments

CM Casas commented on the Sound Transit board retreat, noting that more information will likely emerge that the commission should consider. He referenced different proposals put forward by staff and suggested that next steps will depend on how things unfold. CM Gardner directed everyone to the Urbanist report for additional context (https://www.theurbanist.org/sound-transit-ideas-stop-short-of-delivering-rail-to-ballard/).

CM Goble expressed gratitude for the support of the Commission and staff.

CM Grellier noted today is Bus Operator Appreciation Day.

IX. Public Comment

Kit Burns commented that he really enjoys taking transit now. He praised the quality of the Sound Transit buses and noted the difference they make. He expressed concern about the potential removal of the ST 594 route and asked why there hasn't been a proposal to make certain lanes HOV only for buses.

X. Adjourn (7:30)

Meeting adjourned by Co-Chair Casas at 7:34 PM.

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Future Agenda Items

Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan, Parking Code Update, Neighborhood Traffic Calming, 6-Year TIP, Capital Projects Update, Vision Zero 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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