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, April 15, 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 5:31 PM, and Co-Chair Casas presented the land acknowledgement.

II. Roll Call

CM Korbuszewski, CM Waldron, and CM Morris had excused absences. All other commissioners were present for all or part of the meeting.

III. Review of Minutes (March 18, 2026)

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

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

Kit Burns commented on the Sound Transit Letter of Recommendation. His comment focused on removing the Portland Ave Station as a cost reduction. He is currently working on concept for station elimination.

V. Business Items (5:45)

a) Vision Zero Action Plan: Post-Crash Care (Vote) – Carrie Wilhelme, Public Works Dept.

Carrie Wilhelme, with assistance from Josh Schlesner from the Tacoma Fire Department, explained that she is requesting the Commission approve an amendment the Vision Zero Action Plan to add post-crash care, a key part of the Safe Systems approach, as an action item. She gave background on when the plan was first adopted and why certain actions were included. She said the City is now considering adding post-crash care, partly because they plan to apply for a federal SS4A grant focused on this area. The grant would be for both implementation and, potentially, planning funds. Josh Schlesner explained that the Fire Department wants to use the grant to support programs like a whole blood program and an ultrasound program. Right now, the whole blood program has only one unit and costs about $100,000 per year. They also want to add an i-STAT program, which can deliver lab results in about two minutes. Carrie noted the grant could also help fund updates to the Vision Zero Action Plan, and that adding post-crash care as part of action plan is a requirement for grant application.

Commissioners shared strong support and personal stories about how EMT services have helped them. They asked whether Public Works could work with the Fire Department on data analysis and better understanding trends. They also asked about how long the funding would last. No specific timeline was given. Josh explained

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the program would continue even without the grant, even though it is expensive. Commissioners also asked about connecting post-crash care EMT data with Vision Zero data.

All voted to add post-crash care to action plan.

b) Neighborhood Traffic Calming (Discussion) – Qi Chen, PE, Public Works Dept.
Qi Chen presented the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program, explaining that it focuses on non-arterial streets to reduce speeds and cut-through traffic. She described a tool she created to track requests and said projects are selected through a data-driven process based on collision history, equity, community features, and infrastructure condition. The program has two tracks, community-based and program-initiated, for infrastructure implementation. She shared examples of tools like speed cushions and diverters, and noted completed projects such as diverters on East 34th Street and I Street and speed humps on North 10th and South Pine. She also outlined future projects, updates to her weighting process that gives more weight to greenways.

Commissioners asked about adding things like trees as a feature for weighting projects get selected, how metrics are measured, and which treatments are most cost-effective. Qi said speed humps are the most cost-effective, though different tools serve different purposes. Commissioners also discussed murals and crosswalks, which depend on a future City policy. Responding to questions about budgets, Qi said they are developing budget options, with a low, medium, and large funding options. Commissioners voiced support for the program and supported a larger budget.

c) 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program (Discussion) – Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works Dept.
Jennifer Kammerzell explained the background for the 6-year Improvement Program, noting that it is required to compete for state and federal grants and lists planned, budgeted transportation projects, though inclusion does not guarantee funding or completion. She reviewed changes to the plan, including the removal of multilingual honorary street name signs since that project is complete, and the addition of seven new projects totaling about $38.8 million. The new projects include include pavement preservation on 6th Avenue and Tacoma Avenue, bridge capital projects, East D Street/McKinley Way bike and pedestrian improvements, Portland Avenue and Lincoln roundabout, a signal at 38th and Alaska, and Tacoma Mall Loop Road and South Tacoma tree canopy enhancements. She said most of the added projects are funded, but not all. Jennifer also outlined next steps in the process, including commission recommendation in April, a study session in May, a public hearing and first and second readings in June, and further reviews later in 2026.

All commissioners present voted to support the updated 6-year TIP.

d) Car Free Sundays Letter of Recommendation (Vote) – Co-Chair Casas and Co-Chair Stevens
Co-Chair Casas and Co-Chair Stevens proposed a letter to IPS encouraging the City, especially Public Works, to reduce driving and gas use in response to rising gas prices and as a general catalyst in pursuit of the commissions goals. They gave historical background, noting that changes to transportation in the Netherlands were partly driven by the gas crisis in the 1970s.

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Commissioners generally supported the letter and discussed related ideas, such as closing streets for block parties. They talked about what level of City support would be needed and whether past efforts like café parklets and streeteries were successful. City staff noted that businesses found parklets costly and staff-intensive to maintain. Commissioners also questioned whether the letter should focus more broadly on rethinking how streets are used, rather than tying the message too closely to gas prices.

All commissioners were in favor of sending letter to IPS with feedback from commission incoroporated.

e) Sound Transit Letter of Recommendation (Vote) – Co-Chair Casas and Co-Chair Stevens
Co-Chair Casas and Co-Chair Stevens provided context for a letter from the Commission to Sound Transit regarding potential service cuts due to limited funding. The letter raised concerns about lack of discussion on subarea equity and argued that, as a regional agency, Sound Transit should better serve Tacoma, particularly areas with limited local connectivity.

Commissioners generally supported the letter, especially its emphasis on equity, and agreed on the need to advocate strongly. They discussed avoiding framing projects as competition between jurisdictions and instead reinforcing Sound Transit's regional responsibility. Commissioners also raised concerns about high infrastructure costs compared to other industrialized countries. They noted that community members can provide input through Sound Transit's survey here: https://www.soundtransit.org/blog/platform/take-enterprise-initiative-survey.

All commissioners present voted to move forward with the letter.

VI. Other Business/Updates (6:45)

a) Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan Advisory Committee (CM Gardner)
CM Gardner said there was a lot of discussion about frequent transit ideas. He mentioned staff recently learned that Pacific Avenue is not designated as a highway of statewide significance, which means certain criteria related to level of service and delay may not apply in the same way. CM Gardner also said more information is needed from the committee related to Vision Zero.

b) Safe Streets Community Levy Committee (CM Waldron and CM Martínez)
CM Martínez said there was strong representation from many parties and expressed appreciation for the input. He said the group decided to move forward with a pragmatic approach.

VII. Staff Reports (7:00)

a) Staff Updates
Connect Tacoma: Safe Streets and Sidewalks on ballot for August 4th.

City is currently under hiring freeze.

b) Status of Grant Applications and Major Capital Projects
TAP Grant: Pine Street Vision Zero project.

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WSDOT Bike and Ped Grant: South 12th Street.

WSDOT Safe Routes to School Grant: Mann Elementary School designated crossing, neighborhood greenway, and school street.

c) Upcoming Public Meetings and Events
May is bike month

May 20th, 6 – 8 PM: Sound Transit open house at Tacoma Art Museum
CANCELED - May 20th Transportation Commission Meeting

VIII. Commissioner Comments

CM Gobble strongly endorsed the work being done on Neighborhood Traffic Calming.

CM Gardner talked about Schuster Promenade meetings.

CM Hill reminded everyone to be prepared for the World Cup and noted that a member of the transportation security team has passed away, expressing a desire to see a memorial in their honor.

IX. Public Comment

Kit Burns noted that a "no day of driving" concept could be incorporated with events like Porchfest. He also expressed general appreciation and enjoyment of the meeting.

X. Adjourn (7:30)

Co-Chair Stevens adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.

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Future Agenda Items

Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan, Parking Code Update, Safe Streets and Sidewalks Levy, Budget

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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