Matt Stevens, Co-Chair, At-Large
Bruce Morris, At-Large
Richard Gardner, At-Large
Felicity Waldron, At-Large
VACANT, 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, July 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 CM Goble presented the land acknowledgement.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Review of Minutes (June 17, 2026)

CM Gardner requested a language change from "improvements" to "concerns" regarding his comments last meeting about the news article on N 21st St. Co-chair Casas moved to adopt the minutes, with the recommended change from CM Gardner. CM Clarke seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

Larry Leveen wanted presenters to make discuss parking minimums or removals and their effect on ADA parking spots, expressing concerns about impacts on people who are not able-bodied.

V. Business Items (5:45)

a) Parking Code Update (Discussion) – Maryam Moeinian and Steve Atkinson, Planning and Development Services Dept.

Steve Atkinson provided an overview of the proposed parking code update, explaining that the changes are driven by recent state legislation, efforts to reduce housing development costs, support market-based parking decisions, and align with Vision 2050 and the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan. He reviewed new state requirements that eliminate minimum parking requirements for certain development thresholds, land uses, building types, locations, and changes in use, and explained what the City can still require under state law. Steve summarized the Planning Commission's recommendation to move forward with Option B, eliminating minimum off street parking requirements citywide while relying on the building code for accessible parking requirements. He also explained how accessible parking is calculated, reviewed what the draft code changes and does not change, discussed community outreach efforts, and outlined next steps, including the August 5, 2026 public hearing and August 7 comment deadline.

Commissioners asked whether the proposal was connected to efforts to eliminate junk fees or included requirements related to transit funding, and Steve indicated he was not aware of either connection. Discussion also focused on the relationship between parking and transit service, with Commissioners noting

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the challenge of balancing transit availability and parking demand. Steve encouraged the Commission to provide comments on the proposal, noting their perspective could help inform the process. Commissioners also asked about outcomes in other jurisdictions, and Steve shared that removing parking minimums has generally helped smaller projects become more financially feasible while still resulting in some parking being provided, except in areas with strong transit access where less parking is typically constructed.

i) Parking Code Update Public Comment Letter – Co-Chairs Casas and Stevens

Co-Chairs Casas and Stevens facilitated a discussion on a proposed comment letter regarding the parking code update. Commissioners expressed general support for the proposed code changes while identifying several topics for consideration in the letter. Topics considered for inclusion in the letter included ADA accessibility, active on street parking management, EV charging infrastructure, growth centers, protection of bike parking and bicycle facilities, right of way impacts, and permeable parking requirements. Commissioners also discussed whether to recommend parking maximums, with various opinions on whether it should be included. Additional discussion included the potential impacts of the Pierce Transit ballot measure, residential parking permits, bicycle parking requirements, and opportunities for periodic review of the parking program.

Staff noted that increased demand for on street parking could make right of way more difficult to repurpose for facilities such as bike lanes.

Co-Chair Stevens and Commissioner Waldron will prepare a comment letter for the Planning Commission.

b) Streets Initiative 1: 10-Year Review (Information) – Joe Franco and Erik Sloan, Public Works Dept.

Joe Franco and Erik Sloan provided an overview of the City's previous street initiative, highlighting its purpose, accomplishments, financial performance, and remaining infrastructure needs. They explained the initiative was created to support Council's transformational goals, address deteriorating streets, and establish a dedicated funding source. They reviewed the 2015 propositions, shared completed projects throughout the city, and reported that the program generated $230.9 million in revenue, exceeding expectations, with approximately 88 percent spent to date. They also discussed the initiative's economic benefits, the City's estimated $2.1 billion in remaining street needs, and next steps for the proposed Connect Tacoma levy, including the Transportation Commission's future oversight role and a preliminary list of potential projects.

Commissioners asked about the cost differences between traditional and permeable pavement. Erik explained that permeable pavement requires more specialized maintenance, though the City is exploring improved maintenance techniques. Commissioners also asked whether the initiative included commitments like those used by schools and parks to support local jobs with living wages. The discussion concluded with Commissioners expressing appreciation for staff's presentation and continued work on the program.

VI. Other Business/Updates (6:45)

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

CM Gardner said there is nothing major to report. It was a topic at Planning Commission recently and will going out for comment soon (date TBD).

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VII. Staff Reports (7:00)

a) Staff Updates
None

b) Status of Grant Applications and Major Capital Projects
Grant Applications:
Waiting to hear back about several different applications

Major Capital Projects:
No major updates

c) Upcoming Public Meetings and Events
Public Meetings:
July 22nd - Tacoma News Tribune hold a community event at the Wheelock Branch Tacoma Public Library to discuss Tacoma parking woes and share ideas

Events:
Porch fest
August 22nd – Sheridan Ave Ribbon Cutting
July 13th – 19th - PNW Climate Week
July 15th – Commencement Bay Restoration and Resilience Master Plan (Open House)

VIII. Commissioner Comments

CM Gardner said he saw work being done along Railroad Avenue and that it looked good.

CM Hill shared concerns about reports of domestic violence incidents occurring near transit stops and expressed concern that Sound Transit staff did not always intervene as expected. She suggested there may be opportunities to strengthen staff training and response procedures.

IX. Public Comment

Larry Leveen thanked everyone for good discussion of parking issues. Additionally, he said staff is underselling it's work on grant applications.

X. Adjourn (7:30)

Co-Chair Stevens adjourned meeting at 7:28 PM.

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Future Agenda Items

Budget, I-5 Crossings Study, ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

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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