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, August 19, 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 5:30 PM, and Co-Chair Stevens presented the land acknowledgement.

II. Roll Call

CM Clarke and CM Grellier were absent from the meeting. All other commissioners were present for all or part of the meeting.

III. Review of Minutes (July 15, 2026)

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

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

No public comment.

V. Business Items (5:45)

a) I-5 Crossings Study Kick-Off (Discussion) – Carrie Wilhelme, Environment and Public Works Dept.

Carrie Wilhelme provided background on the I-5 Crossing Study, including the history of I-5 as a community divide and the study's focus on 14 existing crossings. Funded through a Reconnecting Communities grant, the planning effort will evaluate opportunities to reconnect neighborhoods, improve multimodal access and safety, advance equity, and incorporate placemaking elements such as art, wayfinding, and trees. The study will combine technical analysis, historical research, community outreach, and concept development, with the crossings organized into north, central, and south areas. The work will identify needs, establish priorities, develop concepts, and evaluate feasibility and potential future funding.

Commissioners asked about the grant requirements, project status, outreach, prioritization, and how concepts could eventually advance toward construction. They also emphasized coordination with Sound Transit and other planned development, as well as opportunities to incorporate lighting, art, storytelling, pedestrian safety, and community history into the crossing concepts. Commissioners identified a number of community organizations, businesses, cultural institutions, and other stakeholders that could support outreach and help connect the study to local needs and stories.

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b) Portland Avenue Vision Zero Project: Design Alternatives Evaluation Criteria (Discussion) – Carrie Wilhelme, Environment and Public Works Dept.
Carrie Wilhelme presented the grant-funded E Portland Avenue project, which covers the corridor from E 27th Street to E 56th Street. The project aims to improve sidewalks and bicycle facilities, transit access, ADA accessibility, traffic calming, and overall safety. She also presented the proposed evaluation criteria for comparing design alternatives, with the goal of balancing different transportation modes, reflecting community needs, advancing Vision Zero goals, and providing a clear basis for selecting a preferred design.

Commissioners discussed whether the evaluation criteria adequately address the needs of all users and distinguish between alternatives. Key themes included pedestrian comfort and safety, lighting, transit access, traffic speeds, freight and emergency response, trees and environmental benefits, community and cultural connections, constructability, and cost. Commissioners also identified numerous community organizations, faith-based groups, Tribal partners, and other stakeholders for outreach. Carrie requested that any additional comments be submitted by Friday, August 21.

c) Week Without Driving – Letter of Recommendation for Council Participation – Co-Chair Stevens
Co-Chair Stevens introduced Week Without Driving, an initiative encouraging people to consider how they would get around if they could not drive, with an emphasis on transit given that biking is not an option for everyone. The group discussed promoting the initiative through a letter to Council and encouraging broader participation across the City.

The group generally supported promoting the initiative but noted that the short timeline and limited Commission and staff capacity make a larger organizing effort difficult. Commissioners discussed encouraging individual Councilmembers and other City commissions to participate. It was agreed that Co-Chair Stevens and CM Martinez would write a letter to Council through IPS, with the letter also shared with the Sustainability Commission, Planning Commission, Commission on Disabilities, BPTAG, Urban Design, and other relevant groups. The Commission will focus on promoting the initiative rather than organizing a larger campaign.

VI. Other Business/Updates (6:45)

a) Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan Advisory Committee (CM Gardner)
CM Gardner let the Commission know that the Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan is currently undergoing internal review by the City and is scheduled to be presented to the Planning Commission on September 2. A public open house will be held at a later date.

VII. Staff Reports (7:00)

a) Staff Updates
Proposition No. 1 (Connect Tacoma) passed. Transportation Commission will have some oversight role for Connect Tacoma, with specific responsibilities to be spelled out at a later date.

Jennifer Kammerzell reported that automated enforcement (AE) cameras are scheduled to become operational on September 14.

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b) Status of Grant Applications and Major Capital Projects
Grant Applications:

SDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure: *A $2.1 million dollar grant application for a proposed improvements along S 52nd St including a School Street, an upgraded crossing at Yakima Avenue, and neighborhood greenway wayfinding. WSDOT did a site visit.*

WSDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Education: *A $90,000 application for education work and programming such as bike rodeos, including adaptive bike rodeos. WSDOT did a site visit.*

National Highway Freight Program: *A $2 million application for the Tideflats–Port of Tacoma Emergency Response/ITS Plan.*

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP): *A $2.1 million application for signal installations at Yakima Avenue/S 21st Street and at Yakima Avenue/Tacoma Avenue South. WSDOT did a site visit to both intersections.*

Major Capital Projects:
No updates

c) Upcoming Public Meetings and Events
Public Meetings/Events:

August 22: *Sheridan Avenue Project ribbon-cutting ceremony.*

August 31: *Pedal with Politicians event.*

September 23: *IPS Transportation Commission work plan meeting.*

VIII. Commissioner Comments

CM Casas recognized CM Martinez and CM Waldron for their work on the Proposition 1 Task Force, which contributed to the successful passage of the measure. CM Casas also recognized CM Clarke, CM Grellier, and CM Morris for their service, as the August meeting would be their last as commissioners.

CM Morris expressed appreciation to the Commission for its work and his time there.

CM Gardner reported participating in a Tacoma on the Go walk focused on safety along McKinley Avenue. He also noted that the Sound Transit West Seattle Light Rail construction plan is expected to experience a three-year delay.

Co-Chair Stevens reported listening to an IPS meeting regarding new Transportation Commission members and expressed optimism about the incoming members and their expertise.

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IX. Public Comment

Parker requested recognition of the former Pacific Hospital site and suggested that I-705 crossings also be considered as part of the crossing study, noting that lighting is an issue in those areas. Parker also requested clarification regarding the proposed removal of the bicycle lane near the Port of Tacoma Frontage Road and emphasized the importance of maintaining accessibility for all transportation modes.

X. Adjourn (7:30)

Co-Chair Stevens adjourned meeting at 7:40PM.

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Future Agenda Items

Budget, Commission Work Plan and Accomplishments, ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, Design Manual Update, Active Transportation Projects Update, STW Vision Zero Project Design Charette

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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