

TAC MINUTES

September 19, 2019

In attendance:

Members

Renee Quistorf
Tyler Rourke
Richard Smith
Brett Barrett

Staff

Scott Bader, City Council
Sabina Araya, Transit
Tim Miller, Public Works
Tim Morgan, Police
Corey Hert, Public Works
Kelsey Svaren, Public Works

Guests

Sonja Bodge
Patrick Hall
Kern McGee
Ann Morgan
Bob Creamer
William Weber
Jenni Harrington
Angela Mercurief
Dana Oliver

Meeting called to order at 8:05 a.m. Chaired by Tyler Rourke

- M/S/P for August 2019 Minutes.

Announcements & Requests to Add Agenda Items

- Tyler announced that the committee received emails from the Downtown Everett Association and the Everett Station District Alliance regarding scheduling agenda items for presentation to TAC at future meetings.
- Tyler expressed interest in discussing the option of implementing red light cameras within the City of Everett at a future meeting.

Citizen's Comments

- Bob Creamer expressed concern regarding pedestrian safety in crosswalks, stating that multiple cars drove through a crosswalk while he was using it.
 - Tim Morgan stated that he would talk about pedestrian emphasis during the Police Report.
- Dana Oliver spoke on behalf of the Downtown Everett Association. She expressed concerns regarding current and future parking constraints in downtown Everett and advocated for the City to hire a Parking Manager, offering funding from the Everpark Garage.
- Dana noted issues that could benefit with a City Parking Manager, such as customer displacement by employee parking, street closures due to maintenance and construction, and developments downtown that eliminate accessible parking. Kern McGee and Angela Mercurief also spoke in favor of hiring a City Parking Manager.
- Bob Creamer asked the committee to advocate for voters to educate themselves when they cast their ballot for Initiative 976, proposing \$30 car tabs.

- Tim Miller relayed that Councilmember Murphy stated if Initiative 976 were to pass, it would also greatly affect local projects, such as the yearly pavement overlay.
- Sonja Bodge attributed a lot of vehicular safety issues to commuters, rather than residents. She added that traffic in the City is impacting the livability and quality of life of residents and asked how adding more parking in downtown Everett would impact other residential neighborhoods. She asked TAC to think now about planning for the entire City's future.

Engineering Report

- Tim showed the committee a video of the progress made so far preparing the Grand Avenue Park Bridge for final placement.
- Corey added that the bridge will be lifted off the street on Saturday and placed the following Wednesday. There is a time-lapse video on the City's website that gets updated weekly that he encouraged committee members to watch. He noted that there is also a pedestrian exclusion zone around the bridge to keep people at a safe distance.
- Tim also gave an update regarding street closures. West Marine View Drive is closed for the Grand Avenue Park Bridge placement and will re-open on Friday, September 27th. There is also ongoing construction on Rucker Avenue for the Streetscape Project. The City has been working closely with businesses affected by these closures to ensure that they area still accessible to the public.
- Scott asked if there have been traffic impacts with the closure of West Marine View Drive, with Renee responding that a large portion of traffic has diverted to Grand Avenue during the closure.
- Tim Miller added that Euneka in Traffic Engineering has changed signal timing for traffic lights on North Broadway to help lessen the impact of the street closures as much as possible.
- Scott asked about the timeframe for Hoyt Avenue to reopen and noted that it would be helpful to include that information on the website.

Police Report

- Sgt. Morgan announced that the City is adding two motorcycle positions to his unit. Having a full complement of traffic enforcement officers will help the Police Department address more problem areas than they currently have bandwidth for.
- Sgt. Morgan also announced that the Police Department will be implementing a pedestrian emphasis within the next couple of weeks. They just finished a partnership with the Washington State Patrol for a back to school emphasis. Tim added that shifting focus toward pedestrian safety and crosswalk issues is especially important this time of year when it starts to get darker earlier in the day.
- Renee asked for an update regarding the new parking enforcement software.
 - Sgt. Morgan stated that he does not work with the software himself, but that Maryjane Hacker would be able to provide an update at the next meeting.

Transit Report

- Sabina noted that route 6 is currently using detours to accommodate the closure on West Marine View Drive.
- Sabina also informed the committee that Everett Transit has received a request from the Everett Station District Alliance to close a few stops around Everett Station. After analyzing boarding data, it was determined that only one of the proposed stop changes has very few passenger boardings.
- Sabina also briefly touched on topics that were discussed earlier in the meeting, asking everyone to consider Everett Transit while discussing new ways to service alternative transportation and the ways in which Paratransit would be affected financially if Initiative 976 is approved.

Agenda Items:

Item 1: – Speed Limits

Informational Briefing #2; Presented by Timothy Miller, Public Works

- Tim Miller gave a brief review of the Speed Limits presentation from August before presenting data analysis from Friday Avenue and Lombard Avenue
 - Friday Avenue has a 20mph posted limit. There are only sidewalks on the east side of the street, while the west side is the only allows parking. The City took traffic counts in two places, south of Earl Avenue and South of 39th Street. Analysis showed that the 85th percentile south of Earl Avenue averaged 25.5 mph, while the 85th percentile south of 39th Street was approximately 30.75 mph.
 - Tim compared the data to a similar street posted at 25mph, Lombard Avenue. This is a residential street of a similar width that offers parking on both sides of the street. The City has received reports of speeding and cut-through traffic on this street. The City placed counters just south of 16th Street and south of 22nd Street. Analysis showed that the 85th percentile south of 16th Street was 27.5mph heading NB, while vehicles travelled an average of 26.8mph SB. South of 22nd Street, the 85th percentile averaged 26.3mph for both directions.
- Tim also used case studies from Seattle and the UK regarding 20mph residential speed limits. Based on the data analysis, the following conclusions were drawn.
 - 20mph posted limit does not reduce speeds
 - It is not enforceable in meaningful ways
 - It detracts from 20mph school speed zone emphasis
 - There is no crash data reduction results available
 - There is no enforcement results available
 - Reducing speed limits would be a deviation from the City's data driven analysis approach.
- Due to these findings, Tim stated that it is not currently reasonable to lower residential speed limits within the City of Everett.

- Tim said that the next steps are to continue monitoring neighborhood speeds upon request using EPD and Traffic Engineering resources and to continue evaluating crash and speed data from other residential 20mph cities to determine if there are measurable benefits that can be found. Tim noted that he would also bring data from radar trailers to a future meeting.
- Scott asked if there is a way to track cut-through speeding traffic.
 - Tim responded that the City would have to borrow equipment from WSDOT, but that an analysis of the data would be labor intensive and require a lot of time to complete.
- A lengthy discussion ensued regarding strategies to reduce speeding within the City of Everett. This included:
 - Changing the character of roads
 - Lowering speed limits in residential areas might make some people “feel safer” and thus choose biking or walking instead of driving
 - Options for enforcement
 - Implementing traffic cameras in school zones
 - Safety of pedestrians and alternative modes of transportation, such as Lime scooters and bicycles
 - Parallels between speeding and other traffic infractions
 - Recommendations to look at data from Portland, OR and Anacortes for comparisons.

Item 2: September 2019 Service Change

Information Briefing; Sabina Araya, Transit

- The new service change took effect on September 15th. There were no significant changes to any routes, just timing adjustments.
- The next service change will take place in March 2020.

Item 3: SR 526 Improvements Project

Informational Briefing; Corey Hert, Public Works

- This agenda item was postponed and will be presented at the October meeting.

Item 4: 2020 Overlay Project & Bikes

Informational Briefing; Corey Hert, Public Work

- This agenda item was postponed and will be presented at the October meeting.

- **Adjourned at 9:48 am**

Next Scheduled Meeting: October 17, 2019