

Tacoma City Council Study Session

Date: 3/30/2021

Observer: Ann Williams

Meeting Called to Order: 12:01 pm

Members Present: Woodard, Walker, Hunter, Hines, Beale, Thoms, Blocker, Ushka, McCarthy

Members Absent: none

Others Present: John Howell, Marty Kooistra (Cedar River Group), Liz Ellis, Sue Comis, Andrew Austin, Madeline Greathouse, Peter Rogoff (Sound Transit), Linda Stewart, Allyson Griffin, Matthew Jorgenson, Tiegan Tidball, Klarrisa Monteros, Kedrick O'Bannon (Department of Neighborhood and Community Services)

I. South Sound Housing Affordability Partners, presented by John Howell and Marty Kooistra, Cedar River Group (CRG)

1. Background on SSHAP (also called SSA(3)HP, for access, affordability, and attainability). In 2017 the population growth rate of Pierce County was higher than King County and the median price for a 2 BR apartment in Tacoma was greater than in Washington DC. Pierce County mayors met in October 2018 to discuss the problem and Cedar River Group was engaged to develop an intragovernmental agreement.
2. What would SSAHP do?
 - a. Pool resources and speak with a united voice
 - b. Respond to pandemic insecurity
 - c. Possibly establish a capital fund
 - d. Streamline permitting
 - e. Secure grants
 - f. Develop policies and programs
3. What would SSAHP not do?
 - a. Usurp government land use authority
 - b. Become another government bureaucracy
4. Currently 25 cities within the county are interested in an intragovernmental agreement.
5. A draft agreement has been recently sent to all cities. CRG will get feedback and present a final draft in June 2021.

II. Sound Transit Project Updates and Realignment, presented by Peter Rogoff (CEO), Liz Ellis, Sue Comis, Andrew Austin, Madeline Greathouse, all of Sound Transit

1. ST needs to resize its building schedule to fit the current environment of tax constraints, increased property values and a hot construction market. The board expects to finish its realignment project this summer.
2. Most recent (and now old estimate) of gaps suggests a \$6.1 billion revenue shortfall

And \$12.3 billion increased costs between now and 2041. New, and expected improved estimates will be available in April.

3. Seven of the eight current projects are currently on budget and are not subject to realignment.
4. The Tacoma Dome Link Extension will be 10 miles long and have 4 stations. There will be an update on the Fall 2020 public outreach. A draft EIS is expected in early 2022.
5. The Hilltop Project is 75% complete, with opening expected in 2022.
6. The South Sound Sounder Improvement Project will expand rider drop-off, pedestrian, and bike access. There will be two rounds of public engagement, in the spring and fall.
7. Point Defiance Bypass Project will restore passenger rail service between Tacoma and Dupont, lost due to the Amtrak accident of several years ago. The date of starting service has not been set.

III. Homelessness Update, presented by Linda Stewart and Allyson Griffin, Tiegan Tidball, Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)

1. Hygiene Station Pilot Update. The station is located on private property at 801 Yakima. It opened 4/5/2021 and will close on 4/17/2021 unless council wishes to continue it. This intervention is meant to be temporary until the Temporary Mitigation/Stabilization Site, discussed below, is operational. The site offers restrooms, handwashing, and trash services, with security present 6am-6pm. There has been no increase in tents at the site during the pilot. There has been an increase in 911 calls, but most of these are for welfare checks.
2. NCS has started a trash and debris pilot program run by a biohazards contractor. It will run through May.
3. The draft 5 Year Strategy to end homelessness is currently in the middle of community engagement. They expect to have the draft to council by April and to be completed by September, 2021.
4. Mitigation/Stabilization Site Analysis-NCS started with 694 city owned properties and weaned this down to one recommended site at South 69th and Proctor, in the 5th Council District. There was considerable council pushback that at least one additional site (a TPU property at 35th and Union) should undergo detailed evaluation as well. Analysis will include community engagement. The site is expected to be operational later this year.

IV. Systems Transformation (I did not attend this)

Meeting Ended: 3:32pm