

**Tacoma City Council Study Session**

Date: 4/27/2021

Observer: Ann Williams

**Meeting Start Time:** 12:03 pm**Members Present:** Beale, Blocker, Woodards, McCarthy, Hunter, Walker, Hines**Members Absent:** Ushka**Others Present:** Elizabeth Pauli (City Manager), Jennifer Kammerzell (Public Works), Stephen Atkinson, Jane Magoon (Planning), Jason Hennessy (BERK Consulting), Linda Stewart (Neighborhood and Community Services)**I. Vision Zero-** Jennifer Kammerzell

1. Vision Zero is a city program with a goal to eliminate serious injury and death due to traffic accidents by 2035.
2. Between 2014-18 there were 17,000 traffic accidents in the city with 400 fatalities or serious injuries. These include accidents involving children going to school.
3. The program had its start in October 2020, but then lost its planner, so lost momentum. A new planner will start in May and will also be responsible for the Transportation Master Plan.
4. Data should be available in the fall with an action plan expected in 2022.  
Issues being studied include speed limits, road design and other factors and will tie into the Safe Routes to School Initiative.

**II. Fossil Fuel Study and Tide Flats and Industrial Land Regulations-** Stephen Atkinson, Jane Magoon, Jason Hennessy

1. The city has been operating on interim Tide Flats regulations since 2017, which must be renewed every 6 months. The council asked the Planning Department to recommend non-interim regulations, recognizing that there is also a Tide Flats Subarea Use Plan in development that is still a few years from completion.
2. The Planning Department started its process in November, 2020 with public engagement.
3. Recommendations fall into four categories: Public Notification, Conversion of Public Lands, Residential Encroachment and Siting of Heavy Industrial Uses.
4. Public Notification-The notification distance will expand to 2500 feet from proposed project site and will include owners and renters.
5. Conversion of Public Lands is designed to preserve industrially zoned lands for their intended purpose with greater restrictions on the core areas of the Port and allow some flexibility in peripheral areas.
6. Residential Encroachment is designed to limit encroachment while allowing some development of private property on the hillside above Marine View Drive.
7. Siting of Heavy Industry is intended to support transition to renewable fuels and promote greater compatibility with the urban setting. Specifically, coal, smelting, mining, and quarrying will be prohibited. Chemical manufacturing would be allowed but hazardous chemical manufacturing would require conditional use permits. New oil and liquified natural gas facilities

would not be allowed although existing facilities could maintain, upgrade, and change fuel types.

8. Jason Hennessy presented the Fossil Fuel study, noting the \$2.5 Billion economic impact in Tacoma.
9. There was considerable discussion among the council about the depth and detail of the recommendations and whether this is appropriate given the unfinished Subarea Plan. One member thought the recommendations were a complete over-reach and beyond what she expected, and another defended the process and outcome as exactly what he expected. The current interim regulations expire on 6/2/2021. The current legislative process on this issue is scheduled to end on 5/18/2021. It is not clear how the council is going to deal with this.

### **III. Homelessness Update-** Linda Stewart

1. The current temporary hygiene station at 8<sup>th</sup> and Yakima has been extended, with further negotiation ongoing for yet another short-term extension. Two additional stations should open in the next few weeks at I-705 and A Street and at 6<sup>th</sup> and L and M Streets (near Evergreen State College).
2. The city has joined the County Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness. The city's 5-year Homelessness Strategy should be operational in October, 2021.
3. The final selection of the Temporary Mitigation Site is not complete. The Department still favors the South 69<sup>th</sup> and Proctor site. They attended the recent South Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeting, (which had a record attendance) and responded to all questions. Councilmember Beale confirmed that the Department handled the meeting with professionalism. One member seems opposed to this site (in favor of the PUD property on South 35<sup>th</sup>) but other members seem likely to approve the recommendation.

### **IV. Council Consideration- Multi-Family Housing Tax Exemptions and Equity Index-** Councilmember Hines

1. The city currently has two tax abatement programs designed to stimulate multi-family housing development. The 12-year abatement is less commonly used and requires that 20% of units be affordable. The 8-year abatement credit is commonly used and is all market-rate.
2. Councilmember Hines is recommending an ordinance to suspend the 8-year abatement in areas which would be developed without the abatement credit (e.g., Proctor and Point Ruston).
3. The council agreed that the 8-year abatement credit should be revisited more broadly and will continue discussion of the issue.

**Time Observer Stopped Attendance:** 3:50 pm