

## Summary Notes

Pierce County  
Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC)  
Thursday, October 22, 2020  
9:00AM to 11:36AM

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Call to Order:** 9:00AM

**Roll Call:** 9:03AM

**Voting Members:** Deryl McCarty, Paul Lubbesmeyer, Shelly Schlumpf, Scott Jones, Jessie Gamble for Jeremiah LaFranca, Jane Moore, Lindsey Sehmel, Katie Wilcox, Steve Gordon. There is a quorum.

**Absent:** Jeremiah LaFranca, Tom Pierson, Brian Devereux.

**Non-Voting Members:** Dennis Hanberg, Hugh Taylor.

**Pierce County PPW Staff:** Brian Stacy, Rory Grindley, Jesse Hamashima, Neil Quisenberry, Gary Hendricks, Shawn Phelps.

**Pierce County Non PPW Staff:** Councilmember Dave Morell, Brianne Blackburn (Parks & Recreation).

**Other:** Maxine Herbert-Hill (SR-162 Community Group).

### Approval of Agenda:

**Summary Notes Approval:** September's summary notes were approved as written. 1<sup>st</sup> Shelly Schlumpf. 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Jones. No oppositions for approval of summary notes.

**Councilmember Guidance:** Councilmember Morell noted that he is glad that the TAC gets to move forward. He reported that the Centers and Corridors proposal goes to Council Tuesday for a vote. He is keeping an eye on the Transportation Road Show. There is a potential tax increase coming. Lots of changes are coming up in Pierce County. He appreciates the TAC's work.

**Where to go From Here:** The TAC has looked at lots of information. A letter was sent to Council. TAC requested how do we look at projects.

It was noted that TAC reviewed funding gap of 21.9M. Funding gap is more pertinent than prioritizing.

**Planning and Public Works Presentation to EIDC, September 29:** Played a recording/video of Planning and Public Works September 29 presentation to the EIDC. The presentation gave an overview of process selection of how Planning and Public Works puts together what they present to Council. In this recording, Toby Rickman presented on Capital project selection. He presented on Countywide Comprehension Plan and Service Priorities. The highest priority is protecting investments in existing structures. The second priority is safety.

During the September 29 presentation, Brian Stacy, County Engineer, presented on prioritization of transportation projects. He reported on the six priority groups: safety, preservation, bridge, concurrency/capacity, new alignment, and active transportation. He noted that a volume to service level (V/S) above 1.0 percent needs to go out to bid in six years. There is lots of planning to take a project out to bid.

**Overview of Travel Demand Modeling:** Gary Hendricks, Senior Planner, gave a presentation overview on Travel Demand Modeling. A travel demand model is a system to forecast future travel. We model travel demand to assist in guide plans, inform decisions, and evaluate future investment strategies. It also assists road and intersection design decisions, grant applications, concurrency, and traffic impact fees.

Pierce County's four-step travel demand model predicts how often people travel, where they travel to and from, mode of travel, and travel routes. Trip Generation Model estimates how often people travel in a typical day. Trip Distribution

predicts where people travel by spatially connecting where travel starts to where it ends. Mode Choice predicts mode of travel or how trips are made. Traffic Assignment simulates travel routes as the “best” combination of roads and intersections to take based on travel time for all combined types of travel. We confirm model traffic estimates reasonably match traffic counts, transit ridership, and other “passive data” sources such as cell phone-based data.

Currently, there is strong growth. Building of residential units is strong. Infrastructure is not growing as fast due to funding needs.

Current traffic volumes are still 10 percent lower than average. There will be a need to explore data post COVID to see if telework continues. The present COVID traffic situation is not included in modeling.

**Discussion:** After the EIDC Presentation, there was a question of why ADA Retrofitting is currently under Preservation while ADA Transition Plan is under Active Transportation. PROWAG is what drives ADA. Many projects have overlapping criteria. New intersections must meet federal ADA guidelines.

How does the State highway improvements/non-improvements impact the model? Projects are quite restrained. The County not only has a dependency on State DOT but on other municipalities as well.

TAC needs to look at the model that is there and add to it other projects. Look at each project and start stating what is first, second, etc. Then we can start to prioritize. Don't go intersection by intersection.

We need to look at longer range corridors. The TAC should start by choosing the top five projects that the County can start looking at.

TAC should look at projects that are outside the six-year program and look at the two-year budget. That's the priority.

It was noted that funding sounds like the number one issue. Modeling and improvement programs have already been completed by professionals. Feels the TAC's primary task is funding.

A question about the tax increase that Councilmember Morell mentioned at the beginning of the meeting was more at a state level which might not go to local government. Hugh stated that he will try to get more information on the tax for the next meeting.

It was noted that we cannot count on a reliable source of State funding. State needs to focus on their projects which will also benefit Pierce County.

**Action Items:** Hugh Taylor to get more information on the tax increase. TAC to start looking at what is beyond the budget and six-year plan and start prioritizing projects.

**Next Meeting:** December 10, 2020.

**Public Comment:** Maxine Herbert-Hill thanked the commission for remembering the stakeholders and for including stakeholders in decisions.

**Move to Adjourn:** 11:36AM; 1<sup>st</sup> Scott Jones; 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Lubbesmeyer. No opposition for adjourning.