

Transit Advisory Board 10/25/23 Meeting Minutes

Board Members in Attendance

Ashwin Bhumbra
Art Kuniyuki
Sandro Pani
Christiano Martinez
Josh Hirschland
Zachary Burton
Dana Coppernoll-Houston
Carolyn Tillinger
Braxton Williams
Priyadharshini Balan

SDOT

Carolyn Birkenfield
Bill LaBorde
Candida Lorenzana
Jen Malley-Crawford
Matt Yarrow
Michelle Abunaja

City of Seattle

Naomi Lewis
Devin Silvernail
Councilmember Pedersen

Introductions

Public Comment, Approval of Previous Minutes

- No public comment
- Art motions to approve the September minutes
 - Christiano seconds
 - Sandro abstains
 - The motion passes unanimously

Councilmember Pedersen's Comments

- Council asked SDOT for detailed breakdown of STM spending in 2024
 - Received around a week ago.
 - Emphasizing that there's still some funds in Emerging Needs that don't have specific line items associated with them.
- Calls out projects in South Seattle specifically
 - Safety projects for getting people to Mt Baker station
 - Could be a candidate for funds coming in from higher-than-expected sales tax revenue as part of the STM
 - Devin Silvernail from Councilmember Morales' office has comment

- Accessible Mount Baker has been an idea for awhile
 - Current asks are an art project on the pedestrian bridge
 - Repurposing of a travel lane on Olmstead Blvd to be a walking/biking/activation space for students going to Franklin High School.
- They are eager for TAB's comment on this idea specifically
 - Would welcome comment in our STM Budget response letter specifically.

Climate Change Response Framework

- CCRF is a decision making tool for organizational and policy changes required to make meaningful progress toward our 2030 climate goals.
- Seattle Core Emissions Sources
 - Transportation is responsible for 62% of emissions
 - 2 of 3 car trips are fewer than 3 miles long
 - SDOT is responsible for 27% of Seattle's land area
- Topic Details
 - For each \$1 invested, \$8-10 return in co benefits
 - This is seen in safety, health, and neighborhood economic benefits
 - In Seattle every new transit trip eliminates 1208g of carbon dioxide, every new bike trip eliminates 366g of carbon dioxide
- The solutions
 - Example sheet
 - Bus only lanes
 - Accelerate bus-only lane installations and other travel time + reliability improvements
- Potential Outcomes
 - By 2030 (rideshare)
 - Bikes from 3 to 7%
 - Transit from 11 to 24%
 - Cars from 65 to 35%
- Where can GHG reduction be achieved?
 - Largely in electrification
- Implementation - How Does the CCRF Fit In?
 - Act as "climate element" of Seattle Transportation Plan
 - Inform funding approach
 - Inform Comprehensive plan
- CCRF is reflected in the draft STP in the climate action section
- How does this relate to the STP Transit Element?
 - Mainly through the frequent transit network.
- Questions
 - Talking about electrification, how "green" is the grid that we're drawing from?
 - The grid is mostly clean and there is more detail on how they gain access is found in the CCRF?
 - If bus only lanes are a "high cost" endeavor, what is a low cost?

- These categories were run through the mayor's office
- Could be factoring in scale
- As an example, new lanes vs refreshing old ones. New lanes cost much more. In general, bus lanes aren't just bus lanes, it's a whole bus corridor that could include pedestrian improvements, crosswalks, etc.

Board Business

- Presentation follow ups
 - Board members are interested in writing a letter to address the CCRF specifically.
 - Emphasized that this is only the draft STP and we'll have more time to address both CCRF and STP specifically
- WSLE has open houses about light rail extension right now.
 - https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7542169/WSLE-Station-Planning-Survey?utm_campaign=pu-wsblink-20231025&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- Transportation Electrification Strategy on Washington state level
 - <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/clean-transportation/ev-coordinating-council/transportation-electrification-strategy/>
 - Can comment as individuals
- New light rail station brings corridor improvements to 125th and 130th. Ongoing projects that we may be able to give comments to
- Subcommittee updates
 - Draft STP Response Letter
 - Spent time going over and incorporating board comments
 - Josh motions to approve the letter
 - Zach seconds
 - The motion passes unanimously
 - STM Budget Committee Letter
 - Discussion on adding language to address the 1.5 million dollars in additional funding, and councilmember Pedersen's motion to put it towards Accessible Mount Baker.
 - TAB concludes that we'd like to wait to comment until we hear specifically what the proposal will be (when council puts forwards all of its amendments)
 - Zach motions to approve the letter
 - Ashwin seconds
 - Josh Hirschland abstains
 - The motion passes
- Letter on Resolution 32097
 - Art motions to approve
 - Sandro seconds
 - The letter passes unanimously
- Officer elections
 - Slate
 - Co-chairs

- Ashwin and Art
- Co-Vice Chairs
 - Christiano and Zach
- Secretary
 - Priya
- Josh motions to pass the slate of officers
- Sandro seconds
- The motion passes unanimously