

West Seattle Transportation Coalition

Meeting Minutes for May 23, 2019

In attendance:

Board: Michael Taylor-Judd, Victoria Nelson, Kate Wells, Deb Barker, Chas Redmond, Larry Wymer, Jon Wright, Martin Westerman

Guests: Marshall Nachtman, Michael Oxman, Bert Patrick, Marie ??, Joe Nguyen, Bruce Butterfield, Nina Martinez, Vlad Pshonyak, Angela Brady

1. Meeting called to order at 6:35pm by Michael Taylor-Judd
2. Introductions
3. April minutes approved
4. Angela Brady, Deputy Director of the Office of the Waterfront (<https://waterfrontseattle.org>)
 - The SR99 tunnel and seawall are finished, but many projects remain, including Viaduct demolition (complete in 2019), Coleman Dock (2023), Aquarium expansion, Pike/Pine Corridor improvements, Alaskan Way rebuild (2021), Alaskan Way Promenade (2023), Overlook Walk (2022).
 - The seawall includes light-penetrating panels, a “habitat shelf”, and a beach to encourage sea life.
 - Concerts of the Pier will return in the future
 - An attendee requested that well-chosen trees be planted contiguously, to create a corridor for wildlife.
 - A new road will be created (local access only for cars) to connect the Stadium District to the waterfront.
 - Marshall Nachtman asked about commercial vehicle restrictions along Alaskan Way. No, this will be a freight corridor.
 - Martin Westerman raised concerns about local businesses being priced out of the renewed waterfront, and whether enterprise zones or other encouragement have been discussed. Yes, the city is looking into this. Michael Taylor-Judd mentioned Seattle Center as an example of such encouragement.
 - Friends of the Waterfront (a non-profit) will be caretakers of the new waterfront and will hire security.
 - Michael Taylor-Judd asked if lights across the wide Alaskan Way will allow for slower pedestrians. Supposedly, but there will be refuge spaces if not, plus accessible pedestrian bridges at Marion St and Overlook Park.
 - No gondola from the Great Wheel to downtown, as has been rumored.
 - Chas Redmond requested informational art be added.
 - A new car bridge will cross the railroad tracks at around Virginia, to connect Alaskan Way to Elliott and Western.
 - Deb Barker asked about views to replace those from the Viaduct. Overlook Park will be lower, but have similar views of the bay.
5. Sen. Joe Nguyen and Rep. Eileen Cody
 - It was a busy session, with a lot of bills. They’re working on the next transportation budget, controversial due to the possibility of a carbon tax. When asked, Senator Nguyen said he supports a carbon tax.
 - Regarding WSTC priorities: WS Bridge is outside of state jurisdiction, additional funding for ST3 tunnels could be difficult to find outside Seattle, Highland Park Roundabout may

get partial funding from the state (1.5 million) in the next budget.

- The WA State Ferries contract has been extended so they will likely be able to purchase new vessels and pursue electrification.

- “Block the Box/Bus” automated enforcement bill failed.

- Senator Nguyen also mentioned a multimodal bill and the upcoming e-scooter pilot in Seattle.

- Michael Taylor-Judd brought up recent difficulties working with BNSF Railway (T-5 quiet zone, Duwamish Longhouse pedestrian crossing) and asked whether the state could help out.

- Martin Westerman asked about sending Fauntleroy ferries to Coleman Dock. Foot ferries are coming but Coleman can't handle all the ferry traffic.

- An attendee brought up ADU/DADU issues, and concerns about loss of tree cover and urban ecosystems as more housing is built. Both Sen. Nguyen and Cody voted for the state bill.

- Jon Wright expressed disappointment in how, even with Democrats in control of the state government and so many new legislators, many transportation bills were derailed. Senator Nguyen attributed this to legislators prioritizing other subjects rather than opposing transportation.

- Martin Westerman asked if the state could encourage Seattle to impose impact fees for developers. Senator Nguyen and Rep. Cody were interested but wary that other legislators would support it.

6. The Sound Transit Board was voting on the preferred alignment this afternoon. They want third-party funding locked in early in the process. The votes were not finalized as of 5:00pm.
7. A Rapid Ride H open house is scheduled for 5/30 from 5:30-7:30 at Youngstown Cultural Arts Center.
8. SDOT has raised the Highland Park Roundabout budget to \$7.3 million. The board would like to have Sam Zimbabwe back to discuss further.
9. WSTC Board elections will be held in June. Nominations are open.
10. New neighborhood coalition - Highland Park Action Committee is joining with Riverview and South Delridge - new name TBD.
11. Meeting adjourned at 8:30

Minutes compiled by Kate Wells.