

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Transportation Advisory Board

6:00 PM
 October 23, 2024

MINUTES

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.
 NW, Issaquah

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Julian Mydlil, Chair
 Tom McDonald, Vice Chair (Virtual)
 Erika Boyd
 Cynthia Krass
 Hany Maklad
 Avi Mattikali

Adam Fuchs - Alternate

Excused Absence:

Micah Zeitz-Chua

Administration/Staff:

John Larson-Friend, Transportation Program
 Coordinator
 John Mortenson, Senior Transportation
 Manager
 Emily Moon, Public Works Director

Chris Rey, City Councilmember

Unexcused Absence:

Lamir Magus

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Chair Mydlil.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Sep 25, 2024

There being no proposed changes, the Minutes of September 25, 2024 were approved by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

REGULAR BUSINESS

a) **Draft Central Issaquah Station Area Visioning and Guiding Principles**

Presented by:

Thomas Valdriz, Senior Transportation Planner

Thomas Valdriz presented an overview of the draft Central Station Area Visioning and Guiding Principles. TAB members asked about ADA compliance in accessibility, unexpected findings, and the definition of "safety." Parking was a major topic, with discussions on balancing parking needs and small-town charm, and the necessity of adding parking and density as guiding principles. There were questions about the survey's engagement from Issaquah and beyond, and feedback from neighboring cities. Participants identified parking as a central conflict, suggesting hypothetical scenarios and microeconomic analysis to gauge public opinion. The inevitability of increased traffic was acknowledged, emphasizing the importance of future-focused planning.

Discussions included balancing the vision of a regional transportation hub with maintaining Issaquah's charm, and inquiries about Sound Transit's surge projects and desired modal splits. Experiences from other end-of-line cities, like Lynnwood, were considered, along with

suggestions to update terminology and address conflicts explicitly. The timing of development in relation to planning timelines was also discussed. The meeting concluded with an agreement on addressing identified conflicts and ensuring a balanced approach to planning.

Following the conclusion of Thomas' presentation, Councilmember Rae invited to speak briefly to the TAB about the work they are doing.

b) Introduction to Street Standards - Landscaping

Presented by:

John Larson-Friend, Transportation Program Coordinator

John Mortenson, Transportation Engineering Manager

John Larson-Friend and John Mortenson presented an introduction to the November TAB discussion on Street Standards - Landscaping. TAB members raised several questions: What specific types of changes will staff propose? Will these changes apply to both city and private developments? Concerns were voiced regarding the motivations of private vs. public developers, and the need to define "guardrails" around projects was highlighted. There were inquiries about the timeline and whether examples exist of projects potentially led by private developers. Attendees also asked who typically handles right-of-way projects.

Members expressed appreciation for the introduction ahead of next month's discussion. Questions were raised about the process for approving or denying exceptions, the current exceptions in place, and ensuring proposed changes do not have long-term negative impacts. There was a suggestion to inventory city streets to determine where proposed exceptions might apply. The meeting concluded with members looking forward to a more detailed discussion next month.

REPORTS

a) Board Work Plan

Next month, there will be a special meeting on November 21st to accommodate the Thanksgiving holiday. Staff will bring two topics to that meeting, Squak MT Non-Motorized Improvement Plan and Street Standards - Landscaping.

b) Staff Report

Emily Moon presented the staff report, including an announcement that TAB Liaison John Larson-Friend's position at the city will likely be discontinued at the end of the year due to city budget cuts. A plan for the TAB will be announced at a later date.

c) Chair Report

No chair report.

d) Youth Report

Youth TAB member talked about Issaquah Police Department cracking down on cut through traffic through neighborhoods and the community center.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.