



# City Council Workshop - Capital Projects Minutes

<http://www.cityoftacoma.org>

University of Washington, 1900 Commerce Street, Tacoma Room  
Tacoma, Washington

March 1, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Council Members present: 9 - Evans, Ladenburg, Lonergan, McGavick, Miller, Moss, Phelps, Talbert, and Mayor Baarsma.

Staff Members present: Ray Corpuz, James Walton, Mark Crisson, Robin Jenkinson, Steve Marcotte, Juli Wilkerson, Diane Supler, Karen Larkin, Leslie Rowen, Randy Lewis, Catherine Woodard, Craig Sivley, Mike Combs, Gary Steinhoff, Gwen Kopetzky, John Briehl, Rick Brush, Tina Nelson, Phil Knudsen, Susan Odenchantz, John Pirak, Dave Otto, and Cindy Leingang.

Guests present: Julie Collins, Port of Tacoma; Julie Anderson, City Council candidate; Paula Sullivan, *The Tacoma News Tribune*, and John Larson, *Tacoma Weekly*.

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Mayor Baarsma reviewed the purpose of the meeting and called on City Manager Ray Corpuz for introductory remarks.

Mr. Corpuz reviewed the agenda, described the documents provided for the meeting, including a list of the capital projects and criteria for ranking projects. He then called on Ms. Diane Supler, Office of Management, Budget, and Analysis Director.

Ms. Supler reviewed the comprehensive plan of projects, stating that it may be difficult to identify ongoing maintenance and operations costs which do not get factored into project decision-making. She then discussed Tacoma's BRASS computer system. Ms. Supler noted the document does not include Tacoma Power or Tacoma Water, which are not part of the budgeting and capital facilities management program.

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Council Member Moss arrived at 8:47 a.m.

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Mr. Corpuz discussed future changes to include listing the City Council's priorities for capital projects.

Ms. Wilkerson, Tacoma Economic Development Department Director, explained the capital projects which have been completed and those that are underway. She stated the following projects have been completed: Foss Waterway, Art Museum, Glass Museum, LeMay Museum, Convention Center, and Downtown Parking. She stated the Multiplex Theaters project died based on economic conditions.

Ms. Wilkerson stated the capital needs of the City represent about \$1.3 million and infrastructure needs represent about \$800 million of the total.

Discussion followed regarding project list criteria; critical priorities; development of criteria; maintenance of basic infrastructure needs over new economic development; and downtown projects.

Discussion ensued regarding the African American Museum, Asia-Pacific Cultural Center, and Chinese Reconciliation Project; an outdoor amphitheatre at the Asarco smelter site; the Bicentennial Pavilion upgrade; the Pantages Theatre/Broadway Center renovation project; business district improvements; Cheney Stadium improvements; and needed repairs for some 60 City-owned buildings.

Mayor Baarsma called for a 10-minute break at 10:01 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Discussion continued regarding the Convention Center spire; the commuter rail station at South 56<sup>th</sup> and Washington streets; the D Street overpass; downtown streetscapes; the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor and Murray Morgan Bridge; the Environmental Services administration building at the Tacoma Landfill; the Farmers Market; funding options from the Port of Tacoma relative to Fire Department facilities; and Foss Waterway improvements.

Mr. Walton discussed the gas station park concept and funding needed for purchase and cleanup.

Discussion ensued regarding the planting of 2,000 trees per year on major arterials; the Harrison Range upgrade; Housing Trust Fund; Hylebos Bridge replacement; \$772 million in infrastructure needs for maintenance and construction of streets, alleys, sidewalks, bridges, bike lanes/paths/trails, traffic signals, streetlights, and traffic calming; the LeMay Museum off-street improvements; the Marine Science Center planned for the east side of the Foss Waterway; moving of Municipal Court and other offices out of the County-City Building; and downtown parking garages.

Discussion continued regarding a new Streets and Grounds Maintenance facility; upgrade of the Tacoma Dome, including the expiration of financing bonds in 2005 and the possibility of bond renewals; capital and expansion needs for the Tacoma Narrows Airport; an excursion train from the Dome area to Park Junction near Mount Rainier; and location of the U.S.S. Ranger – aircraft carrier in Tacoma as a museum and memorial.

Mr. Mark Crisson, Public Utilities Director, gave an overview of capital projects for Public Utilities, most of which occur outside Tacoma. He stated Tacoma Water is replacing mains in the downtown to support development and that Tacoma Rail and

Utilities will have to relocate some operations in the Port area to deal with expansions planned there.

Rating and ranking options for the project list were evaluated, followed by a ranking exercise.

Mayor Baarsma recessed for the exercise and for lunch at 12:10 p.m. He reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

The highest priorities were listed as follows:

- 1. Infrastructure/Neighborhood Enhancements (36)
- 2. Foss Waterway (30)
- 3. Convention Center enhancements (27)
- 4. Tacoma Dome expansion (27)
- 5. Tacoma Rail/Train to the Mountain (22)
- 6. Parking (21)
- 7. Business District improvements (21)
- 8. Chinese Reconciliation Project (20)
- 9. Ruston Way improvements (19)
- 10. Downtown Streetscape (18)

Mayor Baarsma reviewed the outcomes. Discussion ensued about how to further evaluate the priorities.

After recalculating, the highest priorities were as follows:

- 1. Infrastructure/Neighborhood Enhancements (23)
- 2. Foss Waterway (19)
- 3. Tacoma Dome expansion (16)
- 4. Convention Center enhancements (15)
- 5. Business District improvements (14)
- 6. Tacoma Rail/Train to the Mountain (13)
- 7. Ruston Way improvements (11)
- 8. Chinese Reconciliation Project (10)
- 9. Parking (10)
- 10. Downtown Streetscape (10)
- 11. Fire stations (10)

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Council Member Moss left the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

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The Mayor and Council Members agreed to have ten dots each and to place those dots on their favorite projects, allowing more than one dot per project, if desired.

After Mayor Baarsma placed his dots, he handed the gavel to Council Member McGavick, and then left the meeting at 1:46 p.m.

The results of the reprioritization are as follows:

1. Infrastructure/Neighborhood Enhancements (12)
2. Convention Center enhancements (8)
3. Tacoma Dome expansion (7)
4. Business Districts improvements (7)
5. Tacoma Rail/Train to the Mountain (7)
6. Foss Waterway (5)
7. City-owned buildings (5)
8. Ruston Way improvements (5)
9. Gas station park (4)
10. Green project (4)
11. Marine Science Center (4)
12. Chinese Reconciliation Project (3)
13. Parking (3)
14. Asia-Pacific Cultural Center (2)
15. Fire stations (1)
16. Broadway Center (1)
17. Cheney Stadium (1)
18. Downtown Streetscape (added by consensus because it appeared on earlier priority lists)

Others getting one dot were:

19. Municipal Court facility (1)
20. LeMay parking (1)
21. D Street overpass (1)

Council Member McGavick led a discussion on how to provide staff with direction based on the various votes. At the end of discussion there was consensus to move forward with the top 11 projects for the priority list with the remaining vote-getters as second-tier projects.

Mr. Corpuz reviewed funding options for the top priority – Infrastructure/Neighborhood Enhancements, specifically about the state Public Works Trust Fund.

Mr. Crisson noted that Tacoma Water plans to continue applying for that fund for at least one more year.

Discussion ensued about legislative policies to help create new funding mechanisms to pay for capital projects.

Council Member Lonergan asked Government Relations Officer Randy Lewis to provide an overview of current action in the legislature that would affect Tacoma's funding.

Mr. Lewis discussed potential negative affects of bills to roll back Business and Occupation taxes that would take effect in 2008; gambling bills; tort reform; a transportation package; street utility; jail booking fees; and capital budget appropriations. He stated, in general, that legislation would take money from local government and does not provide new revenue streams.

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Mayor Baarsma returned to the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

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Mr. Lewis stated Democrats have taken up an attack on public power, including a tax that, if imposed, would levy \$10 million a year on Tacoma Power.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

  
BILL BAARSMA, MAYOR

ATTEST:   
DORIS SORUM, CITY CLERK