



APPROVED 11/16/22

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
October 26, 2022
3:30 p.m.

Mr. Watson called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 3:30 p.m. at the auditorium of the Public Utilities Administration Building.

Present: Carlos Watson, John O’Loughlin, William Bridges, Elly Claus-McGahan

Excused: Holland Cohen

Tacoma Power: Cushman Substation Update

John Gaines, Community Relations Manager, provided a review of the Council and Board direction on the Cushman Substation. In 2017, the Council adopted Resolution 39741, which added the substation building exteriors and sites to the Tacoma Historic Register and calls for an MOU to plan for and encourage timely development. In 2018, TPU and GG signed the MOU (complete environmental assessment, operational replacement of storage/crane, work to allocate clean-up responsibility, determine fair market value, GG to lead for public outreach). In 2020, the project was put on hold due to the pandemic, but the project now resumes with public engagement planned for spring 2023. Policy framework objective is to support a future Council and Board decision regarding reuse. This includes transparent public process, timely and feasible reuse, equity and access to opportunity, historic significance, neighborhood enhancement, public space/amenities, and affordable housing. Lauren Hoogkamer, PDS Principal Planner, then addressed the engagement approach. Objectives of engagement include actively engaging with the neighborhood in a way that is broad, inclusive, and citywide. Engagement methods were outlined; these include mail, neighborhood meetings, focus groups, in-person/virtual events, and an online open house. Visioning workshops are also planned. These would invite creative ideas from the community, meet people when/where they are, multilingual accessibility, virtual and in-person engagement tools, and offering alternate input methods for people without computers. The presentation concluded with an overview of the timeline and milestones. Visioning workshops are scheduled for the spring. Scenarios workshops are scheduled for summer/fall 2023. Future use study results presentation to policy makers are anticipated for 2023 and 2024.

Tacoma Power: Electrification Study

Ryan Fulleman, Sr. Power Analyst, spoke to the electrification futures assessment and described electrification as powering things with electricity – replacing an existing nonelectric fuel. Mr. Fulleman provided examples for buildings, commercial/industrial, and transportation. Mr. Fulleman detailed a graphical representation of the Climate Action Plan 2050 net zero scenario. Planning for electrification is important because it affects all aspects of the grid: decarbonization policy; resources and power supply; grid infrastructure; customer impacts and programs. Tacoma Power has been analyzing impacts of electrification: Residential Electrification Potential (2020); Commercial Electrification Potential (2021); Integrated Resource Plan Sensitivity Analysis (2022); Electrification Futures Assessment (2022-2023). The Electrification Futures Assessment Scope of Work will entail: Buildings, transportation; industrial electrification; Identify scenarios, policies, technologies and adoption; Estimate location, time, weather impacts; Model utility programs, which could help minimize costs.

Legislative Policies and Agenda

Clark Mather, Community and Government Relations Manager, and Logan Bahr, State Relations Manager, made this presentation. TPU's legislative policies allow for the Board to provide direction on a variety of issues. TPU's legislative agenda includes some of the specific policy outcomes that TPU staff will be seeking. Proposed changes to the legislative policies were then summarized. Some include: Prioritize equity in policymaking; Consistency in policies across multiple levels of government; Clarifies TPU support state funding for solar installations for low-income customers; Adds language supporting complimentary and coordinated carbon markets across levels of government; Supports programs to assist limited-income residents, Actively pursue available funding for capital and operating needs.

Federal agenda. Power: Support proposals to maintain and improve BPA cost competitiveness; Support equal treatment of hydropower; Maintain municipal control of pole attachments. Water: Support for Howard Hanson Dam additional water storage project implementation; Support funding for the drinking Water State Revolving Fund; and Support Water infrastructure finance and innovation act funding. Rail: Explore infrastructure-funding opportunities.

State agenda. Power: Support reasonable policies to decarbonize buildings; Support equal incentives for hydropower; Support investment in zero-emission transportation infrastructure, clean fuels. Water: Support for infrastructure funding. Rail: Explore infrastructure-funding opportunities.

Next steps include a presentation at the joint study session on November 15 to the Council and Board, Board consideration on November 16 and Council consideration in November or December.

Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carlos Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Carlos Watson, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Holland Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Holland Cohen, Secretary