



APPROVED 5/13/26

MINUTES  
City of Tacoma  
Public Utility Board Study Session  
April 22, 2026  
3:00 p.m.

Chair O’Loughlin called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 3:00 p.m. in the third-floor conference room (LT1) of the Public Utilities Administration Building.

**Present:** John O’Loughlin; Elly Claus-McGahan; Anita Gallagher; William Bridges;

**Excused:** Devin Hampton

**Connect Tacoma: Safe Streets and Sidewalks Levy**

Corey Newton, Asst. Public Works Director, provided an overview of community engagement efforts on this ballot measure; efforts were designed to reach community members beyond traditional engagement channels. Connect Tacoma: Safe Streets and Sidewalks Levy total funding is approximately \$320M (10-year funding total). This will go towards better neighborhood streets (new paving, faster pothole repairs, additional sidewalks, traffic calming), safer streets for everyone (improved street surfaces, more safety elements, expanded connectivity to transit, schools, and neighborhoods, supporting freight and economic development), and improved connections (safe routes to school, better sidewalks, new trails, improved accessibility, additional multimodal options). Mr. Newton expanded on each of these levy themes.

The property and utility tax amounts for the replacement of the expired initiative funding were reviewed. Seniors and people with disabilities who qualify under existing property tax relief programs would be exempt from the property tax increase. The estimated average cost per home is \$8.46 per month or \$101.52 per year. The ballot language was then shared.

**Climate Action Plan**

Rochelle Gandour-Rood, Education Outreach Manager and Sustainability Liaison; Kristi Lynett, Sustainability Manager; Brittany Broyles, Customer Energy Solutions Manager; and Kaela Arellano, Sustainability Analyst, provided the information in this presentation. Tacoma has 2030 indicator targets for tracking progress towards net zero emissions by the 2050 target to guide work over 2020 – 2030. Each year staff develops a progress report for these targets. The Climate Action Plan (CAP) was updated last summer with supporting actions to address the threats of air pollution, heat, and sea level rise flooding. Graphical illustrations of Tacoma’s carbon pollution; 2025 action progress; mobility and land use, natural systems, and local food, climate adaptation, buildings and energy, green economy, consumption and material management, governance and engagement were detailed.

Tacoma Power and Tacoma Water then summarized their 2025 action items, which included public outreach, marketing, TPU campus energy efficiency, and TPU fleet decarbonization.

**Budget and Rates: Key Proposed Changes, Service Division Budget Review**

Alex Yoon, Deputy Director for Administration; Ebony Peebles, Sr. Business Services Manager; and LaTasha Wortham, CXEA Deputy Director, provided the information in this presentation. The 2026 budget and rates timeline was reviewed. The services, budget, proposed budget changes, staffing adjustments for the Director’s Office, Customer Services, External Affairs, and MSO were summarized. Programs recommended to be implemented include Asset Management, People and Culture program, and expansion of the Public Disclosure Office. Budget work will continue towards the goal of presenting the preliminary budget and rates in July.

**Board/Director Comments/Updates**

Chair O’Loughlin commented on the last GPFC meeting wherein the Audit Advisory Board met and discussed the State Auditor’s audit and management letter issued RE employee timecard issues.

Chair O’Loughlin commented on a recent retirement board presentation he attended.

Chair O’Loughlin made positive remarks about the Director’s reconfirmation by the Council on April 21.

Chair O’Loughlin and Board Members Bridges and Claus-McGahan all made positive remarks about their attendance at the American Short Line Rail Road Association national conference.

Director Flowers commented on recent passings of Okonkwo Okezie Imo (Chief Imo), a 35-year employee of TPU retired as Facilities Manager; and Tom Hilyard, a two-term Board Member (1999 – 2009).

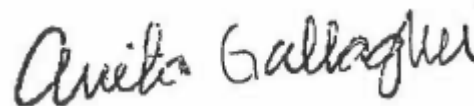
**Adjournment**

The study session was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Approved:



John O’Loughlin, Chair



Anita Gallagher, Secretary