

# Proctor Neighborhood Plan: Winter Engagement Summary

## About the program

The City's Neighborhood Planning Program (NPP) provides enhanced planning and development support to help communities create strong, vibrant, and diverse neighborhoods.

## Winter Engagement

We launched the Proctor Neighborhood Plan in fall 2022. Throughout winter 2023, City staff and neighborhood volunteers have been conducting outreach at neighborhood locations and events to hear from community members. At this stage, outreach focused on hearing about what community members love about Proctor, what challenges they see in the neighborhood, and what opportunities they identify to address neighborhood challenges or build on the things they love.

The feedback collected informs specific areas of focus for the ongoing planning process. To learn more or get involved, contact [neighborhoodplanning@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:neighborhoodplanning@cityoftacoma.org) or visit <https://engagepiercescounty.mysocialpinpoint.com/proctornp/>

## Tabling at Farmers' Market and Events in the Proctor Business District: Fall 2022

From October through December, Proctor Neighborhood Plan Steering Group members and City staff attended the Farmers' Market, Proctor Treats, and the Tree Lighting to hear ideas from community members and direct them to the interactive map.

**What People Love:** Amenities like parks (Puget Park), Wheelock library, a variety of small and local businesses, schools, grocery stores, community services, places to shop and eat, post office, bowling, movie theater, older commercial buildings, flowers.

Qualities like safety, walkability, activity, the Proctor "main street," small-town, or human scale feel, and the people (and dogs).

Events like the Farmers' Market, live music, kid's activities, art, and community gatherings.

**Challenges People Face:** Transportation issues like bike and pedestrian safety and infrastructure, public transit connections, traffic calming (including on N 30th St and at N 26th St and Proctor), too many cars, and parking management.

Maintenance issues like trash collection, vandalism, missing sidewalks, and potholes. Need for local homelessness outreach, more restaurants, more diversity, more kid-friendly activities, and more open hours at Washington Elementary playground.

Architectural concerns like loss of neighborhood character, shade from tall buildings, and need for setbacks and plantings or benches at the street level. Challenges around housing, including infrastructure updates to accommodate growth, not enough variety of housing, and not enough affordable housing.

**Neighborhood Opportunities:** Transportation improvements like level sidewalks, connections to the T Line, paving streets, bike corrals, Puget Park trail railings, closing off N 26th St and Proctor St or another location to make it a plaza/car-free core, and Mason Path enhancements.

Business district amenities like a bakery, rooftop green spaces, solar trash cans, events at Mason Methodist church, string lights along streets (for example, on Pacific Ave by Matador), an expanded Farmers' Market, live music, and seating and a play structure at the Farmers' Market.

Outdoor spaces like planting and maintaining trees, a dog park, a walking path on Union, pickleball courts, a playground, and native planting. Development considerations like maintaining the feeling of unique buildings and encouraging good building design, building more housing, more density, and mixed retail-housing, and keeping low-scale housing.



## Wheelock Library Display Board: January 2023

During the month of January, Wheelock Library hosted an interactive display board with prompts for community members to leave notes about what they love and what challenges and opportunities they see in Proctor.

**What People Love:** Amenities like the library, grocery stores, small and local businesses, parks, trees, coffee shops, the median trails and sidewalks for walking, jogging, and learning to ride a scooter, schools, and toy store.

Events like the Farmers' Market, Proctor Arts Fest, walking in the neighborhood, Ice Cream Social, and story time, puzzles, and scavenger hunts at the library. Qualities like the lively sense of community, family-oriented, the good mix of shopping, food, civic, and entertainment opportunities, walkability from neighborhood to businesses.

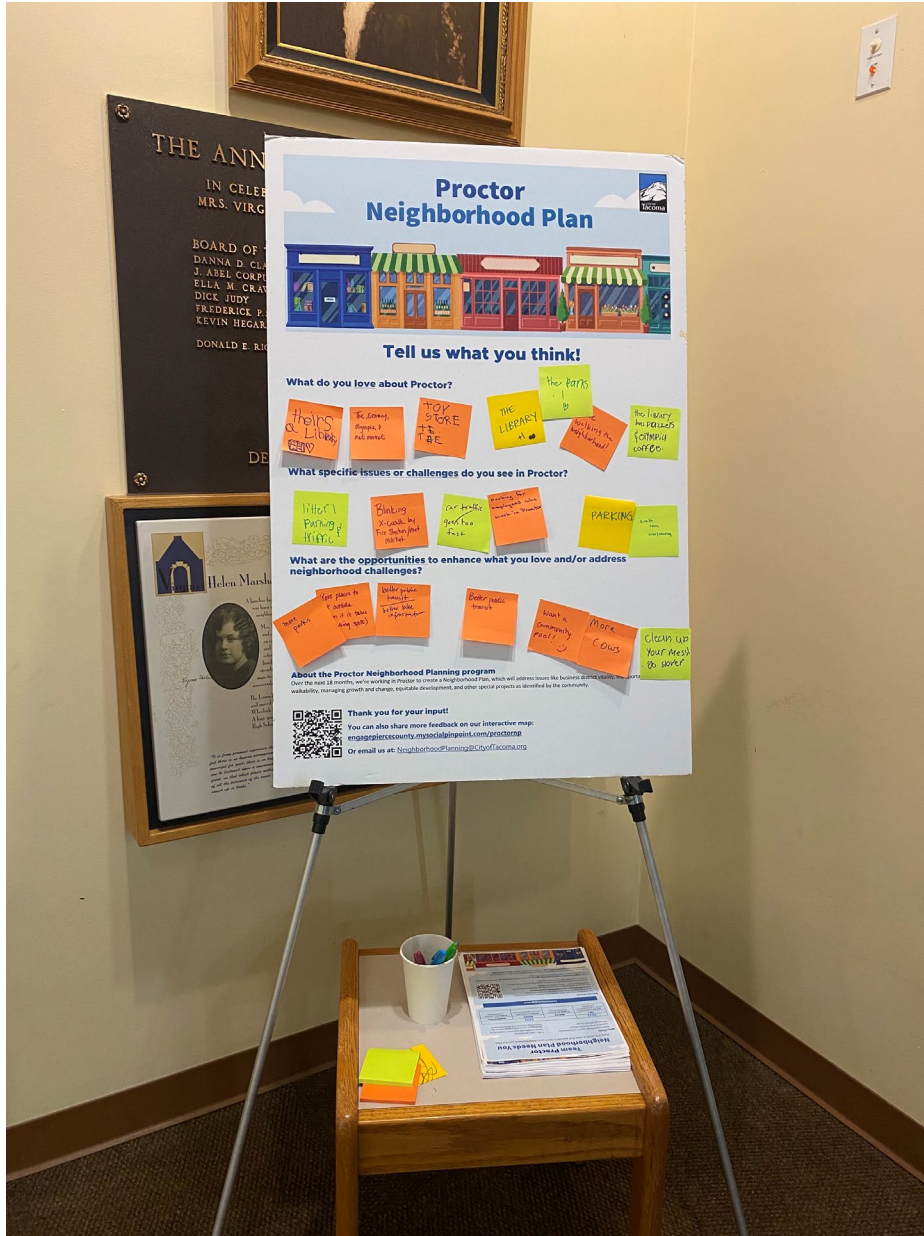
**Challenges People Face:** Transportation issues like unlevel sidewalks, parking for employees who work in Proctor, car traffic speeding, too many cars, the crosswalk signal at N 27th St and Proctor St, not enough bike lanes, not enough parking, street parking making intersections unsafe in some locations, need for stop signs or roundabouts in residential areas, pedestrian safety, need more accessible sidewalks and curbs for wheelchair users, and a need for a blinking crosswalk by the Fire Station and Metropolitan Market.

Maintenance issues like trash cans overflowing and litter. Development considerations like a lack of protection for historic buildings, too many apartment buildings with not enough parking, need for affordable housing for BIPOC community members, preventing oversized apartments, and not enough housing.

**Neighborhood Opportunities:** Transportation improvements like better/increased public transit, safer streets for people walking and biking, better bike infrastructure, more parking spaces, parking management, regulating intersections, slowing traffic, and a car-free downtown Proctor.

Neighborhood amenities like a community center for all ages and a community pool. Outdoor spaces like more places to eat outside (even if it takes up parking spots), more tree cover/canopy, playgrounds, litter clean-up, and more parks.

Development and housing considerations like urban design, preserving the integrity of Proctor, more density, use the Cushman and Adams Substations for supportive housing, include underground parking in new multi-unit construction, provide rent reductions for tenants without cars, oversight of contractors, affordable housing, more housing, and ending homelessness.



## Proctor Station Meeting: January 18, 2023

In January, City staff and Steering Group members hosted a meeting at the Proctor Station building to hear from about 12 residents and community members.

**What People Love:** Amenities like shops, restaurants, the movie theater, the post office, banks, the library, the grocery store, local and small businesses.

Qualities like walkability, diversity, friendliness, safety, accessibility, and architecture. Events like the Arts Fest and Farmers' Market.



**Challenges People Face:** Transportation issues like sidewalk missing links, pickup/drop off at Mason Middle school, bus service and connections to 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, pedestrian safety and traffic calming, parking, the need for lighting at crosswalks, and the N 26th St and Proctor St intersection.

Development considerations like housing affordability, preserving green space with new development, and maintaining small businesses. Other issues like trash collection and safety/security.

**Neighborhood Opportunities:** Development considerations like new midscale housing/condos and view protection. Business District enhancements like garbage cans, murals and art wraps and other public art, nighttime events, and street sweeping.

Pedestrian improvements to Puget Park and off-street trails and to the N 26th St pedestrian crossing on Mason Path. A new community center.



## Tabling and Display Board at the University of Puget Sound: March 2023

In March, City staff and Steering Group members tabled at the University of Puget Sound with an interactive display board. They collected survey responses and notes from community members about what they love and what challenges and opportunities they see in Proctor.

**What People Love:** The restaurants, proximity, and convenience of the neighborhood. The Farmers' Market.

**Issues People Face:** Transportation issues including traffic, parking, and pedestrian safety. Pedestrian safety issues include a need for lighted crosswalks and safer intersections, including those at N 25th St and Proctor St, where people are accessing the two grocery stores, and N 25th St and N Mason St.

**Neighborhood Opportunities:** Business district enhancements like festivals, independent and local businesses rather than chains, a public water fountain with bottle filler, and affordable retail options. Outdoor spaces like flower gardens, trails, parks, and overall, a green and human-centric community.

Transportation improvements like sidewalk repair, marked crosswalks, bike space, and road closures for pedestrian-only areas. Development considerations like Cushman and Adams substations, rent control, and limits to the size/scale/height of buildings.

