

City of Tacoma, Washington

ONE A Comprehensive Plan
for a Vibrant, Connected,
and Sustainable City
TACOMA

DRAFT Community Engagement Summary | July 2024

1 CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1
3 Introduction	3
3.1 Gap Analysis	3
3.2 Engagement Timeline	4
3.3 Engagement Activities	5
Project Communications	13
4 What we heard	14
4.1 Key Themes	14
4.2 Summary of Findings by Neighborhood	16
4.3 Findings from Community Survey	21
4.4 Limitations	21
5 Next Steps	22
Appendices	1
Appendix A ONE Tacoma engagement plan	2
Appendix B ONE Tacoma gap analysis	3
Appendix C Summary of engagement data	4

2 EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1-1 Summary of Visioning Workshops, March 2023 – June 2024	6
Exhibit 1-2 Screenshot of ONE Tacoma Ideas Wall	10
Exhibit 1-3: Summary of Community Events, March 2023 – June 2024	10
Exhibit 1-4: Places that People Would Like to Get to Within 15 minutes.	11
Exhibit 2-1: Themes from Community Visioning Workshops (by number of comments)	14

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Tacoma is updating its Comprehensive Plan (2050) alongside its Strategic Plan (2035) and a new Community Safety Action Strategy. The three plans require community engagement to inform policies and strategies and it is a priority for the city of Tacoma to provide equitable and inclusive opportunities for community members across the city to have their voices heard. The City's approach to community engagement is based on the **ONE Tacoma Community Engagement Plan** and the **ONE Tacoma Gap Analysis** drafted in partnership with Seva Workshop, which identified the engagement timeline, thematic gaps, and historically underrepresented community groups.

Engagement activities included in-person and virtual workshops, pop-ups at community events, attendance at meetings of existing neighborhood groups, a website that hosted the Ideas Wall open public comment forum, and a community survey that was available in several languages. The City hosted a total of nine community visioning workshops, one per neighborhood and one virtual, and received a total of 402 comments on thematic gaps identified in the gap analysis. Workshops included creative hands-on activities to get feedback on topics and were supported with robust outreach and by the city's language ambassador team. The community survey received roughly 800 responses. In sum, the city received roughly 1,600 comments through these engagement efforts.

The overall findings from public comments across engagement activities show strong support for the 15-minute neighborhood concept. Community members also prioritize public transit, bicycle and pedestrian mobility, safety, accessibility and increasing access to amenities and essential services. Community members want more small businesses and, specifically, those that reflect the city's demographic diversity. They also would like to have more economic opportunities with a diverse range of jobs and employers, and knowledge of different career paths and skills.

The findings from this phase of community engagement will inform policy development for a range of City plans, including the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan.



3 INTRODUCTION

The City of Tacoma prioritized an equitable and inclusive plan for community engagement as outlined in the **ONE Tacoma Community Engagement Plan** drafted in February 2024. This approach leverages existing data from past engagement and concurring engagement efforts to minimize burden on respondents. New engagement is focused on identified thematic gaps and historically marginalized communities that have been left out of past planning processes. Key goals and values that guided engagement with diverse communities in Tacoma are:

- Focus on populations impacted most by public investment/disinvestment
- Use a targeted universalism approach in communications and outreach
- Build capacity among communities and in neighborhoods that have historically been marginalized in public processes
- Build trust between the government of Tacoma and communities and neighborhoods that have historically been marginalized in public processes
- Develop findings that are meaningful for equitable policy development in the Comprehensive Plan
- Meaningfully resource community ambassadors and community partners to engage their constituents and demonstrate accountability to their input
- Make materials more accessible to a diverse audience, including those with disabilities and speakers of other languages

For more details see **Appendix A - ONE Tacoma engagement plan**.

3.1 Gap Analysis

Seva Workshop conducted an engagement gap analysis based on over fifty documents sourced from the City of Tacoma, key partners, and internet research. The analysis identified particular planning themes and communities that have been left out of engagement efforts in recent years. This analysis, found in **Appendix B**, summarizes recent engagement themes by topic area for the comprehensive plan. Housing, Environmental Health, and Transportation are three topics areas of recent focus in the City of Tacoma.

The gap analysis found the City of Tacoma and other agencies have not engaged the public with much depth on the following comprehensive plan topics in recent years:

- Historic Preservation
- Economic Development
- Downtown

The gap analysis also found the following communities/groups have not been prioritized in recent community engagement efforts:

- The 8 percent of the Tacoma population that speaks a language other than English at home and speaks English less than “very well.” This includes Pacific Islander languages (Chukcese), Asian languages (Vietnamese, Korean, Khmer, Tagalog, Mandarin Chinese), Russian and Ukranian (in West End), and Spanish (Eastside and throughout Tacoma).
- Relative to their share of the population, Hispanic/Latine residents and Asian residents are consistently the least connected to engagement efforts. Black residents – outside of Hilltop – are also less likely to engage.
- Renting households are also typically underrepresented (when data is available disaggregated).
- There has not been any explicit effort to collect data from seniors though seniors are one of the fastest growing populations in Tacoma in recent years. LGBTQIA+ population is infrequently disaggregated in engagement and has not been a focus of recent engagement.
- South Tacoma and South End residents (especially residents in the Tacoma Mall area) and Central Tacoma (outside of Hilltop) have been identified by staff as focus groups for engagement.

The targeted community engagement efforts presented in this report seek to address these gaps in the outreach strategy and content for engagement activities. A broad, citywide community survey, was also used to gather community input on the vision for the city.

3.2 Engagement Timeline

Community engagement is crucial throughout all phases of a comprehensive planning process and leads to a plan that has more public support and better demonstrates the City’s commitment to accountability. The timeline for engagement on this project was organized into three phases - each with clear objectives, feedback loops, and a decision making process, as dictated by the Growth Management Act and local ordinances.

- Phase 1: Priority Setting (January 2024 - June 2024)
 - Objective: Community visioning and listening on topics not addressed in other recent engagement.
- Phase 2: Community Check-in (June 2024 – September 2024)
 - Objective: Update the community on policy progress based on visioning feedback.
- Phase 3: Draft plan (January 2025 – June 2025)
 - Objective: Gather input on draft plan, both broadly and with targeted communities identified throughout the planning process.



Tacoma Engagement Timeline

Source: City of Tacoma, 2024.

3.3 Engagement Activities

Each phase of the engagement process includes activities to support its objective.

- In **Phase 1** (Priority Setting), the City conducted 8 in-person and 1 virtual community visioning workshops, hosted an online forum (the “ideas wall”) for community dialogue, and attended 8 additional community events to connect Tacomans to the comprehensive planning process.
- In **Phase 2** (Community Check-in) the City will continue to attend community events to promote the planning efforts and specific engagement opportunities.
- In **Phase 3** (Draft Plan) the City will present policy proposals and hold listening sessions and invite written comments on draft policies and hold public hearing in compliance with RCW 36.70A.140.

In-Person Community Visioning Workshops

The city hosted a total of nine public visioning workshops across neighborhoods in Tacoma, eight in-person and one virtual. At each workshop there were five stations where attendees could comment on topics highlighted from the gap analysis:

- Station 1. Attendees were asked to comment on their general priorities or specific issues that are most important to them.
- Station 2. Attendees were asked to comment on the concept of a 15-minute city. This included the kinds of amenities they would like to access without a car within 15 minutes in their neighborhoods, the opportunities and challenges to implementing the 15-minute city concept in Tacoma, the factors that influence driving, and which arterial or street they would improve.
- Station 3. Attendees were asked to comment on historic preservation, such as which historic place they would choose to preserve in their neighborhood or Tacoma, the criteria that should be used to choose historic places, and whether they felt like their

community’s history was well reflected in spaces throughout their neighborhood and Tacoma.

- Station 4. Attendees were asked to vote on their priorities for economic development choosing between:
 - Adult up skilling and retraining
 - Youth internship experiences and training
 - Making it easier to learn about career pathways, connect with employers, and know what skills are required for different job types
 - Making school or military transition to employment more seamless
 - Small business support should reflect Tacoma's demographic mix
- Station 5. Attendees were asked about their future vision for their neighborhood.
- Additional stations focused on the city’s neighborhood planning program and environmental services.

A total of 311 individuals attended these workshops, with the Eastside event having the highest attendance. Exhibit 1-1 summarizes of the number of attendees and comments gathered from each workshop by location:

Exhibit 1-1 Summary of Visioning Workshops, March 2023 – June 2024

Dates	Workshop Location	Attendees	Comments
16-May	West End - Silas High School	42	48
18-May	Northeast - Center at Norpoint	26	34
23-May	New Tacoma - Tacoma Armory	36	60
30-May	North End- Mason Middle School	29	59
6-Jun	Virtual	10	59
10-Jun	South Tacoma - Mt Tahoma High School	40	64
15-Jun	South End - Wapato Park Pavilion	28	43
20-Jun	Central Tacoma - Bates Technical College Central Campus Studio	15	73
27-Jun	Eastside - Salishan Family Investment Center	85	21
Total Row		311	612

Source: City of Tacoma, 2024; Compiled by Seva Workshop, 2024.



The graphic boards (shown above) were brought to visioning workshop to help communicate information and direct conversation. Themes were selected based on topics identified in the gap analysis as not yet covered in recent years' engagement efforts.



Photos of Eastside Community Visioning Workshop

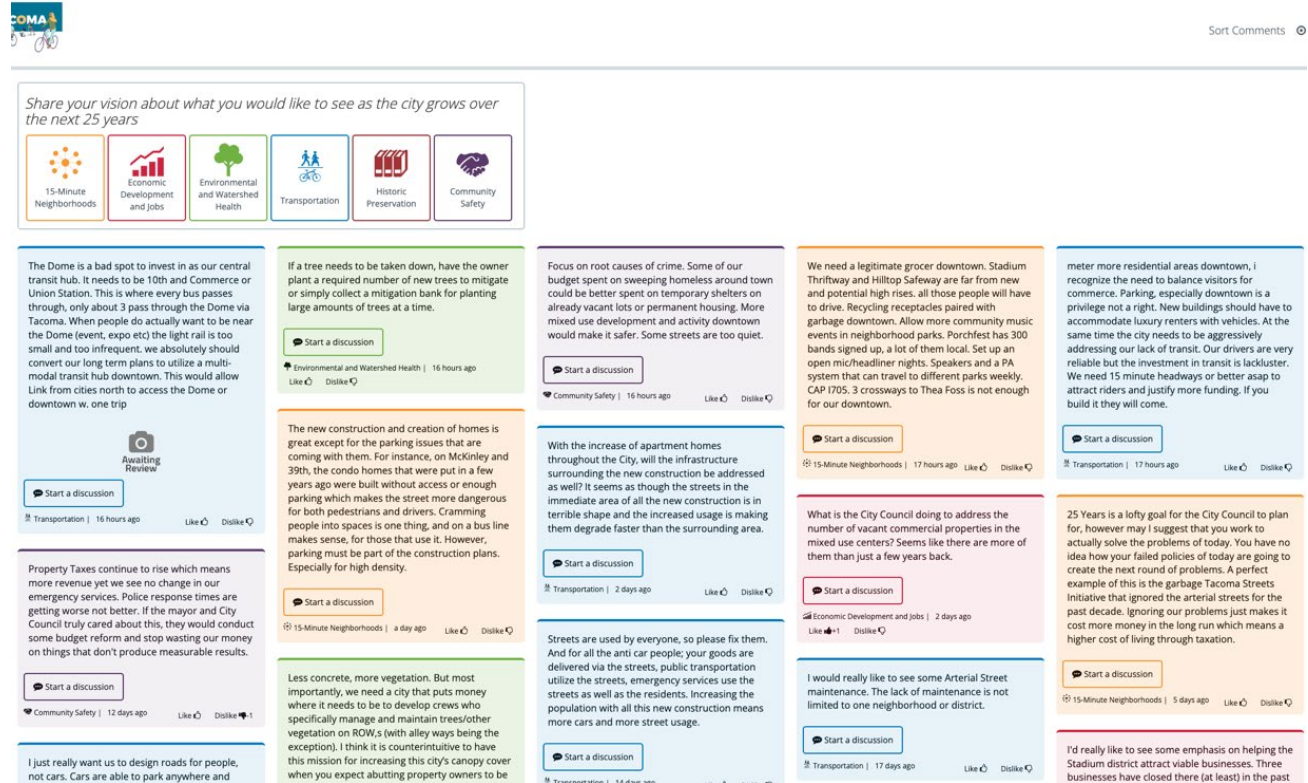
Source: Photographer, City of Tacoma, 2024.

See **Appendix C** for a more detailed summary table of data collected at these workshops.

Ideas Wall and Social Pinpoint Online Tool

In addition to the community visioning workshops, the City created a website to host project information, an engagement events calendar, the community survey, and an “Ideas Wall” where users could leave public comments. This tool was launched in March 2024 and had ongoing engagement through July 2024. The Ideas Wall allowed people to share comments and start discussions on six topics: 15-minute neighborhoods, economic development and jobs, environment and watershed health, transportation, historic preservation, and community safety. The Ideas Wall received a total of 151 comments, not including the number of “likes” and “dislikes” on each comment. These comments were collected and reviewed alongside feedback from the workshops as part of the priority setting phase of project engagement.

Exhibit 1-2 Screenshot of ONE Tacoma Ideas Wall



Source: City of Tacoma, 2024; Compiled by Seva Workshop, 2024.

See **Appendix C** for a more detailed spreadsheet of the comments on the Ideas Wall.

Other Community Events

Community members were also engaged informally at a number of community events throughout Tacoma from March 2024 to June 2024. Exhibit 1-3 lists the community events that were attended by City staff and number of comments collected from each. A total of 227 comments were collected across the 8 events.

Exhibit 1-3: Summary of Community Events, March 2023 – June 2024

Dates	Community Event	Comments
21-Mar	Spotlight South Tacoma Open House March 21 STAR Center	27
25-Mar	Safe Streets Presentation - Oakland Neighborhood	15

Dates	Community Event	Comments
13-Apr	South Sound Sustainability Expo - Downtown UWT Campus	31
27-Apr	Under the Big Top Community Resource Fair - Mt. Tahoma HS	14
31-May	Birney Bike Rodeo - Birney Elementary School	25
31-May	Stewart MS Project Lit - Stewart Middle School	18
4-Jun	Stafford Resource Fair - Stafford Elementary School	35
19-Jun	Juneteenth - Stewart Heights Park	62
Total		227

Source: City of Tacoma, 2024; Compiled by Seva Workshop, 2024.

The primary question posed at these events relates to the 15-minute city concept. “Where do you wish you could walk or bike from your house?”. The word cloud in Exhibit 1-4 shows the most common responses heard. Key themes include wanting to be able to walk or bike to grocery stores, schools, community centers, parks and waterfront, libraries, retail, hospitals, entertainment, restaurants and recreation.

Exhibit 1-4: Places that People Would Like to Get to Within 15 minutes.



Source: City of Tacoma, 2024; Compiled by Seva Workshop, 2024.

Community Survey

The City of Tacoma sent a mailer to 5,000 households distributed across Tacoma. The chosen households represent a sample of Council Districts and important demographics such as race, age, renters vs. homeowners, household size, and income. The survey had 23 questions on broad topics like public safety and policing, infrastructure, jobs and economy, government spending, and city communications. The mailer included a hard copy survey, a link to the online survey, and a number to call. Both the online survey and phone survey were available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Khmer, Korean, Russian, and Ukrainian. Over 800 surveys were received.

PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS

The City of Tacoma, Seva Workshop, and Team Soapbox collaborated on a communications plan and core messaging framework that would serve as a consistent basis for project communications. Graphics and the visual language of the plan were designed to reflect the diverse, vibrant place that encompasses the future vision for Tacoma.

Several tactics were used to communicate with the broad public about the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan and engagement opportunities. The One Tacoma project website included a project introduction and background information with a link to the Social Pinpoint engagement platform. An email listserv shared project information, updates, and engagement opportunities. In-person and virtual workshops were advertised on the City's event calendar, the Social Pinpoint calendar, and other community outlets. A broad press release went to media channels in May 2024 and announcements. The project was covered by *The Suburban Times* and *The Tacoma Weekly*. Interviews about the plan appeared on the City's public access show and YouTube channel, CityLine, taped May 16th and June 28th. Mailers advertising the Plan and workshops went to residences in two batches according to the timing of workshops that would occur in their vicinity.

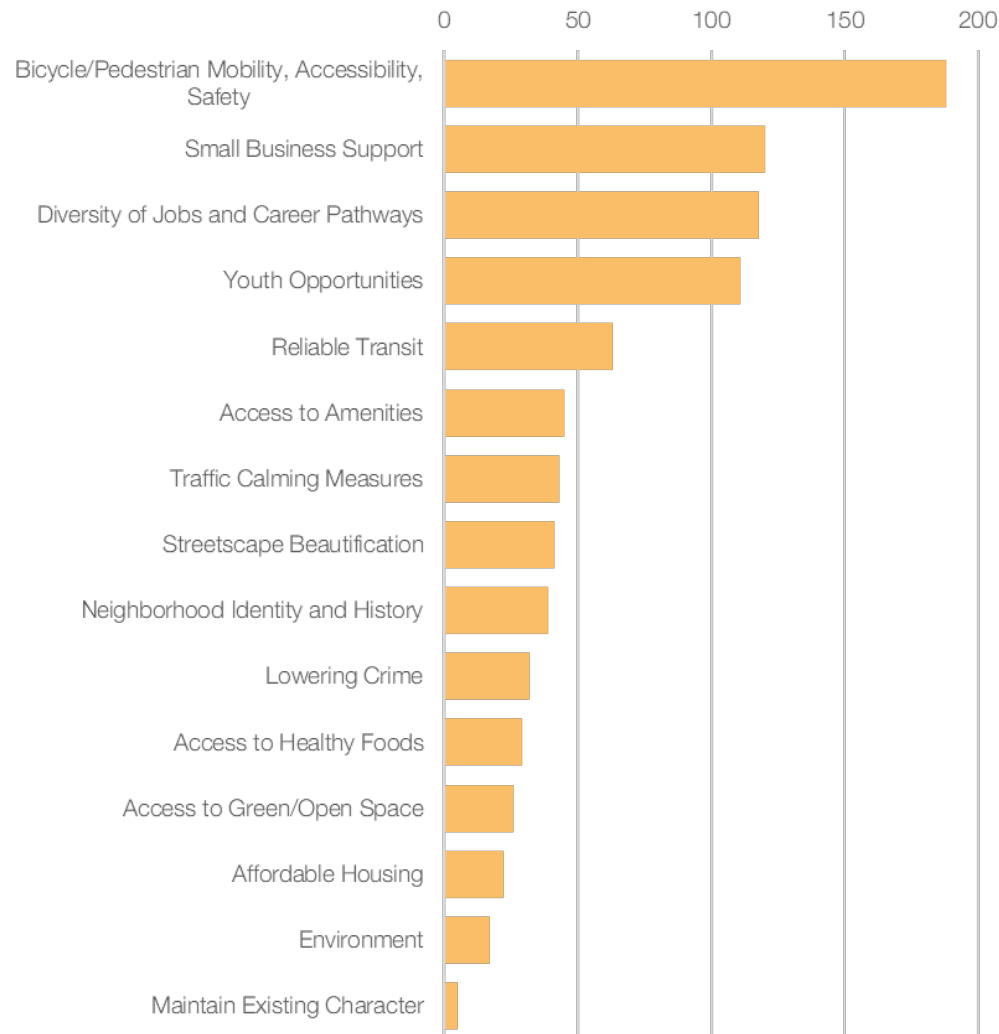
Communications strategies were also tailored for specific priority groups. The City's Language Ambassadors contracted in Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, Ukrainian also helped communicate information through word-of-mouth channels and distributed posters and informational materials by hand, as did a street team focusing on reaching the city's Black population. Local communication outlets were also used for advertising specific workshops by neighborhood council district.

4 WHAT WE HEARD

4.1 Key Themes

The Project Team compiled qualitative data from each community visioning workshop and categorized it into overarching themes representing community priorities for Tacoma’s growth over the next 25 years. All hand-written comments were digitally transcribed along with data from the Ideas Wall and analyzed in excel by workshop location and theme. Exhibit 2-1 shows a summary of the key themes heard across all community visioning workshops.

Exhibit 2-1: Themes from Community Visioning Workshops (by number of comments)



Source: City of Tacoma, 2024; Compiled by Seva Workshop, 2024.

The broad theme of bicycle and pedestrian mobility, accessibility, and safety received the highest number of comments. Such comments are aligned with the vision of the 15-minute city/neighborhoods that emphasizes elements such as walkability, ability to access daily needs without a car, and other factors that influence mobility needs. Community input varied from the quantity and quality of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to the personal subjective safety felt while walking or biking in neighborhood streets and the proximity to cars speeding by. Those who shared input particularly mentioned the ways in which neighborhoods lack safe and connected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure preventing residents from using active modes of transportation to do their daily activities. They highlighted challenges related to street crossings along major intersections, sidewalk accessibility for seniors and people with physical disabilities, bicycle lane connectivity, and external factors such as steep terrain and weather. The theme of traffic calming measures included comments voicing the need for better traffic light coordination, speed cameras, roundabouts and medians as ways to reduce traffic congestion and increase safety for non-motorized road users.

Within the topic of economic development, community members voiced high levels of support for small businesses and, specifically, those that reflect the city's demographic diversity. Community members also shared their desire to see the city attract and diversify jobs and employers to allow people more choices to live and work in Tacoma. Knowledge of various career pathways and the skills required for different job types was seen as a key need. In addition, there was significant support to increase opportunities for young people to develop skills through youth internships and training.

Community members commented on the need for more reliable transit systems and light-rail expansion with direct service to downtown from various neighborhoods. This included BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) with more frequent service, safe stations and bus stops, and off-peak hours that allow people to commute to work and evening activities.

Comments show strong support for the 15-minute neighborhood concept. Community members want to be able to easily access schools; grocery stores; restaurants (not just fast-food); essential services like childcare, medical services and mental health support; small businesses and retail; movie theaters and other entertainment; pharmacies; libraries; gathering places; outdoor recreation; and safe places for children. This theme overlaps with the desire for more green open space with small parks and community gardens and increasing overall tree canopy across neighborhoods.

Some people indicated concern for the lack of cleanliness and street maintenance in their neighborhoods. Community members were concerned that a lack of cleanliness was contributing to the decline of a business district and a decrease in visitors to the area. These comments were categorized under the theme of "streetscape beatification." Input included references to trash, graffiti, potholes, deterioration buildings and neglect in business areas, absence of appropriate lighting at night especially for pedestrians with disabilities, and the need for sidewalk landscaping.

A smaller number of comments mentioned maintaining existing neighborhood character, the environment, and affordable housing. This likely reflects the topics of focus at the

workshops which were the 15-minute city concept, economic development, and historic preservation. Public engagement on housing and neighborhood character has been strong in recent years, and a summary of feedback received can be found in the Gap Analysis report, [Appendix B](#).

4.2 Summary of Findings by Neighborhood

West End

In the West End, residents want to prioritize streetscape beautification, bicycle and pedestrian safety and mobility, and access to a variety of food options. Public comments express concern for the poor maintenance and unappealing aesthetics of their business district. They want their business district to be inviting and pretty, a place people want to walk around to shop and eat, with “desirable” restaurants and “high-end” stores like the ones in Gig Harbor, UP Village, or Proctor. Comments note the need to beautify streets with landscaping and trees, garbage cans, benches and improved sidewalks. They also state a desire for a diversity of food options and restaurants including more healthy foods and grocery stores.

Residents of the West End also voice feeling unsafe walking or biking due to high traffic speeds and improper infrastructure along major corridors like North Pearl St, North Vassault St, North Orchard St, and North 6th Ave. Most residents have to rely on single-occupancy vehicles to get around even for short trips due to the lack of amenities close by and unsafe pedestrian conditions.

“Sixth Avenue in West End is in such bad shape. I would think the businesses would want to spruce up the area, make it welcoming. The rundown shopping stores are a big turn off to go in there. Yeah, I always go over to Proctor, park, walk around to a coffee shop. Is there any way sixth Ave could get some attention?”
– West End Community Member

Northeast Tacoma

In Northeast Tacoma, residents want a more reliable public transit system, access to more amenities, and traffic calming measures to alleviate congestion and increase pedestrian safety. The majority of the community commented on the absence of bus routes

“NE Tacoma is a suburban place in the city. [There is] no community center that has the services pharmacy, grocery store, etc. There's QFC but most services are in Federal Way.” – Northeast Community Member

from Northeast Tacoma to Downtown which forces most people to drive to work. Northeast residents want reliable public transit with direct routes, more frequent service, daytime and evening hours that serve everyone at varying times of day not just Downtown commuters. They want to use transit to catch a movie after work or to eat dinner at a nice restaurant in the evenings but have no way to do so given the current bus service.

Northeast residents would like to have medical services, banks, entertainment, “places where you can eat and shop,” a community center, pharmacies, parks, and more grocery stores in close proximity. Some residents mentioned they have to drive to Federal Way to access these amenities.

They also highlighted specific roads in need of traffic calming measures and safety precautions for pedestrians including WA-509, North Shore Parkway, and the intersection of 51st NE and Slayden Rd NE.

New Tacoma

In New Tacoma, community members cared about bicycle and pedestrian mobility and safety, access to healthy foods, and bus frequency and light-rail service. Community members said they enjoy having access to many bus lines and the T-line and acknowledged the work being done to increase livability near Downtown. However, they highlighted ways to improve walkability by adding crosswalks and wider ADA accessible sidewalks and the need for protected bike lanes for safety. Community members would like to be able to walk or bike along the waterfront but don't feel safe enough to do so without adequate infrastructure. Some mentioned the waterfront trail at Point Ruston as an example of green active transportation infrastructure that they would like to see more of in New Tacoma. The natural challenge caused by the steep terrain can also detract residents from walking or biking to their destinations.

“[My big idea for the future of New Tacoma is] biking and pedestrian safety in downtown along the water, as well as implementing around the Tideflats.” New Tacoma Community Member

New Tacoma lacks access to healthy foods and grocery stores. While this neighborhood has many restaurants, community members talked about the lack of a proper grocery store in their neighborhood and their desire to see tax incentives for small local grocery stores, farm stands, and mixed-use retail in Downtown. Community members also wish they had more frequent bus and T-line light rail service to accommodate their schedules and more bus lines that go east to west from Downtown. They referenced the unreliable bus timing and long, unpredictable wait times for up to 30 minutes between buses at a stop as a concern.

North End

In the North End, community members want to connect the existing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, transit, and safety. The North End is one of the more walkable areas and the closest to a 15-minute neighborhood in Tacoma. It is often brought up as an example of a neighborhood that people want to walk to and shop in small local businesses. North End community members want to see investment to connect the existing patches of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, adding neighborhood greenways, and increasing safety measures on major intersection crossings. Community members wish they could bike safely to local parks like Puget Park or bike to the Tacoma Dome station from the North End. People who do commute via bike shared personal testimonies of almost being run over by cars or knowing that they might put their kids at risk biking with them to school. Some of the arterials highlighted are N 21st St, N 30th St, N. 44th St, 6th Ave, and Proctor.

Similar to community members across neighborhoods in Tacoma, the North End community would like more reliable and frequent public transit to connect them to Downtown and other amenities in Tacoma. They hope to see more transit-oriented development, with bus stops near restaurants, bars, and residential areas.

“The city’s bike infrastructure prioritizes busy streets, which are not safe, especially for newer riders. Greenways are the way to go!”– North End Community Member

South Tacoma

In South Tacoma, community members want improved bicycle and pedestrian mobility, implementation of traffic calming measures, investments in neighborhood identity and history, and increased access to amenities. South Tacoma is not described as safely walkable, bike-able, or even pleasing to drive in. Community members find the streets are “terrible” for both walking and driving, with poor road maintenance, congestion, high traffic speeds, and the absence of sidewalks and bike lanes. Driving speeds need to be reduced on Portland Ave S, South 38th St, and South 72nd St, and South Tacoma Way.

South Tacoma community members were vocal about historic preservation relative to other topics at their community visioning workshop. Many comments mention the importance of places like the local B & I Public Marketplace that portrays South Tacoma’s culturally diverse neighborhood identity and contributes to a sense of place (although technically this market is outside of the city limits). Others mentioned specific churches they want to be preserved for their religious significance.

In addition to places that contribute to the local history and sense of place, South Tacoma community members would like to see more amenities in their neighborhood. This includes small businesses, parks, and places for kids to play with outdoor recreation like soccer fields, swimming pools, and community centers.

“[My big idea for the future of South Tacoma is] community swimming pools and recreation, and a more inclusive cultural club.” - South Tacoma Community Member

South End

In the South End, most community members care about bicycle and pedestrian mobility, safety, accessibility, and lowering crime. They mentioned drivers do not respect or prioritize pedestrians at crossings, bicyclists feel unsafe on main roads that have bike lanes and would prefer to bike on greenways that connect as bike corridors or wayfinding to green parks. One community member noted the need for a bike overpass on I-5 along South 56th St, South 72nd St, and South 85th St to connect South End to South Tacoma. Specifically, community members with physical disabilities and wheelchair users mentioned sidewalks are difficult to navigate due to lack of maintenance and curb ramps. Other arterials mentioned include South Yakima Ave and Pacific Ave. South End community members also raised concerns about crime and gun violence in their neighborhood, feeling targeted as pedestrians and pushing them to drive instead of walking or biking at night.

Central Tacoma

In Central Tacoma, community members want better bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, access to more amenities and healthy foods, improved bus service, and preserving the history of the Black community in Hilltop. Community members highlight a need for higher quality pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure like protected bike lanes, bike parking, bike boulevards, bicycle connectivity east to west, designing “pedestrian islands” or to

fully pedestrianize 6th Ave. There are many arterials that could be improved in Central Tacoma like South 12th St and South Sprague St.

The scarcity of grocery stores and healthy fresh foods was concerning for some community members who felt the Safeway on Hilltop is not enough given the new housing developments in Central Tacoma. They would also like to have a public library, pharmacies and other essential services, more community events and festivals, retail, movie theaters and bookstores.

When asked about historic places in Central Tacoma, community members shared they want to preserve places that contribute to the neighborhood's history and highlight the legacy of the Black community in Hilltop. Community members said they want to preserve historical homes and buildings, old churches in Hilltop, and mentioned Ray Gibson's Caballeros Club on South 28th St that has been a community staple since 1957.

“[To me, the historic places are] the Hilltop churches, Hilltop history center in the new Hilltop library, Caballeros Club strongly supported as a legacy Black institution in the Hilltop.” – Central Tacoma Community Member

Eastside

In the Eastside, community members would like to see their community's history reflected in historical sites, more reliable transit, and efforts to lower crime. The community's criteria for historic preservation of buildings, businesses, and places in the Eastside reflects the cultural diversity of the area. One community member said they felt Downtown had an appropriate number of historic places whereas those are lacking in the Eastside and other parts of Tacoma. Community members commented on the ways cultural celebrations like “Día de los Muertos” for the Hispanic/Latine community help them preserve their community's history and would like to see those represented in the Eastside cultural landmarks. One community member noted placemaking and neighborhood identity should be included in public school curriculum to teach kids about the history of their neighborhoods. Eastside community members would also like to have rapid bus transit to Downtown, more frequent bus service, and efforts to lower crime at bus stops.

“[I don't feel that my community's history is well reflected] because a lot of it has to do with memory and a sense of place. Elementary students should get a historian to do a walking tour of their neighborhoods. Also a lot of historic buildings are so dilapidated and

unable to save, ruining the sense of place.” - Eastside Community Member

4.3 Findings from Community Survey

Community survey respondents showed strong support for the 15-minute neighborhood vision for Tacoma and expressed their desire to prioritize safety when designing pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit corridors that connect residents to daily essentials. More than half of the community survey respondents want to be able to access daily essentials without a car in their neighborhoods. About 56% said they “strongly agree” to the prompt: “In the future, daily essentials, such as groceries, schools, parks, and healthcare, should be a safe and short walk, bus, or bike ride away for every resident.” Only 6% of respondents said they “disagree” or “strongly disagree” while 27% said they “agree.”

4.4 Limitations

The City of Tacoma set out to conduct equitable and inclusive community engagement by prioritizing conversations on topics that people have not been engaged on previously and focusing on historically marginalized communities left out of the public engagement processes. Still, there are inherent limitations to the findings due to the short timeline, scheduling for engagement activities, and challenges to getting equal participation and attendance across visioning workshops. Some workshops had higher attendance and public comments collected whereas others had lower attendance and comments received. In some cases, high attendance was not an indicator of high participation in producing written comments. It is notable to mention that the Eastside community visioning workshop had the highest number of participants – 85, however only 21 public comments were received. Despite this discrepancy in comments gathered, the Eastside community’s participation and interaction with city staff contributed to the overall goal of inclusive engagement which allows people to participate in various forms even by showing up at an event and creating relationships with staff and other community members. On the opposite end, the Central Tacoma community visioning workshop had the lowest number of attendees but received the highest number of comments –see Exhibit 1-1 Summary of Visioning Workshops, March 2023 – June 2024. This could be due to higher level of participation through written comments within each station at the Central Tacoma event.

5 NEXT STEPS

The next phase of engagement will build on what we have heard so far, continuing to promote the planning efforts at community events and gathering light input. The overall findings from phase 1 of community engagement will inform the policy development of the Comprehensive Plan.

APPENDICES

Appendix A	ONE Tacoma Engagement Plan	A-2
Appendix B	ONE Tacoma Gap Analysis	A-3
Appendix C	Summary of Engagement Data	A-4

APPENDIX A ONE TACOMA ENGAGEMENT PLAN

APPENDIX B ONE TACOMA GAP ANALYSIS

APPENDIX C SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT DATA

OVERARCHING THEMES	TOTAL COMMENTS
Bicycle/Pedestrian Mobility, Accessibility, Safety	188
Small Business Support	120
Diversity of Jobs and Career Pathways	118
Youth Opportunities	111
Reliable Transit	63
Access to Amenities	45
Traffic Calming Measures	43
Streetscape Beautification	41
Neighborhood Identity and History	39
Lowering Crime	32
Access to Healthy Foods	29
Access to Green/Open Space	26
Affordable Housing	22
Environment	17
Maintain Existing Character	5

DETAILED THEMES	Totals	NUMBER OF COMMENTS BY THEME									
		West End	Northeast	New Tacoma	Central	Eastside	South End	South Tacoma	North End	Ideas Wall	
Access to Healthy Foods/Food Options	29	6	1	6	5	0	0	1	4	6	
Accessibility	34	5	5	1	4	2	4	3	4	6	
Amenities	45	4	7	3	8	0	0	8	4	11	
Bike/Ped Mobility	95	7	5	12	13	0	9	14	14	21	
Cleanliness	41	11	2	0	5	1	1	1	1	19	
Crime	32	4	1	0	2	3	4	4	3	11	
Education	9	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	
Environment	17	2	2	2	0	1	0	1	1	8	
Funds for Historical Sites	31	3	2	4	3	4	0	6	1	8	
Green/Open Space	26	0	1	2	6	0	1	5	1	10	
Housing Affordability	22	1	1	4	3	1	0	4	1	7	
Lack of History/Sense of Place	8	3	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	
Light-rail Expansion	11	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	7	
Maintain Existing Character	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
More Major Employers	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	6	
More small businesses	16	2	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	8	
Reliable Transit	52	5	9	6	8	3	2	2	9	8	
Safety	56	11	4	9	6	2	7	4	7	6	
Senior-needs	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Traffic	43	2	6	2	5	2	4	13	4	5	