

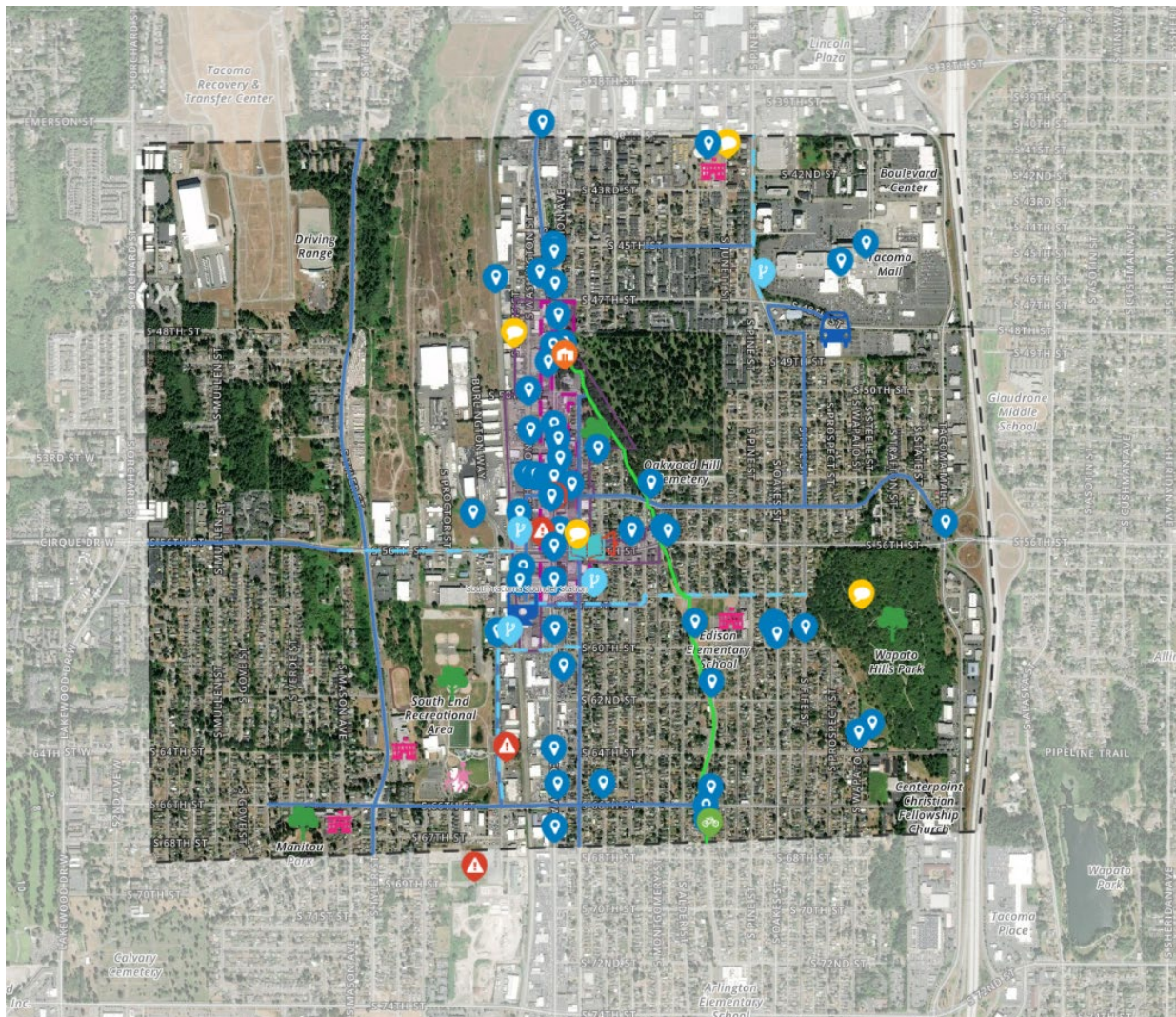


South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan



INTERACTIVE MAP

Project Ideas Summary – Summer 2024



About the Neighborhood Planning Program

The City of Tacoma’s Neighborhood Planning Program provides enhanced planning and development support to help communities create strong, vibrant, and diverse neighborhoods. The program begins with a robust engagement phase, and then moves into implementation of actionable strategies based on community priorities.



About the South Tacoma Project Ideas Interactive Map

The South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan process has been working with the South Tacoma neighborhood since January 2024 to support neighborhood identity and vitality, identify a vision for the future, and then to help implement that vision over the next few years.

After hearing from neighbors, interested groups, and people who visit the neighborhood frequently through surveys, interviews, and in-person events from January to May 2024, the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan Steering Group worked together to create 10 goals based on feedback:

Theme Areas	The 10 Goals
Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Streets • Walkability & Connectivity
Health and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy, Sustainable Environment
Economic Opportunity and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Neighborhood Center • Socially Responsible Development • Green Economic Opportunity
Sense of Place and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inviting, Accessible, Beautiful • Celebrate History & Identities • Sense of Community & Gathering
Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Community



Project Idea or Action



Important routes for walking



Important routes for cycling



General comments




Challenges

The interactive map, open from July 10 to October 1, was an opportunity for the community to reflect on the goals developed from their earlier feedback, share particular location specific actions and ideas for how to enhance the neighborhood, and see in real time what their neighbors were sharing. Respondents could provide feedback by dragging and dropping the five pins (on the left) and filling in a comment box and/or adding pictures. The interactive map also had the bonus of showing assets that the community had already identified in earlier engagement, such as the construction of the new Asia Pacific Cultural Center (APCC) and the progress of the South Tacoma Sounder Station Access Improvements.

The 71 comments summarized below, alongside additional community input, will directly inform the project ideas included the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan.


Major Themes



THEME AREA	DRAFT GOAL LANGUAGE
Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity	<p>Safe Streets: Increase safety on South Tacoma streets by reducing dangerous vehicle activity impacting drivers, pedestrians, and property.</p> <p>Walkability & Connectivity: Safely and comfortably connect South Tacoma residents to amenities and the rest of the city by improving infrastructure for people walking, biking, and rolling (i.e., wheelchair, stroller), and transit network and service.</p>
What We heard	<p><u>Traffic Calming and Safety</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Calming on South Tacoma Way: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Road diet on South Tacoma Way ○ Extending the median that runs down South Tacoma Way through the business district to south of South 56 Street ○ Angled back-in parking on South Tacoma Way and Washington Street • Camera enforcement, including at the intersection of South 56 Street and South Puget Sound Avenue) <div data-bbox="529 831 1187 1123" style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p>There's a traffic light here that I think should include a camera. There were a few incidents here and I too had a car hit me at this intersection. But no camera to show proof.</p> <p>Make a Comment 20 days ago Like 👍 Dislike 👎</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restriping crosswalks • Roundabouts and speed humps. Respondents noted locations including “the whole neighborhood,” along South Fife Street, and along South Oakes Street: <div data-bbox="529 1278 1182 1858" style="background-color: #e1f5fe; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p>S oakes st needs speed bumps and more four way stops frequent speeding accidents with multiple properties being damaged included is a photo of the type of speed bumps used in kent to reduce speeds without disturbing bus routes</p>  </div>

Improving transportation networks and infrastructure


- Improving bike lanes, including along South Washington Street
- Connecting transit to the South Tacoma Sounder Station



Build a Little Link route down from Tacoma Dome along South Tacoma Way. South Tacoma is disconnected from the rest of the city, especially because of location and design of highways. This infrastructure would connect South Tacoma to the rest of the city. Extra opportunity to create a broader connection to region by allowing easy connection to commuter rail.

 Project idea or action - drop a pin! | 3 months ago

Like  +6 Dislike 


I completely agree with this comment, and it is urgently needed.



 Project idea or action - drop a pin! | 2 months ago

Like  +1 Dislike 

- Improving bus stop amenities (including a bus stop along the intersection of South 60th Street and South Oakes Street)

This bus stop needs a bench and shelter like the one across the street I see many kids & elderly using this stop who stand in the heat and rain

 Project idea or action - drop a pin! | 2 months ago

Like  +2 Dislike 

THEME AREA	DRAFT GOAL LANGUAGE
Health and Environment	Healthy, Sustainable Environment: Create a sustainable, healthy, resilient, thriving community with clean air and water and a healthy tree canopy.
What we heard	<p><u>Tree canopy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining tree canopy and creating tree maintenance responsibility: <div data-bbox="529 380 1195 995" data-label="Image"> <p>The city planted trees here but never watered them and they have now died as they are next to a empty lot we need new trees that are cared for mutiple people have reported this yet nothing is done</p> <p>17:33</p> <p>← ❤️ 🔄 🚩 ⋮</p> <p>Open</p> </div> Planting more trees, especially along South Tacoma Way: <div data-bbox="529 1041 1195 1402" data-label="Image"> <p>S Tacoma way needs more trees! Would help with making Tacoma feel more loved along with provide shade and help with sound during the summers for those that walk and bike along this road</p> <p>📍 Project idea or action - drop a pin! 2 months ago</p> <p>Like 👍+2 Dislike 👎</p> </div> Stormwater infiltration: <div data-bbox="529 1455 1195 1740" data-label="Image"> <p>Add bioswales along Washington to treat dirty stormwater runoff from adjacent industrial uses, add native trees/plants.</p> <p>📍 Project idea or action - drop a pin! 16 days ago</p> <p>Like 👍 Dislike 👎</p> </div>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about new industrial development and possible traffic impacts on the environment: <div data-bbox="532 268 1190 678" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; background-color: #f9f9f9;"> <p>Not enough consideration (data/study) is being included to take the mega-warehouse impacts into consideration -- increased traffic, safety concerns, public health issues, environmental decline... anything being reviewed for this neighborhood needs to also include those massive changes/challenges to come.</p> <p>⚠ Challenges 2 months ago Like 👍+5 Dislike 👎</p> </div>
--	--

THEME AREA	DRAFT GOAL LANGUAGE
------------	---------------------

Economic Opportunity and Development	<p>Active Neighborhood Center: Further activate the neighborhood center, reduce barriers for small and diverse businesses and strengthen community capacity to support daily needs, new amenities, and community events for all ages.</p> <p>Socially Responsible Development: Increase density while preserving historic buildings and expanding open space; increase equitable investment and opportunity; and add new infrastructure to support new growth.</p> <p>Green Economic Opportunity: Encourage development of green industry and living-wage jobs while limiting community impacts of industrial development.</p>
---	---

What we heard	<p><u>Infill development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infilling underutilized parking lots with housing and businesses Transit-oriented development around the Sounder station <p><u>Highlighting small businesses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reuse of space for small and local businesses, for example at the Sounder Station: <div data-bbox="532 1266 1190 1556" style="border: 1px solid #0070c0; padding: 10px; background-color: #e6f2ff;"> <p>Work with Sound Transit to lease out this kiosk to a local business owner to activate the space (focus on food and beverage)</p> <p>📍 Project idea or action - drop a pin! 16 days ago</p> <p>Like 👍 Dislike 👎</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing access and attention to small long-time businesses, including along South Adams Street <p><u>Preserving and/or reusing historic buildings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating a commercial historic district Highlighting and reusing the historic Kenworthy Grain and Milling Company granary:
----------------------	--





	<div data-bbox="532 191 1192 520" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1;"> <p>Define a long-range adaptive reuse strategy to repurpose this iconic building for future community-serving uses. Celebrate the architecture.</p> <p>📍 Project idea or action - drop a pin! 16 days ago</p> <p>Like 👍 Dislike 👎</p> </div>
THEME AREA	DRAFT GOAL LANGUAGE
<p>Sense of Place and Community</p>	<p>Inviting, Accessible, Beautiful: Enhance and showcase South Tacoma to create an inviting, safe, accessible, beautiful neighborhood for all to enjoy.</p> <p>Celebrate History & Identities: Celebrate the neighborhood’s many histories and community identities; ensure broad, equitable participation in neighborhood decisions.</p> <p>Sense of Community & Gathering: Foster a safe public realm by creating a healthy, clean, well-cared for spaces for all ages to gather, reflect, connect, and enjoy.</p>
<p>What we heard</p>	<p><u>Celebrating history and identity:</u></p> <div data-bbox="526 890 1117 1184" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1;"> <p>Add a road sign, welcoming people to Historic South Tacoma (Edison / Excelsior) with a link/QR code to history, notable sites, self-walking tour maps.</p> <p>📍 Project idea or action - drop a pin! 2 months ago</p> <p>Like 👍+3 Dislike 👎</p> </div> <p>This comment was noted at multiple locations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The northern end of the Flume Line Trail near the beginning of the South Tacoma Business District ○ Near the intersection of South Washington Street and South Tacoma Way ○ At the intersection of South 56 Street and Tacoma Mall Boulevard <p><u>Creating inviting gathering spaces:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating Wapato Hills Park play area: <div data-bbox="526 1478 1127 1806" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1;"> <p>This play ground could use some updating with how popular it is! Same with the splash pad could be made more engaging for all ages! Also add more parking when the park is full makes it hard to drive down the road</p> <p>📍 Project idea or action - drop a pin! 2 months ago</p> <p>Like 👍+1 Dislike 👎</p> </div> • Utilizing the greenspace between South Tacoma Way and South Union Avenue

THEME AREA	DRAFT GOAL LANGUAGE
Affordability	Affordable Community: Ensure access to affordable and diverse housing, including for renters, a mix of incomes, support for people experiencing homelessness, and opportunities to build generational wealth through home ownership.
What we heard	<u>Addressing homelessness:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about public safety and health as people experiencing homelessness are living in vacant spaces around the STAR Center and rail tracks.

Key Locations



*A heat map showing comments across the neighborhood. Dark orange/red means more comments, ranging to dark blue/purple meaning less comments.

Top 5 Locations by Number of Comments	Feedback
<p>1. South Tacoma Business District</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road diet (reducing lanes to calm traffic) along South Tacoma Way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Reappropriating lanes or paved space to greenspace and street seating • Depaving along South Tacoma Way: <div data-bbox="613 415 1279 1140" style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="color: #0070C0; font-weight: bold;">Depave and add trees here!</p>  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infilling underutilized parking lots with mixed-use development from housing and businesses, to artisan and maker spaces • Using small otherwise un-usable lots for small vendor space or pocket parks • Transforming side streets like South 54 Street for festival streets • Create a historic district and/or nominate historic buildings • Creating gateway signage to the neighborhood or business district to highlight history and identity • Revamping sidewalk and curb ramp ADA compliancy • Finding opportunities to highlight small businesses
<p>2. Flume Line Trail</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining existing wayfinding: <div data-bbox="613 1556 1279 1883" style="border: 1px solid #70AD47; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>We need more maintenance on the flume line trail. It looks abandoned. Signage is looking beat up. Fences are down in parts. It feels unsafe.</p> <p> Important cycling routes 3 months ago</p> <p>Like  +1 Dislike  -1</p> </div>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating inviting spaces for people to gather, celebrating history & identity: <div data-bbox="613 268 1269 705" style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; padding: 10px; background-color: #E6F2FF;"> <p>This Water Flume trail would be so much improved and much more used if it had historic signs / markers of interest and interactive options (benches, look-outs, stretching/exercise stations, permanent chess and checkers tables). At least increase the awareness of what this path of the old water flume originally was.</p> <p>📍 Project idea or action - drop a pin! 2 months ago</p> <p>Like 👍+1 Dislike 👎</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding more pedestrian lighting • Adding more trash and pet-waste receptacles • Improving traffic calming at locations where the Water Flume Line trail crosses streets
<p>3. Edison Elementary Area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the Water Flume Trail • Maintaining or acquiring greenspace • Traffic calming through speed bumps and roundabouts • Amenities like benches and shelters for more bus stops • Preserving Wapato Hills Park; improvements for all ages to play area and parking during peak times
<p>4. Tacoma Mall Area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved tree canopy • Trading unnecessary parking for greenspace
<p>5. Madison Elementary</p>	<div data-bbox="613 1167 1269 1692" style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; padding: 10px; background-color: #E6F2FF;"> <p>Madison school property is being sold for density development... which means this green space is gone (which PDS had guaranteed for previous density zoning there) so an urban forest / green park is needed for the people being crushed into this "designated growth center" soon.</p> <p>View the discussion (1)</p> <p>📍 Project idea or action - drop a pin! 2 months ago</p> <p>Like 👍+2 Dislike 👎</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving land surplus policy • Addressing the potential loss of greenspace if schools are redeveloped
<p>Corridor hotspots</p>	<p><u>Traffic calming along:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Tacoma Way

