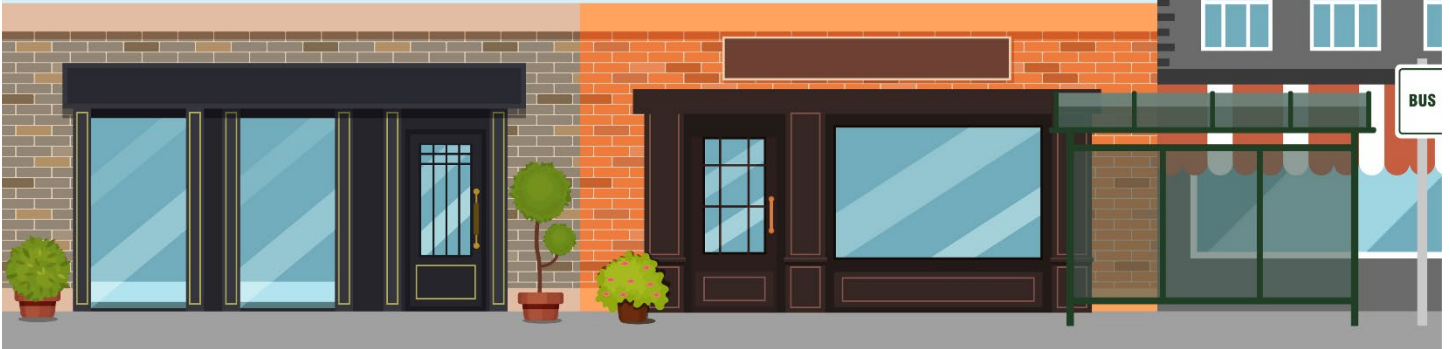




South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan



SOUTH TACOMA SUMMER ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

EVENTS SUMMARY

SUMMER/FALL 2024

Since August, the Neighborhood Planning team and South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan Steering Group have been working with their neighbors through surveys, interactive maps, and engagement events to develop specific project ideas for the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan. This is a summary of what we heard at the following summer engagement events, where we gathered more than **200 comments**

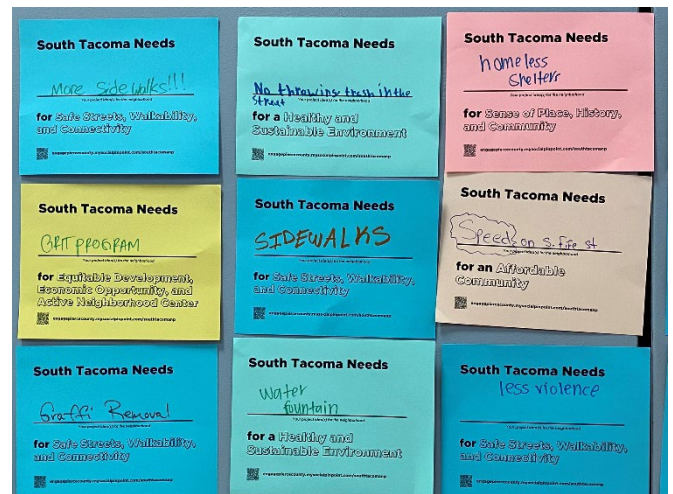
- Star Center Summer Bash – August 23
- The Fernseed Pop-Up during the Haunted Farmers’ Market – August 30
- Edison School Pop-Up during back-to-school open house – September 25
- The Hive Co. Pop-Up during the Haunted Farmers’ Market – September 28

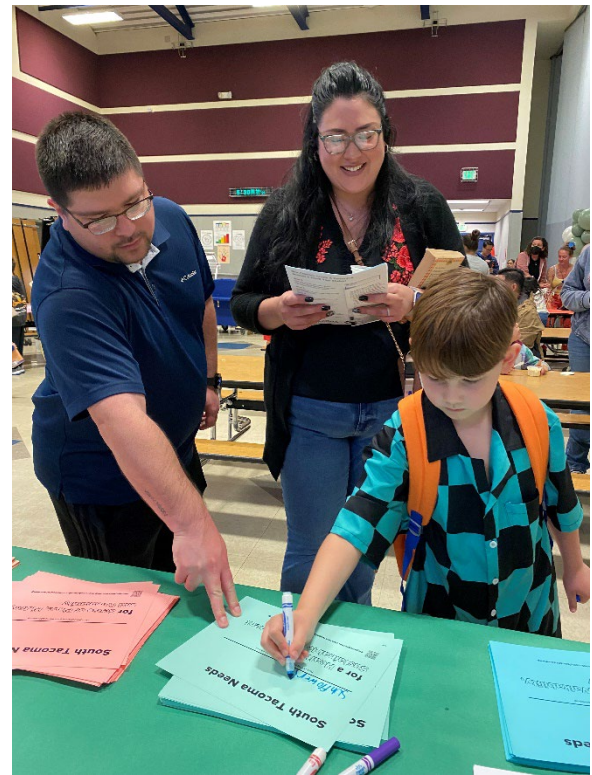
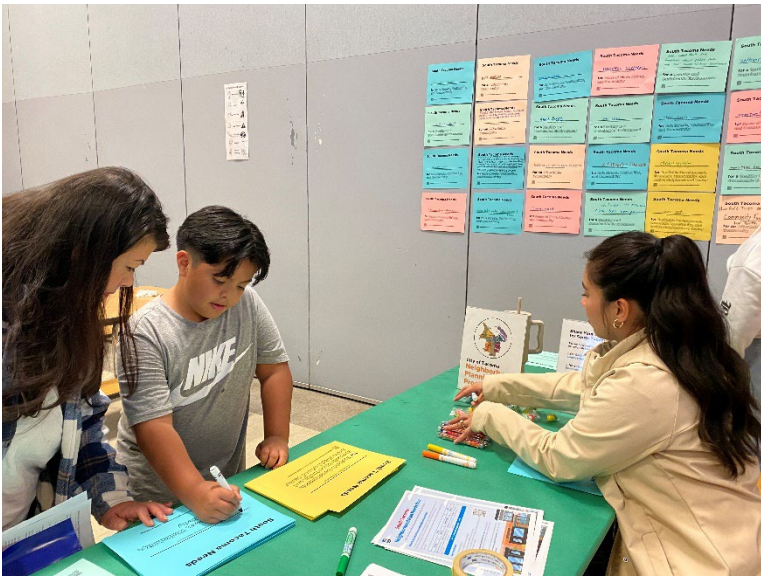
About the Neighborhood Planning Program

The City of Tacoma’s Neighborhood Planning Program provides enhanced planning and development support to help communities create strong, vibrant, and diverse neighborhoods. In South Tacoma, the Neighborhood Planning Program is addressing issues such as identity and history, environmental health, business district vitality, housing affordability, transportation impacts, public safety, and other special projects as identified by the community.

What We Heard Over the Summer

At all four pop-up events, community members shared their ideas for specific project actions through “South Tacoma Mad Libs” (see example at right) – sharing ideas based on the five plan focus areas. A summary of what we heard is listed below.





TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY, AND CONNECTIVITY

SAFE STREETS – Increase safety on South Tacoma streets by reducing dangerous vehicle activity impacting drivers, pedestrians, and property.

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.

GOAL	ACTION
SAFE STREETS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street safety on South Tacoma Way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fewer cars on South Tacoma Way • Activating streets with street fair events • Adding benches to South Tacoma Way • Support for other kinds of safety: more security at night, “safe covered areas for houseless neighbors”; “safe parks for kids” • More parking; “community parking spaces” • Street repair, potholes • Traffic calming: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Speed bumps on Sheridan” ○ “Revise traffic signal on 72nd and South Tacoma Way” ○ “Restripe Washington with angled parking” ○ “More traffic routes for the high volume of cars” ○ “More speed bumps” ○ “Speed humps on S Birmingham, S Lawrence, S Warner, S Montgomery, S Puget Sound” ○ “Calm speed on S Fife St”
WALKABILITY & CONNECTIVITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidewalks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ADA ○ “Reworked sidewalks for accessibility” (many comments on this) ○ “Less garbage on sidewalks” • Bike lanes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “More bike-only lanes around town” ○ “A safe and separate connection between the Water Flume Trail and the Scott Pierson Trail. The Bridge Industrial Warehouse project would be an ideal link. The bike lanes along South Tacoma Way are 100% not appropriate for kids and sketchy for adults.” • Safer areas to run, including lighting • Public transportation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Earlier and later buses ○ More Sounder Trains ○ “Safer bus stops for students”

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT – Create a sustainable, healthy, resilient, thriving community with clean air and water and a healthy tree canopy.

GOAL	ACTION
HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for biking and walking: improve sidewalks, “more bike lanes,” “a bike shop,” “cleaner streets and sidewalks,” road safety • Trees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “More trees” (many comments on this) ○ “planting more trees or making accessible/multiple community gardens” ○ “plant edible fruit trees everywhere” • Individual/public health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Better mental health support” ○ “More than one detox facility” ○ “Drug and alcohol treatment/rehab for people getting out of jail” ○ “More gun laws;” “Less gun violence on Hosmer” ○ “More shelters;” “Better homeless infrastructure” • Food access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Grocery store with more healthy options” ○ Incentives for healthy, clean, and fresh foods in businesses ○ “Market with produce;” “More Farmers’ Markets” • Sustainability actions, e.g., “more biodegradable packaging” • Outdoor public spaces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community gardens ○ “A native plant garden with plants that grow well in this area” ○ Play spaces ○ “More swings at park” (youth comment) ○ “Less garbage in parks” ○ “Water fountain so people can drink water while they are walking”

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

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.

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.

GREEN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY – Encourage development of green industry and living-wage jobs while limiting community impacts of industrial development.

GOAL	ACTION
ACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate spaces with events and activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pop-up markets ○ “Market with produce” ○ “Nerdy Farmers’ Market” ○ “More youth-friendly events” ○ “More street fair events ○ “Sensory-safe and accessible events” ○ “Parades; activated streets; stuff for all ages” • Cleanliness and security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Have high-schoolers help with cleaning up instead of detention” ○ Litter cleaning events ○ Trash cans • Amenities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Better, complete, and accessible sidewalks ○ “More plants” ○ More parking/public parking garages • Youth-friendly spaces and kids activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After-school programs ○ “More family-friendly arcades” ○ “More quality childcare”
SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Family housing ○ Support for people experiencing homelessness; homeless services ○ “Affordable food and access, development into local business and new business” • Green spaces/community gardens • “Transit-oriented development near/around Sounder Station”
GREEN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events and markets • Small-business grants for entrepreneurs • Family-friendly shops on South Tacoma Way • Youth opportunities: mentorship, after-school programs, activities, job placement • Funding for non-profits

SENSE OF PLACE AND COMMUNITY

INVITING, ACCESSIBLE, BEAUTIFUL – Enhance and showcase South Tacoma to create an inviting, safe, accessible, beautiful neighborhood for all to enjoy.

CELEBRATING HISTORY & IDENTITIES – Celebrate the neighborhood's many histories and community identities; ensure broad, equitable participation in neighborhood decisions.

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.

GOALS	ACTION
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">INVITING, ACCESSIBLE, BEAUTIFUL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Trees, parks, and shaded spaces” • Safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Less crime” ○ “Safe gathering on Hosmer” ○ “Less gang activity, safer neighborhood in Manitou” ○ “Safe parks” • Cleanliness: More trash cans (many comments on this), <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Clean up trash on streets” ○ “Litter crews” ○ “Graffiti removal” • “More accessible art” • “Free events at parks, with activities for kids”
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CELEBRATING HISTORY & IDENTITIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve historic buildings • “Funky art installations along South Tacoma industrial area – pay homage to its classic roadside oddities” • Events related to history and identity • Tacoma Museum • “With more history of everyone” (youth comment)
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">SENSE OF COMMUNITY & GATHERING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More community events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Bring back Car Show” ○ “Transform 54th into a ‘Festival Street’” ○ “Eventful communities” ○ “Have field trips and have fundraisers for youth” • Community gardens • Public gathering spaces: playgrounds, “more public parks,” “accessible playgrounds” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ South Park Rec Building ○ “Fern Hill park getting rusty” ○ Skate parks (including multiple requests at STAR Center) • Indoor gathering spaces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Indoor playspaces for winter” ○ “Skating rink,” “somewhere kids can roller skate” ○ Dance classes ○ “Play park/paintball park” • Better-shaded dog parks

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.

GOALS	ACTION
AFFORDABLE COMMUNITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For low-income and houseless individuals ○ Rent control ○ Affordable family housing ○ “Stop corporations from buying single-family homes” ○ Help with housing ○ “Rent price caps, districts corporations can’t buy” ○ “Opportunities for the homeless” ○ “More affordable homes to rent for low-income people” ○ “Single mom low-income community housing” ○ “Set to federal poverty levels to expand and improve access” ○ “More high-density housing. As a home owner, I would be happy to share more space to alleviate the housing crisis” • Homeless shelters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Help the homeless” • Support for other necessities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Affordable groceries, food banks ○ Free health clinic ○ Utility assistance ○ “School clothes assistance” ○ “Single parent grants”