

# South Tacoma Way Neighborhood Plan



## Background: Neighborhood Planning Outreach

In an effort to hear voices not traditionally heard in planning, we facilitated two focus groups and engaged with two Spanish-speaking businesses on South Tacoma Way. Additionally, we partnered with language ambassadors fluent in Russian, Ukrainian, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean, who conducted targeted outreach to these communities to gather essential feedback.

These discussions have served as a forum for community input, empowering residents to shape the plan’s priorities by sharing their values, vision, and concerns. As the Neighborhood Plan takes shape, these groups will continue to inform the final document and implementation actions by providing feedback on our ongoing work.

## Events Timeline

Event	Partners	Date	Audience	Attendees
<b>Outreach to Spanish-Speaking Businesses</b>	Spanish-Speaking Businesses	September 10, 2024	Spanish-speaking businesses on South Tacoma Way	2
<b>Slavic Language Focus Group</b>	Metro Parks; Language Ambassadors	September 19, 2024	Russian and Ukrainian speaking individuals	14
<b>Focus Group at Ludwig Apartments</b>	Tacoma Housing Authority	September 25, 2024	Ludwig residents	10
<b>Outreach to Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean-Speaking Communities</b>	Language Ambassadors	September and October (ongoing)	Multi-lingual community members	100+

## Slavic Language Focus Group

### Event Details

On September 19, a focus group, facilitated by Slavic language ambassadors, was held with 14 Ukrainian- and Russian-speaking residents of South Tacoma. Staff provided a brief overview of the Neighborhood Planning Program and encouraged folks to share their thoughts and feedback for the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan.

The goal was to gather insights on key concerns related to 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. Participants shared their experiences and provided suggestions on how to improve public spaces, transportation, and community services to better meet the needs of immigrant families and long-term residents.

Chapter 1	Actions
<b>Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADA ramps</li> <li>• Street lighting</li> <li>• Improve sidewalks.</li> <li>• Improve bike lanes (they're too narrow)</li> <li>• Expand bus routes</li> <li>• Street cameras</li> <li>• Trim bushes surrounding mall</li> <li>• Safer biking routes</li> </ul>

Chapter 2	Actions
<b>Health and Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More trees/ flowers</li> <li>• Maintain/ upgrade playgrounds.</li> <li>• Businesses inspections for cleanliness</li> <li>• Cleanliness (several comments)</li> </ul>

Chapter 3	Actions
Economic Opportunity and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business development for immigrants (micro-retail spaces)</li> <li>• Job opportunities</li> <li>• Ice cream shop</li> <li>• bakeries</li> </ul>

Chapter 4	Actions
Sense of Place and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skate park</li> <li>• Outdoor pool</li> <li>• Activities for youth</li> <li>• Cultural festivals</li> <li>• Slavic books in libraries</li> </ul>

Chapter 5	Actions
AFFORDABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rent control / assistance</li> <li>• Affordable homeownership</li> <li>• Rental requirements (immigrants don't always have needed forms, etc.)</li> </ul>

## Ludwig Focus Group

### Event Details

On September 25, a focus group was held with residents at the Ludwig Senior and Disabled Apartments in South Tacoma, a Tacoma Housing Authority property. Ten residents participated in a discussion about the resources, services and improvements needed to make South Tacoma more accessible, supportive, and safe community for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Their input focused on transportation, walkability, safety, and access to essential services and community amenities.

Chapter 1	Actions
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce speeding on S 56th St</li> <li>• Fix sidewalk on S Lawrence St between South 56th Street and South 54th Street (used to access South Park)</li> <li>• Improve #53 bus route access</li> <li>• Drivers don't wait for elderly to board on bus</li> <li>• Improve lighting (especially around the Water Flume Trail)</li> <li>• Improve schedule for South Tacoma Sounder Station</li> </ul>

Chapter 2	Actions
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Health and Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add dog waste station.</li> <li>• Better restroom access</li> <li>• Enhance accessibility around community garden behind building</li> <li>• Food lockers (rather than receive pre-packaged food boxes)</li> </ul>

Chapter 3	Actions
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Economic Opportunity and Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent food bank services</li> <li>• Keep Grocery Outlet</li> </ul>

Chapter 4	Actions
Sense of Place and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities for all ages</li> <li>• Senior-focused activities at STAR Center and library</li> <li>• APCC to offer more community activities</li> <li>• Movie theater</li> <li>• Local clinic/ urgent care/ pharmacy</li> </ul>

Chapter 5	Actions
AFFORDABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for people experiencing homelessness</li> </ul>

## Spanish Speaking Business Outreach

---

### Interview Torta Locas

**Location:** 5420 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409

**Interviewee:** Talked to restaurant employee who has been there about 1 year.

They identify their **biggest challenge** is that people tend to go during the weekends and 'it feels lonely during weekdays'.

**Transportation:** The biggest challenge is parking. 'Before we used to park in the back, but someone purchased that space and now we can't park there.'

In terms of public transportation, they are not sure because they drive.

**Safety:** 'There are not too many troubles, only a year ago someone came to rob the businesses. The other problem is the homeless, there are too many. They feel safe overall.'

**Business development** for Hispanic businesses: 'I don't see too many Hispanic people around here. Most of the business are American and are not 'family business, it is mostly bars. We receive Hispanic customers, especially during the weekends, but they come from all over the county.'

**Engagement:** 'There are events to promote the area (Haunted Market), but those events are targeted to Americans.'

**Suggestion:** There should be more events targeted / oriented to our communities.

### Interview Empanadas Colombianas Luis Panes

**Location:** 5640 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409

**Interviewees:** Talked with two restaurant employees who have been in the area for 15+ years.

**Challenges:** 'I don't see too many challenges; I feel content here'. There is a lot of traffic and that is good.

**Environment:** 'There are no trees or any green in the area. Traffic is good for the business, the good thing is that not too many cars produce pollution, or we don't see too many big trucks.'

**Public Transportation:** 'I drive, but one employee (female) takes the bus, and I know she must wait for an hour if she misses it. More busses more frequently would be better, but most of us drive.' Employee lives 15 minutes away and drives.

**Parking:** 'People Park at AutoZone and/or they have all the avenue to park. I don't see any real issue with parking'.

**Safety:** 'One time someone broke our window, another time, three months ago, someone came and took \$300, and a year ago someone came and took the tip jar. But that's all in 16 years. Overall, we don't feel unsafe.'

**Business support / Engagement:** As a minority business, receive more information and resources (including financial) from the State than from the city. 'We don't know what the city does for business, American or Immigrant.'

**Client demographics:** Most of our customers are Hispanic, then American.

**Overall,** 'I feel safe and grateful. We are seeing more homeless but they're not violent and they're not camping here.'

## Language Access Outreach

We partnered with language ambassadors fluent in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean to reach 100+ multi-lingual community members, who filled out a paper survey with different community priorities identified in the Neighborhood Plan.

Chapter 1	Spanish	Vietnamese	Korean
Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fix potholes</li> <li>• Street cameras</li> <li>• Speed monitors</li> <li>• Streetlights (more)</li> <li>• Visible crosswalks/ cross walk sign button on South 50th Street</li> <li>• Police accountability “Police need to respond when people are in danger”</li> <li>• No more street racing at night</li> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• More parking “Get rid of parking restrictions” (2-hour parking)</li> <li>• More bus routes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less gun violence</li> <li>• Police patrolling at night (Several comments)</li> <li>• ADA sidewalks (Several comments)</li> <li>• Bike lane (Several comments)</li> <li>• Fix streetlights in the radius of South 50 Street and South 53rd Street</li> <li>• Fix potholes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add speed bumps.</li> <li>• Curb extensions</li> <li>• Street cameras (encourage walking after dark)</li> <li>• Streetlights</li> <li>• Beautify bus stops</li> </ul>

Chapter 2	Spanish	Vietnamese	Korean
Health and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees/ flowers/plants</li> <li>• Installing no smoking signs</li> <li>• Clean streets</li> <li>• Local clinic</li> <li>• Cleaner parks/no camping</li> <li>• More trash cans</li> <li>• No graffiti</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trash cans/ recycling</li> <li>• Clinic (several comments)</li> <li>• Trees</li> <li>• Athletic center</li> <li>• Local gardens</li> <li>• Reading competitions at local library</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community gardens in vacant lots</li> <li>• Tree planting events</li> <li>• Need more shade</li> </ul>

Chapter 3	Spanish	Vietnamese	Korean
Economic Opportunity and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job opportunities</li> <li>• Equitable hiring practices for all</li> <li>• Better living wages</li> <li>• Support for small businesses</li> <li>• Retail stores</li> <li>• More grocery stores (several comments)</li> <li>• Adding cultural businesses</li> <li>• Equitable distribution of money to all districts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve buildings (several comments)</li> <li>• More grocery stores.</li> <li>• Too many abandoned buildings</li> <li>• Food bank between South 43rd – South 47th Street</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food bank</li> <li>• Job training programs</li> <li>• Free community wi-fi zones for residents to connect, learn and start online businesses.</li> <li>• Career support for youth</li> <li>• Workshops on improving finances</li> </ul>



Chapter 4	Spanish	Vietnamese	Korean
Sense of Place and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleanliness (a lot of comments) More trash cans.</li> <li>• Public gathering spaces</li> <li>• Park/ Skate Park</li> <li>• Coffee shops</li> <li>• Youth activities/ Family activities</li> <li>• Street fair events</li> <li>• Safe and accessible events for seniors</li> <li>• Artwork</li> <li>• Cultural acceptance and recognition</li> <li>• Supporting migrants</li> <li>• More coffee shops (Starbucks closed)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family events</li> <li>• Family friendly restaurants</li> <li>• Community festivals at Wapato Park</li> <li>• Community center in walking distance</li> <li>• A church</li> <li>• Youth activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural festivals</li> <li>• Launch storytelling project</li> <li>• Community mural project</li> <li>• Heritage walks</li> <li>• Exhibit focused on contributions of immigrant families.</li> <li>• Workshops on local governance</li> </ul>

Chapter 5	Spanish	Vietnamese	Korean
AFFORDABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable housing</li> <li>• Housing assistance</li> <li>• Funding and resources for emergency housing</li> <li>• Support the homeless</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand housing.</li> <li>• Affordable apartments</li> <li>• Senior housing</li> <li>• Shelters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homeless shelter</li> <li>• Rental assistance</li> <li>• Shared housing</li> </ul>