

South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan

DRAFT PLAN ACTIONS

About the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan

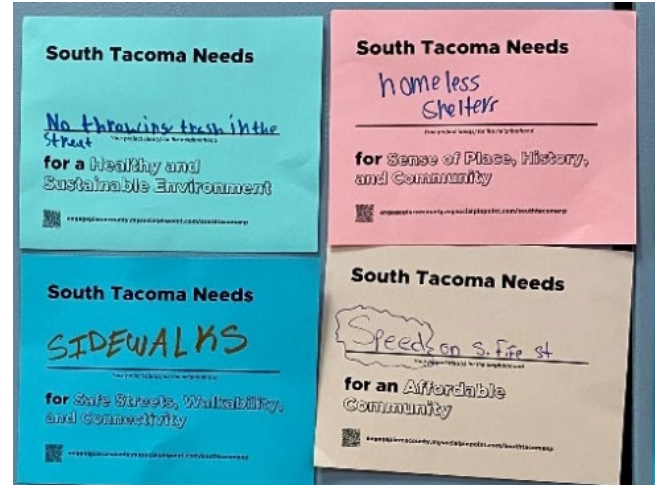
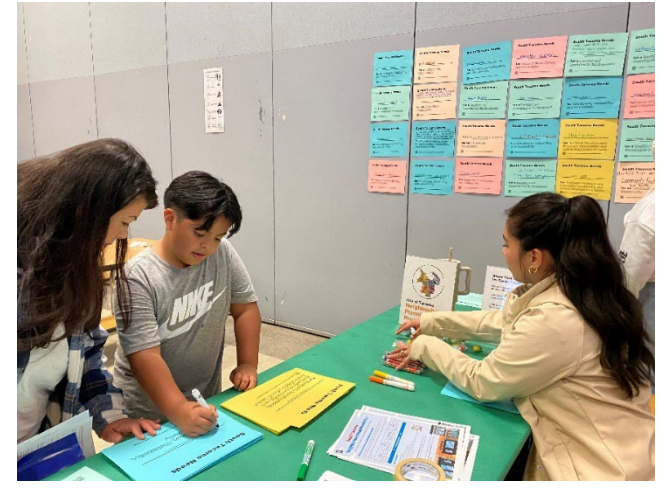
The City of Tacoma’s Neighborhood Planning Program provides enhanced planning and development support to help communities create strong, vibrant, and diverse neighborhoods. In South Tacoma, the Neighborhood Planning Program is addressing issues such as identity and history, environmental health, business district vitality, housing affordability, transportation impacts, public safety, and other special projects as identified by the community. The process begins with a year of deep community engagement, and after the Plan is adopted by City Council, the program continues to support implementation of Plan goals and priorities for 3-5 years.

About the Draft Plan Actions

The following list of goals and actions are based on extensive community engagement with South Tacoma community members and review by the South Tacoma Steering Group. Since early 2024, the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan has engaged hundreds of community members through interviews, surveys, events, focus groups, interactive maps, and outreach at community fairs and festivals. The actions have also been reviewed by subject-matter experts who will support implementation once the Plan is adopted.

In total, we have received more than 1,000 “engagements” through the following channels:

- 4 Public events
- 2 Surveys, including responses in Spanish and Vietnamese
- 1 Interactive map
- 4 Pop-up events
- 4 Focus groups with youth, low-income disabled and senior renters, and multi-lingual communities
- 8 Steering group meetings
- Ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, including business owners and other local organizations



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 (Community Priority)	Implement Road Safety Audit recommendations along South Tacoma Way between South 47th Street and South 60th Street, including conducting a corridor study for a road diet to calm traffic and create space for new amenity zones and/or angled parking.
	Conduct analysis for priority locations for traffic calming and crossing improvements on arterials and neighborhood streets, based on Vision Zero priorities, crash data, and key community destinations like parks and schools and business district. Implement traffic calming and crossing improvement measures.
	Improve pedestrian-scale lighting, prioritizing areas frequented by people who walk, bike, and roll.
WALKABILITY & CONNECTIVITY (Community priority)	Support Safe Routes to School programs and safety improvements at South Tacoma schools.
	Complete curb ramps and missing link and accessible sidewalks and in key locations (in alignment with the Transportation and Mobility Plan).
	Advocate for improved transit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved bus frequency, especially morning, night, and weekend service. Future high-capacity transit service. - Improved bus stop services.
	Advocate for improved Sounder Train service and connections to bus routes; support for implementing planned multimodal Station access projects.
	Improve amenities along the Water Flume Trail, including signage and wayfinding, trash receptacles, and tree planting.
Implement bicycle facilities as recommended in other policy documents, including the Transportation and Mobility Plan, Vision Zero, and Safe Routes to School Plan.	

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

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

GOAL	ACTION
HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT (Community Priority)	Identify sites to depave to add green space and plant trees (including along South Tacoma Way).
	Support the ongoing South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District code update and related efforts to protect long-term water quality.
	Increase tree canopy to reach 30% citywide coverage goal, with a focus on the lowest-canopy areas, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify locations for right-of-way and larger sites for tree planting - Identify funding and partnerships for major planting projects at public sites - Support capacity-building for local organizations and individuals to plant trees - Support City code updates to reach 30% citywide canopy coverage
	Advocate for preservation of passive and active publicly held open space to preserve tree canopy and provide air quality and stormwater benefits.
	Add new activated green spaces/parks in parts of the neighborhood that are under-parked and activate publicly held open space, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tacoma Landfill – southern uncapped portion of site - Tacoma Water Property at 3617 South Lawrence - 47th and Pine Street traffic triangle - Locations along the Water Flume Trail - Maintain green/play space at Madison School site with new development
	Improve the frequency of trash and dog waste receptacles in the neighborhood’s greenspaces and along trails.
	Improve air quality in South Tacoma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incentivize the installation of air quality monitors/support existing efforts to monitor - Support box fan filter distribution to support indoor air quality and distribution to local childcare facilities and other vulnerable sites
	Support healthcare, programming and public health facilities and access to care, including coordination for pharmacy and urgent care clinic.

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 (Community Priority)	Work with the business district on the creation of a Business Improvement Area (BIA) to support maintenance, security, lighting, landscaping, beautification, community events, and business incubators. Consider areas outside of the existing business district to include more diverse businesses.
	Support access to healthy and affordable foods by incentivizing grocery stores to locate within South Tacoma and partnering with a food bank for satellite location.
	Support signature community events, street festivals/pop-up markets, youth-friendly events, and accessible/sensory-safe programs.
	Improve street furnishings and pedestrian environment on South Tacoma Way and in the business district, including benches and trash cans.
	Foster small business entrepreneurship and vitality by connecting existing businesses to resources; supporting entrepreneurs that are youth and family-friendly, are BIPOC, and align with local South Tacoma manufacturing efforts; removing permitting barriers to small-scale food purveyors; and potentially supporting a physical micro-retail incubator space.
SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT	Preserve individual landmark buildings as identified by the South Tacoma Historic Property Survey and conduct business owner outreach to establish a commercial historic district of eligible parcels immediately along South Tacoma Way.
	Study an expansion of the South Tacoma Mixed-Use Center boundary to include the Sounder Station to improve transit-oriented development and transit-oriented manufacturing. Prioritize the area as a job center and consider mixed-use development, including commercial and/or light manufacturing, on the Sounder surface parking lot.
	Support equitable, context-sensitive development in the Mixed-Use Center using requirements and incentives for community benefits to provide more affordable housing, affordable commercial space, gathering spaces, and public open spaces, including outdoor gathering spaces and activated alleys.
	Update the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan to address consistency between Manufacturing Industrial Center with green economic opportunities and living-wage jobs. Seek funding to conduct land use compatibility review between industry and residential/commercial that could address topics such as: code updates for warehousing, updating land use compatibility, and freight route planning.
GREEN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY	Incentivize/encourage the placement of EV charging stations in South Tacoma.
	Support youth job training and mentorship to find access to living-wage and green jobs.
	Seek funding for a green jobs economic development study, to set strategies for topics such as incentive program for creative industries and small-scale manufacturing; local training/hire pilot program; local shopping incentive program; industrial decarbonization and climate mitigation strategies.

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.

GOAL	ACTION
INVITING, ACCESSIBLE, BEAUTIFUL	Install signage at the entrances to the business district, and other entrances to the neighborhood, that is emblematic of the community, act as a gateway welcoming people to the neighborhood, and assist in placemaking and placekeeping.
	Find ways of enhancing South Tacoma’s identity and maintenance through public realm enhancements, including new amenities, trees, landscaping, etc.
CELEBRATING HISTORY & IDENTITIES	Seek funding for and install interpretive signage and art to tell the stories of South Tacoma in the business district and along the Water Flume Trail.
	Support local organizations and gathering spaces that provide community capacity (STAR Center, APCC, faith groups, and the South Tacoma Business District) to work together to enhance community events and enable new events that celebrate the community’s diversity.
	Align with the Comprehensive Plan Engagement Chapter to create recommendations for more inclusive engagement by the City, including language access, trauma-informed engagement practices, and youth engagement.
	Build neighborhood organizing and advocacy capacity by creating opportunities for ongoing collaboration.
SENSE OF COMMUNITY & GATHERING	Identify locations for community gardens and provide support for startup efforts.
	Work with property owners to identify and turn a vacant lot along South Tacoma Way within the Business District into small gathering spaces.
	Partner with local service providers (Tacoma Library, Metro Parks, and Asia Pacific Cultural Center) to offer programs and spaces for youth, seniors, and other vulnerable populations to safely spend time, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skate parks and sport facilities for youth - Free indoor after-school play spaces - Activities and cultural events for seniors
	Work with Metro Parks to provide future enhancement to existing parks and facilities, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvements/expansion of the Wapato Hills playground - Skate Park at SERA - Wayfinding connections between South Park and the South Tacoma business district - Co-location of community services - Engaging with Metro Parks Urban Forestry for tree canopy support
	Support future expansion of the library’s services and facilities, if there is opportunity, at the South Tacoma Fire Station location along South 56th Street. If TFD vacates, in the future, consider facility for library expansion or other uses to address community needs, and services.

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.

GOAL	ACTION
AFFORDABLE COMMUNITY	Identify opportunity sites and facilitate affordable housing developer/property owner matchmaking for new housing attainable for diverse incomes and needs, including families, multi-generational, and seniors.
	Preserve existing attainable housing, especially multifamily, to prevent displacement.
	Seek opportunities to collaborate with a community land trust for long-term affordability.
	Identify opportunities to support people who are experiencing homelessness with shelter and food.
	Expand existing City and Statewide policies and incentives to support first-time homeownership and rehab.
	Support changes to statewide policies to support affordability, anti-displacement, and protections for renters.
	Connect community to resources for assistance and activities for youth and families, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing information about affordable/free gym membership/access for youth - Affordable groceries and school clothes assistance - Support for parents - Work with food bank to co-locate in or near the business district.
	Work with Tacoma Public Utilities to share resources on programs and/or incentives for those who are disadvantaged in South Tacoma.

DRAFT