

South Tacoma Neighborhood Planning Steering Group – Meeting #4

Thursday, June 27, 2024

5:30 – 7 PM, via Zoom

ATTENDEES PRESENT

Council Member Joe Bushnell - District 5

Austin Miller
Casey Catherwood
Ellen Talbo
Felicity Waldron
Heidi Stephens
Ileana Areiza
Kat Raz
Melodie Knight
Mercy Macharia
Pennie Smith
Perlita Payne
Ryan Spence

STAFF PRESENT

Alejandra Villeda - Neighborhood Planning
Anneka Olson - Neighborhood Planning
Carrie Wilhelme - Public Works
Grayson Reim - Public Works
Lauren Hoogkamer - Neighborhood Planning
Leander Swan - Neighborhood Planning

MINUTES

| AGENDA ITEM | MINUTES |
|---|---|
| <p>Welcome and Icebreaker</p> | <p>The icebreaker was “What are you looking forward to this summer?” Steering Group members put their responses in the Zoom chat.</p> <p>Neighborhood Planning Staff introduced a new member of the Neighborhood Planning Team, Alejandra Villeda, who transferred over from the Office of Equity and Human Rights.</p> <p>Anneka Olson also introduced the guest speakers from Public Works (Guest Staff), Carrie and Grayson. The Guest Staff were joining to present on the results and next steps for the South Tacoma Way Business District Road Safety Audit, and to discuss the subject with the Steering Group.</p> |
| <p>Summer Engagement Plans/ Events</p> | <p>In this section, Neighborhood Planning Staff summarized the current status of planning for a summer event based on what was discussed at the last Party Planning Committee, opened up the event planning, tabling, and future focus groups to feedback from the Steering Group, and introduced a new interactive map that will allow the community to provide location-specific actions for the Neighborhood Plan.</p> |
| <p>Summer Engagement Plan and</p> | <p>Staff explained the purpose of summer events is to generate specific actions that the City could enact. The summer event has a small budget from the City.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Event Planning</p> | <p>Next, members of the Party Planning Committee shared out how the event plans have been established so far, with the Committee deciding to highlight neighborhood amenities and be family friendly. The committee landed on an idea of a summer party that would be held outdoors, either in South Park or the business district.</p> <p>Members of the broader Steering Group asked what the purpose and audience of the event would be. Party Planning Committee members responded that events were intended to be welcoming to all ages and people who live in or visit the neighborhood regularly. The Committee want to highlight the existing vibrancy and organizations/businesses of the neighborhood to celebrate its identity.</p> <p>Staff asked the Steering Group more broadly if there was other feedback, specifically asking if members new about local vendors that could participate in the event. Staff also learned that the STAR Center will be showing a family movie on August 23 for the “Summer Bash.”</p> <p>Some Steering Group members proposed that the Group collaborate with the STAR Center to potentially boost participation. Staff noted that collaborating with the STAR Center could be a possibility, but that it also may not highlight local businesses or South Park as much. The group agreed to move forward with our own event, but contact Metro Parks about attending their event.</p> <p>Another Steering Group member suggested “Cars and Coffee” could be an event to celebrate the community.</p> <p>Meanwhile, another Steering Group member brought up the idea of “listening murals” or “social listening” where artists create graphics of what community members are saying live, allowing the community to process together artistically and inform decisions going forward. Staff noted that they could look into the budgeting and local artists that could participate, if possible.</p> |
| <p>Interactive Map/Survey</p> | <p>Staff introduced an interactive map and linked survey that allows people to provide specific actions, comments, and feedbacks to specific locations in the neighborhood. Steering Group members had the opportunity to provide feedback.</p> |
| <p>Focus Groups/ Tabling</p> | <p>Staff presented on the current ideas for future engagement through focus groups and tabling and asked the Steering Group if they had further ideas.</p> <p>A Steering Group member associated with the Business District noted that staff and the District could correspond on how to create a focus group and gather feedback through conversations, discussions, and/or surveys.</p> <p>A Steering Group member mentioned that the Haunted Farmers’ Market will be expanding in front of Fernseed and that they could provide space for tabling.</p> |
| <p>Vision Zero Road Safety Audit</p> | <p>Carrie Wilhelme introduced Vision Zero and also noted that the upcoming content is sensitive in that it includes talking about real people who had their lives taken by traffic incidents.</p> |

**Findings,
Public Works**

VISION ZERO AND THE SAFE SYSTEMS APPROACH

- Reduce kinetic energy – slow drivers down
- Separate users in space and time
- Data-driven decision making
- Establish road safety as an equity issue



While the presentation loaded, Carrie also mentioned a Neighborhood Greenway Program that could be in the upcoming Transportation Mobility Plan which focuses on mapping current and future improved bikeways as well as implementing bike boulevards.

Next, Grayson Reim explained the methods of the Road Safety Audit (RSA) of South Tacoma Way along the Business District and why this area was chosen as the City's first RSA.

A Steering Group member chimed-in noting that there are so many great places to walk in South Tacoma and along South Tacoma Way, but that so few people walk because of the insufficient transit service and fear surrounding walking safety. This member also noted the advantage of South Tacoma's wide streets allowing for future design flexibility.

The Steering Group also expressed interest in hearing from Sound Transit about decision making around current and future transit routes and frequencies. Staff said they will invite a guest speaker from Pierce Transit to a meeting later this year.

Finally, the Guest Staff announced the findings of the RSA so far, including street configuration/lane reduction through the business district, traffic signal upgrades, parking, driveway access, sidewalks and ADA, crossings, and vegetation all could be addressed to improve safety. Changes on South Tacoma Way could impact neighboring streets, so traffic modeling is recommended as a next step to look at a lane reduction. The overall process will require more study and design for the corridor.

Next the Guest Staff introduced next steps and asked the Steering Group if they had further input, specifically regarding a lane reduction along South Tacoma Way through the business district to reduce speeds. The space made free by reducing lanes could be reallocated to other uses such as bike lanes, transit, parking, pedestrian and eating spaces, and much more.

The Guest Staff also announced that the City will be implementing “video analytics” at the intersection of South Tacoma Way and South 56th Street. This means a camera will be installed that records all the movements through the intersection (including near misses) so that the City can have clear data on how to redesign this part of the corridor going forward.

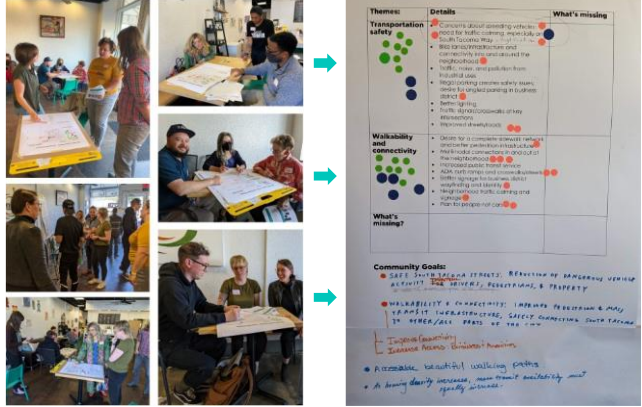
Steering Group Q&A and Feedback on the RSA

- Question: Would lane reductions and the potential future traffic modeling include consideration of the future traffic induced by the Bridge Industrial development? Could Staff elaborate on what streets will receive revisions given that people may be already traveling down other streets to avoid the existing stops and crosswalks along South Tacoma Way?
 - Answer: Though the specific methodology for this corridor is still being planned, usually the study includes a “no action” (option, as well as other future projections with different factors. It is likely that future alternatives would consider traffic from the new Bridge Industrial Project.
- Question: How would we fill the space created by removing a lane each direction?
 - Answer: It could be new street furniture, pedestrian space, bike lanes and/or multi-use trails, back-in angled parking (if the space allows), and other options that arise from the Neighborhood Plan. Also, when removing a lane each direction, the remaining existing lane would be widened slightly (given the lanes are currently narrow) to improve emergency vehicle mobility.
- Question: Could turn-lanes be maintained?
 - Answer: At this time, it could be safe to assume that left-turn-lanes could remain for safety reasons.
- Question: Could the improvements be extended to South 60th Street? How will these traffic revisions be integrated with the Sound Transit modifications?
 - Answer: There are Sound Transit improvements coming in on South 60th Street and it is possible the revisions could extend despite current plans to only go to South 58th Street. Overall, Tacoma Fire and Sound Transit supported the idea of reducing lanes within the Business District for pedestrian safety, but had some concerns about response times if lane reductions were implemented on the whole corridor. This is an issue still in discussion.
- Question: Will the fact that South Tacoma Way is a designated freight corridor or still a State roadway pose a barrier to these traffic improvements?
 - Answer: The Tacoma Transportation Plan is in the works currently, which could make updates to freight routes. However, the freight needs to go somewhere, and this is a multi-jurisdictional issue. The City will also have to go through the State for some of the changes, which does add some complexity.

| | |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: What is the impact of angled parking versus parallel parking on safety? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer: It can depend on the context. Along South Tacoma Way, angled parking would require taking a lane away which would increase safety because of speed reductions on average. Parallel parking can also be safer in some contexts. • Question: If we reduce a lane in each direction, does that mean we can add a bike lane each direction? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer: Right now, this area of South Tacoma Way isn't visioned in our Transportation Plan to have bike lanes, instead, it goes to South Washington Street. That does not mean, however, that it is off the board. Businesses are sensitive to removing parking, so it could be a parking-protected bike lane. If the community is interested in removing a lane, the next logical question for the community will be "What do we want to fill that space with, then?" • Question: What will the traffic camera monitor? How long will the study run? Will people be notified that there is a camera present? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer: At this time, it is planned that the camera will only be at the intersection for 3-4 days with a maximum of a 1-2 weeks. This is still in the contracting process. The camera doesn't capture images, license plates, or faces/identities, it is just capturing movements. Signage is not usually paired with the cameras because the study does not want people to change their behaviors, instead, the objective is to just capture existing driving behavior to inform future traffic improvements. <p>Steering Group members requested access to KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) data for both South Tacoma Way and South Puget Sound Avenue.</p> |
| | |
| <p>Program Updates/ Housekeeping</p> | <p>In this section, Staff briefly reviewed the values that were established by the Steering Group two meetings ago and then introduced the goal language that resulted from the goal visioning workshop at the last in-person meeting. Staff asked Steering Group members if they had further input on the goal language, provided an update on community engagement since the last meetings, and discussed the subject matter expert (SME) guest speaking schedule.</p> |

Final Goal Language

May 30th Meeting Recap



NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN GOALS

- 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.
- HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT:** Create a sustainable, healthy, resilient, thriving community with clean air and water and a healthy tree canopy.
- ACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER:** Further activate the neighborhood center and strengthen community capacity to support daily needs, new amenities and businesses, and diverse community events for all ages to bring South Tacoma together.
- 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.
- INVITING, ACCESSIBLE, BEAUTIFUL:** Enhance and showcase South Tacoma to create an inviting, safe, accessible, beautiful neighborhood for all to enjoy.
- CELEBRATE 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.
- 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.

Staff asked if the Steering Group would like to provide further input on the goal language and noted that the goals had been emailed before the meeting and could be shared again later.

One Steering Group member noted that improving tree canopy could help address many of the goals listed.

Another Steering Group member noted the success of diverse food trucks in parking lots in Portland, OR. This was proposed as a quick way of providing diverse and affordable amenities to visitors in South Tacoma to reduce barriers for entrepreneurship.

These comments prompted staff to mention the possibility of adding goal language that mentions access to economic opportunity for diverse businesses and lowering barriers to run businesses.

Staff noted that many of these mentions could also be great actions that could be elaborated on the interactive map and incorporated later in the Neighborhood Plan.

Engagement Update

Staff summarized community engagement that has occurred since the last Steering Group meeting, such as One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan Visioning Workshops at Mt. Tahoma and Wapato Park, as well as Walk and Roll to School Day at Manitou Park Elementary. Summaries for those events will be coming soon and available on the [South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan webpage](#).

Staff mentioned that there is an ongoing engagement program that just launched for the [Cushman and Adams Substations Future Use Study](#), and though it is in the North End, the City wants people from all corners to provide feedback because the location can be a regional destination. Additionally, the [Metro Parks Tacoma Board will soon be holding a public hearing](#) to announce the proposed relocation of Fire Station 7 to the South End Recreation Center (SERA) campus.

| <p>Subject Matter Expert Discussion Schedule</p> | <p>Finally, staff went over the upcoming schedule lasting through the summer describing the SMEs that would be attending future meetings at the request of specific topics by the Steering Group.</p> <div style="background-color: #00a68a; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">STEERING GROUP SCHEDULE - DRAFT</div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #00a68a; color: white;"> <th style="text-align: left;">Month</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Steering Group Meeting</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Public Event / Engagement</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">February</td> <td></td> <td>Virtual Plan-A-Thon Kick-Off Event, February 29</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">March</td> <td>Introductions, Goals, and Steering Group Role Neighborhood Planning Team</td> <td>Spotlight South Tacoma: What's Happening; What's Coming in South Tacoma, March 21st</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">April</td> <td>Framework Discussion: Group Values & Equity</td> <td>Walking Tour, April 13th</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">May</td> <td>In-Person Priorities Workshop</td> <td>Road Safety Audit</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">June</td> <td>Engagement Discussion SME: Road Safety Audit</td> <td>One Tacoma Workshops: June 10th and 15th</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">July</td> <td>SME: Historic Property Survey</td> <td>Historic Survey Walking Tour TBD Launch goals and ideas survey and online map</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">August</td> <td>SME: Comprehensive Plan, Groundwater Protection District Landscaping Code, HIA (TBD)</td> <td>Summer: Actions Engagement In-person event - TBD</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">September</td> <td>SME (TBD) – or Draft Actions Workshop (date TBD)</td> <td>TBD</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">Fall</td> <td>Draft Actions</td> <td>Fall: Draft Actions Engagement</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">Winter</td> <td>Draft Plan</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">Spring 2025</td> <td>Implementation</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Month | Steering Group Meeting | Public Event / Engagement | February | | Virtual Plan-A-Thon Kick-Off Event, February 29 | March | Introductions, Goals, and Steering Group Role Neighborhood Planning Team | Spotlight South Tacoma: What's Happening; What's Coming in South Tacoma, March 21st | April | Framework Discussion: Group Values & Equity | Walking Tour, April 13th | May | In-Person Priorities Workshop | Road Safety Audit | June | Engagement Discussion SME: Road Safety Audit | One Tacoma Workshops: June 10th and 15th | July | SME: Historic Property Survey | Historic Survey Walking Tour TBD Launch goals and ideas survey and online map | August | SME: Comprehensive Plan, Groundwater Protection District Landscaping Code, HIA (TBD) | Summer: Actions Engagement In-person event - TBD | September | SME (TBD) – or Draft Actions Workshop (date TBD) | TBD | Fall | Draft Actions | Fall: Draft Actions Engagement | Winter | Draft Plan | | Spring 2025 | Implementation | |
|--|---|---|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--|---|--------------|--|---|--------------|---|--------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|---|--|-------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------|--|---|------------------|--|-----|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|--|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Month | Steering Group Meeting | Public Event / Engagement | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| February | | Virtual Plan-A-Thon Kick-Off Event, February 29 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| March | Introductions, Goals, and Steering Group Role Neighborhood Planning Team | Spotlight South Tacoma: What's Happening; What's Coming in South Tacoma, March 21st | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| April | Framework Discussion: Group Values & Equity | Walking Tour, April 13th | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| May | In-Person Priorities Workshop | Road Safety Audit | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| June | Engagement Discussion SME: Road Safety Audit | One Tacoma Workshops: June 10th and 15th | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| July | SME: Historic Property Survey | Historic Survey Walking Tour TBD Launch goals and ideas survey and online map | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| August | SME: Comprehensive Plan, Groundwater Protection District Landscaping Code, HIA (TBD) | Summer: Actions Engagement In-person event - TBD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| September | SME (TBD) – or Draft Actions Workshop (date TBD) | TBD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fall | Draft Actions | Fall: Draft Actions Engagement | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Winter | Draft Plan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spring 2025 | Implementation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <p>Next Steps</p> | <p>Ending the meeting, Staff went over the next steps for summer engagement and upcoming dates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summer Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff will launch the interactive map and survey the week of July 8. Steering Group members can help promote engagement! ○ Staff and the Party Planning Committee will continue planning for the August event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff will investigate the possibility of a Sound Mural/Visual recording artist ○ Staff will reach out to Metro Parks about attending the August 23 summer bash and tabling at Haunted Farmers’ Market ● Upcoming dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Party Planning Committee: Week of July 8; staff will send Doodle poll to confirm ○ Historic Property Survey Walking Tour: Thursday, July 18 at 5 PM (location TBD) ○ Next Meeting: Thursday, July 25 (virtual), 5:30 PM ● Other tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff will reach out to other SMEs to present, including Pierce Transit ○ Staff can provide KSI data for South Tacoma Way and South Puget Sound Avenue. This information is also posted online at the Vision Zero Dashboard ○ Staff will launch a Doodle Poll to be completed by the Steering Group by the end of Tuesday (July 2) to try and find a time that more members can attend the Part Planning Committee ○ Staff will send out information about the historic preservation team's neighborhood walk scheduled for July 18th at 5 PM. |
|--------------------------|--|

DRAFT Calendar 2024

| Month | Steering Group Meeting | Public Event |
|--------------------|--|---|
| February | | Virtual Plan-A-Thon Kick-Off Event, February 29 |
| March | Introductions, Goals, and Steering Group Role <i>Neighborhood Planning Team</i> | Spotlight South Tacoma: What's Happening; What's Coming in South Tacoma, March 21 |
| April | Framework Discussion: Group Values & Equity | Walking Tour, April 13 |
| May | In-Person Priorities Workshop | None |
| June | Summer Engagement Discussion Transportation Safety: <i>Road Safety Audit; Vision Zero</i> | One Tacoma Workshops: June 10 and 15 |
| July | History and Identity: <i>Historic Property Survey – TBD</i> | Summer: Priorities Engagement Historic Survey Walking Tour – TBD Launch survey and online map |
| August | Planning and Environment: <i>Comprehensive Plan – TBD; South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District/Health Impact – TBD</i> | Summer: Priorities Engagement In-person event – TBD |
| September | Community Safety Team TBD | TBD |
| Fall | Draft Actions; Implementation Discussions | Fall: Draft Actions Engagement |
| Winter | Draft Plan | |
| Spring 2025 | Implementation | |