

South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan Steering Group – Meeting #8: Priorities Workshop

When: October 24, 2024, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Where: Bluebeard Coffee Roasters STW, 5428 South Tacoma Way

WORKSHOP AGENDA

AGENDA

- **Dinner and Mingle**
 - Engagement/Plan Summaries
 - Values/Goals Recap
- **Group Activity:** Workshop Draft Actions/Booster Grant Selection
- **Activity Debrief:** Finalize Actions
- **Wrap Up & Next Steps – All**
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 - Booster Grant Voting Outreach
 - Fall Event/Holiday Drive



WORKSHOP SUMMARY

The Neighborhood Planning team welcomed the group and provided updates since the last meeting. This included sharing a summary of community feedback that the team received as part of several pop-up events over the summer. The group also discussed upcoming steps for engaging the community in the booster grant selection process.

Staff from Makers Architects led the workshop, presenting six display boards that highlighted the goals and draft Plan actions identified through extensive engagement with South Tacoma community members and the South Tacoma Steering Group. Additionally, the workshop covered potential project ideas for the \$50,000 community booster grant funding.

Community goals and actions are organized into the following 5 categories/display boards (see page 4):

- Safe Streets
- Walkability and Connectivity
- Healthy, Sustainable Environment
- Active Neighborhood Center
- Affordable Community

Participants received colored dots to mark their priorities: **5 yellow dots** for actions needing further discussion, **9 red dots** for their top priorities, green dots for their top booster projects, **2 stars** for absolute top priorities, and **5 green dots** for their top booster projects.

The group reconvened and discussed their questions and responses to the boards. In the photos below (see page 4), actions circled represent those voted as key priorities by members.

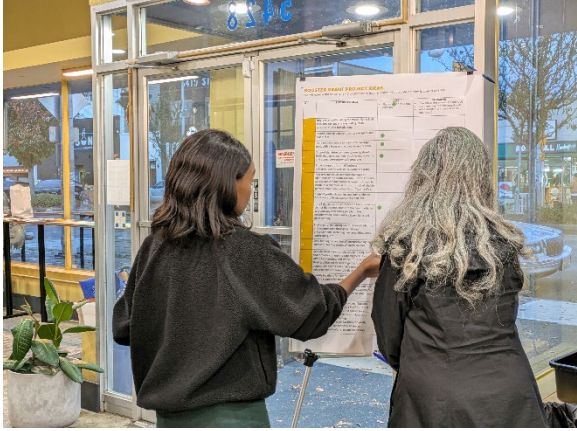
The group also discussed proposed edits to the South Tacoma Actions, including:

- Connecting Sounder Station to bus services and regional transit, including towards the south/Olympia.
- Expanding focus of proposed Business Improvement Area to areas outside the existing businesses district to encourage a more diverse range of businesses.
- Discussion about how to prioritize mixed-use development around the Sounder Station, and the meaning of the proposed study for the Mixed-Use Center boundary expansion.
- Fostering small business entrepreneurship by connecting existing local businesses to resources. This includes supporting youth and family friendly, BIPOC led businesses and aligning with South Tacoma's manufacturing efforts. Additionally, reducing permitting barriers for small-scale good vendors, such as food trucks. The group was more divided on incubator programs for micro-retail for new businesses.
- Clarifying what is meant by "Supporting equitable, context-sensitive development in the Mixed-Use Center" to reference specific actions, such as community benefits like affordable housing and commercial space, as well as public open spaces, including outdoor gathering spaces and activated alleys.
- Adding welcome signage to multiple locations, including at entry points to the business district and broader neighborhood.

As a next step, staff will update and finalize the draft actions, to be shared with subject-matter experts and the broader community.





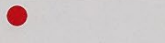
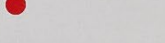
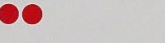
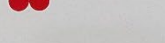
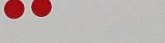
The group also walked through the votes on the five booster grant project ideas. The group decided to combine some winning options, and the 5 that were identified as top community priorities are:

- Enhancing business district amenities (signage, trees, street furnishings)
- Organizing signature community events
- Offering programs and spaces for youth and seniors
- Adding interpretive signage and art
- Depaving spaces and adding trees (two winning booster options were combined)



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. *[Discuss goal language]*
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	DOTS	COMMENTS
INVITING, ACCESSIBLE, BEAUTIFUL	Install signage at the entrances to the business district that is emblematic of the community, act as a gateway welcoming people to the neighborhood, and assist in placemaking and placekeeping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place a ● on your top priorities Place a ○ on actions that need further discussion Place a ★ on your absolute top priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How should the action be refined? Are there any specific locations? What additional information do you need about this action?
	Find ways of enhancing South Tacoma's identity and maintenance through public realm enhancements, including new amenities, trees, landscaping, etc.		<p>Booster Grant Idea <i>Bill Hester street names along 56th</i> <i>design of neighborhood boundaries (at least four) such as "Welcome to Historic South Tacoma"</i></p> <p>Booster Grant Idea</p>
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.		Booster Grant Idea
	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.		Booster Grant Idea
	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.		
SENSE OF COMMUNITY & GATHERING	Identify locations for community gardens and provide support for startup efforts.		Booster Grant Idea
	Work with property owners to identify and turn a vacant lot along South Tacoma Way within the Business District into small gathering spaces.		Booster Grant Idea
	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 		Booster Grant Idea
	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 		<i>It would be interesting to get park report - the results would be very different.</i>
	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.		<i>No immediate plan, but possibly in future.</i>

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	DOTS	COMMENTS	
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place a ● on your top priorities Place a ○ on actions that need further discussion Place a ★ on your absolute top priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How should the action be refined? Are there any specific locations? What additional information do you need about this action? 	
	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. 		Free Wifi; Connectivity in some bus stop for equity and inclusion for homeless neighborhood and family experiencing poverty	
	Advocate for improved Sounder Train service and support for implementing planned multimodal Station access projects.		Connection to olympic area by train Connection to Tacoma Dome Transit station	
	Improve amenities along the Water Flume Trail, including signage and wayfinding, trash receptacles, and tree planting.		Booster Grant Idea	
Implement bicycle facilities as recommended in other policy documents, including the Transportation and Mobility Plan, Vision Zero, and Safe Routes to School Plan.		Bike lanes		

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	DOTS	COMMENTS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place a ● on your top priorities Place a ● on actions that need further discussion Place a ★ on your absolute top priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How should the action be refined? Are there any specific locations? What additional information do you need about this action?
AFFORDABLE COMMUNITY	Ensure new housing is attainable for diverse incomes and needs, including families, multi-generational, and seniors (e.g., mandatory affordability in new buildings; identify opportunity sites for affordable housing).	● ● ●	
	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.	● ●	

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	DOTS	COMMENTS
ACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER (Community Priority)	Work with the business district on the creation of a Business Improvement Area (BIA) to support maintenance, security, lighting, beautification community events, and business incubators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place a red dot on your top priorities Place a yellow dot on actions that need further discussion Place a star on your absolute top priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How should the action be refined? Are there any specific locations? What additional information do you need about this action? <p><i>Important because:</i> - includes many diverse improvements - property owners self tax - matching grants / other funding pots Boundaries? - include STW as far south as City boundary</p>
	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.		Booster Grant Idea
	Improve amenities on South Tacoma Way and in the business district, including benches and trash cans.		
	Provide support for small business entrepreneurs/create an incubator program.		Booster Grant Idea - resolve permitting challenges - food truck park - some pursue already physical space - just support businesses already there Booster Grant Idea - related - MIC grant from Commerce, light metrics/makers
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.		Booster Grant Idea - resolve permitting challenges - food truck park - some pursue already physical space - just support businesses already there Booster Grant Idea - related - MIC grant from Commerce, light metrics/makers
	Study an expansion of the boundaries of the South Tacoma Mixed-Use Center to include the Sounder Station to improve transit-oriented development and transit-oriented manufacturing.		- Want to understand more
	Support equitable, context-sensitive development in the Mixed-Use Center.		- Requirements/incentives for community benefits
	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.		Booster Grant Idea
	incentive program for creative industries and small-scale manufacturing; local training/hire pilot program; Employee local shopping incentive program; industrial decarbonization and climate adaptive strategies.		

HEALTHY 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. [New language added]

GOAL	ACTION	DOTS	COMMENTS
HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT (Community Priority)	Identify sites to repave to add green space and plant trees (including along South Tacoma Way).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place a ● on your top priorities Place a ○ on actions that need further discussion Place a ★ on your absolute top priorities 	Booster Grant Idea
	Update the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District codes to protect long-term water quality.		<i>This is already happening / underway. Keep to show support</i>
	Increase tree canopy to reach 30% coverage goal, with a focus on the lowest-canopy areas, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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% canopy coverage 		Booster Grant Idea
	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 		<i>Related to TPU program</i>
	Support healthcare, programming and public health facilities and access to care, including coordination for pharmacy and urgent care clinic.		<i>like what?</i>