



South Tacoma Neighborhood Planning Steering Group – Meeting #7

Thursday, September 26, 2024
5:30 – 7 PM, via Zoom

ATTENDEES PRESENT

Council Member Jamika Scott - District 3
Council Member Joe Bushnell - District 5

Alicia Klein
Austin Miller
Connor
Felicity Devlin
Heidi Stephens
iLeana Areiza
Kat Raz
Maricres Castro
Melodie Knight
Mercy Macharia
Michele Jones
Zenneth Rhee

STAFF & GUEST SPEAKERS PRESENT

Alejandra Villeda - Neighborhood Planning
Anneka Olson - Neighborhood Planning
Anna Peterson - Pierce Transit
Darin Stavish - Pierce Transit
Lauren Hoogkamer - Neighborhood Planning
Leander Swan - Neighborhood Planning
Nathan Crain - Environmental Policy and Ecology

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTES
Welcome and Icebreaker	Lauren Hoogkamer introduced the guest speakers, Nathan Crain, from the Office of Environmental Policy and Ecology, as well as Anna Peterson and Darin Stavish from Pierce Transit.
Program Updates/ Housekeeping	Lauren shared an online feedback form for Steering Group members to provide input on how they felt the meetings and planning process were going so far and to share any questions they may have about the broader process. She noted that no one has shared feedback up until now
Department of Ecology Grant Opportunity	<p>Lauren presented the Plan goal language established by the Steering Group back in May and June, which connects to a new Department of Ecology grant opportunity through subjects such as air quality, walkability, safe streets, and more. Following this, Nathan introduced the grant opportunity.</p> <p>South Tacoma is eligible for the \$700,000 grant because the neighborhood is recognized by the Washington Department of Ecology as being overburdened by air quality issues. Staff put forward two project ideas that aligned with community feedback as well as the funding requirements mandated by the grant:</p>



- E-bike purchase rebates (around 500 \$1,200 rebates) and safety/learn-to-ride programs
- Replacing wood stoves w/ heat pumps (around 30)

Staff also invited the Steering Group and community to provide more feedback at sustainability@cityoftacoma.org, with more information on [the grant](#) and its [target audience](#) available online.

Steering Group members shared the following feedback and questions:

- A member asked about income qualifications for receiving the rebates for e-bikes
 - Staff responded that this aspect was still in progress but could be similar to Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) programs for HVAC equipment replacements that work on the level of 60 to 80 percent of area median income (AMI).
 - Some members also expressed interest in using the grant to incentivize and reduce barriers to bicycling
- Some members felt these actions were not bad ideas, but they are not the most impactful on air quality issues. They asked if creating policy on vehicle emissions or improving tree canopy would be more effective.
 - Staff responded that tree planting or open space preservation would only be eligible as a secondary activity allocation within the grant, as compared to a primary grant activity where the grant aims to target the sources of emissions.
- Another member had a question about whether the City uses the Washington State environmental disparity map when deciding community needs?
 - Staff responded that, yes, the City does use the WA tracking network's environmental health disparities tool as they apply for grants – many of the State Department of Ecology grants actually have this mapping tool as an element of the application.
- What are cities that are good case studies of e-bike and e-share models? This grant could start this kind of program.
 - Nathan shared that there are active transportation specialists at the City that may be able to answer the question better, but this grant could kickstart the process of incentivizing e-bike and e-share usage.

Neighborhood Planning staff also shared that several of the other requested programs (e.g., tree planting, open space preservation) will still be addressed in the Neighborhood Plan, even if they cannot be funded under this grant opportunity.

Other questions shared that were unable to be answered because of time constraints were:

- Are there speed limits for the bikes and do they come with helmets?



<p>Q&A with Pierce Transit</p>	<p>Lauren presented Plan goal language relevant to Pierce Transit.</p> <p>Steering group members filtered into three breakout rooms where they brainstormed and discussed questions they may have for the Pierce Transit speakers with the Plan goal language and previous community input in mind. Then, participants returned to the larger group for Q&A.</p>
<p>Questions and Comments from all 3 Groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the strategic planning that goes into the planning of the bus routes/stops as well as ensuring people make transfers between routes and systems? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Darin and Anna shared that, while they are not the staff that plan bus routes and would not be able to share the “math” of bus routes per se, but Pierce Transit’s bus route and stop locations are based on stringent policies and codes based on how buses can safely interact with other traffic or fit in spaces alongside the road. • Are there impacts of Home in Tacoma to routes/transit infrastructure? Will there be better connections to the airport or downtown? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Darin and Anna acknowledged that Pierce Transit coordinates with the City on initiatives like Home in Tacoma, finding spots that are likely to see development and may need additional service. • What is the line between the responsibility of Pierce Transit versus the City when it comes to roads, sidewalks, buses? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Darin shared that Pierce Transit is only responsible for the bus pad and/or shelter, not for the sidewalk or road, though it does coordinate with the City for lane allocations and other future improvements. • How does Pierce Transit decide what types of amenities to put at which bus stops (i.e., trash cans, shelters, etc.)? Are there challenges for this in South Tacoma? Some members had seen heated seats at bus stations in other countries, could South Tacoma bus shelters have heated seats? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anna shared that, for amenities in at bus stops in general, Pierce Transit is currently working on updating the criteria. However, criteria are generally based on boardings per day at each stop. For example, it could be five boardings a day to warrant a trash can at a bus stop. Changes to these criteria take a long time to implement due to the funding challenges and large number of stops around the County. ○ Anna also shared that new shelters are in the process being installed and feature smaller windows to improve vandalism resistance as well as solar panels to power in-shelter lighting. • How do shelters protect riders from the elements? Can they protect from splashes from cars on the road?



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anna said that shelters are placed primarily to protect riders from primarily the region’s prevailing winds, so this mean that the orientations of the bus stop shelter may differ at each location. ● How is Pierce Transit integrating with Sound Transit in South Tacoma? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Darin has worked on the Sounder station access improvements for people biking, walking, and rolling, finding the best way to integrate the rail and bus systems. Generally, Pierce Transit regularly coordinates with Sound Transit, the City of Tacoma, and other transit organizations. ● Could Pierce Transit amenities that promote walkability like picnic tables and spaces people want to gather in? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ While Pierce Transit and transit more broadly benefits from walkability, Pierce Transit mainly has direct control of the bus station and pad itself and not the surrounding area. Those are City-provided amenities. ○ Anneka mentioned that adding picnic tables or other elements that improve walkability and/or enjoyability near bus stops is something that the Neighborhood Planning team is actively looking into as it is feedback that has already came through the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan process. ● Can we add tribal art to the bus stops? Can we add Wi-Fi to bus stops? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Darin noted that Pierce Transit would be willing to coordinate with the Tribe on art at bus stops. Darin also mentioned that do to funding constraints and the risk of vandalism at bus stops, adding Wi-Fi to bus stops would be unlikely. <p>Questions and/or comments that were unable to be answered in the time frame and could be saved for other Subject Matter Experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall feedback and questions: preference for bus travel, although existing bus routes are slow; desire to get to other neighborhoods more quickly ● Will transit traffic add to increased Bridge Industrial traffic? ● Can Pierce Transit and buses contribute to traffic calming? ● Can Pierce Transit work with Metro Parks to make parks more walkable? ● How does Pierce Transit work on the safety and comfort of riders, especially youth and elders? ● What are the primary power sources for Pierce Transit’s fleet (diesel, natural gas, hybrid, electric, etc.?) How does that play in to Pierce Transit’s long range planning? ● Does Pierce Transit play a role in protecting trees in areas that are projected to have high population growth in the future?
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<p>Engagement Updates</p>	<p>Anneka provided updates on online engagement through the Project Ideas Survey and Interactive Map, as well as in-person engagements such as focus groups, interactive ways people can provide feedback at upcoming engagement events, and tabling at existing community events. Steering group members are encouraged to volunteer at the upcoming Hive Co. Pop-up event from 10 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, September 28.</p> <p>Members of APCC that were present at this Steering Group meeting mentioned they had met with Metro Parks and were discussing the possibilities of vegetation at Metro Park’s parks assisting with quieting noise pollution around South Tacoma Way. Staff shared how the APCC can continue to coordinate with the team on these potential actions.</p>
<p>Draft Project Actions and Potential Booster Projects</p>	<p>Lauren introduced how past Neighborhood Plans incorporated booster grants for boosting what the community engagement process has shown to be the top values and priorities for the steering group to convert into a participatory budgeting vote. The community then votes, deciding what project(s) to fund with \$50,000. After sharing past example Booster projects, Lauren shared the some draft Booster Project ideas created based off of community engagement so far. Staff noted that the Booster Projects would be further discussed in the next in-person Steering Group meeting.</p>
<p>Wrap Up & Next Steps</p>	<p>The meeting concluded by noting that the Project Ideas Survey and Interactive Map would be closing Monday, September 30, and that Steering Group members are encouraged to volunteer for the Hive Co. Pop-Up event on Saturday, September 28. Youth and language access focus groups are also still ongoing.</p> <p>Other Upcoming dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Meeting: October: Actions Workshop (in person) • Cancel November meeting? • Potential Fall Event/Holiday Drive: Santa Parade?

DRAFT Calendar 2024/2025

MONTH	STEERING GROUP MEETING	PUBLIC EVENT
<p>February</p>		<p>Virtual Plan-A-Thon Kick-Off Event, February 29</p>
<p>March</p>	<p>Introductions, Goals, and Steering Group Role <i>Neighborhood Planning Team</i></p>	<p>Spotlight South Tacoma: What’s Happening; What’s Coming in South Tacoma, March 21</p>
<p>April</p>	<p>Framework Discussion: Group Values & Equity</p>	<p>Walking Tour, April 13</p>



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; Urban Design</i>	Summer: Priorities Engagement Historic Survey Walking Tour, July 18th Launch survey and online map
August	Planning and Environment: <i>Comprehensive Plan; South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District/Health Impact</i>	Summer: Priorities Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summer Bash at the STAR Center – Friday, August 23 with setup at 5 PM ○ Haunted Farmers’ Market and Fernseed Pop-Up – Saturday, August 31 from 10 AM to 2 PM
September	Pierce Transit Discussion Booster Grant Intro Community Celebration Event Planning	Summer: Priorities Engagement Slavic Focus Group, Sept19 Spanish Businesses Outreach Hive Co Pop-Up, Sept 28 Edison Elementary Open House Sept 25 Ludwig Focus Group, Sept 25
October	Actions Workshop (in person) Participatory Budgeting Booster Voting Move November Meeting	Manitou Elementary Open House, Oct 11th Gray Middle School TBD Mt. Tahoma HS TBD City of Destiny Festival, Oct 27
November	Draft Actions Implementation	Booster Voting
December	Cancelled	Community Celebration Event (TBD)
Winter	Implementation Discussions <i>Housing Office; Business District Program; Open Space; Arts; Trees/Environmental Services;</i>	Draft Actions Engagement
January	Draft Plan Booster Project Implementation Discussion	
Spring 2025	Final Plan Implementation	