

South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan Steering Group – Meeting #3: Priorities Workshop

When: May 30, 2024, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Where: Intentions Juice Bar

WORKSHOP AGENDA

- **Dinner and Mingle** (15 mins)
- **Program Update/Housekeeping** (15 mins)
 - Engagement Recap
 - Final Values/Norms
 - Summer Engagement Plan
 - Contact Info/Social Media
- **Group Activity: Priorities Voting** (20 mins)
- **Activity Debrief** (20 mins)
- **Small Groups: Draft Goals** (40 mins)
- **Wrap Up & Next Steps** (25 mins)
 - Final Priorities and Goal Language
 - Subject Matter Expert – Schedule Discussion
 - Summer Events



WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Neighborhood Planning staff welcomed the group and provided updates since the last meeting, including sharing summaries of past feedback that has been received, including community events and survey summaries. The group also discussed the next steps for engaging the community around priorities.

Staff from Makers Architects introduced the workshop activity and goals. Steering Group members were invited to review five display boards that showed a summary list of detailed feedback that's been received, organized by the following themes:

- Transportation safety; Walkability and connectivity
- Support for business district; Resources and amenities
- Housing; Economic development/jobs
- Environment; Development
- Sense of community and identity; Space for gathering; Personal safety and public health

Participants received 5 dots to put on top themes; 5 dots to put on key details; and one dot to put on the top priority. The group then reviewed all of the boards as a large group, walking through specific themes and identifying the top ones.

Then, the group broke into small groups and used the priority voting activity to begin drafting goal language. The groups rotated multiple times to review and add edits on top of the goal language that previous groups had drafted.

The group presented the final display boards (see below), and agreed that Neighborhood Planning staff would review and finalize the priorities and review any significant changes at the next meeting.

The group also discussed next steps, including:



- Forming a committee that will plan an event later this summer/early fall to collect ideas for possible actions aligned with priorities
- Staff will reach out to subject-matter experts at the City of Tacoma to invite them to future Steering Group meetings. Topics include: Vision Zero/road safety audit, historic preservation/historic survey summary, Comprehensive Plan/South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District code updates; green spaces/gathering spaces; homelessness/housing; community safety

REVISED DRAFT 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.



What We've Been Hearing – Community Priorities

Themes:	Details:	What's missing
Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about local air and water quality, as well as potential environmental impacts of new industrial development Limiting impacts of new industrial Tree canopy Protecting natural resources/wildlife 	<p><i>all industry</i></p>
Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about potential impacts of new development, such as loss of affordability Type of development allowed/encouraged in South Tacoma Location of density Mixed-Use Center boundaries adjusted to support Sound Transit investments and housing near transit 	
What's missing?		

CREATE A SUSTAINABLE, HEALTHY, THRIVING COMMUNITY WITH ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.

Community Goals: SUSTAINABLE | ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL HEALTHY | THRIVING

Limit impacts of industrial development while encouraging green industry. (Acknowledge local industrial history)




Prioritize ~~City of Tacoma~~ ^{South Tacoma Neighborhood Council's} Green Economy plan in S. Tacoma specifically. _(Economic Green Zone)

Increase tree canopy by 100% ^{or more;} _{from less than 9% tree canopy to city's goal of 30%}

Fund low impact development (like rain water runoff solutions).

Limit gentrification. Improve air + water quality by increasing canopy cover.

What We've Been Hearing – Community Priorities

Themes:	Details:	What's missing
Sense of community and identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendly/welcoming community Reconciliation/healing Celebrating diversity South Tacoma's rich and diverse history Celebrate industrial/rail history Sense of place Information sharing/collaboration Art 	<p><i>Workability Signs → Water (Green Trail) → Access Dlx → Interactive historical signs throughout neighborhood</i></p> <p><i>Historic Signs for Old Pianos</i></p>
Space for gathering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More access to indoor and outdoor community space More parks/green spaces/gardens Spaces for reflection/healing Coworking space Community events Public seating 	
Personal safety and public health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean streets/trash Vandalism/enforcement Crime and impacts on local businesses Security Support for people in crisis Support for the unhoused Resources for health service 	
What's missing?		

Community Goals:

Sense of Community & Identity to gather in a healthy, clean space.

Feeling safe to move around the neighborhood.

Interactive historic signs, creating a walking tour.

- Celebrate history of neighborhood

- Welcoming

- Covered spaces for year-round gathering

- Slow streets - shut down, have vendors, foot traffic

- More lights along pedestrian trail, park, sign

- Maximize resources to minimize the unhoused communities

- Public Restrooms / Secures All Populations (Resident, Visitor)

Actions



CLEAN + WELL CARED FOR

Celebrate ~~Elevate~~ Community Identity
A Healthy Space For All

Actions

Foster a safe public realm.

What We've Been Hearing - Community Priorities

Themes:	Details	What's missing
Transportation safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about speeding vehicles; need for traffic calming, especially on South Tacoma Way + Puget Sound Ave Bike lanes/infrastructure and connectivity into and around the neighborhood Traffic, noise, and pollution from industrial uses Illegal parking creates safety issues; desire for angled parking in business district Better lighting Traffic signals/crosswalks at key intersections Improved streets/roads 	
Walkability and connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desire for a complete sidewalk network and better pedestrian infrastructure Multimodal connections in and out of the neighborhood Increased public transit service ADA curb ramps and crosswalks/streets Better signage for business district wayfinding and identity Neighborhood traffic calming and signage Plan for people not cars 	
What's missing?		

Community Goals:



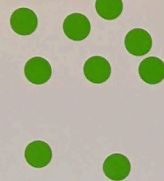

- SAFE SOUTH TACOMA STREETS: REDUCTION OF DANGEROUS VEHICLE ACTIVITY ^{IMPACTING} FOR DRIVERS, PEDESTRIANS, & PROPERTY
to make ST a desirable place to live, work, & play

- WALKABILITY & CONNECTIVITY: IMPROVED PEDESTRIAN & MASS TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFELY CONNECTING SOUTH TACOMA TO OTHER/ALL PARTS OF THE CITY

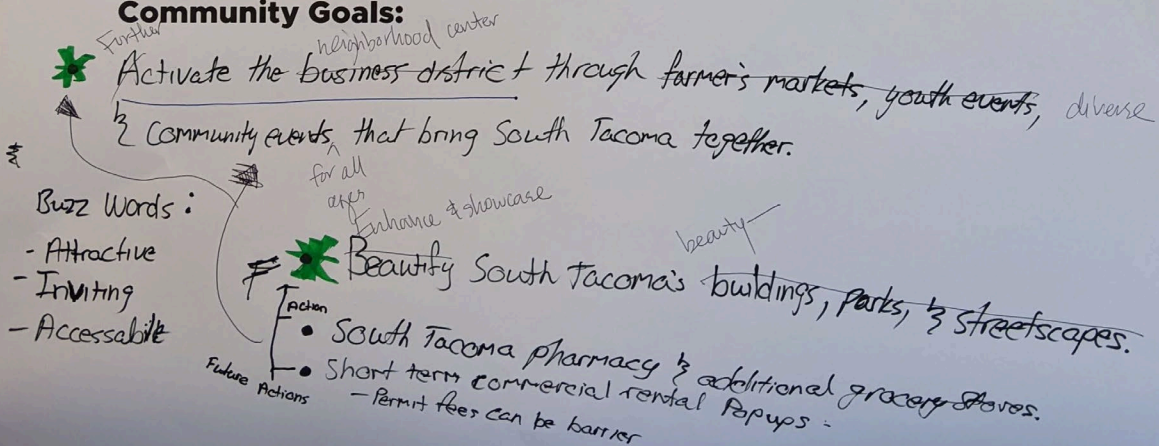
} IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY
} INCREASE ACCESS: BUSINESS? AMENITIES

- Accessible beautiful walking paths.
- As housing density increases, mass transit availability must equally increase.

What We've Been Hearing - Community Priorities


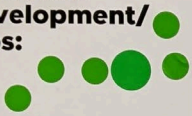
Themes:	Details	What's missing
Support for business district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More vibrancy • Support for legacy businesses • Increased business district capacity (e.g. Business Improvement Area) • Expand business district boundaries • Support for small/diverse businesses • Infill of vacant lots • Beautification 	
Resources and amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier access to essential businesses such as grocery stores or pharmacy • Farmer's Market • Free gyms • Activities for youth • Resources for disadvantaged people • Senior centers/services • Support for library services 	 <p><i>access to hygiene (public)</i></p>
What's Missing?		

Community Goals:



Addressing more specific/immediate needs will help these

What We've Been Hearing – Community Priorities

Themes:	Details:	What's missing
Housing: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-displacement measures ● • Affordability ●●● • Housing diversity ● • Support for first-time buyers • Rental support • Addressing homelessness 	
Economic development/jobs: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green economy ● • Industrial innovation to support green economic development ● • Living-wage jobs ●● • Zoning changes to address future industrial development ● • Transit-oriented development ● • Support access for education/re-training 	<p>all four of these are part of the STEGZ code amendment</p> <p>address under environment</p>
What's missing?		

Community Goals:

Ensuring affordable, diverse housing.

↳ OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
 ↳ MIXED INCOME

ZONING UPDATE: pause HITZ now that HB (state) (house bill) has been passed.

Add density without sacrificing historic buildings, and space for gardens and trees.

Impact fees for developers (so taxpayers aren't solely paying for infrastructure)

Mass transit to increase with housing density.

Socially responsible development

→ (group)