



PRESENTATION(S)

Meeting on December 4, 2024

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¿Necesitas información en español? Cần thông tin bằng tiếng Việt? 한국어로 정보가 필요하십니까? ត្រូវការព័ត៌មានជាភាសាខ្មែរ?
Нужна информация на русском? Потрібна інформація українською мовою? Contact TacomaFIRST 311 at (253) 591-5000.

A young girl with dark hair in a bun, wearing a blue dress and a bright pink backpack, is kneeling on a concrete ledge. She is smiling and painting a green wall with her hands. The wall already has several green handprints on it. The background shows a lush green hedge and a blurred city street with a rainbow flag visible in the distance.

ONE TACOMA

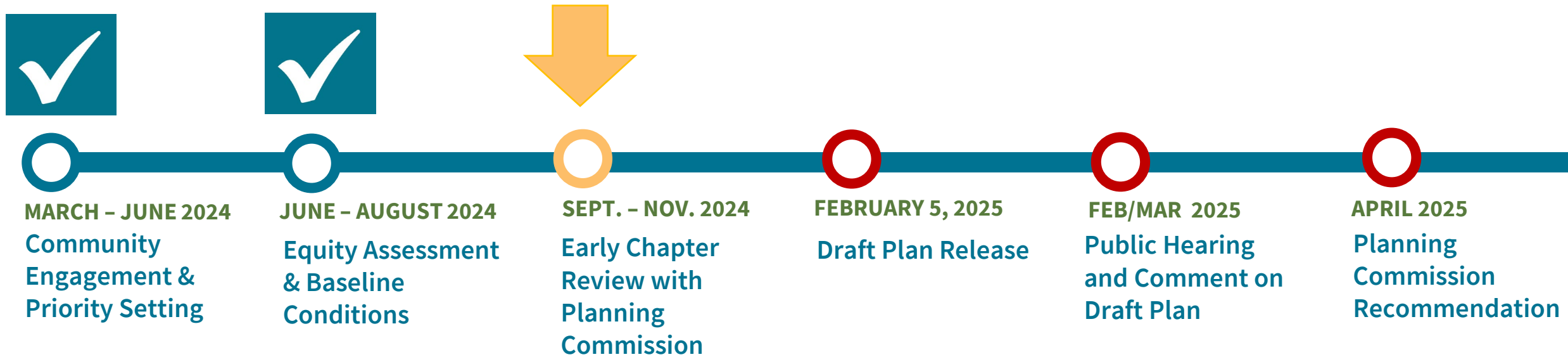
A Comprehensive Plan for a
Vibrant, Connected and Sustainable City



Agenda

1. Comprehensive Plan Timeline
2. Schedule for Commission Presentations
3. Plan Overview
4. Environment & Watershed Health Element, and Engagement & Administration Element
5. Anticipated Changes in this Update

Project Timeline



Planning Commission Briefings⁶

A series of 6 briefings from September – November will allow the project team to share key policy updates for Plan elements and hear feedback from the Commission before a draft plan is published.

1 Sept 4 – Parks and Recreation
Leads: Alyssa Torrez, Alisa O’Hanlon

2 Sept 18 – Public Facilities
Leads: Wesley Rhodes, Nick Anderson

3 Oct 2 – Urban Form, Housing
Leads: Wesley Rhodes, Stephen Atkinson, Ted Richardson

4 Oct 16 – Historic Preservation
Lead: Reuben McKnight

5 Nov 6 – Transportation, Design + Development
Leads: Carrie Wilhelme, Stephen Antupit, Carl Metz

6 Nov 20 – Economic Development + Environment + Watershed Health
Leads: Paul Bakker, Adam Nolan, Maryam Moeinian, Lakecia Farmer, Brandi Lubliner

7 Dec 4 – Environment + Watershed Health, Engagement
Leads: Maryam Moeinian, Alyssa Torrez



Environment + Watershed Health

Fulfilling GMA Goals ⁸

Comprehensive Planning

RCW 36.70A. 020

- 1) Open space and recreation
- 2) Environment
- 3) Climate change and resiliency

(Note: Climate Change Element not required for Tacoma until 2029)



Fulfilling GMA Requirements

Environment + Watershed Health

- **Groundwater Protection:** Safeguarding groundwater quality and quantity for public water supplies.
- **Environmental Justice:** Addressing environmental health disparities and promoting equity in vulnerable communities.
- **Active Transportation & Reducing Vehicle Dependency:** Planning to promote physical activity and reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- **Stormwater Management:** Managing drainage, flooding, and runoff and guidance for corrective actions to mitigate water pollution.
- **Wildfire Risk Reduction:** Using land use planning tools to mitigate wildfire risk.
- **Critical Areas Protection:** Designating and protecting Critical Areas (wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat protection areas, frequently flooded areas, critical aquifer recharge areas and geologically hazardous areas) using the best available science.



Critical Areas Protection¹⁰

RCW 36-70A-030

Critical areas include the following areas and ecosystems:

1. Wetlands
2. Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARAs)
3. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Areas
4. Frequently Flooded Areas
5. Geologically Hazardous Areas



Critical Areas Protection¹¹

WAC 365-190-080

- **No Net Loss**
 - Counties and cities must prepare development regulations that protect all functions and values of critical areas to ensure **no net loss** of ecological functions and values.
- **Best Available Science**
 - Counties and cities must use the **best available science** when designating critical areas and developing protective policies and regulations.
 - Special focus on preserving or enhancing **anadromous fisheries** and are encouraged to protect both surface water and groundwater.
- **Coordinated Regional Protection**
 - Encourage the development of regional critical areas protection programs combining interjurisdictional cooperation, public education, incentives to promote voluntary protective measures, and regulatory standards to protect critical areas.
- **Designate Critical Areas by Maps**
 - Maps raise public awareness but may not be precise for regulatory use.
 - Primary reliance should be on performance standards for land use decisions.



Current Element Overview

- Existing policies address the goal of **no net loss** of ecological functions and values. (Existing element: EN-3.1, EN-4.25)
- Existing policies guide the use of **best available science** to update city policies and regulations. (Existing element: EN-1.17, EN-1.24, EN-2.2)
- Current policies encourage **regional coordination** in public education, but we need to work on developing a regional critical areas protection program and regulatory standards.
- We currently have **critical areas maps**. (Existing element - Figures 9 through 19)

New Element Overview

- Shift language from “**no net-loss**” to “**net-gain**” in ecological functions and environmental assets. (New element: Goal EN-1, Policy EN-3.3)
- Policies to continue using the **best available science** for updating Critical Areas Preservation regulations. (EN-2.2, EN-3.7)
- New state law requires reviewing regulations and policies every 10 years (instead of every 8 years).
- New **critical areas maps** have been added to reflect updated data. (Exhibit 2 &3)



Community Feedback on Critical Areas

Top Priorities:

- Environmental Clean-up
- Stormwater Treatment & Impervious Surface
- Increased Tree Planting
- Property Acquisition for Tree and Habitat Preservation
- Groundwater Protection
- Air & Water Pollution



Climate Change Risks Tacoma Could Face

- **Extreme Precipitation:** Increasing the risk of mudslides and flooding, especially in the Green and Puyallup Rivers.
- **Water Supply Concerns:** Earlier snowmelt in the Cascades may affect Tacoma's municipal water supply.
- **Coastal Risks:** Sea level rise could lead to coastal flooding, erosion, and destabilized shoreline bluffs.
- **Increased Temperatures:** A projected 4.3 to 5.8°F rise in average temperatures by mid-century, leading to more frequent summer heat events, increased wildfire risks, higher cooling costs, and health risks for vulnerable populations, including the elderly.



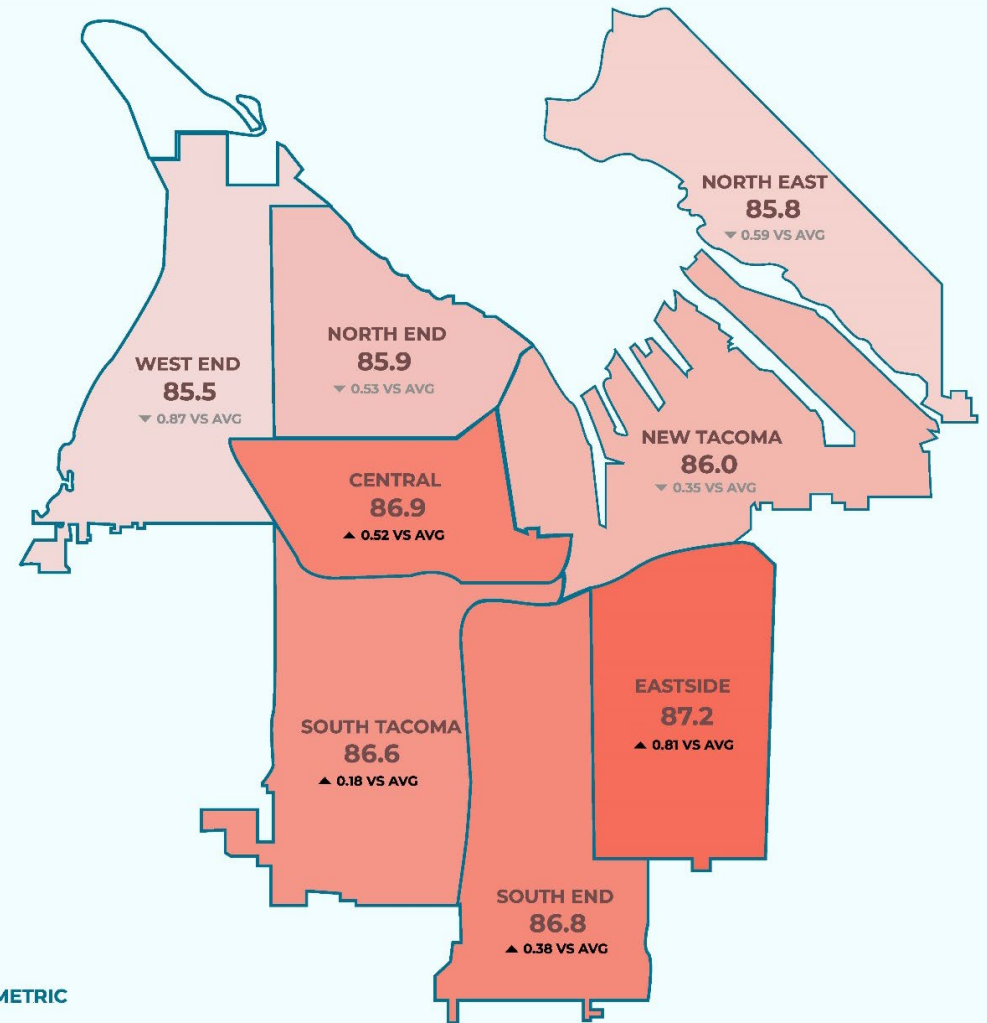
Urban Heat & Air Pollution

Policy EN-2.13 Establish monitoring system to track urban heat island and air quality across Tacoma to identify existing environmental conditions and assist with establishing reduction metrics.

Policy EN-2.15 Encourage planting shade-providing trees in neighborhoods with high exposure to urban heat island effects and air pollution.

Policy EN-2.16 Prioritize tree canopy expansion in communities most vulnerable to heat and sea level rise within the identified priority watersheds.

Policy EN-2.17 Encourage new development to incorporate cooling features such as green roofs, cool roofs, and on-site tree or vegetation expansion to reduce heat absorption and improve local air quality.

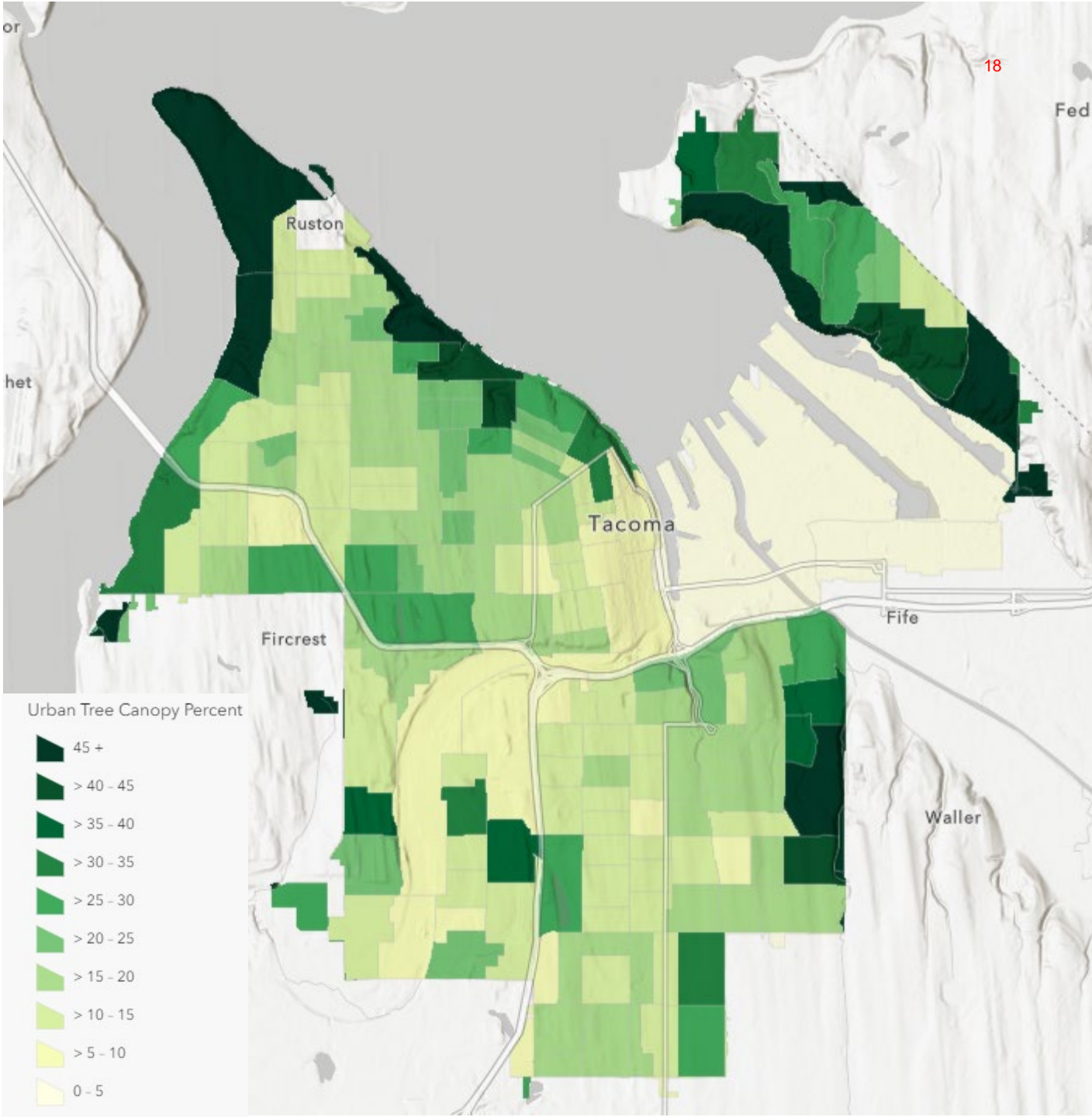


OUTCOME METRIC

Urban Heat Index



how much the built environment of a city contributes to higher temperatures in urban areas



Tree Canopy Coverage

Policy EN-5.1 Achieve a citywide tree canopy cover of **X% by 2050.**

Policy EN-5.2 Require or encourage the preservation of large healthy trees, native trees and vegetation, tree groves, and forested areas as an element of discretionary land use reviews.

Policy EN-5.4 Invest in tree planting and maintenance, especially in low canopy areas, neighborhoods with underserved or overburdened communities, and within and near Open Space Corridors.

Policy EN-5.5 Identify priority areas for tree preservation and planting in the development of subarea, neighborhood, and watershed plans, especially trees of historic merit or heritage trees.

Policy EN-5.6 Increase public education on the value of Tacoma's urban forest to better support environmental stewardship among community members.

Climate Ready Urban¹⁹ Landscape and Habitat Strategy

- Working with community partners to create a strategy that responds to the dual stressors of climate change and increased development.
- Builds on the prior efforts: **Climate Action Plan, Climate Vulnerability Assessment, Critical Areas and Climate Change Best Available Science Report.**
- Ensures more resilient and healthy natural systems.
- Achieve net-gain of ecological functions over time, focusing on enhancing natural systems within underserved communities.



Climate Ready Urban Landscape and Habitat Strategy

- **Evaluate Environmental and Watershed Health:** Assess watershed and environmental health using current and historical data.
- **Update Natural Assets & Hazards Inventory:** including critical areas, tree canopy, and stormwater infrastructure.
- **Create Detailed Watershed Profiles:** Include environmental assets and hazards, priority species presence, existing and planned land use, infrastructure and utilities, and development activities.
- **Land Acquisition Planning:** Prioritize areas for public acquisition to protect natural resources and support Priority Species.
- **Connect Habitat Corridors:** Develop a plan for conservation easements to link habitat corridors, focusing on underserved communities.
- **CAPO Update:** Update critical areas and land use codes to achieve a net-gain of ecological functions over time.
- **Develop Management Goals, Policies, and Actions:** Establish goals, policies, and actions for each watershed to guide decisions on land use, stormwater planning, urban forest, and open space management, and set near-term and long-term preservation and restoration actions.



CRULHS Alignment with Comprehensive Plan & CAPO Update ²¹

Date	Action
Jan 2025	Present best available science review for CARA (STGPD code)
Feb 2025	Draft Comprehensive Plan release
Feb- Mar 2025	Public hearing and comment period for the Comprehensive Plan update
Feb - Apr 2025	Draft CARA code- Public comment period & recommendations
Jun 2025	Climate Ready Urban Landscape and Habitat Strategy draft release CAPO draft release Comprehensive Plan adoption CARA code adoption
Dec 2025	Climate Ready Urban Landscape and Habitat Strategy adoption CAPO adoption



Questions or Comments?

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Boulder, Colorado, with a prominent snow-capped mountain peak in the background. The city is densely packed with residential and commercial buildings, interspersed with trees. A large, semi-transparent orange circle is positioned on the left side of the image, containing the text 'Engagement, Administration + Implementation' in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Engagement, Administration + Implementation

Planning Goals

RCW 36.70A. 020

11) Citizen participation and coordination. Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process, including the participation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts.

RCW 36.70A.035

Public participation requirements shall include notice procedures that are reasonably calculated to provide notice to property owners and other affected and interested individuals, tribes, government agencies, businesses, school districts, etc.

WAC 365-196-600

Procedures for early and continuous public participation in the development and amendment of comprehensive plans and development regulations. The procedures are not required to be reestablished for each set of amendments.



Planning Goals

VISION 2050

- **MPP-DP-2** Reduce disparities in access to opportunity for the region's residents through inclusive community planning and targeted public and private investments that meet the needs of current and future residents and businesses.
- **MPP-DP-8** Conduct inclusive engagement to identify and address the diverse needs of the region's residents.

Tribal Consultation

- [RCW 36.70A.040\(8\)\(a\)](#) outlines engagement with Tribes and the City's obligations to consult with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians on land use actions per the Land Claims Settlement
- Emerging structure for helping coordination with tribes and planning through initial scoping discussions and ongoing coordination and consultation.



Why This Matters

- Improve relationships with traditionally under-represented and under-served groups, including low-income communities and communities of color.
- Meaningfully consider all community members' needs and concerns.
- Create and work towards a shared vision for the future.
- Supports progress on all equity outcomes in Equity Goals Framework by ensuring community members meaningfully shape Tacoma's future.
- Consistent with the City's core values and vision
 - Council Priority - Belief and trust
- Alignment and best practices from current and ongoing engagement
 - Neighborhood planning
 - Participatory Budgeting
 - Equity in Events
 - Anti Racist Resolution 40622



Key Updates in the Engagement Element

Move toward consistent and robust city-wide engagement through staff collaboration and developing resources



Set expectations about when and how to conduct engagement using, aligning city-wide Equitable Engagement Plan and Framework

Build capacity among staff and within communities to plan together



Increased emphasis on Engagement (moves Implementation and Administration elsewhere)

Better definition of terms

Simplified language

Easy to read



Key Updates in Engagement Element

- Highlight Language Access, LGBTQ+, youth engagement, BIPOC, Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI)
- Identify policies to reduce barriers to engagement implementation
- Identify sufficient funding for engagement activities, including funding to compensate participants and community partners when appropriate
- Trauma- informed engagement, healing, reconciliation, trust/transparency
- Align existing City efforts



What's Next

- **Recap of activities**
 - **One Tacoma unified engagement Summer 2024**



Visioning Workshops

- 9 total events
- Over 300 attendees
- Over 600 comments
- Eastside most attended

Community Events

- 8 additional events
- 5 community presentations

Ideas Wall

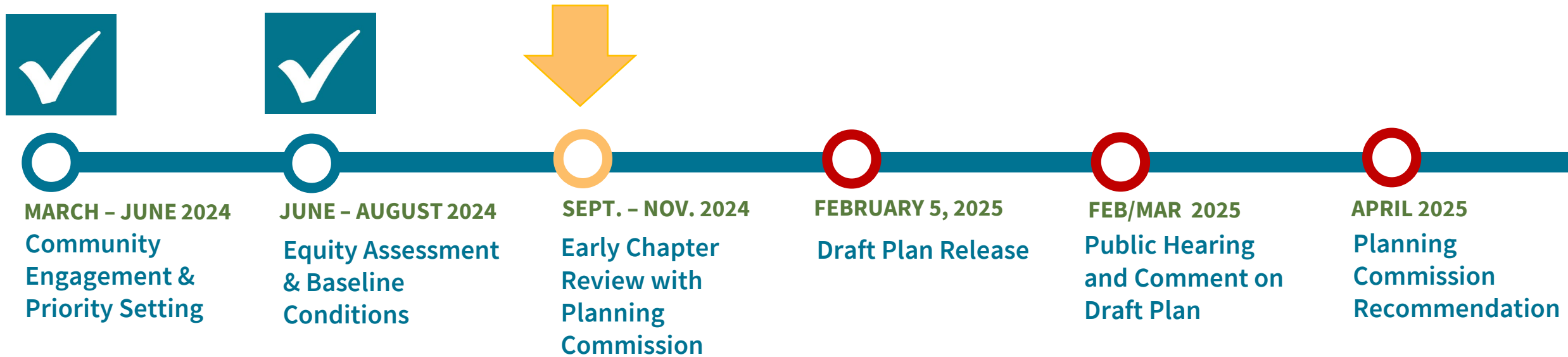
- 151 comments
- Comments by category
- Over 200 additional comments

Art

- Interactive activity with local artist
- What is your vision for Tacoma

- **Round 2 Engagement February 2025**
 - **One Tacoma Unified Engagement 2.0**
- **Public review and feedback**
 - **In person and virtual events**
 - **Cross- departmental alignment**
 - **Required notifications**

Project Timeline



Questions or Comments?



ONE TACOMA

A Comprehensive Plan for a
Vibrant, Connected and Sustainable City

THANK YOU!

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