



CITY OF TACOMA

SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION

HYBRID MEETING

DRAFT AGENDA
THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024
5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

This meeting will be held both virtually and in-person. In person location is the Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market St, room 248.

The Tacoma Municipal Building is served by Pierce Transit bus routes 1, 2, 11, 16, 45, and 57. Visit www.tripplanner.piercetransit.org to find your route. The Tacoma Municipal Building also has bike racks at the Market Street and St. Helens Ave entrances. Visit www.cityoftacoma.org/mobility for a map of Tacoma bikeways.

Webinar phone line: 253 205 0468

Webinar hyperlink: <https://zoom.us/j/96320674154?pwd=NiboW4J8HeGmXp4Jke8I0Ok4ZzqGdo.1>

Webinar ID: 963 2067 4154

Webinar passcode: 638370

Microphones will be muted and cameras turned off for all meeting participants, except for the Commissioners and staff presenters. Public comments will be accepted in meeting during the time set aside by the agenda. In addition, the Commission encourages community members to submit written comments prior to the meeting by 4:00 p.m. on July 18, 2024. Please e-mail your comments to lfarmer2@cityoftacoma.org, put in the subject line "STC Meeting 7/18/24", and clearly indicate which agenda item(s), if any, you are addressing.

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- II. APPROVE JULY 18 AGENDA AND JUNE 20 MINUTES**
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- IV. STAFF UPDATES**
- V. ONE TACOMA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE INCLUDING THE TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN- PRESENTATION**
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- VII. OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING**
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**



**City of Tacoma
Sustainable Tacoma Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Date: June 20, 2024

Commission Members Present: Matthew Benedict (in-person), Evlondo Cooper (Co-Chair), Mike Chang (in-person), John Doherty (in person), Margaret Schwertner, Laura Svancarek (in-person), Casey Twiggs (Co-Chair), Lowell Wyse (in-person)

Commission Members Excused:

Lexi Brewer, Joy Muhammed, Adam Reichenberger, Sheena Hewett

Others Present:

Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability: LaKecia Farmer, Kristi Lynett

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Casey Twiggs at 5:02 pm

Unanimous Approval of June 20, 2024 Meeting Agenda

Unanimous Approval of May 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Public Comment

Jp Kemmick gave public comment expressing his interest in learning and hearing about STC goals.

Staff Updates

- Comp Plan and Transportation Master Plan engagement
- Solid Waste positions are open and close in 2 weeks

Subcommittee Reports

LaKecia reached out to planning department to come talk to commission about permitting process, set for August.

Other Business Items

Community Tree Program

Lisa Kenny, Mike Carey, and Lowell Wyse of the Tacoma Tree Foundation presented on the Community Tree Program.

Climate Action Plan Progress Report - Letter

The commission unanimously approved the subcommittee's draft letter below:

Dear Chair Walker and IPS Committee,

On behalf of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission (STC), we would like to extend our gratitude for the recent accomplishments that have been made regarding the requests made last year concerning the Climate Action Plan (CAP). While we celebrate these achievements, we recognize that there are still critical areas requiring further action and attention. This letter aims to outline these areas and propose suggested steps to ensure continued progress towards our shared goals.

- We are pleased that funding has been secured for two critical positions: **the Climate Resilience Manager and the Landscape Architect**. These roles are essential to developing and implementing strategies to enhance our city's resilience to climate impacts and ensure sustainable urban planning.
- We are encouraged by some of the progress made in **protecting important habitat within our city**. Although not realized in 2023, the recent WA Commerce grant awarded in 2024 to develop the Climate Ready Habitat Protection and Enhancement Strategy signifies a significant step forward in this regard.
- While there has been commendable focus on **waste prevention**, particularly with the acquisition of the EPA grant for a waste prevention specialist and community ambassador, we believe there is still room for improvement, especially in addressing food waste. The implementation of the **Salvage and Deconstruction Resolution** is a positive step towards reducing waste, and we encourage further efforts in this area.

As we consider the Climate Action Plan Progress Report of 2024, we acknowledge the significant strides taken, but also wish to highlight a few areas where further investment is needed.

1. Given the increasing impacts from **heat and smoke**, we urge the City Council to commit to providing **available and accessible safe spaces for communities to gather this summer**. We acknowledge that the efforts to provide filter fans and communicate responses to the impacts of heat and smoke are ongoing.
2. We believe that **additional arborists** are necessary to effectively manage all public trees, including street trees, in Tacoma. We appreciate the recent updates to the tree Right of Way (ROW) code and the addition of a landscape architect to guide permit compliance.
3. **Transportation** emerges as a key priority as the largest emitter of climate pollution. We must address emissions through:
 1. **Freight electrification and electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure**, especially in South Tacoma, a neighborhood identified as having increasing emissions in an already polluted area
 2. **Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)** to ensure safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure for sustainable transportation options, especially for vulnerable populations in affordable housing. This is congruent with current efforts underway such as Home in Tacoma Phase II. **TOD requires active transportation staff, local transit coordination, and vital grant match dollars.**
2. Additionally, we must explore more sustainable strategies so that our **city purchases and contracts** align with our environmental and equity objectives including Tacoma's Green Economic Development Strategy.

Looking ahead, we believe it is essential for STC to have a role in making **climate considerations in the budget review process** as mentioned in the Climate Accountability and Sustainability Commission

Charter amendment proposal. We also seek clarification on the next steps for the **Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS) Director and the organizational reporting structure**, as we feel that the current climate emergency requires clear and comprehensive departmental responses and accountability.

In closing, we remain committed to working collaboratively with the City Council to achieve our shared vision of a sustainable and resilient Tacoma. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to this important cause.

Yours sincerely,

Evlondo Cooper, Co-Chair

Casey Twiggs, Co-Chair

Public Comment

JP Kemmick gave public comment on the Community Tree Program regarding the sale of city-owned property and impacts on the Climate Action Plan.

Tentative Objectives for the Next Meeting (July 18, 2024)

- Tacoma’s Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Evlondo Cooper at 6:35pm

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held hybrid on Thursday, July 18th, 2024, at 5:00pm, on zoom and at Tacoma Municipal Building, room 248.

Evlondo Cooper and Casey Twiggs, Co-Chairs

LaKecia Farmer, Staff / Note Taker

A young girl with a pink backpack is painting a green wall with handprints. She is wearing a blue dress and white gloves. The wall is covered in green handprints. The background shows a green hedge and a building with a rainbow flag.

ONE TACOMA

A Comprehensive Plan for a
Vibrant, Connected and Sustainable City



Agenda

- Planning Context
- Scope of the Update
- Progress to Date
- Next Steps and Schedule

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A Shared Vision

among city staff
and city residents for
Tacoma's future

Guides Decisions

on how to use land,
improve streets and
transportation options,
build housing, care for
public buildings and
provide services such as
parks and libraries.

Role of the City

as a civic, cultural, and
economic hub in the
region

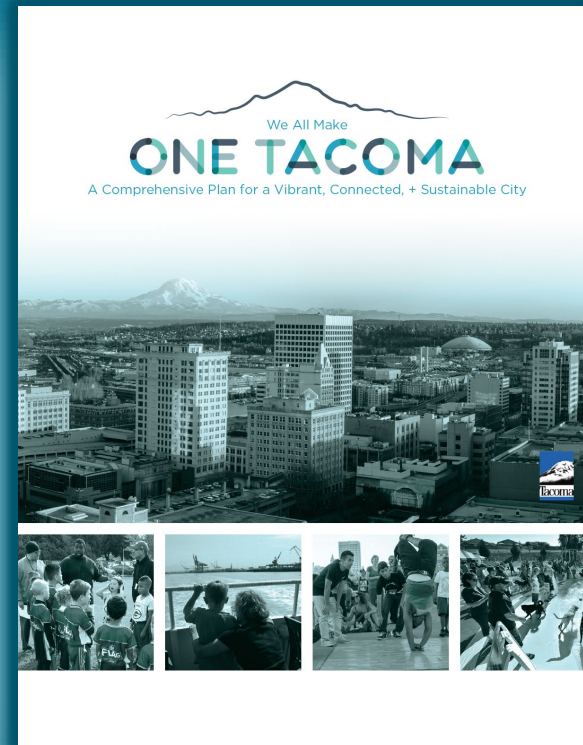
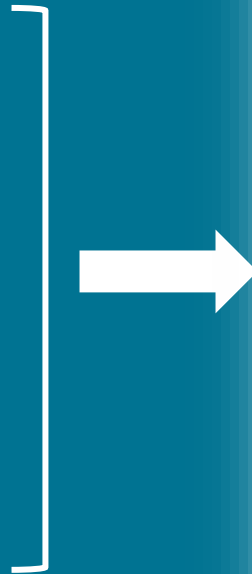
Planning Context

STATE OF WASHINGTON
Growth Management Act
Shoreline Management Act

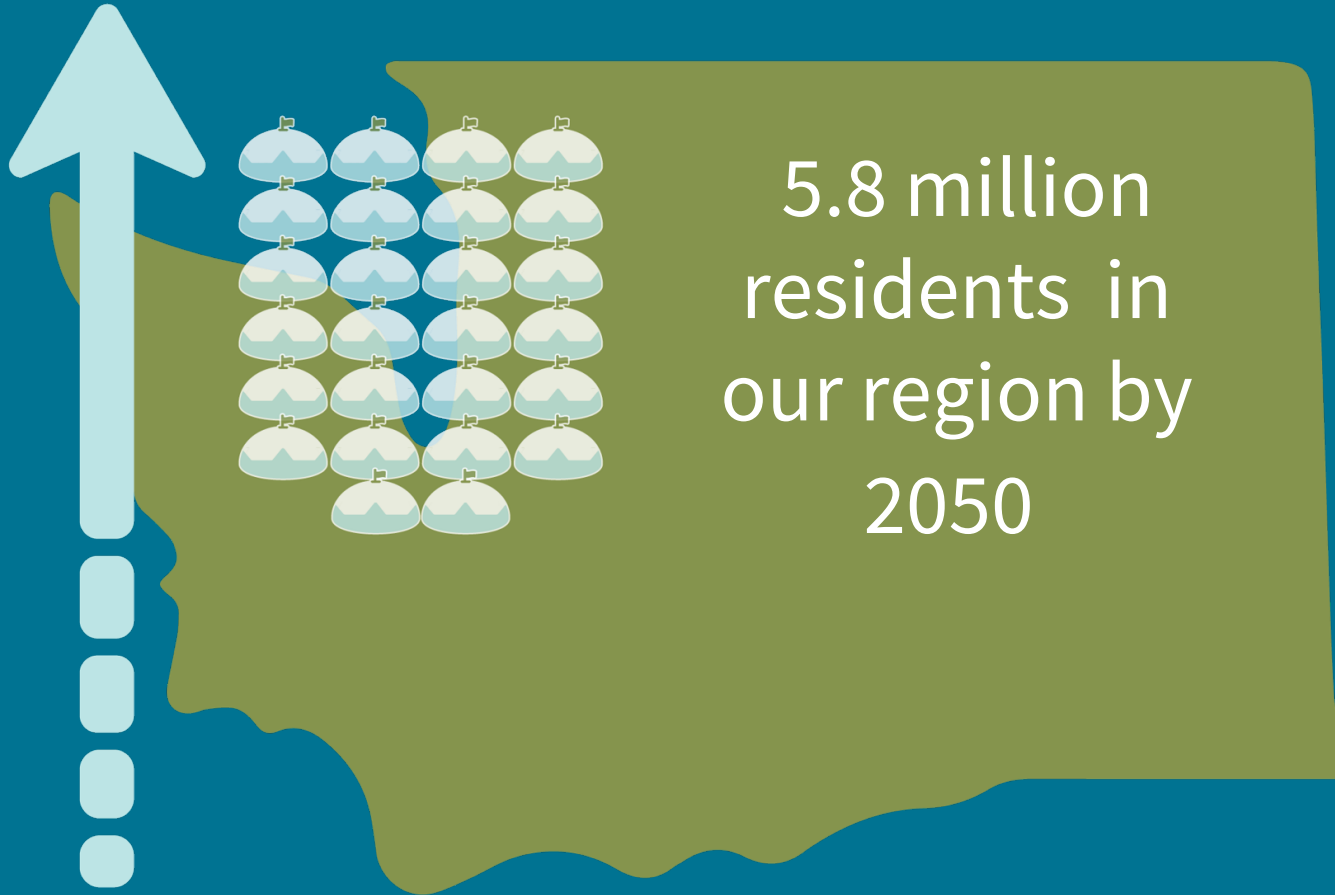
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL
Vision 2050

PUYALLUP TRIBE
Treaty of Medicine Creek
Land Claims Settlement Agreement

PIERCE COUNTY
Countywide Planning Policies



Planning Context



137,000 new residents



59,000 new homes



94,000 new jobs

Scope of Work: GMA Updates

Tribal Planning and Coordination

- Comprehensive Plan update
- Container Port Elements

Housing

- Anti-displacement
- Provisions for all economic segments of the community
- Racially disparate impacts

Climate Element – HB 1181 (2029)

- Reduce GHG and VMT
- Foster resilience
- Environmental Justice

Scope of Work: VISION 2050

- **Regional Collaboration:** New policies on coordination with tribes and military installations
- **Environment:** New emphasis on Puget Sound recovery and open space
- **Climate:** Seeks to advance GHG emissions reductions
- **Development Patterns:** New emphasis on displacement, opportunity mapping, health disparities
- **Housing:** New policies to promote housing affordability in new development, anti-displacement
- **Public Services:** New policy on school siting, water supply management, resilience
- **Transportation:** New policies on stormwater, electrification, emissions reductions
- **Economy:** Emphasis on jobs in proximity to housing, commercial displacement

Scope of Work: Related Planning Efforts

Related Plans and Programs:

- Tacoma 2025
- Climate Action Plan
- Impact Fees
- Watershed Planning
- Green Economy Strategy
- Vision Zero
- Community Safety Plan

Other Long Range Planning Efforts:

- Home in Tacoma
- Subarea Planning
- STGPD – Code Update

New Programs:

- Urban Design Program
- Neighborhood Planning Program
- Health Impact Assessments

What will be in the Plan?

Focus Areas

Equity

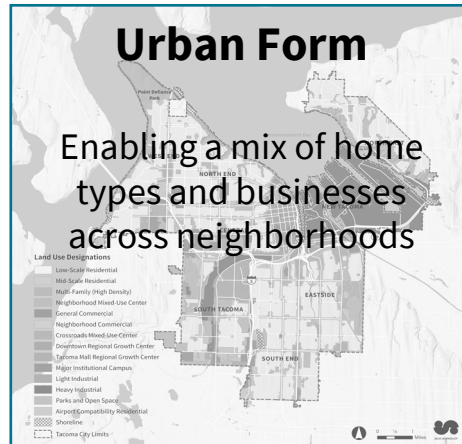
Public Health

Sustainability

Opportunity

Safety

Policy Elements or “Chapters”



Design + Development

Guiding the design and development of our city's buildings



Transportation Master Plan

Building a safe, accessible and multimodal transportation network

Public Facilities + Services

Providing services and facilities such as roads, utilities, parks, education, and safety

Parks + Recreation

Creating fair access to parks and recreation services that showcase the unique cultures and natural settings in our city

Environment + Watershed Health

Protecting our watersheds, trees, open spaces, and wildlife habitats



Historic Preservation

Highlighting communities' histories and the human stories behind them

Here's What's Been Happening...



Community Profile.

Public data analysis about trends and current population



Equity Assessment.

Disaggregated data on a select list of equity priorities for this Comp Plan



Community Engagement.

Review of recent engagement and new Spring 2024 engagement

Community Profile + Equity Outcomes

Engagement is a core part, but not the *only* input to policy development



Highlighted Community Profile Takeaways

- Suburban areas outside of Tacoma are growing more rapidly than the city.
- Families with children are declining as a share of population in Tacoma.
- Retirees and working age adults without children are growing segments.
- Households with very low incomes and Black households have declining rates of homeownership.
- Adjusted for inflation, real median household income has increased by about 22% since 2011, but significant race-based disparities exist.

Highlighted Equity Takeaways

- Different geographies and population groups experience different strengths and gaps.
- A targeted universalism approach tailors policy strategies to these distinct needs.
- For example, the North East is most likely to lag in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, walkability, and commercial amenity access.
- For example, South Tacoma is most negatively impacted by urban heat, slower police response times, and childhood poverty.

Engagement Strategy: An Integrated Approach

- The Tacoma community has been **extensively engaged in recent years**
- The community engagement strategy should **leverage existing data and existing engagement efforts** to minimize respondent burden and confusion
- Additional resources or “new engagement” should be **focused on thematic gaps and/or gaps by community group.**



Community Input

- Plan development will reflect both input from previous engagement efforts and input from recent engagement activities.

What we're building on from previous plans

Urban Form

Enable transportation choices such as walking, biking, and transit, in part through better pedestrian and bike connectivity

Make vehicular traffic safety improvements, including traffic calming on major corridors

Encourage income-diverse neighborhoods and more housing opportunities/options through promoting mixed housing types and modest residential density increases

Improve/repair infrastructure with a focus on equitable access for residents of diverse incomes, race, ethnicity, and abilities



Economic Development

Strengthen and diversify Tacoma's local economy

Create a trained, future ready workforce

Promote Downtown Tacoma as a regional center of commerce

Support employment-generating activities

Support small businesses and creative artistic enterprises through programs and resources

Expand green jobs, especially at the Port, through sectors such as green energy, maritime, and green building technologies

Produce and preserve affordable housing

Continue marketing efforts

Design + Development

Maintain distinct character of neighborhoods and support design and development that reflects local history, context, and cultures

Add urban design features that integrate environmental restoration such as green sidewalks, public spaces with street trees and plantings, natural habitat restoration, water stewardship, native plants, and community gardens

Support and encourage small businesses and arts and creative spaces

Bring more art, color, and creativity to streetscapes



Transportation

Eliminate traffic violence, in part through improved pedestrian and bike safety and speeding reduction measures

Establish more frequent and reliable transit services

Improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to create walkable neighborhoods and, support climate goals, and reduce traffic violence

Make transportation investments, especially sidewalk infrastructure, equitably available and maintained across city neighborhoods

Address transportation equity issues for persons using wheelchairs or otherwise facing mobility challenges



Environment + Watershed Health

Restore and protect natural spaces and waterways

Integrate environmental and watershed health actions with other goals such as green jobs, climate action, equity, parks and green spaces, transportation, and housing

Create partnerships to support water and environmental restoration and stewardship, including with the Puyallup Tribe

Increase funding to protect groundwater and develop and maintain needed groundwater infrastructure

Address air and water pollution impacts on community health



Parks + Recreation

Maintain existing parks and facilities

Ensure natural areas are maintained for future generations

Renovate or upgrade aging parks and facilities

Purchase and preserve wildlife-rich natural areas

Develop new walking/biking trails



Climate

Transition away from fossil fuels, in part by improving transportation alternatives and bringing daily necessities within walking distance of residential areas

Ensure that sustainability policies are equitable and don't place burden on lower income or disadvantaged residents

Expand green economy and green jobs

Expand tree cover to reduce heat, clean air, and absorb CO2



Public Facilities + Services

Properly resource and make improvements to libraries to ensure their role as safe third spaces for youth and families and community gathering spaces for social events and meetings

Expand resources and opportunities for those experiencing homelessness

Evaluate childcare needs and resources to support multigenerational living and kinship caregiving

Address community safety and policing issues, including traffic enforcement, crime prevention, gang activity, drugs, and gun control

Make all schools a priority for safe access, walkability, and bikeability

Consider partnerships for before and afterschool time, preschool development, enrichment, and workforce development



Housing

Make housing affordable to a range of income levels, and accessible to those who have historically been subject to housing inequality

Encourage balanced growth by preserving historic structures and maintaining neighborhood character, while allowing for modest increases in density to expand housing opportunity

Ensure that neighborhood infrastructure and services keep pace with growth

Expand resources and opportunities for those experiencing homelessness

Address common neighborhood concerns, including parking and traffic, preserving neighborhood character and views, quality and accessibility of open space, and associated infrastructure and services



Historic Preservation

There has not been broad citywide engagement on historic preservation, which is a reason why it's especially important for us to hear from you on this topic!



Engagement Activities



- **Events in each neighborhood council district** - 8 workshops in person and 1 virtual
- **Creative, hands-on activities to get feedback on topics**
- **Supported with robust outreach and language ambassador team**
- **Workshops:** 311 total attendees and 402 comments
- **Ideas Wall on Social Pinpoint:** 151 comments
- **8 additional events:** 240 comments
- **Community Survey question:** 800 responses



Themes we've heard so far...

- Reliable public transit
- Bicycle and pedestrian mobility, safety, and accessibility
- Maintaining and beautifying buildings and streets
- Access to amenities (entertainment, parks, libraries, childcare, etc.)
- Supporting small businesses

Improve business district, clean streets, community center

Connect sidewalks, more frequent bus service

Need more amenities, bus service to downtown

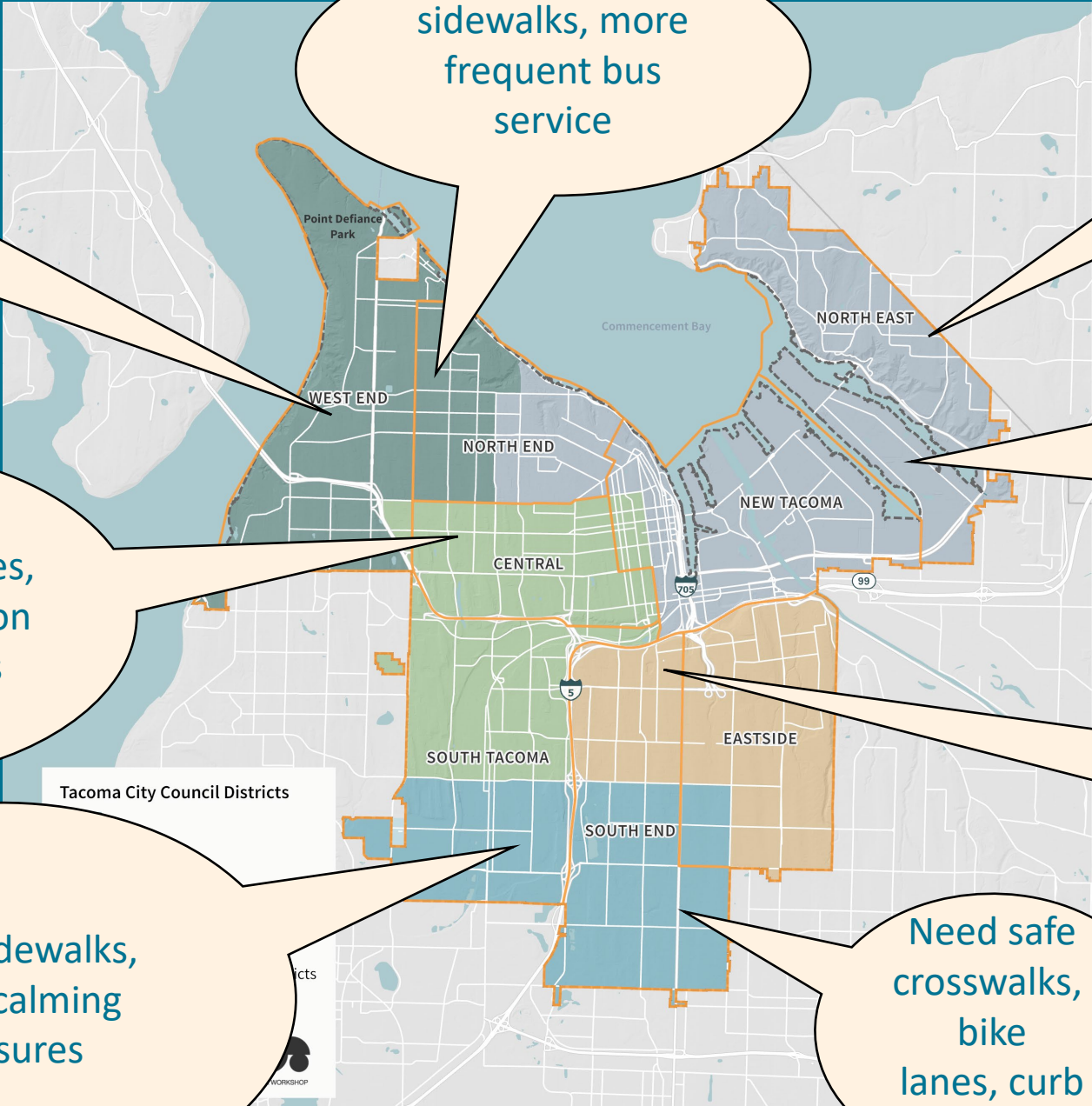
More bike lanes, grocery stores, Historic preservation of Black churches

Need sidewalks, grocery stores, frequent bus service

Need sidewalks, traffic calming measures

Preserve cultural diversity and history, need bus rapid transit

Need safe crosswalks, bike lanes, curb ramps



Tacoma City Council Districts

Community Input Sequenced with Key Project Milestones

Survey

Pop-up events

Community Workshops

Briefings

Interviews



Pop-up events

Community Updates



Listening sessions

Briefings

Community Workshops

Public comment and hearing



MARCH – JUNE 2024

**Community
Launch &
Priority Setting**



JULY – DECEMBER 2024

**Policy Development
& Plan Writing**



JANUARY – JUNE 2025

**Draft Plan and
Adoption**

Communications strategies include a project website, Social Pinpoint site, social media, email listserv and mailings.



ONE TACOMA

A Comprehensive Plan for a
Vibrant, Connected and Sustainable City

THANK YOU!

onetacoma@cityoftacoma.org

An aerial photograph of Tacoma, Washington, showing the waterfront area. A large bridge spans across the water, and a marina filled with many boats is visible on the right. The city buildings and industrial structures are visible on the left. The background shows a hazy mountain range under a clear sky.

Transportation Master Plan Update

Sustainable Tacoma Commission

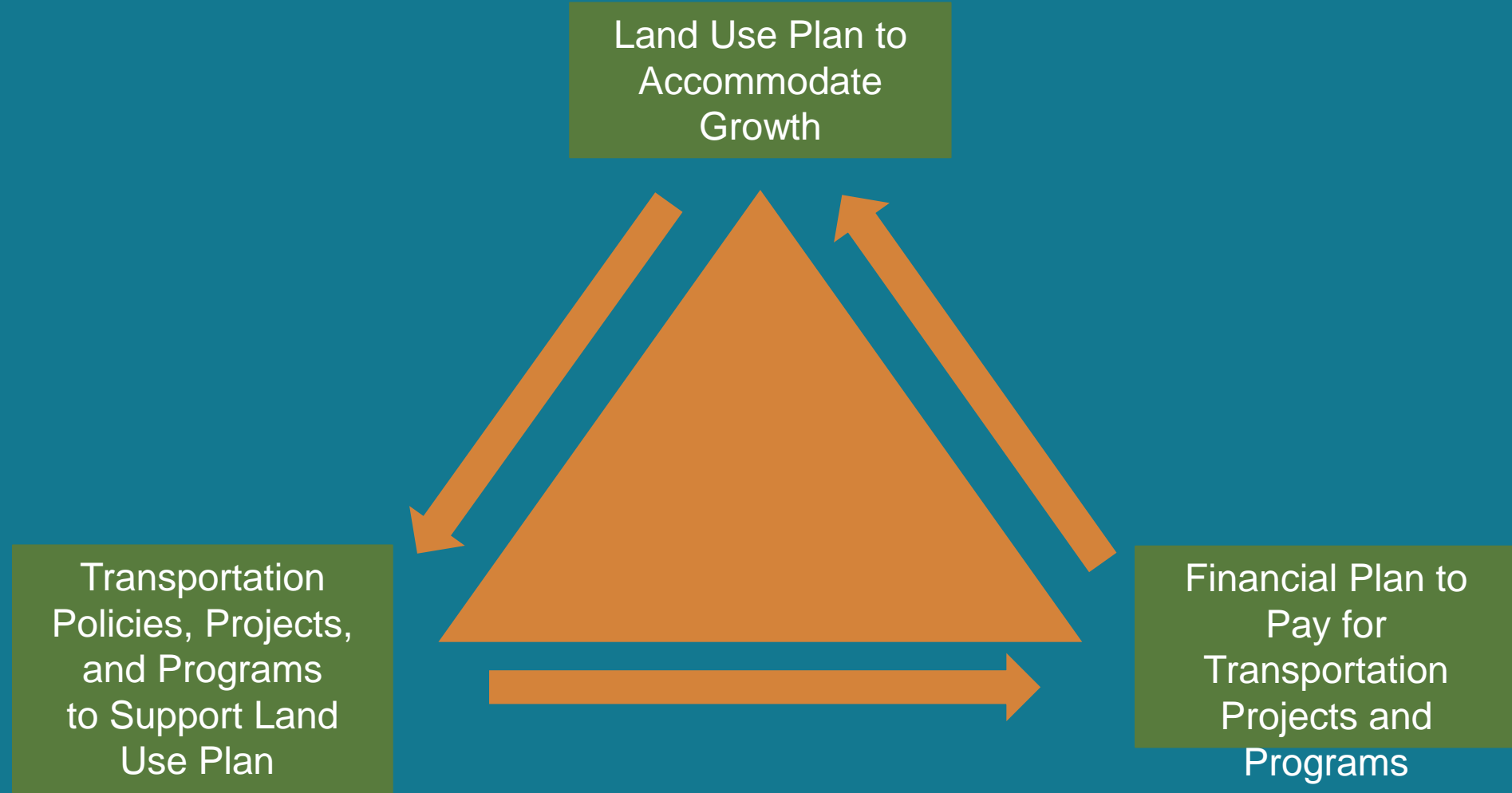
July 2024

Agenda

1. Overview of TMP
2. 2050 TMP Vision and Goals
3. Modal and Functional Networks
4. Discussion



Transportation Element = Transportation Master Plan



What is in the TMP?

Overarching
Goals

Policies

Programs

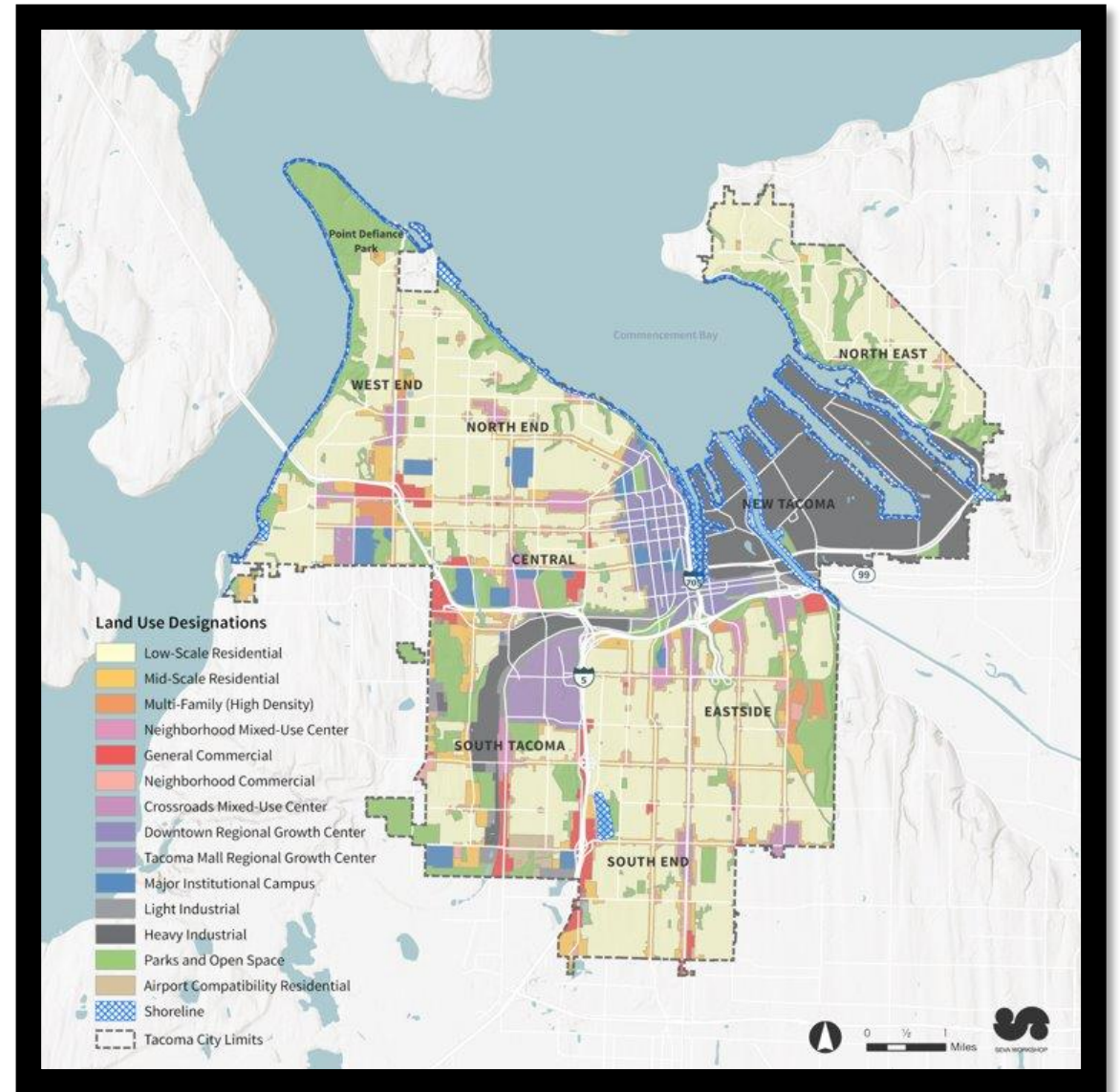
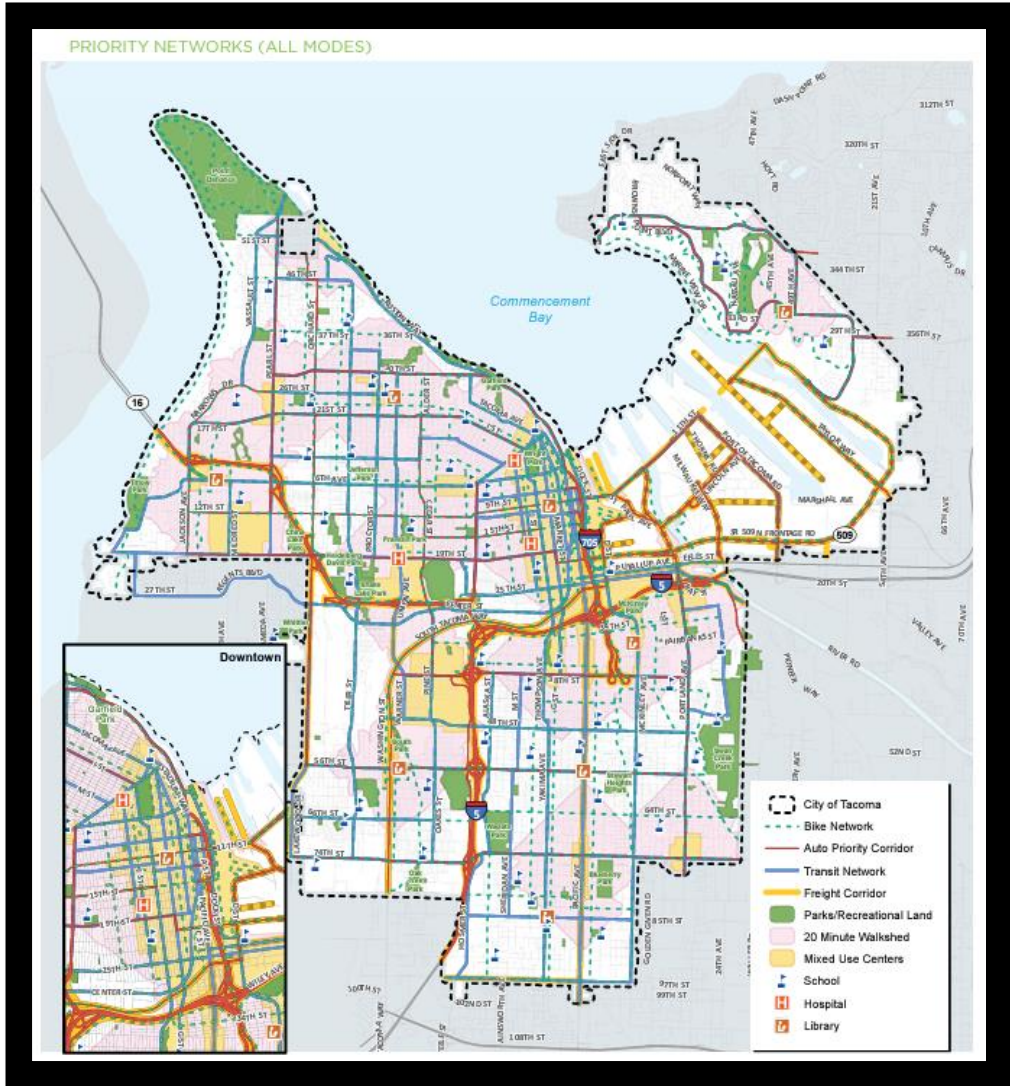
Level of
Service
Standards

Actions

Vision Maps

20-year
Project List

What is in the Plan?



Above: Future Land Use Map
Left: Future Modal Map

Climate Action Plan and the TMP

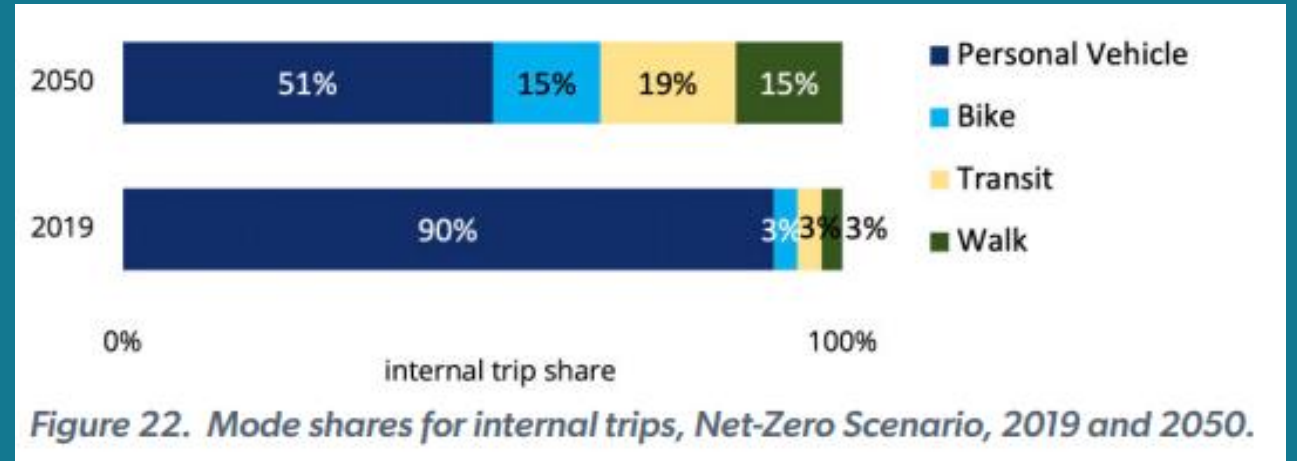
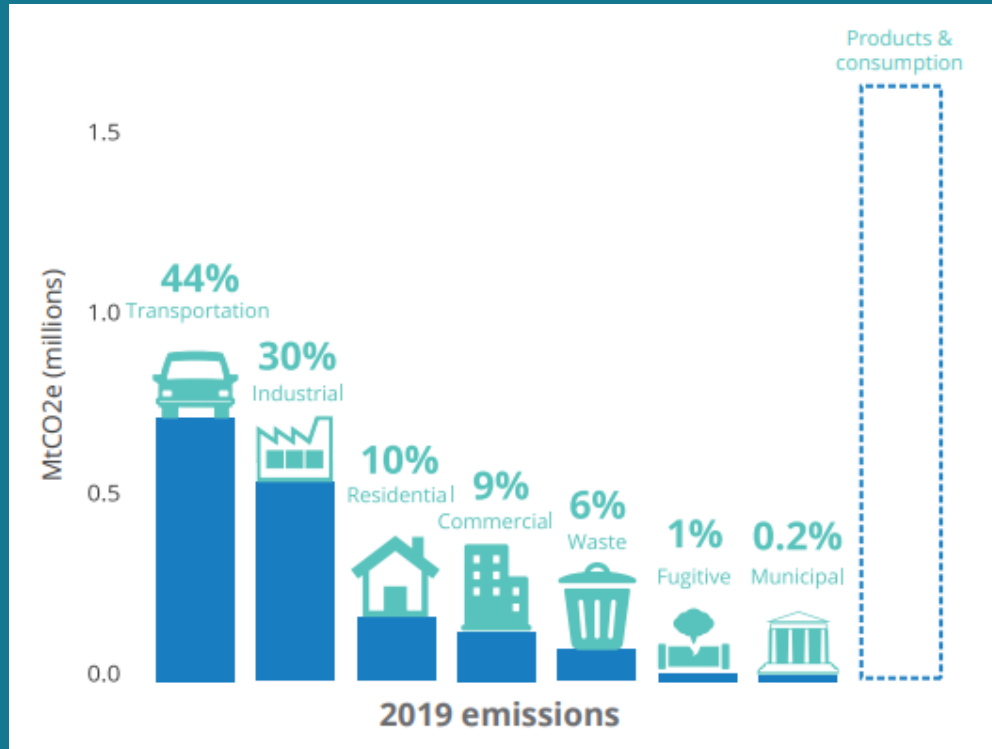


Figure 22. Mode shares for internal trips, Net-Zero Scenario, 2019 and 2050.

**CAP Mobility and Land Use: Five (5)
Implementation Actions related to the TMP**

2050 TMP VISION

To create and sustain a transformative multimodal transportation system that connects people to places and people to people

DRAFT 2050 TMP GOALS

Advance Equity & Livability

Ensure a Safe & Comfortable Experience

Make Tacoma an Environmentally Sustainable & Healthy Place to Live

Cultivate Meaningful Partnerships

Connect the Tacoma Community

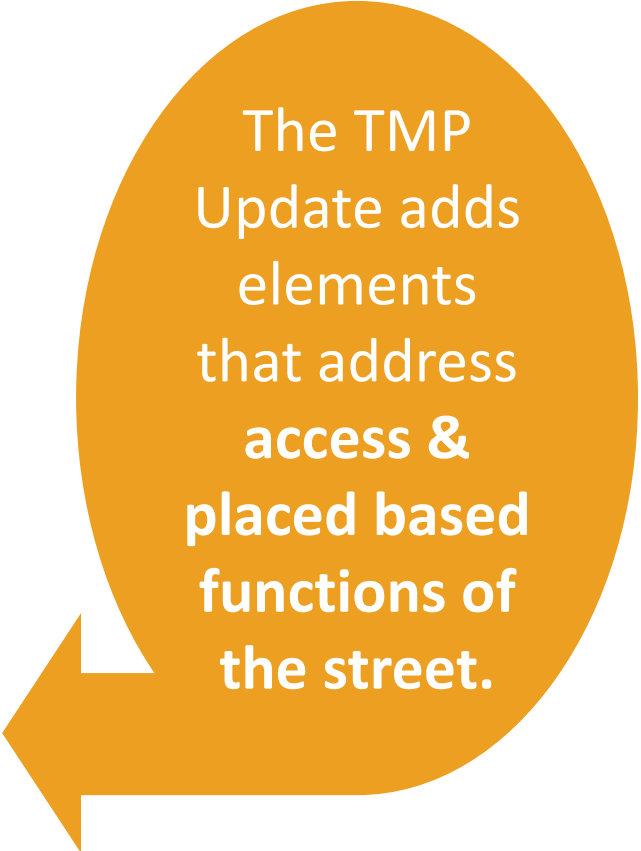
Maintain & Modernize Transportation Resources

Promote Transparent Decision-Making

Support a Thriving Economy

TMP Modal and Functional Elements

Mode or Function Element	Element Vision or Outcome
Pedestrian	Safe, accessible, and comfortable mobility for people walking and rolling on all of our city streets.
Bicycle	All ages and abilities network provides safe, connected access to our city.
Transit	Frequent, reliable mobility connecting all neighborhoods and to the region.
Freight	Reliable access to Port facilities and regional freeways, and ensure essential items reach Tacoma businesses.
Auto	Streets designed to encourage slower speeds and support emergency response and goods delivery.
Curb Management	Effective and equitable curb allocation to assure access between destinations and the transportation network.
Public Realm &	Places for people to connect and community life to



The TMP Update adds elements that address **access & placed based functions of the street.**

Our guiding vision: complete neighborhoods

In Tacoma's future every resident can reach daily essentials (groceries, school, parks, medical care etc.) within 15 minutes without a car.

CAP 2030 Target: 80% of residents live in a 20-minute neighborhood



One Tacoma Plan Discussion

1. What are the **opportunities** in Tacoma in implementing the 15-minute city concept?
2. What are the **challenges** in implementing the 15-minute city concept in Tacoma?
3. What are the **big moves** Tacoma needs to do to create a sustainable and climate resilient city?

