

South Tacoma Neighborhood Planning Steering Group – Meeting #1

March 28, 2024

5:30 – 6:45p.m.

ATTENDEES PRESENT

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

Alicia Klein
Austin Miller
Casey Catherwood
Clover Tamayo
Ellen Talbo
Felicity Waldron
Grace Miller
Ileana Areiza
Iris Macias
Kat Raz
Mathew Ridden
Melodie Knight
Mercy Macharia
Penny Smith
Perlita Payne
Ryan Spence

STAFF PRESENT

Anneka Olson - Neighborhood Planning
Lauren Hoogkamer - Neighborhood Planning
Leander Swan - Neighborhood Planning
Madeline Borowski - Neighborhood Planning
Markus Johnson - MAKERS
Rachel Miller - MAKERS

MINUTES WITHIN THE AGENDA

- **Introductions and Icebreaker** – All – 35 minutes
 - Name, connection to South Tacoma
 - Share your vision for the future

Staff went over the agenda and introduced the icebreaker, as well as the goals and norms for the meeting.

Council Members Bushnell and Scott introduced themselves, sharing their connections to South Tacoma.

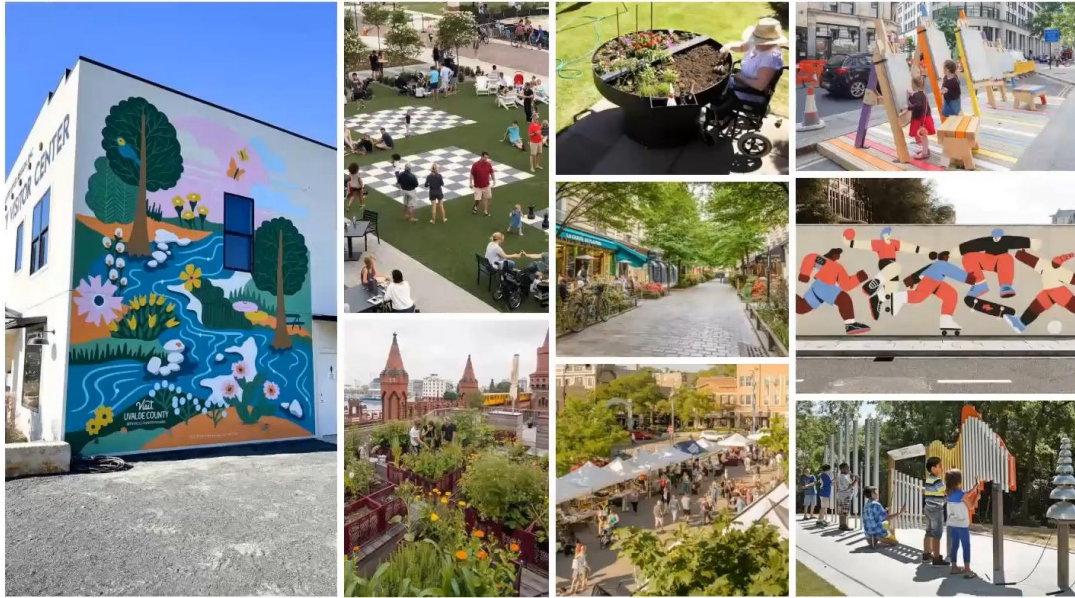
Next, the new Steering Group members introduced themselves and shared their connection to South Tacoma and their vision for the community:

Connections We Heard	Visions We Heard
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Live in South Tacoma• Rent and/or own	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuing the presence of and supporting future homes and neighborhoods

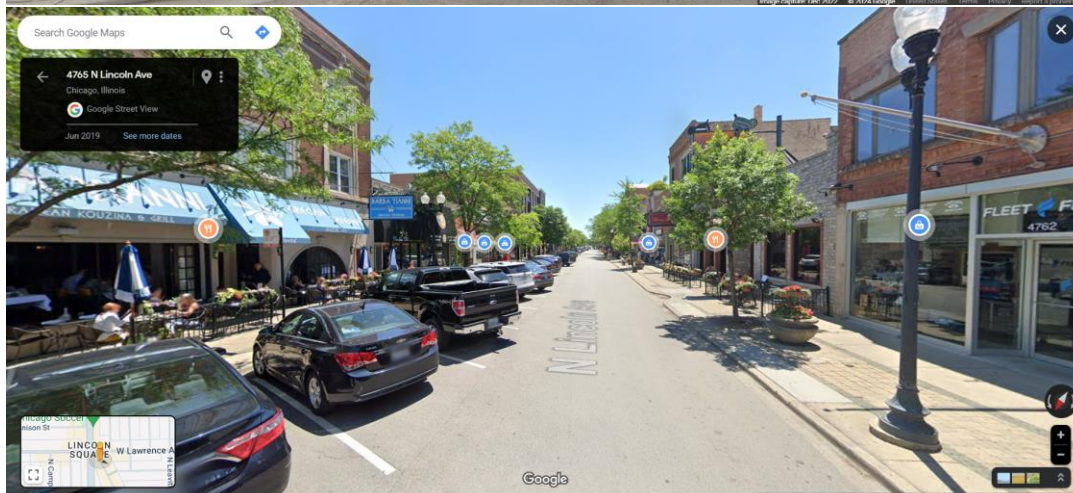
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live and grew up in South Tacoma • Work in South Tacoma: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Administration ○ Real Estate ○ Business owner/manager ○ Artist ○ Librarian ○ Entertainer ○ Service provider • Gardening • Activism and organizing • Community & family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not just improved road safety, but improvements for walkability and bikability • Traffic calming measures like lane reductions, traffic circles, and angled parking • Improved opportunities for connectivity through public and active transportation; multimodality • Fun and safe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fun meaning: community spaces and events ○ Safe meaning: safe at all times of day • Improved police presence, responsiveness, and communication • Continue the community's vibrancy and diversity as well as bolstering inclusivity • Access to high-paying but low-barrier jobs • Expansion and improvement of tree canopy, greenspaces, bluespaces (places where the community can enjoy water), and parks • Places for people to find peace of mind and sanctuary • Equitable health exposures and outcomes • Fair housing • Thriving businesses and low-barriers to businesses ran by and for people of all backgrounds • Embracing the auto heritage of South Tacoma while also fostering new traditions • More opportunities for community artwork • Re-examining the impacts of gendered space in particular and working toward equitable spaces
--	--

Some group members shared images of their visions (see below)

Grace's Vision:



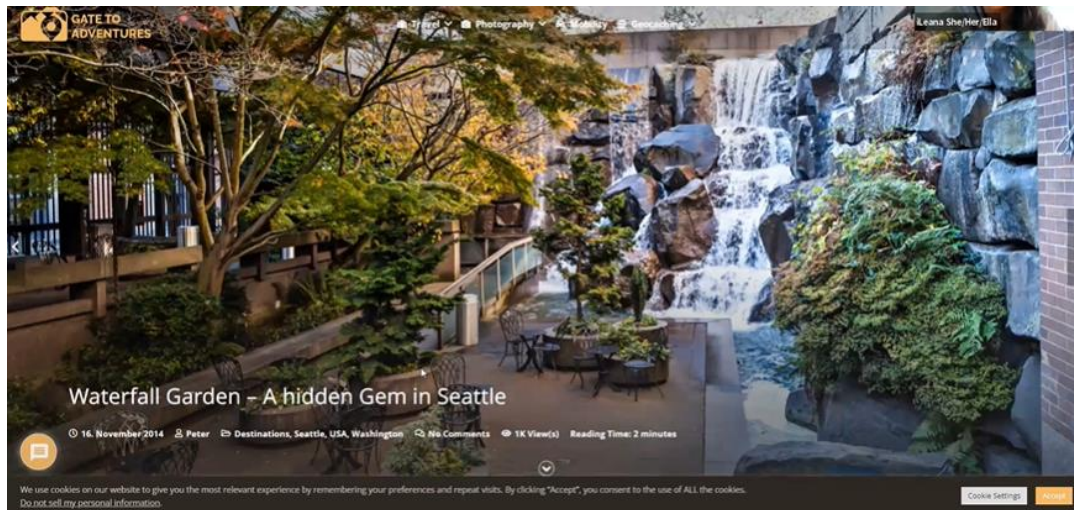
Kat's Vision (something like Lincoln Square in Chicago):



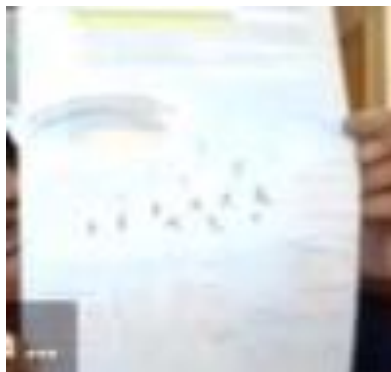
Felicity's Vision:



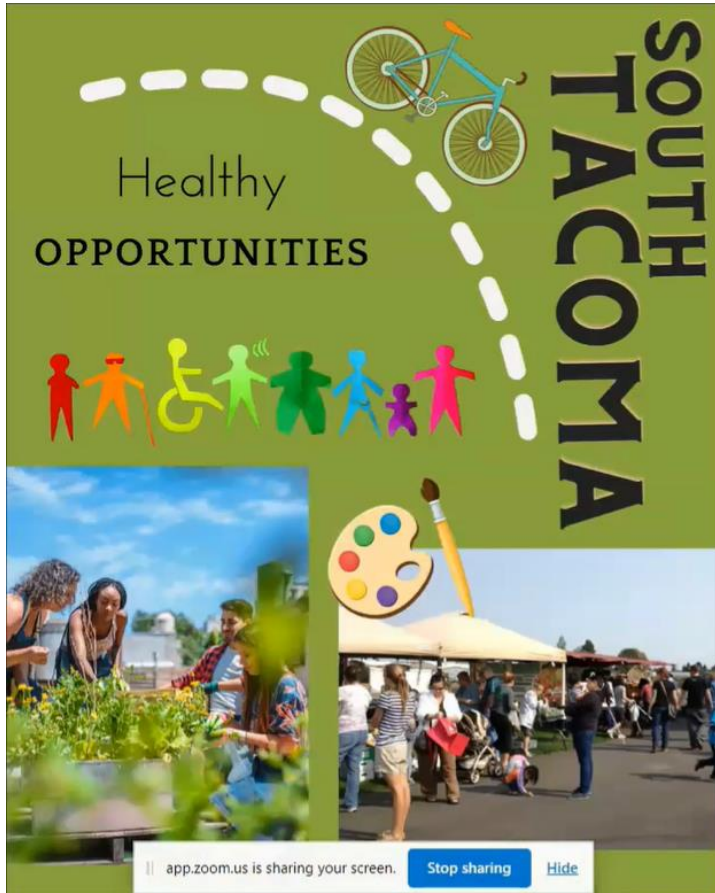
iLeana's Vision:



Perlita's Vision (rainbows):



Iris's Vision:



Ellen's Vision:



- **Neighborhood Planning Overview** – *Neighborhood Planning Staff* – 10 minutes
 - Intro to program

Next, staff introduced the Neighborhood Planning Program and what the team has heard so far through engagement with the community.

- Relationship to other plans (what's in this project's scope)

Staff went over how the Neighborhood Plan relates with other City and partner plans in addition to explaining what ongoing neighborhood plans in McKinley and Proctor have looked like. Staff mentioned a mini participatory budgeting process with a \$50,000 fund to kick off the program and highlighted key topics that emerged from the community's feedback, including environmental quality, business district identity, active transportation, and housing affordability. Staff also described the South Tacoma planning area map. After discussion with the group, it was decided that more discussion would need to be had about the Plan's name and map extent.

- Proposed timeline
- Questions and next steps

Staff introduced the proposed timeline and upcoming next steps and asked if anybody had questions. Staff discussed the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan, emphasizing the need for community input and engagement. Staff outlined that the group would be conducting a survey and broad engagement and reviewing the results to create a strategy moving forward. Staff also mentioned a plan to engage with the community in five different languages and the formation of this steering group to represent various community voices.

- **Group Discussion: Goals, Values** – *Makers* – 15 minutes
 - Goals and priorities

The group discussion focused on values. Goals and priorities will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

- Values – brainstorm and discussion

Staff went over the Steering Group goals in the context of the Neighborhood Plan. A poll was set up for the Steering Group to respond to live as the meeting went forward. Then staff walked through how the Steering Group would start the process of finding its goals and values through the live polling.

POLLING RESULTS, COURTESY OF MAKERS

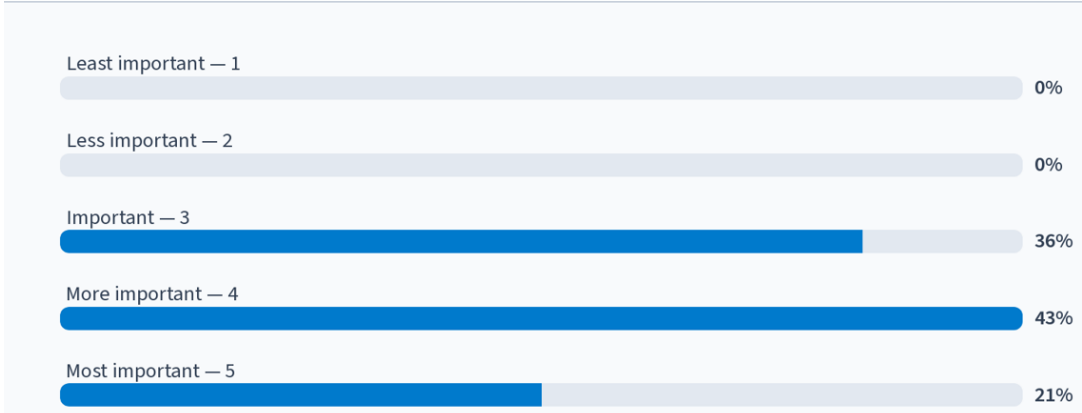
3 words that describe what you love about South Tacoma (If using a phrase use ~ or _ to connect words)



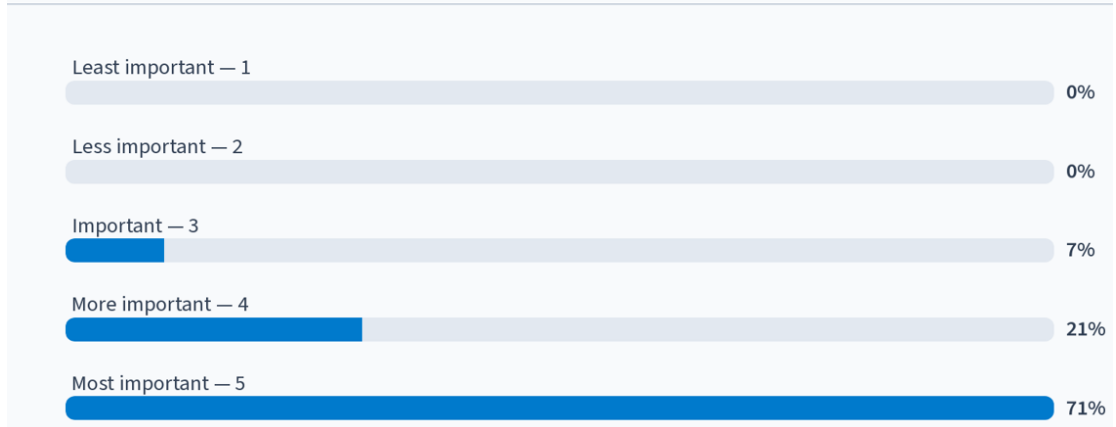
How important is "Environmental Healing and Equity" to you? (Scale of 1 is least important and 5 is most important)



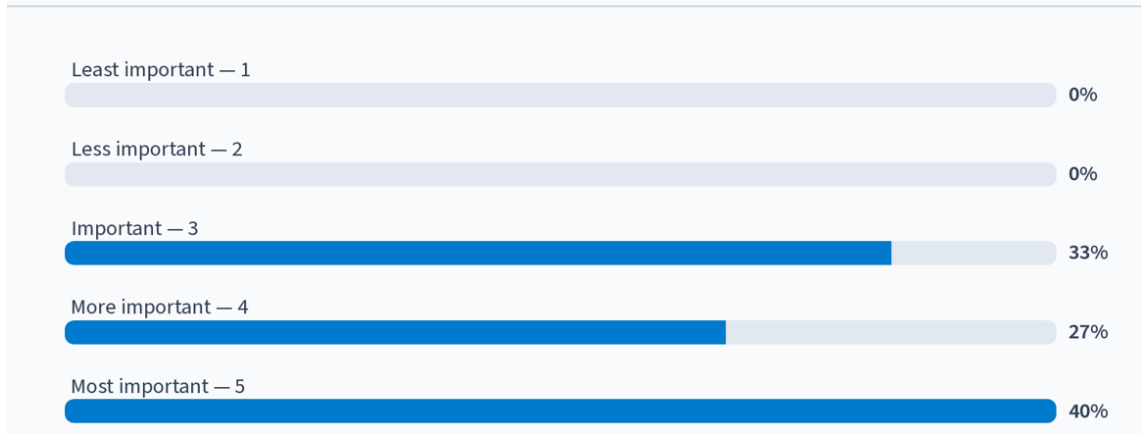
How important is "Economic Prosperity" to you? (Scale of 1 is least important and 5 is most important)



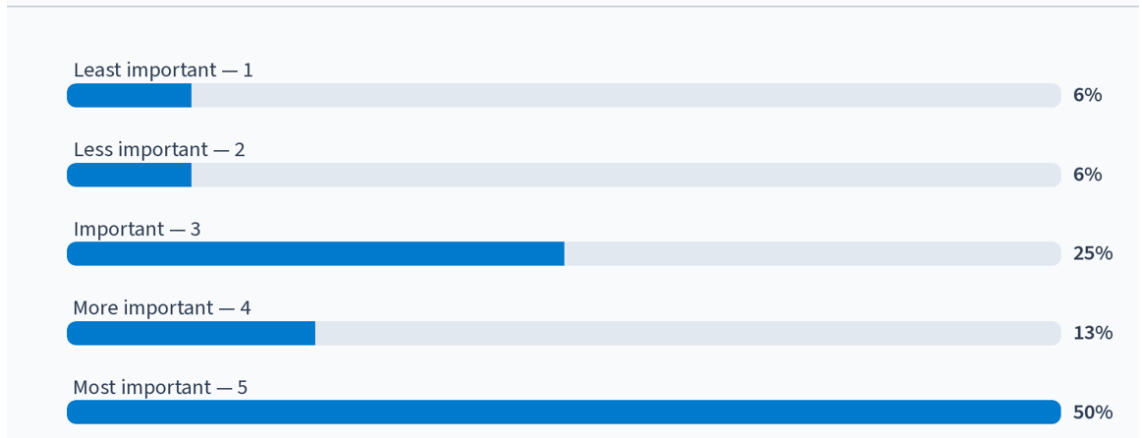
How important is "Health, Safety, and Comfort" to you? (Scale of 1 is least important and 5 is most important)



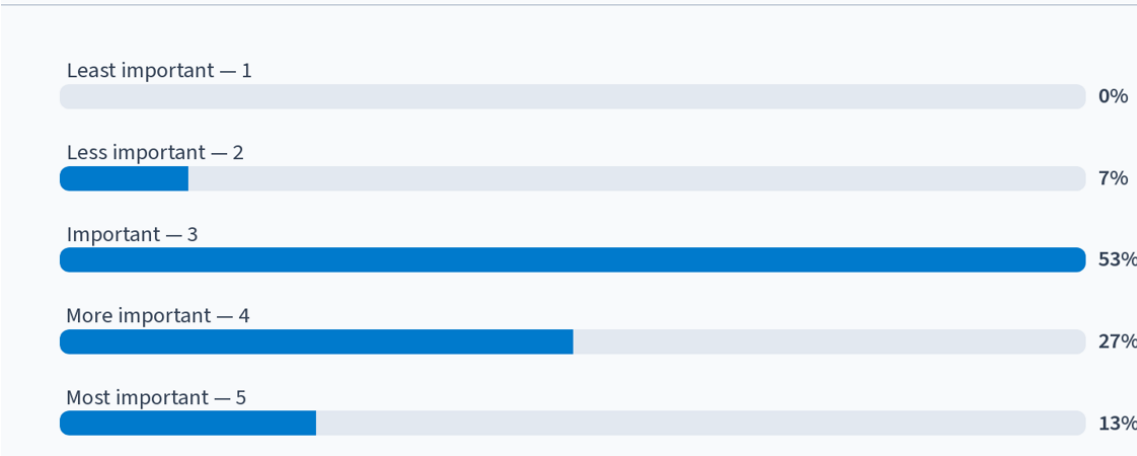
How important is "Easy Access to Amenities" to you? (Scale of 1 is least important and 5 is most important)



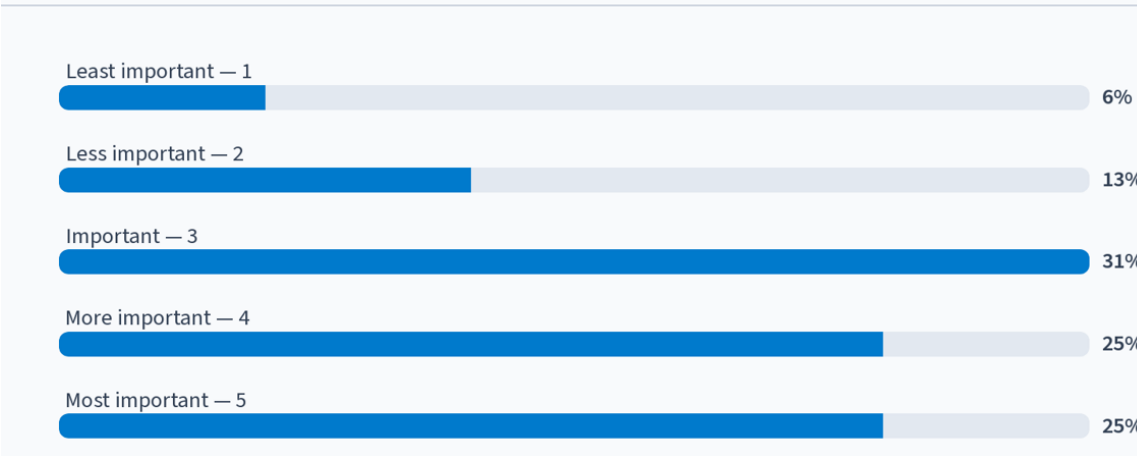
How important is "Equity and Opportunity" to you? (Scale of 1 is least important and 5 is most important)



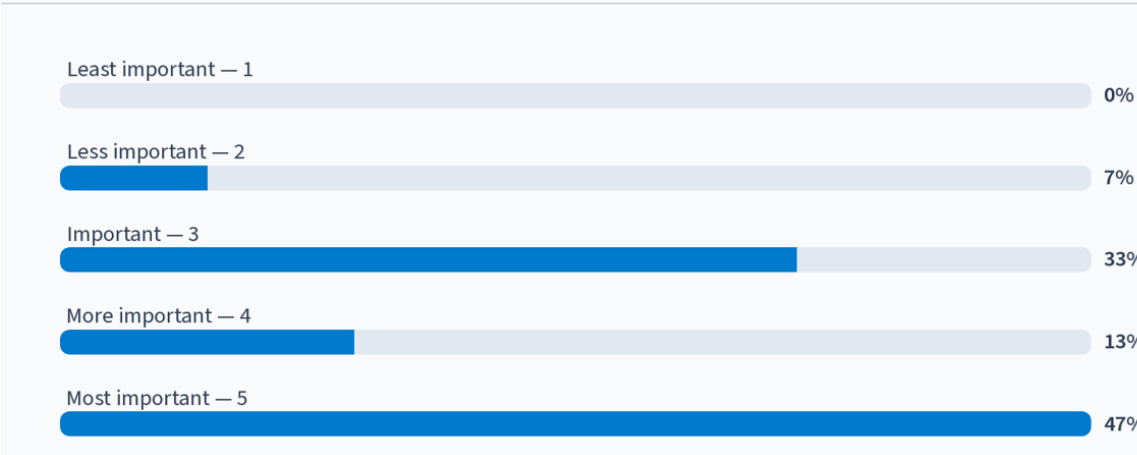
How important is "Youth-centered Community" to you? (Scale of 1 is least important and 5 is most important)



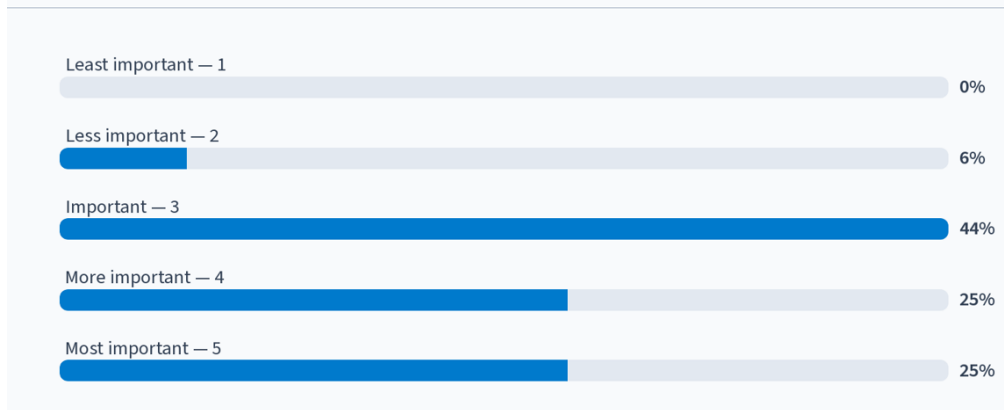
How important is "Being and Feeling Like a Multicultural Community" to you? (Scale of 1 is least important and 5 is most important)



How important is "Transparency and Trust" to you? (Scale of 1 is least important and 5 is most important)




How important is "The Ability to Stay in the Community" to you? (Scale of 1 is least important and 5 is most important)



What value did we miss? Or how would you correct or clarify any of the values mentioned?

- Complete neighborhood ☆
- Preserving history ☆
- affordable-housing ☆
- Transit ☆
- Celebrating the neighborhood's history ☆
- Transportation-access ☆
- Community oriented ☆
- Enjoy the neighborhood without buying stuff ☆
- Can we separate Safely- and police for some of us those are very different ☆
- Child & youth friendly ☆
- gritty ☆
- FUN :) ☆

SEE MORE ↕

food-access 


Reconciliation 

Event sponsoring 

Sense of community 

Community focus 

Food access 

All ages 

History of trauma yet more industrial terrorism to come... 

Solutions for homelessness and addiction 

Rectifying the high pollution here. 

Disability access 

affordable_food_and_grocery 

SEE MORE 

Multigenerational 

accessibility for our most vulnerable 

POLLING RESULTS (CONTINUED)

Of particular discussion was how a group member brought up a need for reconciliation through these planning processes. Others agreed, while also pondering the scope and ability of Neighborhood Planning to address reconciliation processes.

Some of the issues discussed further in connection to reconciliation were:

- The community “has had so much transition over the years, it’s been marginalized...”
- “Diversity of experience” and the need for understanding and recognition
- Reconciliation is “a moving target”
- The need for a trauma-informed lens
 - “It’s hard to practice hope, this such a great thing happening...” but:
 - There is the mega warehouse
 - The conflict of new development like a firehouse but also the need to preserve already scarce tree canopy
 - “People are being priced out of their homes or cannot afford apartments to begin with.”
 - “There’s a lot of emotions for me, and I feel like there is probably a lot for other folks here too.”

Group members also mentioned their own experiences and how, when they think of equity, they sometimes think about how South Tacoma seems to have a lot of masculine energy and they think that fostering “feminine aspects of planning” in South Tacoma could forward equity. Staff said they would consult with the City’s Equity Office about bringing in trauma informed facilitation.

- **Group Discussion: Steering Group Logistics – All – 10 minutes**
 - Group Norms

Staff showed the group norms slide again and asked if the group had any additional thoughts.

- Meeting time and location
- Structure
- Public contact info

Staff went over the meeting time and location, meeting structure, and public contact info, as well as asking if this time would continue to work for steering group members. The group agreed on keeping the meeting time/day.

More group members noted that they would like to talk about resiliency and flexibility in these groups. It can be difficult for people given all the trauma to be rushed through in these timelines.

Staff noted that the planning timelines can be more flexible and “move at the speed of trust”

Others mentioned that the Steering Group should be thinking about more ways to bring more voices in the room. Staff encouraged further engagement with the community and planned a discussion about that for a future meeting.

Staff also asked the group if meeting in person in May would work for people. The majority of people appeared to be available, excluding Austin.

Next, staff asked if the Neighborhood Plan should be called “South Tacoma Way Neighborhood Plan” or more generally the “South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan”

Though some group members admitted they did not grow up in South Tacoma, they felt that if someone says, “South Tacoma Way Neighborhood Plan”, the majority of people hearing that would think that the plan was only specific to the road and not the whole neighborhood.

Others brought up that not everyone can afford to locate on South Tacoma Way so naming the plan with the broader name of “South Tacoma” could be better.

Some group members expressed that a plan title like “South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan” seems like a more inclusive name.

Others mirrored this sentiment, worrying that areas south of S 56th St may get ignored with a focus on the “Way.” There was concern about the areas not included in the planning scope and recognition of capacity limitations.

On the other hand, some said that while calling the plan the “South Tacoma Way Neighborhood Plan” may make people think that the plan is only focused on the street, on the other side of things, saying “South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan” may be promising too much given the actually practicable implementable parts and resources of the Neighborhood Plan fitting in the planning and funding process.

Staff said that it seemed like the group needed more time to discuss, and that the group would continue the conversation over email and/or in a future meeting.

- **Next Steps** – 5 minutes
 - **Neighborhood Walking Tour** - Saturday, April 13 (10:30AM-12:00PM) - *Meet in front of 5050 South Tacoma Way*
 - **Next Steering Group meeting**
 - Trauma informed framework
 - Discussing the plan name and area scope
 - Engagement opportunities
 - Youth engagement and compensation
 - Public contact info and group social media

Staff noted the next steps, keeping the new items from the recent Steering Group discussion in mind.

DRAFT Calendar 2024

Month	Steering Group Meeting	Public Event
March	Introductions, Goals, and Steering Group Role <i>Neighborhood Planning Team</i>	Spotlight South Tacoma: What's Happening; What's Coming in South Tacoma, March 21st
April	Group Values and Engagement Strategy	Walking Tour, April 13th
May	Neighborhood Priorities Discussion <i>(Option for in-person meeting)</i>	
Summer	Focused Discussion Topics – TBD Ongoing Priorities Discussion	Summer Engagement
Fall	Draft Actions	
Winter	Draft Plan	
Spring 2025	Implementation	