



Home In Tacoma Project – Phase 2 Engagement Summary

This is a summary of key outcomes and themes from Round 2 of engagement for the Home In Tacoma Project – Phase 2. The objectives of Round 2 were to:

- Engage with community members in different areas of the City
- Provide opportunities for community members to share feedback directly with City Council members and City staff
- Hear community members' needs and thoughts on the initial Home in Tacoma zoning standards
- Promote a collaborative and respectful dialogue
- Seek direction for the City's Middle Housing zoning and standards

Round 2 (April through June 2023) was the second of three planned rounds of community engagement as described in the [Home In Tacoma Project – Phase 2 Scope of Work](#). This phase was structured around in-person City Council District Open House events to present preliminary zoning and standards concepts at the neighborhood level and receive input from community members.

Round 3 will be structured around the public release of a draft zoning and standards package and will seek to generate input for the Planning Commission's Public Hearing in the Fall. It will be followed by the City Council's review and decision process in early 2024.

ROUND 2 Engagement – April through June 2023

- City Council Open House Events
- Ideas Wall
- Housing Equity Champions
- Community Events and Meetings

Engagement Round 2 builds on the engagement from Round 1 and brings Home in Tacoma to the community level. Feedback that City staff heard in Round 1 informed the format for the Open House events, creating in-person opportunities for community members to engage with City staff about main topics and issues in their neighborhoods.

Summaries of the Round 1 engagement were also shared throughout Round 2, [including an interactive dashboard of the survey results](#).



City Council Open House Events

Objectives:

Open House events were planned to provide community members the opportunity to connect with City Staff and City Council representatives to learn more about the Home In Tacoma project goals, approach and timeline and share thoughts on how Tacoma can get housing growth right. The primary objectives were for community members to leave with a better understanding of HIT, to review the [initial package of zoning and standards](#) and to be ready to submit comments to the public review process later in the year. Staff collected feedback on priorities and key decisions to continue crafting the proposed zoning and standards.

Stations covering the primary topics of the Home in Tacoma Project were set up with a City Subject Matter Expert at each station to answer questions and get feedback on a question connected to that topic. The topics and questions asked at each station were:

- **Meet with your Council Member-** Attendees interacted with City Council Members
- **Design-** When you think about new housing in your neighborhood, what design features are most important to making it fit in well?
- **Amenities-** What amenities are most important to be within walking distance from your home?
- **Affordability-** What should the City offer to incentivize housing developers to provide more affordable new housing?
- **Play/Hands-on activity-** Use model houses to design a neighborhood street
- **Zoning/maps-** Where should more dense housing be allowed?

City staff initially planned to hold an open House event in each of the City Council Districts, with one virtual option for members of the community who prefer a virtual format or could not attend an in-person meeting. Once the meetings had begun, the City was asked to schedule two additional meetings to ensure that all community members across the City had the opportunity to participate.

- District 1: Wednesday, June 7th at Tacoma Public Library Swasey Branch (7001 6th Ave)
- District 2: Thursday, May 25th at Meeker Middle School (4402 Nassau Ave NE)
- District 3: Thursday, June 1st at Tacoma Community House (1314 S L St.)
- District 4: Monday, May 22nd at Stewart Middle School (5010 Pacific Ave)
- District 5: Thursday, June 8th at Tacoma Public Library Fern Hill Branch (765 S 84th St.)
- Virtual Meeting: Wednesday, June 14th on Zoom
- North Tacoma: Thursday, June 22nd at Mason Middle School (3901 N 28th St.)
- South Tacoma: Monday, June 26th at STAR Center (3873 S 66th St.)



In order to make the events accessible, all meetings were held in the evenings, from 6-8 p.m. and were free and open to all community members, including children and families. Snacks and refreshments were also provided. Attendees could come at any time during the event and stay for as long as they wished.

Additionally, city staff worked to incorporate language access into these engagement efforts. This was done by including simultaneous translation in Spanish, Vietnamese, and American Sign Language (ASL) for the Virtual Open House event on June 14th. Additionally, the City included language resources for Spanish, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, Russian community members at the June 22nd and June 26th in-person Open House events. Here, City staff worked with the City’s Language Access Coordinator to have language ambassadors attend the events and invite members of their respective communities to attend to learn about HIT and determine additional ways to engage with those groups. City staff have had ongoing meetings with the ambassadors to identify additional resources, messaging points, or events needed to continue to engage these communities.

Outcomes:

- 8 Open House Events
- Over 1,000 community members engaged
- Thousands of comments
- City Council members at every event
- Interdepartmental collaboration on Home In Tacoma
- Housing Equity Champions at events

What we heard

While there were many different thoughts, ideas, and concerns from each of the City Council Districts, there were some overarching themes that came up in every meeting and garnered many questions and feedback. There is broad concern about the need to address housing, and for getting housing growth right. The most fundamental message is about balance between the amount and pace of neighborhood change and impacts and meeting housing goals.

Some of the most talked about topics were:

- Parking- How will parking requirements change?
- Affordability- How will new housing stay affordable?
- Housing size and style- How will new housing fit with the character of existing neighborhoods?
- Trees and open Space- How can we preserve trees and open space for health impacts?
- State Legislation- How do new rules affect Home In Tacoma?
- Infrastructure- How will the city ensure that housing growth is supported?



As a result of this feedback, city staff have identified top recurring questions that are being asked and are creating a FAQ document to address these questions. This document will be shared on the Home In Tacoma website and will be updated as policies are being made.

Ideas Wall

City staff continue to encourage community members to share thoughts and ideas on the Home In Tacoma project on the [Ideas Wall](#). Pictures from the Open House events were shared to continue to keep conversations going and allow people to join in the conversations that were being had at these events.

Housing Equity Champions

City staff have continued to engage with the Housing Equity Champions (HEC) that were part of the Phase 1 engagement efforts. Individuals that went through the in-depth HIT training in February have supported Phase 2 engagement efforts in various ways, including attending tabling events, collecting surveys, and supporting the City Council Open House events. Several HEC members attended the Open House events and assisted City staff with greeting attendees, answering general questions, and showing community support around the effort. HEC members continue to inform the work by sharing additional upcoming engagement opportunities and providing feedback and will continue to be part of engagement efforts moving forward.

Community Events and Meetings

- Permit Advisory Group
- Community Council of Tacoma
- Master Builders Association
- South Tacoma Neighborhood Council
- Sustainability Expo
- T-Town Event
- North End Neighborhood Council
- Council Study Sessions
- Water Flume Line Trail Party
- Pipeline Trail Party
- Sustainable Tacoma Commission
- North Tacoma Neighborhood Council
- Tacoma Tree Foundation
- South End Neighborhood Council Block Party

City staff continue to attend various community meetings and events to inform audiences of the progress on Home in Tacoma and get additional feedback on how to shape the policy. Many of these events, including the Open House events were also attended by our Housing Equity Champions.

Scheduled meetings will be posted at www.cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma.

Your input matters

Thoughts and input will continue to be gathered during the engagement phases and will inform the direction of the HIT policy issues. City staff will continue to explore additional engagement activities to share information and collect additional feedback, with an emphasis on the Public Comment period in the Fall. **Sign up for project updates at www.cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma and keep in touch!**

