

## Proctor Neighborhood Planning

### Steering Group – Meeting #6

March 9, 2023

5:30 – 6:45p.m.

#### ATTENDEES

##### Staff:

Lauren Hoogkamer, Neighborhood Planning

Anneka Olson, Neighborhood Planning

Charlotte Hevly, Neighborhood Planning

Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works

Rachel Miller, MAKERS

Daniel Dye, Fehr and Peers

Edward Schau, Washington Elementary School

##### Steering Group:

Alayna Linde

Billy Frederick

Callie Stoker-Graham

Felicity Devlin

Gerrit Nyland

Georgette Reuter

Jodi Cook

Councilmember John Hines

Karen Bowes

Matt Stevens

#### AGENDA

- **Welcome and Icebreaker**

Presenters and consultant team introduced themselves to the group.

- **Program Updates, *Neighborhood Planning Staff***

Lauren reviewed upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Lauren: Get in touch with us if you want to participate in any of the following events. Anneka sent links to share your availability in the chat.

UPS tabling doodle: <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/b6WEgxld>

If you are interested in helping to plan the May open house: <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/e36A424d>

- Depave and tree-planting outreach
- Spring door-to-door outreach
- UPS student outreach
- Open house planning

Georgette: What day is Wheelock scheduled to do the depave? Once Rebecca and I meet with Shauna, we will have a plan to coordinate outreach to property owners.

Lauren reviewed the following schedule updates:

- Historic walk moved to April 29
- Metro Parks meeting in May

Jodi: For the Open House event, the Library has June 3<sup>rd</sup> open all day at their large room. This could be a good place for people to attend.

Lauren: Do people feel good about using the Library space?

Georgette: Maybe both indoor and outdoor options.

Felicity: I like the library idea. Allows for more of a social setting. And the outdoor can be rainy.

Jodi: I will book the room to hold the space.

- Recap of last meeting and follow-up survey

Lauren: Answered questions about implementation that were shared in the follow-up survey.

Felicity: It feels that the ideas for affordable housing are only generated by the Steering Committee, and I want to make sure that the broader committee is heard.

Lauren: We will be bringing ideas back to the community to confirm that we heard them correctly.

Anneka: There are some things we can do around affordability, but some ideas are beyond this jurisdiction.

- **School Traffic Plan – Tacoma Public Schools Staff**

Lauren introduced previous feedback from the group on their priorities for pedestrian safety.

Matt Stevens: I would clarify, that the Festival Street idea was also at N26th and Proctor, not just N27th.

Gerrit Nyland: Or even a regular closing of N26th and Proctor for pedestrian only use.

Lauren shared information from Safe Routes to School on walking plans and programs.

Principal Schau: Traffic around the school is heavy and we anticipate more. We have a crossing guard at 26<sup>th</sup>, but there is not a crossing from 27<sup>th</sup> to the library. People cross there all the time. There is no designated parking for staff. We are no longer doing valet for drop-off and pick-up. Is there a way for busses to pause service during heavy hours?

Jennifer: That is a question for Pierce Transit.

Jennifer: Washington is primarily a walking school with a limited number of busses. There is not any off-street parking – this was not a requirement because it is in the Mixed-Use area. The school did improve parking in the renovation.

Matt Stevens: Have you considered closing the streets around the school to encourage walking and biking? They could be closed during drop-off and pick-up times. This makes it feel safer.

Principal Schau: This has been mentioned on 27<sup>th</sup>. I will pass this idea along.

Jodi: Some areas have a raised walkway across the street to force cars to slow down. A raised area for students to walk across.

Billy: We lost quite a bit of parking when the school was redone, including a gravel parking lot for teachers. Has there been considerations to angled-in parking along 26<sup>th</sup>? For closing off streets, is that permanent or just pick-up? This could create a headache for deliveries in the business district. Eric did do a parking study in May.

Jennifer: My broader question for you all is, what is your vision for the area in terms of pedestrians and cars? Initially, it looks like 26<sup>th</sup> could accommodate parking.

Georgette: Painting intersections slows down traffic. That could be a good idea around the school. Is there designated staff parking around the school?

Principal Schau: There is not.

Gerrit: Because of the change in on street parking (perpendicular instead of parallel), there was only a net loss of 4 parking spaces when Washington had the off-street parking removed. And there is always parking within two blocks of the elementary (particularly on Union and on 28th). People just don't want to walk the two whole blocks.

Felicity: I also want to raise the issue of the climate impacts of people idling and emitting. Maybe sending a reminder to parents.

Principal Schau: When we were doing valet, this was more of an issue. Cars don't line up like they used to. I can put something on my robocalls to remind parents.

Matt: Has the school explored purchasing Orca cards for all staff? Washington is better served by Pierce Transit than many other schools. I know the bulk discount for institutions is extremely good and would be a savings over attempting to provide additional parking.

Lauren: Transit is free for all students. Maybe we can explore options for staff.

Alayna: Anecdotally, I recall talking to a SOTA teacher who was concerned that Sound Transit would be introducing a fare when Hilltop Link extension opens -- so at least that TPS was not offering Orca cards to staff.

Jennifer: How do we encourage parents to not drive to schools? We have existing resources for Safe Routes to School.

Gerrit: Walking isn't an option for many students.

Matt: For the consultants, would be interesting to see the current breakdown of driving/bus/walking/biking/transit for the students at the two schools. And maybe for staff as well.

Jennifer: So far we've heard about painting (although this is not allowed on arterials), raised crosswalks, push-buttons, and traffic circles. In the plan, point to areas where you'd want to see these changes.

- **Pedestrian Safety and Comfort** – *Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works*

Jennifer: At 26<sup>th</sup> and Proctor, an all-way crossing and leading pedestrian interval have both been evaluated. What it came down to is the traffic controller is too old, which was cost prohibitive. There are no push-buttons because it's a timed intersection.

For a potential 27<sup>th</sup> and Proctor festival street, there are quite a few parking spots here so we would have to think about altering traffic and not pushing traffic into the neighborhood. There is a shared driveway that accesses the backside of businesses and trash pickup – what is the impact on this?

My question for the Steering Group is, in your vision, how often would this be closed? Lincoln, for example, is used as a special events space. Parking and sidewalk use is more flexible, with more art on the pavement. We would need vetting with the community and to consider impacts.

Healthy Streets and slow streets: The City has not deployed this because of staff resources, but if groups are interested they can work on this. One thing Public Works takes into consideration is how changes will impact the future bike network (which can be found in the Transportation Master Plan). From a staff perspective, this group can help get into the weeds on the neighborhood side. You can create the vision so that when development happens the community has already identified priorities.

- **Q&A and Discussion**

Matt: The Transportation Master Plan is being updated over the next 12 months and we (the Transportation Commission) would love input and thoughts.

Georgette: Are there plans to repaint crosswalks? Thinking especially about the one at 26<sup>th</sup> and Proctor because it is made of brick. Maybe something reflective. Some lights are outdated. Can we look for additional areas to put crosswalks in?

Jennifer: We tend to prioritize schools, people with disability requests, crash data, and then also areas that the community has identified.

Jodi: Jennifer, could traffic circles be added to some of the immediate neighborhood streets that parents and shoppers to Proctor are driving through like it's the Indy 500. The circle at N 25th & WA and N 27th & WA have prevented numerous accidents.

Jennifer: With the funding we have, we have criteria for adding a traffic circle based on crash data. They are expensive tools based on construction cost and for bringing curb ramps up to standard. There can be some issues with people running into traffic circles – these are factors to balance.

Gerrit: yeah, the red bricks at 26th and proctor was not the best idea. The brick has too low visual contrast relative to the concrete, and the brick texture is unpleasant if you are a wheelchair user or use a walker. Another example of aesthetics over usability.

Billy: There's a long story behind the intersection regarding at Proctor and 26th Street. A lot of planning and development went behind it all of which was signed off by the city. What about in ground lighting at the cross walks next to the schools?

Gerrit: Not saying the 26th and proctor intersection wasn't thought through - just that the needs of people with disabilities were either not fully considered or were minimized. And once it is poured in concrete, it is going to be that way for a very long time.

Daniel: We could discuss parking management based on the parking study or take a look at the impacts of some specific ideas.

Felicity: I like Billy's suggestion for in ground lighting at crosswalks—drivers don't seem to see the lights set to either side of the crosswalk, even when they're flashing.

Jodi: I also like the lighting idea.

Jennifer: Thanks for this idea - in ground lighting is a fairly expensive tool to implement and then maintain. This was piloted in front of TPU and eventually removed due to the ongoing maintenance. When one light goes out, the City would have to fix to address liability.

Daniel: I'll add to this, we find very few communities are installing in ground lighting because they very frequently break and become a maintenance issue.

Alayna: Even without an all-way crossing, could there still be accessibility improvements (APS) to the intersection?

Jennifer: I can check on that.

Billy: TPD shared with the business district last Thursday that they have acquired the temporary digital speed signs. They will prioritize where they get placed. The officer did mention that Proctor will be one of the areas that could see them first.

Rachel: Any thoughts on what the consultants should be looking at?

Jennifer: Identifying priority projects and then understanding traffic impacts of those projects.

Gerrit: It could be interesting for this group to have collision data on 26<sup>th</sup> and Proctor.

Jennifer: We can create a heat map of where crashes are occurring, and that could help with your prioritization.

Alayna: A heat map sounds really helpful, thanks.

Jodi: There are some issues with underrepresentation of data for crashes.

Matt: From what I remember from the vision zero data it implied that that our neighborhood did have incidents, but much fewer Killed or Significant Injury than other parts of the city.

Matt:

[https://www.cityoftacoma.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_6/File/cms/PublicWorks/Engineering/VisionZero/FINAL%20Tacoma%20Vision%20Zero%20Action%20Plan%20September%202022.pdf](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/cms/PublicWorks/Engineering/VisionZero/FINAL%20Tacoma%20Vision%20Zero%20Action%20Plan%20September%202022.pdf)

That is the vision Zero Plan. The maps are on pages 14, 15, 16. those maps show which street types/designs are particularly dangerous throughout the city. There are maps that show all the collisions/injuries/killed on our traffic system, but I don't have those easily accessible. I can find those and get them emailed to Lauren and she can share with the group.

Gerrit: Good to have context for the limits of our data.

Gerrit: Can you send the parking study out?

Jennifer: I will provide it to Anneka/Lauren/Charlotte to send out.

Jodi: If the open house wants to happen on Sat June 3rd at the Wheelock library, I do have the room reserved.

Anneka: Thank you, Jodi! We can discuss event details more at the open house planning meeting, too.

- **Next Steps**

- Follow-up survey/discussion
- Send out Proctor parking study and Vision Zero Dashboard to the group
  - Long-term, staff will work on a heat map of collision data
- Peaks & Pints from 5-6:30 pm on March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Councilmember Hines: The question is when TPU can be out of the building. Based on ongoing conversations, TPU could potentially put the property up for surplus in 2025 with the goal of opening in 2026. The visioning process for the building will probably be in 2023 – 2024. This process includes feasibility studies and proposals that come out of the public outreach.

This timeline is still being considered by TPU.

Jodi: 2018 Street fair event called Discover Cushman with TPU opening up the side door of the building. Planning to do a street fair on September 9<sup>th</sup>. What ways can Neighborhood Planning participate?

Councilmember Hines: In conversation with TPU about what is possible in terms of Cushman.

## **DRAFT 2023 Calendar**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Engagement</b>
<b>January</b>	Topic Prioritization Part 2 - <i>Update on program/SG meeting timeline; revisit program values</i>		Targeted engagement meetings Library / UPS display Promotions Depave meeting

<b>February</b>	Affordable Housing & Displacement	Home in Tacoma/ Affordable Housing Action Strategy	Targeted engagement meetings
<b>March</b>	Ped Safety & Comfort Depave	Public Works Tacoma Public Schools Traffic Consultant	Door-to-door Online survey with 4 priorities
<b>April</b>	Human Scale Design	Urban Design Studio	Historic Preservation Walk, April 29 <sup>th</sup> Earth Day scavenger hunt
<b>May</b>	Outdoor Community Space, Parks & Trails	Metro Parks Tacoma Public Schools	<b>Open House Event, June 3rd</b> Proctor Daffodil Parade
<b>June</b>	Project Prioritization 1;		Review Public Comments
<b>July</b>	Project Prioritization 2		Mailer to promote summer event
<b>August</b>	Project ideas Implementation Discussion (Community Booster Project)		Community Event: Draft Plan Proctor Arts Fest; Farmers' Market table Social Pinpoint
<b>September</b>	Review Community Feedback		<b>Cushman Street Fair, Sept. 9th</b>