



## South Tacoma Neighborhood Planning Steering Group – Meeting #6

Thursday, August 22, 2024

5:30 – 7 PM, via Zoom

### ATTENDEES PRESENT

Heidi Stephens  
Ileana Areiza  
Leanna Esquivel  
Mercy Macharia  
Paul Cavanagh  
Pennie Smith  
Ryan Spence

### STAFF PRESENT

Adam Nolan – Environmental Planning  
Alejandra Villeda - Neighborhood Planning  
Anneka Olson - Neighborhood Planning  
Lauren Hoogkamer - Neighborhood Planning  
Leander Swan - Neighborhood Planning  
Stephen Atkinson - Comprehensive Planning

## MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTES
<b>Welcome and Icebreaker</b>	Lauren Hoogkamer introduced the guest speakers from the Comprehensive Planning Program, Stephen Atkinson, and Adam Nolan. The Guest Staff were joining to share with the Steering Group how the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan will be shaping land use in South Tacoma in the coming decade(s) and how the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) code update is aiming to continue to protect the South Tacoma aquifer, as well as how these planning tools could align with the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan—especially after further input from the Steering Group contributing to the Neighborhood Plan’s actions.
<b>Program Updates/ Housekeeping</b>	<p>Lauren shared an online feedback form for Steering Group members to provide input on how they felt the meetings and planning process were going so far and to share any questions they may have about the broader process.</p> <p>Next, Leander Swan provided an update on responses to the Project Ideas Interactive Map and Project Ideas Survey. Responses are beginning to increase.</p> <p>Lauren and Alejandra Villeda provided updates on in-person engagements such as future focus groups, interactive ways people can provide feedback at upcoming engagement events, and tabling at existing community events. Alejandra noted that volunteers are still needed at pop-up events in August and September, and that they could join by filling out the signup form online.</p>



<b>Comprehensive Planning and Zoning in South Tacoma</b>	Lauren presented the Plan goal language established by the Steering Group back in May and June, which can help to inform the Comprehensive Plan and the STGPD and cross-reference with the Neighborhood Plan.
Comprehensive Planning	<p>Stephen introduced the role of the Comprehensive Plan for the City and future planning and development, how it is implemented, and how the Neighborhood Plan could contribute to the Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>Stephen also touched on Home in Tacoma and how it also supports the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan’s goals, such as an affordable community.</p>
South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD)	Adam explained that most of South Tacoma falls within the STGPD, an overlay zone that adds additional protections to safeguard water resources for the South Tacoma aquifer. The South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan could help inform the STGPD code update, consistent with the Plan’s goals of Healthy, Sustainable Environment, Socially Responsible Development, and Green Economic Opportunity.
<b>Breakout Rooms and Discussion</b>	<p>Next, Steering Group members filtered into breakout rooms where they discussed alignment between the Neighborhood Plan, One Tacoma Comprehensive plan, and the STGPD code update. After reconvening, Steering Group members shared out on what they heard in their groups.</p> <p>Discussion Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What questions do you have for our presenters?</b></li> <li>• <b>Active Neighborhood Center:</b> Would you like to see more housing and retail around the Sounder Station and south of South 56th Street? What is the future of Auto Row? What other uses might help to complete the neighborhood?</li> <li>• <b>Green Economic Opportunity:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How can we improve compatibility of industry and community? Can we better connect people in the neighborhood to jobs in the industrial area?</li> <li>○ Is a Subarea Plan and/or zoning updates for the Manufacturing and Industrial Center a priority?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Health and Environment:</b> Are there other open spaces or natural areas that need to be protected? What are your priority areas for expanding tree canopy?</li> </ul>
Group 1 Reflections	<p><b>Active Neighborhood Center:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Tacoma needs better transit, better bus routes, a light link to downtown, and/or to the airport.</li> <li>• Areas around existing transit feel neglected, roads are long and bare with too few safe crossings.</li> <li>• Walkability and safety are big for library patrons.</li> </ul> <p><b>Green Economic Opportunity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green economy is a huge issue in South Tacoma. The neighborhood needs incentives for green businesses, practices, and areas.</li> </ul>



	<p><b>Health and Environment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The differences in tree canopy across the city is visible and correlates around more affluent areas having more green areas and generally more trees.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ South/East Tacoma feels more neglected when it comes to green spaces. These communities see more impacts from climate change and are separated from access to better spaces.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lots of people are just trying to figure out how to survive. The community needs affordable housing. There should be recognition that it is hard to prioritize green space over housing. It's also a privilege to have the time and ability to participate in engagement efforts. City needs to think about those who can't participate.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The community needs truly affordable housing for low-income households that are reasonably sized units of mixed housing types, not just small apartments units.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There should be a survey that measures what types of trees are present in the neighborhood, their maturity, and then use that survey to go forward protecting existing trees and planting new trees.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Also look at undeveloped lots for increasing tree canopy.</li> <li>○ Can we combine new greenspaces with safe spaces?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The surplus of the South End Recreation Area (SERA) to construct the new fire station could further disrupt greenspace in the neighborhood</li> </ul>
<p>Group 2 Reflections</p>	<p><b>Active Neighborhood Center:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding the right mix of business to be present in South Tacoma that align with the local community's needs.</li> <li>• Interest in 15-minute neighborhoods and having enough people to support those businesses, and/but concern that there are businesses that won't thrive in South Tacoma with more density, so considering tradeoffs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Green Economic Opportunity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balancing industrial and housing uses</li> <li>• Activating rail line service, it connects to the city and neighborhood to the Port (one of few communities with this access)</li> <li>• Promoting job-dense industrial uses             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Promote workforce-oriented transit and multi-modal access – connecting through the South Tacoma Mixed-Use Center</li> <li>○ Promotions for local shopping for those who are working in the Manufacturing Industrial Center (MIC)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Considering the "orange economy"             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A human-centered economy, creative things that draw people to neighborhood (e.g., Howdy Bagel)</li> <li>○ Balancing the industrial economy with the creative economy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<p><b>Health and Environment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry and tree canopy are not incompatible             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Private and industrial developers can be responsive to the community pushing for better tree canopy</li> <li>○ Prefer requirements ensuring that the tree canopy is continuously maintained and not just for the initial development period</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The City needs to ensure follow-through is happening when it is working with partners to improve tree canopy, e.g., trees involved in the Edison tree planting are now all dead             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The City and partners could work to mobilize people to maintain plantings, such as local community volunteers and/or personnel/programs</li> <li>○ Generally, there needs to be more robust leadership and organization to generate volunteer groups to support City and partner efforts to maintain and improve tree canopy</li> <li>○ Strengthen codes that reduce impervious surfaces and boost tree canopy as well as investigate supporting/preserving existing tree canopy</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Could the landfill site have tree canopy added?</li> <li>• Are there opportunities to tie into existing grants (e.g., NW Youth Corps \$4 million) to support tree canopy and tree maintenance?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wrap Up &amp; Next Steps</b></p>	<p>Lauren concluded the meeting by noting upcoming summer engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to help spread the word on the Project Ideas Survey and Interactive Map</li> <li>• Volunteer at upcoming pop-up events</li> </ul> <p>Other Upcoming dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next Meeting: Pierce Transit SME; community booster grant preview - Thursday, September 26 (virtual), 5:30 PM</li> <li>• October: Actions Workshop (in person)</li> </ul> <p>Staff will also follow up to provide event information and engagement handouts to South Tacoma Neighborhood Council (STNC) and the South Tacoma Library.</p>

**DRAFT Calendar 2024**

Month	Steering Group Meeting	Public Event
<p><b>February</b></p>		<p>Virtual Plan-A-Thon Kick-Off Event, February 29</p>
<p><b>March</b></p>	<p>Introductions, Goals, and Steering Group Role</p>	<p>Spotlight South Tacoma:</p>



	<i>Neighborhood Planning Team</i>	<b>What's Happening; What's Coming in South Tacoma, March 21</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Framework Discussion: Group Values &amp; Equity</b>	<b>Walking Tour, April 13</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>In-Person Priorities Workshop</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Summer Engagement Discussion</b> <i>Transportation Safety: Road Safety Audit; Vision Zero</i>	<b>One Tacoma Workshops: June 10 and 15</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>History and Identity: Historic Property Survey; Urban Design</b>	<b>Summer: Priorities Engagement</b> Historic Survey Walking Tour, July 18th Launch survey and online map
<b>August</b>	<b>Planning and Environment:</b> <i>Comprehensive Plan; South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District/Health Impact</i>	<b>Summer: Priorities Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Summer Bash at the STAR Center – <b>Friday, August 23 with setup at 5 PM</b></li> <li>○ Haunted Farmers' Market and Fernseed Pop-Up – <b>Saturday, August 31 from 10 AM to 2 PM</b></li> </ul>
<b>September</b>	<b>Pierce Transit, Participatory Budgeting Booster Grant Intro</b> <b>Community Celebration Event Planning</b>	<b>Hive Co Pop Up, Sept 28, 10 AM to 1 PM</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Actions Workshop (in person)</b>	<b>City of Destiny Festival, Oct 27</b> <b>Halloween Event, TBD</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Draft Actions</b>	<b>Booster Voting</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>	<b>Community Celebration Event (TBD)</b>
<b>Fall-Winter</b>	<b>Implementation Discussions</b> <i>Housing Office; Business District Program; Open Space; Arts; Trees/Environmental Services;</i>	<b>Draft Actions Engagement</b>
<b>Winter</b>	<b>Draft Plan</b>	
<b>Spring 2025</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	