



South Tacoma Neighborhood Planning Steering Group – Meeting #9

Thursday, February 27, 2025
5:30 – 7 PM, via Zoom

ATTENDEES PRESENT

Council Member Joe Bushnell - District 5

Austin Miller
Clover Tamayo
Felicity Waldron
Heidi Stephens
Kat Raz
Mélodie Knight
Mercy Macharia
Paul Cavanagh
Ryan Spence

STAFF & GUEST SPEAKERS PRESENT

Alejandra Villeda - Neighborhood Planning
Anneka Olson- Neighborhood Planning
Lauren Hoogkamer- Neighborhood Planning
Rachel Miller-Makers

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTES
<p>Welcome and Updates</p>	<p>Lauren shared updates on the sunset of the Neighborhood Planning Program, transition of staff, and continuity of implementation planning.</p> <p>Councilmember Bushnell shared his appreciation for the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan and his commitment to continue the work.</p> <p>Engagement overview: Highlighted significant community engagement efforts, including language access.</p>
<p>Booster Project: Group Discussion</p>	<p>Lauren presented the results of the Booster project, which had 687 votes cast by community members. The top two voted projects were tree planting and signature community events/ programs for youth and seniors.</p> <p>The steering group discussed whether to allocate the \$50,000 to one project or split into two \$25,000 projects. Staff shared that existing funds exist to support trees, but that the tree project could focus more on outreach and equity for tree-planting support. Consensus leaned toward funding two projects, with one</p>



	<p>focused on tree planting and the other combining “support for community events” and “places and spaces for youth and seniors”. Committee members raised questions about ensuring tree funds have a meaningful impact and result in more trees getting into the ground. Staff will provide additional info at the next meeting.</p>
<p>Major Ideas Summary: Presentation-NPP</p>	<p>Anneka presented the Plan’s key actions across the five chapters.</p> <p>Notable opportunities include a potential \$1.5 million grant for South Tacoma Way redesign, implementation of Sounder station access improvements, tree canopy expansion, air quality initiatives, and support for a business improvement area. The plan also addresses food security, historic preservation, and community engagement.</p>
<p>Implementation: Group Activity-Makers/ NPP</p>	<p>Rachel led a Miro board activity to discuss and prioritize actions from the draft Plan. Participants were asked to identify actions that don’t have leaders, suggesting potential organizations or leaders for these actions.</p> <p>The steering group decided to stay together in one group vs breaking into smaller groups due to low attendance. Rachel encouraged everyone to review actions, add “thumbs up” stickers to show support for additional priorities, and consider potential champions.</p> <p>Here are the questions we asked the group to consider while participating in the activity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you have specific ideas for supporting implementation of the starred items? 2. Who could help to support some of the actions that could be completed in the short term, but still need a champion? 3. What actions can the community continue to advocate for? <p>Vision Statement:</p>



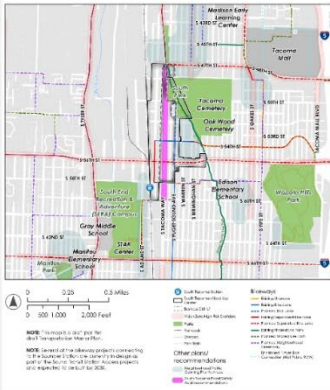
	<p><i>A diverse and vibrant neighborhood that is safe, healthy, comfortable, and connected.</i></p> <p>Diverse and vibrant neighborhood. South Tacoma is culturally, demographically, and economically diverse, with varying types of businesses and entertainment along South Tacoma Way, several industrial uses, and schools and recreation areas adding to the neighborhood's vibrancy. The Plan recommends ways to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support neighborhood business district vibrancy with amenities, events, gathering spaces, and business assistance. • Encourage compatibility between industrial and neighboring areas and green industry to help the city and region become more sustainable. • Increase housing and commercial space affordability so that the neighborhood is welcoming to new residents and businesses. <p>Safe, healthy, comfortable, and connected. The Plan aims to improve safety, health, comfort, and connectivity in South Tacoma by reducing dangerous vehicle activity, improving air quality, increasing urban tree canopy, enhancing the public realm, supporting transit service improvements, and building more walking and biking connections throughout the neighborhood.</p> <p>See below for screenshots of the micro board and summary of the results.</p>
<p>Wrap Up & Next Steps</p>	<p>There will be another steering group meeting in April, focusing on implementable actions. Staff will provide additional information on the Booster Project proposals. The draft plan will be going to the Planning Commission on April 16th for a recommendation to City Council. The group indicated they would like a public launch event in May or June.</p> <p>Other Upcoming dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Meeting: April: Implementation (in person or virtual)

DRAFT Calendar 2024/2025

Month	Steering Group Meeting	Public Event
February		Virtual Plan-A-Thon Kick-Off Event, February 29
March	<p>Introductions, Goals, and Steering Group Role</p> <p><i>Neighborhood Planning Team</i></p>	<p>Spotlight South Tacoma: What's Happening; What's Coming in South Tacoma, March 21</p>
April	<p>Framework Discussion: Group Values & Equity</p>	Walking Tour, April 13
May	In-Person Priorities Workshop	None
June	<p>Summer Engagement Discussion</p> <p>Transportation Safety: <i>Road Safety Audit; Vision Zero</i></p>	One Tacoma Workshops: June 10 and 15



July	History and Identity: <i>Historic Property Survey; Urban Design</i>	Summer: Priorities Engagement Historic Survey Walking Tour, July 18th Launch survey and online map
August	Planning and Environment: <i>Comprehensive Plan; South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District/Health Impact</i>	Summer: Priorities Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summer Bash at the STAR Center ○ Haunted Farmers' Market and Fernseed Pop-Up
September	Pierce Transit Discussion Booster Grant Intro Community Celebration Event Planning	Slavic Focus Group Spanish Businesses Outreach Hive Co Pop Up Edison Elementary Open House Ludwig Focus Group
October	Actions Workshop (in person) Booster Voting	Booster Voting (ongoing) City of Destiny Festival, Oct 27
November	Cancelled	Booster Voting (ongoing)
December	Cancelled	Booster Voting (ongoing) Santa Parade, December 14
January	Postponed	Booster Voting
February	Draft Plan Booster Project Implementation Discussion	First Planning Commission Review Comp Plan Open House, Feb. 20th
March		Planning Commission/Sustainable Tacoma Commission Update
April		Planning Commission Recommendation
May/June	Final Public Launch Meeting?	City Council Review/Adoption
Spring 2025	Final Plan Implementation Coordination	
June 2025		Program Sunset



Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity

SAFE STREETS

Implement **Road Safety Audit recommendations** along South Tacoma Way:

- Conduct a corridor study and redesign, including a road diet through business district.
- Improve pedestrian environment and public realm.
- Look for opportunities from rechannelization, e.g. space for amenity zones and/or angled parking.

Prioritize safety improvements along **Vision Zero high-risk network** and based on the South Tacoma Way Road Safety Audit.

Implement **traffic calming on neighborhood streets**, based on Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program prioritization, neighborhood greenways, and key community destinations like parks and schools, business district, and Sounder Station.

Upgrade signalized intersections to improve ADA access, pedestrian and bicycle mobility, and safety for all roadway users.

Improve **pedestrian-scale lighting**, prioritizing areas frequented by people who walk, bike, and roll.

Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity

WALKABILITY & CONNECTIVITY

Support **Safe Routes to School** at South Tacoma Schools

Complete **missing link and accessible sidewalks** and curb ramps

Advocate for **improved transit** by:

- Increasing bus service frequency, especially early morning, late night, and weekend service
- High-capacity transit (such as bus rapid transit) to South Tacoma business district (long term)
- Adding connecting bus routes to the rest of the city and region (long-term planning)

Advocate for **improved Sounder train service**

Implement planned **Sounder train station area access improvements**

Improve facilities, furnishings, and ecosystem services along the **Water Flame trail**

- Add signage and wayfinding, trash receptacles, and tree planting

Implement **bicycle facilities** as recommended in other policy documents, including the Transportation and Mobility Plan, Vision Zero, and Safe Routes to School plans.

Questions to consider:

- Do you have specific ideas for supporting implementation of the starred items?
- Who could help to support some of the actions that could be completed in the short term, but still need a champion?
- What actions can the community continue to advocate for?

For actions without stars, place up to 3 stickers on actions you would most like community and staff to continue advocating for.

Use purple sticky notes for writing the name of an organization next to actions you can see them championing.

Use green sticky notes for comments, notes, thoughts, etc.

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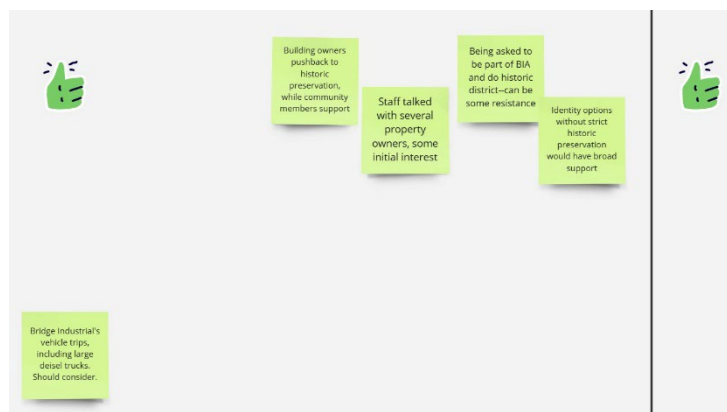
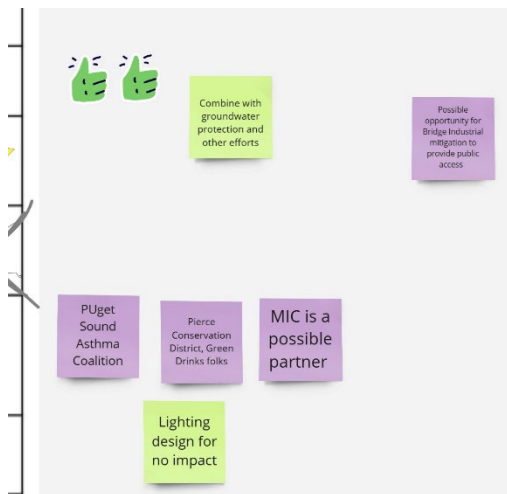
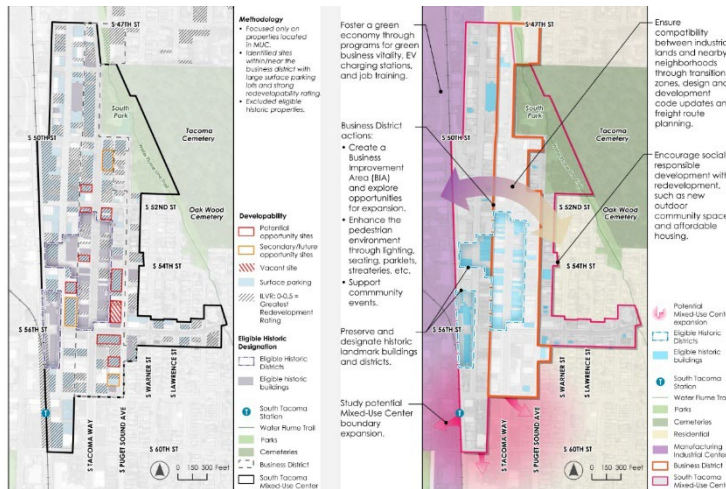
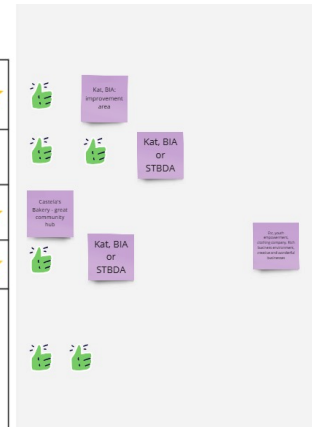
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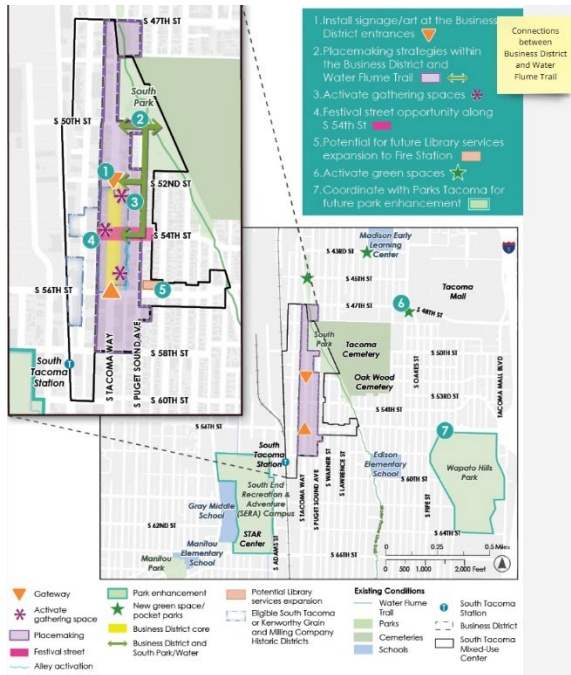




Economic Opportunity and Development

ACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER	Work with the business district on the creation of a Business Improvement Area (BIA) to support maintenance, security, lighting, landscaping and trees, beautification, community events, and business incubators. ★
	Improve street furnishings and pedestrian environment on South Tacoma Way and in the business district.
	Support signature community events , street festivals/pop-up markets, youth-friendly events, and accessible/sensory-safe programs. ★
	Support access to healthy and affordable foods by incentivizing grocery stores to locate within South Tacoma and partnering with a food bank for satellite location. ★
	Foster small business entrepreneurship and vitality by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting existing businesses to resources • Supporting entrepreneurs that are youth and family-friendly, are BIPOC, and align with local South Tacoma manufacturing efforts • Removing permitting barriers to small-scale food purveyors • Potentially supporting a physical micro-retail incubator space.





Connections between Business District and Water Flume Trail

- Youth Services Librarian interested in doing bike program, 2nd Cycle did a Kidzie Mass event. Do a bike workshop at South Branch.
- Edison School "takeover" - smaller branch serving big population
- Tool Library
- Partner for bike resources
- Second cycle is a possible partner

Sense of Place and Community

INVITING, ACCESSIBLE, BEAUTIFUL	Install signage at the entrances to the business district , and other entrances to the neighborhood, that is emblematic of the community, act as a gateway welcoming people to the neighborhood, and assist in placemaking and placekeeping.
	Find ways of enhancing South Tacoma's identity and maintenance through public realm enhancements , including new amenities, trees, landscaping, etc.
CELEBRATING HISTORY & IDENTITIES	Seek funding for and install interpretive signage and art to tell the stories of South Tacoma in the business district and along the Water Flume Trail.
	Support local organizations and gathering spaces that provide community to work together to enhance community events and enable new events that celebrate the community's diversity. ★
	Align with the Comprehensive Plan Engagement Chapter to create recommendations for more inclusive and equitable engagement by the City (language access, trauma-informed, and youth). ★
	Build neighborhood organizing and advocacy capacity by creating opportunities for ongoing collaboration. ★

Do with RSA corridor improvements

APCC is a possible partner

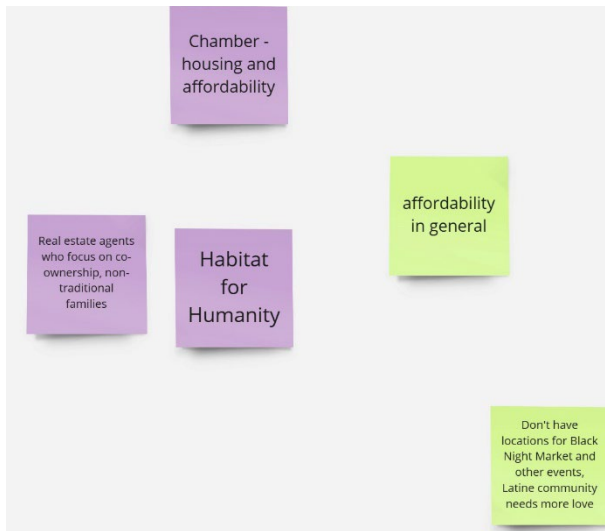
Black night market, Latino community

celebrating diversity



Affordability

AFFORDABLE COMMUNITY	Identify opportunity sites and facilitate affordable housing developer /property owner matchmaking for new housing attainable for diverse incomes and needs, including families, multi-generational, and seniors.
	Support affordable ownership opportunities . Seek opportunities to collaborate with a community land trust for long-term affordability.
	Preserve existing attainable housing, especially multifamily, to prevent displacement .
	Identify opportunities to support people who are experiencing homelessness with shelter and food .
	Support local organizational capacity-building to better serve community members who need assistance and resources for youth and families.





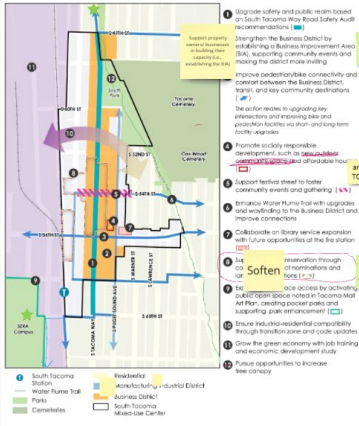
Vision Summary

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- 1 Upgrade safety and public realm based on South Tacoma Way Road Safety Audit recommendations (A1)
- 2 Support priority transit services by building new transitways, widening the bike lanes, and improving connectivity and comfort between the Business District, local, and area community destinations. (A1)
- 3 Promote locally responsible development such as **decentralized** **community centers** and **TOD**
- 4 Support local street to foster community events and gathering (A.1)
- 5 Repurpose Water Plume Trail with upgrades and upgrading to the Business District and improve connectivity
- 6 Collaborate on library service expansion with future opportunities of the fire station
- 7 Soften **open** **residential** **recreation** through **open** **park** **recreation** **open** **park** **recreation** **open** **park** **recreation**
- 8 **open** **residential** **recreation** **open** **park** **recreation** **open** **park** **recreation** **open** **park** **recreation**
- 9 Ensure industrial-residential compatibility through transition zone and code updates
- 10 Grow the green economy with job training and economic development study