



# MEMO

To: Tacoma Transportation Commission

From: Carrie Wilhelme, Senior Transportation Planner

Date: February 10, 2023

**Subject: Transportation Master Plan – Overview**

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## **Overview**

### *Comprehensive Plan and Growth Management Act*

Tacoma's Comprehensive Plan, One Tacoma, is the City's official guide documenting its vision for future growth and development. It identifies goals, policies, and strategies for maintaining the health, welfare, and quality of life of Tacoma's residents. The Comprehensive Plan is comprised of numerous individual elements, including elements addressing such important issues as urban form, design and development, environment and watershed health, parks and recreation, housing, and economic development. The Transportation Master Plan (TMP) is the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

The City of Tacoma amends its Comprehensive Plan on an annual basis as permitted by state law. In addition to these regular amendments, the Growth Management Act (GMA) requires counties and cities to periodically conduct a thorough review of their plans and regulations to bring them in line with any relevant changes in the GMA, and to accommodate updated growth targets.

Tacoma last completed such a "periodic update" in 2015 and is mandated to undertake and complete another "periodic update" by December 2024. In addition, the City of Tacoma is the designated "Metropolitan City" for Pierce County and is allocated, through Vision 2050 and the Countywide Planning Policies, to accommodate a significant share of the region's population and employment growth. The Puget Sound Regional Council evaluates and certifies local comprehensive plans for consistency with the multi-county planning policies. The Comprehensive Plan update will include a review and update to ensure consistency with the goals and policies of Vision 2050

### *Transportation Master Plan*

As stated above, the TMP is the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan and is the long-range blueprint for travel and mobility within Tacoma. The GMA specifically requires that the Transportation Element be "consistent with and implements the land use element." Consistency means that the transportation plan be sufficient in scope (projects, funding, and level of service) to carry out the Land Use Element.

The TMP update will assess citywide multimodal transportation needs and guide prioritization of investments over a 20-year planning horizon. The TMP update will define transportation goals, policies, and projects, and respond to transformations that are occurring through zoning changes and emerging policy and technology trends.

### **Next Steps**

The City's Transportation Commission and Planning Commission will help guide the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan effort and will provide recommendations to the City Council. In order to ensure the focus of the plan is consistent with the community's vision, public outreach will be a major component of the plan development process. The Planning Commission received a Comprehensive Plan overview presentation at their January 18 meeting.

### *Timeline*

- February – June 2023: Scoping, Existing Conditions, Public Engagement Plan
- June – December 2023: Community Visioning, Future Conditions, Policy Review (TC and PC coordination)
- January – June 2024: Draft Plan (TC and PC coordination)
- June – December 2024: PC and CC Review

### **Questions and Discussion**

Staff invites input from the Transportation Commission on two key questions:

- 1. What would be helpful for future discussions regarding key themes, issues, and topics that need to be addressed in the update (data, documents, etc.)?**
- 2. What community engagement methods and communications should be included in the Public Engagement Plan?**

### **More Information**

- [PSRC Vision 2050 Plan](#)
- [City of Tacoma Transportation Master Plan](#)
- [One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan](#)



# MEMO

To: Tacoma Transportation Commission

From: Jennifer Kammerzell, Assistant Transportation Division Manager

Date: February 10, 2023

**Subject: 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program – Overview**

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## **Overview of Program**

The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that transportation planning and system development support the broader, long-range goals for community development. The GMA specifies transportation as a required element of a comprehensive plan. Additionally, all cities, towns, and counties are required to develop and adopt a six-year transportation improvement program (TIP), also known as a transportation improvement plan.

The TIP is a short-range planning document that is updated every year and shows the funding sources and amounts for transportation improvement projects planned for the next six years. The TIP must be consistent with the comprehensive plan. Each jurisdiction must review and update its TIP every year, following one or more public hearings. For cities, the deadline for adoption is July 1

The TIP is necessary to allow cities and counties to obtain state and federal funding. For a project to obtain funding from the state, it must appear in the agency's current program. Since the state also disperses federal highway funds, this requirement applies to federally-funded projects as well. The Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program lists planned transportation projects for the remaining year and the ensuing six years. The program includes roadways, bridges, non-motorized facilities, sidewalks and other capital related transportation projects. The program is based upon anticipated revenues versus desirable projects. There are always more projects than available revenues.

It is also important to note that the adoption of the program does not irreversibly commit the City of Tacoma to construct the projects. A project may be canceled at any time during the course of study or design. The program may at any time be revised by a majority of the City Council, but only after a public hearing.

## **Questions and Discussion**

Staff invites input from the Transportation Commission on the following question:

- 1. Thinking forward to the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan Update, how could the 6-Year TIP and Comprehensive Plan be better aligned?**

## **More Information**

[6-Year Transportation Improvement Program](#)



# 2023 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN

## MANDATED

- 6-year Transportation Improvement Program
- Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan Update

## PRIORITIES

- Long range transit planning
- Quick-build and neighborhood traffic calming
- Vision Zero implementation
- Pedestrian only streets and alley activation
- WSDOT coordination (SR-167, SR-7, I-5)
- I-5 Crossings Study

## INVOLVEMENT

- Home in Tacoma
- Climate Action Plan
- Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan
- Tideflats Sub-Area Plan
- UW Tacoma 2050 Plan
- Schuster Corridor