



City of Tacoma  
Transportation Commission

June 21, 2024

City of Tacoma  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Subject: 2025-2026 Biennial Budget

Dear Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Council Sub-Committee:

The Transportation Commission (Commission) acknowledges the City Council's ongoing efforts to establish budget priorities. As the Council evaluates these priorities, the Commission strongly advocates for the continuation and support of programs that promise significant, positive change for the city. Specifically, **we emphasize the importance of the Vision Zero and Safe Routes to School programs, urging that these initiatives receive sustained funding.** Both programs are vital for enhancing the safety and overall efficacy of Tacoma's transportation system.

For Vision Zero and Safe Routes to Schools to achieve their goals, the support of the Street Operations team is crucial in implementing quick-build solutions while the city plans and designs for long-term, permanent changes. This implementation necessitates additional staff, equipment, and resources to identify and address critical locations, ensuring success for these quick-builds. That is why the Transportation Commission believes **Street Operations needs funding for additional staff to support quick-build projects** to achieve Vision Zero and Safe Routes to School goals.

As the city prioritizes longer-term, larger projects, the Commission urges a comprehensive approach that includes sub-area planning and alternative alignment discussions concerning the T-Line extension to TCC. While earlier planning efforts identified S. 19th St. as the route for the T-Line extension, we advocate for a thorough evaluation to determine the best alignment for future development, whether it remains on S. 19th St. or shifts to another route. This evaluation should be integrated with **sub-area planning for the 6th Avenue corridor**, including the 6th Ave Neighborhood Business District.

We recognize that the city's priorities are diverse and not solely transportation-related. However, addressing the critical threat of climate change requires a redesign of our transportation system to reduce reliance on automobiles. Such a redesign will not only lower carbon emissions but also enhance access and mobility options for all who live, work, and recreate in Tacoma. In line with this vision, we urge the City to **continue funding resources that prioritize the pedestrian experience**, such as completing missing sidewalks, installing ADA curb ramps, and conducting studies to identify streets suitable for pedestrianization.

We deeply appreciate the City Council's dedication and hard work. The Commission earnestly hopes that Vision Zero, Safe Routes to Schools, and related infrastructure improvements will be prioritized to save lives and elevate the quality of life for Tacoma's residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bruce Morris  
Transportation Commission Co-Chair

Matt Stevens  
Transportation Commission Co-Chair

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