

South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan

Executive Summary

Vision and Purpose

The South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan (Plan) outlines community-identified projects, ideas, and actions to foster the vision for South Tacoma as a diverse and vibrant neighborhood that is safe, healthy, comfortable, and connected.

Community members and the City of Tacoma co-created the Plan from 2024 through 2025, with over 1,300 “engagements” – input from community members via surveys, engagement with key partners and community groups, and public meetings and events guiding the Plan.



City of Tacoma
**Neighborhood
Planning
Program**

Goals

The Neighborhood Planning Program engaged community members to capture key issues and ideas for South Tacoma's future and identified several goals, summarized as these five focus areas:

1

Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity

Increase safety on South Tacoma streets and comfortably connect South Tacoma residents to destinations via walking, biking, rolling, and transit.

2

Health and Environment

Create a sustainable, healthy, resilient, thriving community with clean air and water, a healthy tree canopy, and access to health and wellness facilities.

3

Economic Opportunity and Development

Activate the neighborhood center, reduce barriers for diverse businesses, promote socially responsible development, and encourage jobs in green industry while limiting potential negative impacts of industry.

4

Sense of Place and Community

Enhance and showcase South Tacoma, celebrate the neighborhood's many histories and identities, and foster a sense of community and gathering.

5

Affordability

Ensure access to affordable and diverse services and housing, support for people experiencing homelessness, and opportunities to build generational wealth through home ownership.

Major Actions

The following Plan recommendations will strengthen South Tacoma's livability, economic opportunity, and pedestrian connectivity. Location-specific actions are keyed to the map, and neighborhood-wide actions are listed on the following page. The Plan includes many additional recommendations – learn more and read the full Plan at our website.

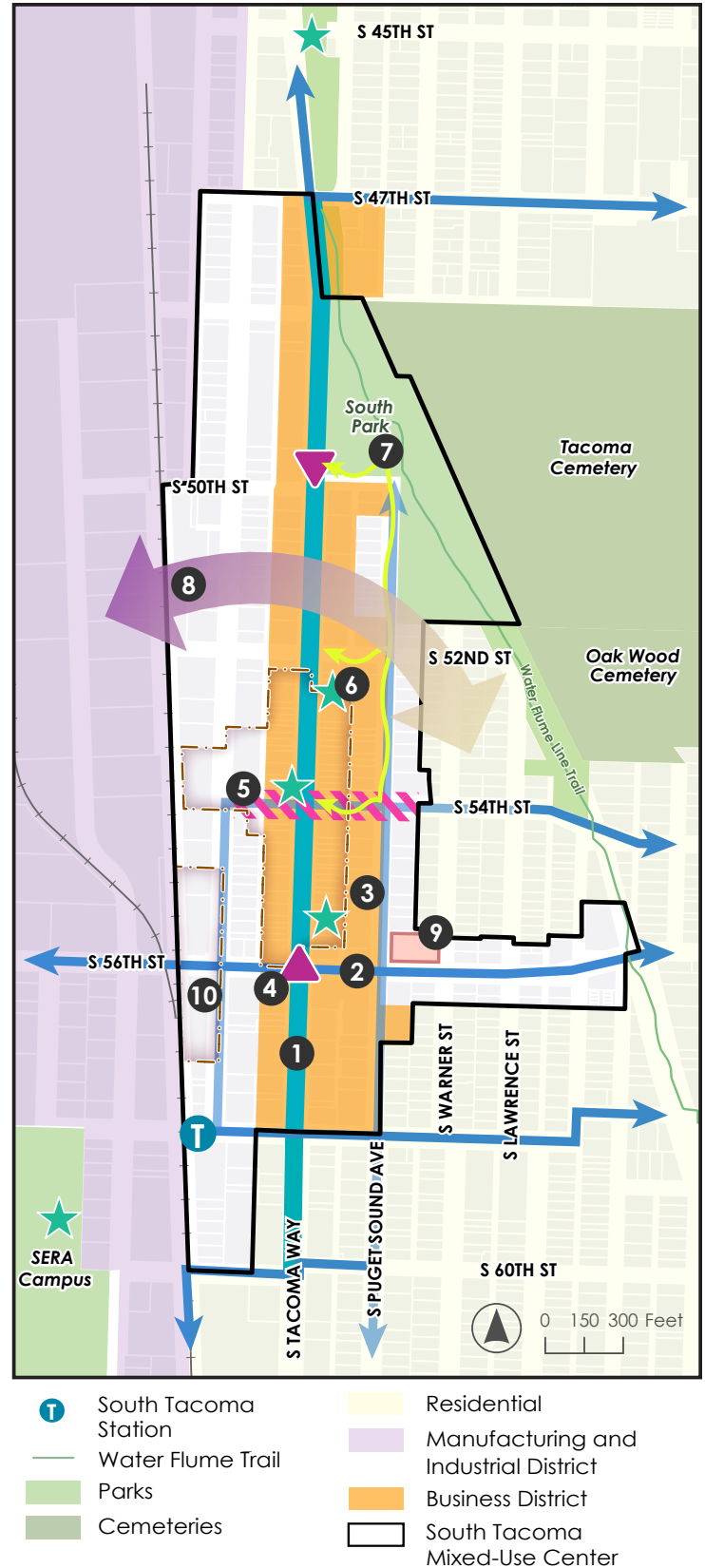
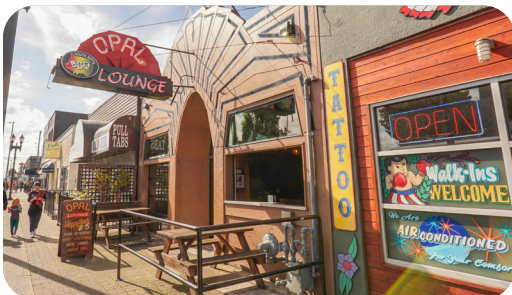
The tags indicate Plan goal areas. **TMC** Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity; **HE** Health and Environment; **EOD** Economic Opportunity and Development; **SPC** Sense of Place and Community; **A** Affordability.

Location-Specific

- 1 Upgrade safety and public realm based on South Tacoma Way Road Safety Audit recommendations **TMC EOD**
- 2 Improve pedestrian/bike connectivity and comfort between the Business District, transit, Sounder Station, and community destinations **TMC**



- 3 Support businesses/property owners in building their capacity (i.e., establishing a Business Improvement Area (BIA)) **EOD SPC**
- 4 Celebrate South Tacoma's identity through art and signage in the Business District **TMC EOD SPC**

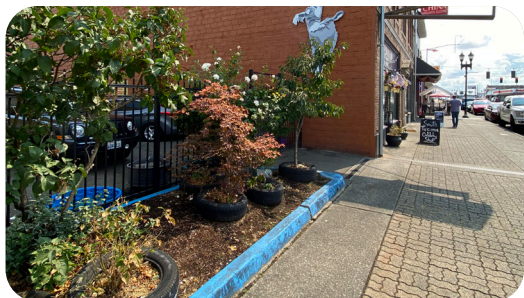





Check out the
South Tacoma
Neighborhood Plan!

tacoma.gov/southtacomanp



- 5 Create a festival street to support community events and gathering 
 EOD SPC
- 6 Activate/improve existing and create new small parks and gathering spaces 
 HE SPC



- 7 Upgrade the Water Flume Trail — and improve connections to the Business District 
 TMC EOD
- 8 Ensure industrial-residential compatibility through transition zone and code updates
 EOD
- 9 Coordinate library service expansion with future opportunities at the fire station 
 SPC A
- 10 Explore historic preservation opportunities through commercial district nominations and landmark protections 
 EOD

Neighborhood-Wide Actions

- 11 Pursue opportunities to increase tree canopy and improve air/stormwater quality
 TMC HE



- 12 Support access to care and healthy, affordable foods through health partnerships
 HE EOD A
- 13 Grow the green economy with job training and economic development study
 EOD

- 14 Build community capacity and connection through signature events that bring communities together
 EOD SPC



- 15 Promote socially responsible development such as affordable housing and transit-oriented development
 TMC EOD SPC A

You Voted, We're Doing It

The neighborhood-selected Community Booster Grant projects focus on **increasing tree canopy** and **hosting family-friendly and inclusive signature community events**. These efforts reflect priorities identified by residents, including the desire for more green spaces and neighborhood gathering opportunities. Implementation partners will take the lead on bringing these projects to life.



Implementation

Several projects have already been funded with the help of internal and external partners. Other Plan actions are opportunistic, to be completed when grant or other funding becomes available. Some larger actions set the tone for other projects to follow (see right).



South Tacoma Way Safety Improvements to redesign the street, slow traffic, make the street more pedestrian friendly, and enhance the public realm.

Increase urban tree canopy by preserving existing street trees, surveying plantable spaces, conducting outreach and delivering free trees, and organizing a community planting day.

Increased business district capacity and the creation of a business improvement area (BIA) to support events, public amenities, and small/legacy business.

Celebrate the community with signature events, programming for youth and seniors, preserving landmark buildings, and art and signage that tells South Tacoma stories.

Support green business vitality with an economic development study to support green sector jobs and explore strategies for environmentally healthy industrial areas.

Due to recent budget reductions, the City of Tacoma Neighborhood Planning Program will sunset in June 2025. The program staff are handing off future implementation to partners in the City and the community.

Engagement

Intentional, equitable, and trauma-informed community engagement was the core driving force behind the creation of the Plan. Staff proactively reached out and engaged with community members to identify shared values and goals, collaborated with the Steering Group to co-create the community engagement process and the Plan, and built lasting relationships with businesses and neighborhood advocates to increase neighborhood capacity. We are grateful to the community for their enthusiastic participation, which included the following engagements.



1,300+ Community “Engagements”

Events

- 4 events and open houses; 2 neighborhood walks
- Tabling at 7 community events
- Feedback boards at Library and STAR Center

Surveys and Online

- Interactive online map
- 2 online surveys
- Community Booster Project voting

Meetings and Focused Engagement

- 10 Steering Group meetings
- 4 tenant, business, multilingual, and youth focus groups
- 13 community interviews
- Multilingual engagement in Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, Ukrainian, Korean, and Khmer