



# Envision Our Waterfront Tacoma

## EnvisionOurWaterfront.Org

CoT Transportation Commission 9-19-18

Andrew Austin, Project Manager, Metro Parks Tacoma



# Ruston Way Context

---

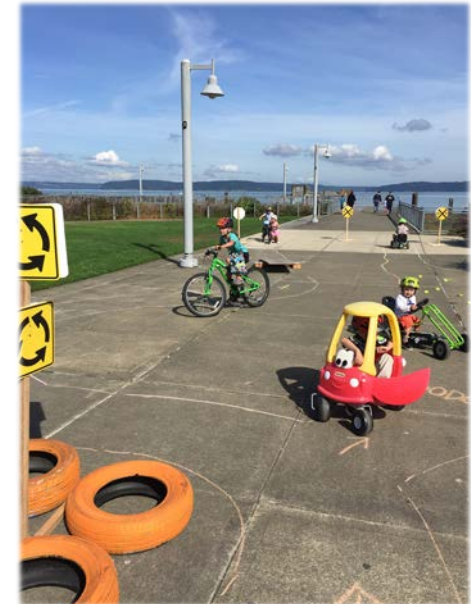
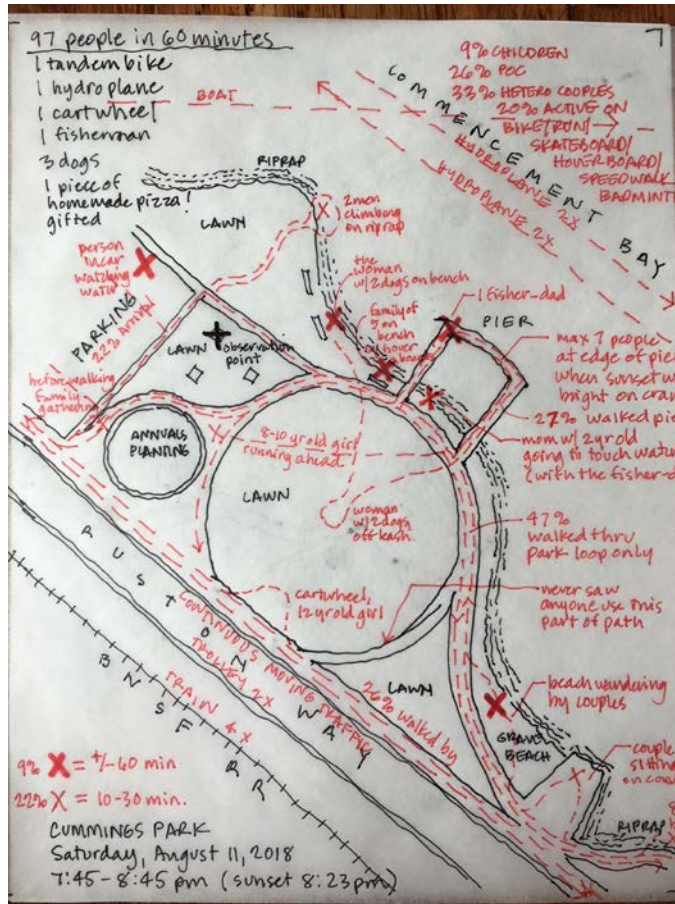




# Ruston Way



# Ruston Way



# Ruston Way

---



# Cultural Connections

---



# Ruston Way



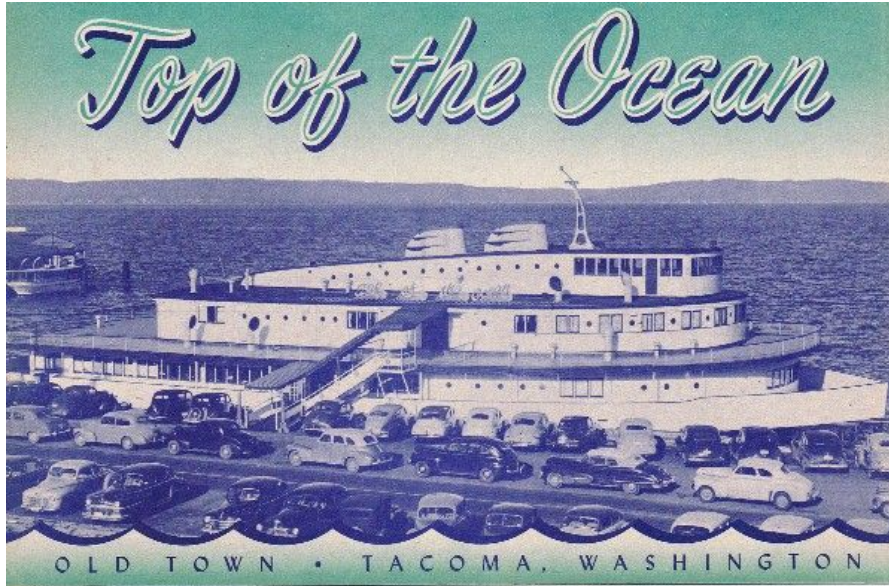


# Dickman Mill

---



# Ruston Way



Aerial View-Top of the Ocean and Tacoma



# Ruston Way

---



# Ruston Way



 *Envision*   
OUR WATERFRONT  
TACOMA

# Overview

---

- **Project Goal**
- **Plan Objectives and Study Area**
- **Key Partners and Stakeholders**
- **Major themes & topics**
- **Transportation Access & Equity:**
  - **Opportunities and challenges**
- **Discussion and Questions**



# Project Goal

*Develop a community vision for the Tacoma waterfront and a conceptual design and action plan for Ruston Way.*



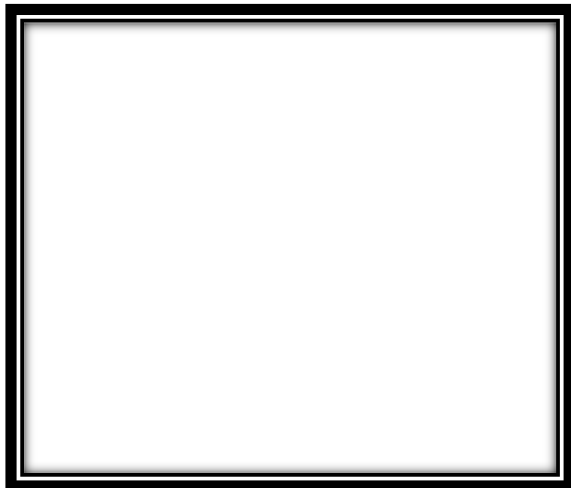
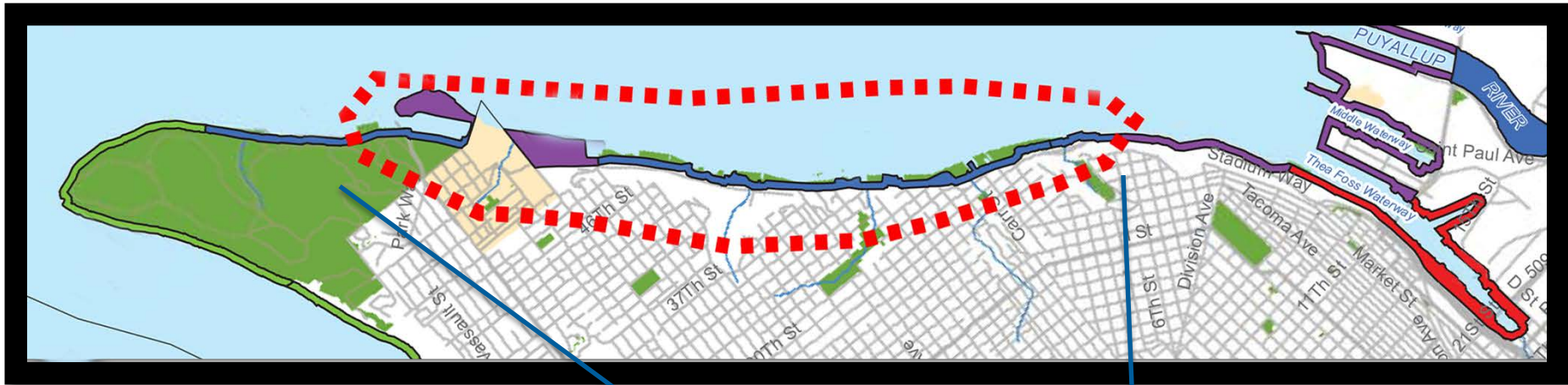
# Plan Objectives:

---

- Extensive and inclusive citywide outreach techniques and channels to garner meaningful public and stakeholder input and buy in.
- Be visionary, yet rooted in current constraints, opportunities, conditions, and realities.
- Unify a shared vision for Ruston Way that connects all of Tacoma to its waterfront with a focus on equity.
- Provide the guidance for long-term approach to capital improvements to Ruston Way and leverage future bond, grant, and philanthropic dollars.



# Study Area



Marina and Promenade

Chinese Reconciliation Park



# Partners and Stakeholders

- Metro Parks Tacoma (Co-lead)
- City of Tacoma (Co-lead)
- Port of Tacoma
- Pierce Transit
- Town of Ruston
- Department of Natural Resources
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
- Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad (BNSF)



# Key Stakeholders Continued

---

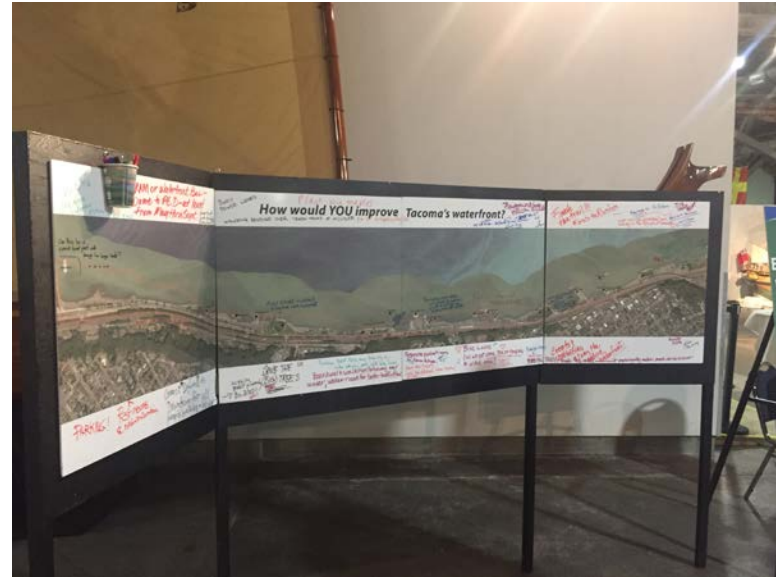
- Point Ruston
- Foss Waterway Authority
- Old Town Business District
- Waterfront restaurants
- Downtown on the Go
- Puyallup Watershed Initiative
- Urban League
- Citizens for a Healthy Bay
- Forterra
- User groups
- Citizen groups
- Neighborhood councils
- And more...



# Downtown to Defiance Launch



# Road Show Continues



# Major Emerging Themes and Topics

---

## Overarching Theme:

- What is this place? What do we want it to be? History, culture & context
- Equity: creating a waterfront for everyone
- Climate resiliency & sea level rise

## Three Focus area Themes:

1. Transportation: equitable access & use of space
2. Nature: where land & The Salish Sea meet
3. Uses: programming & function of public and private space



# Transportation Access: Challenges

- Is Ruston Way the regional amenity we all want it to be?
- Waterfront isn't moving, is it serving the whole city?
- Difficult to access without a car:
  - Lack of Transit service
  - Missing Schuster Trail connection
  - Poor connections to neighborhood
- Space constrained by railroad and rising sea:  
Roadway in state of disrepair & trail inadequate



# Transportation Access: Opportunities

- Dreaming how to solve transit puzzle
- Foot ferry discussion
- Vision for neighborhood connections
- Honest dialogue about space prioritization
- Urban arterial of space for people?
- Coordination with Schuster project
- Expand special events?



# Next Steps

---

- Survey live now [envisionourwaterfront.org](http://envisionourwaterfront.org)
- Continued citywide outreach and speaking engagements
- Public visioning charrette at end of October (you will all be invited)
- Synthesis of charrette through fall with additional stakeholder feedback
- Next year phase I visioning plan and next steps delivered to City Council and MPT commissioners







# Envision Our Waterfront

## Discussion

Andrew Austin, Project Manager  
[AndrewA@Tacomaparks.com](mailto:AndrewA@Tacomaparks.com)  
253-305-1021

