



2012 Annual Amendment Application No. 2012-3
Transportation Element

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Application #:	2012-3
Applicant:	Community and Economic Development Department / Public Works Department
Contact:	Diane Wiatr, 591-5380, dwiatr@cityoftacoma.org / Jennifer Kammerzell, 591-5511, jkammerzell@cityoftacoma.org
Type of Amendment:	Comprehensive Plan Text Change and Map Updates
Current Land Use Intensity:	N/A
Current Area Zoning:	N/A
Size of Area:	Citywide
Location:	Citywide
Neighborhood Council area:	All
Proposed Amendment:	Amend the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan to update the Mobility Master Plan section and to add new projects to the Unfunded Project List.

General Description of the Proposed Amendment:

Proposed are amendments to the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan, including the following two components:

1. Mobility Master Plan Section:

Update the Mobility Master Plan section to (a) keep information current and address consistency among text, maps and project lists; (b) reprioritize bicycle improvement projects as listed in Table 2 – Short Term Bicycle Project Priority List; and (c) prioritize pedestrian improvement projects as listed in Table 3 – Proposed Sidewalk Improvements and as listed in the subsection of Intersection Improvement Recommendations.

2. Unfunded Project List:

Update the “Long-Term Transportation Improvement Projects List – Unfunded” by adding new projects in the Neighborhood Actions Strategies category (See Exhibit A).

Additional Information:

The Mobility Master Plan section of the Transportation Element, approved by City Council on June 15, 2010, provides a vision, policies and an implementation strategy for how the City of Tacoma can improve conditions for bicycling and walking citywide over the next fifteen years. It moves the City towards social, economic and environmental sustainability and serves as a cornerstone for Tacoma’s climate

action goals. It is critical that the information contained in the Mobility Master Plan section is kept current and the recommended projects are adequately prioritized for implementation. The proposed amendments to this section are at the request of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Committee, which is a citizen-based group established to assist the City in implementing the Mobility Master Plan.

The Unfunded Project List of the Transportation Element reflects the desires of the community and exemplifies the City's intent to maintain the service level of the transportation system citywide and meet the concurrency requirements of the Growth Management Act. The proposed amendment to the Unfunded Project List for 2012 includes project ideas submitted by various Neighborhood Councils that have come about through their update process of each Neighborhood Council Action Strategy completed this spring. An initial screening of the project ideas suggests that these projects do not meet the selection criteria for inclusion into the Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Program, but should be considered for inclusion in the Unfunded Project List to gain eligibility for future funding. When funding becomes available, unfunded projects may be selected and moved to the Six-Year Program for detailed budgeting and implementation.

Assessment Criteria:

In order to assist the Commission in determining which applications should be considered in which amendment cycle, staff provides an assessment of each application pursuant to the following criteria, which are contained in TMC 13.02.045.F.

1. Determining if the amendment request is legislative, and properly subject to Commission review, or quasi-judicial, and not properly subject to Commission review.

Amending the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan is a legislative action and the primary responsibility of the Planning Commission.

2. Determining if the request is site-specific (i.e., a land use intensity or a zoning change for a specific parcel(s) likely to be under one ownership).

Pedestrian and bikeways projects in the Mobility Master Plan section and projects contained in the Unfunded Projects List involve various streets, public rights-of-way and intersection locations. However, they are not pertaining to site-specific land use intensity changes or rezones.

3. Receipt by the application deadline, if applicable (a large volume of requests before the deadline may necessitate that some requests be reviewed in a subsequent amendment cycle).

All of the proposed amendments were identified by June 30, 2011.

4. Order of receipt.

Not applicable.

5. Recent study of the same area or issue (this may be cause for the Commission to decline further review).

The proposed amendments have not been reviewed by the Planning Commission.

6. Amount of analysis necessary (if a large-scale study is required, an application may have to be delayed until a future amendment cycle due to work loads, staffing levels, etc.).

Updating and revising text and maps of the Mobility Master Plan section is expected to be modest. Prioritization of the Pedestrian List will require review by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Committee (BPAC) to develop criteria to determine ranking as well as public review. Updating the Short Term Bicycle Project Priority List will also require review by the BPAC as well as public review.

For the Unfunded Projects, the analysis is expected to be modest and will focus on evaluating the characteristics of the projects to determine if they are consistent with and implement the policy intents of the Comprehensive Plan.

7. Available incorporation into planned or active projects.

There are currently no other planned or active projects that the proposed amendment could be incorporated into.

Recommendation:

The Planning Commission will review the assessment and make its decision as to: (1) whether or not the application is complete or what information is needed to make the application complete; (2) which amendment application(s) will be considered and in which amendment cycle; and (3) whether or not to prepare alternative proposed amendment(s) that either expand or contract the scope of the original proposed amendment (TMC 13.02.045.F).

Staff recommends that the proposed amendments to the Transportation Element be included as part of the 2012 Annual Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Regulatory Code.

Exhibit:

- A. Proposed Unfunded Project List Update

Exhibit A. Project Requests for the Transportation Element Unfunded List

Proposed Project	Requested by (Neighborhood Council)*	Proposed Change to the Transportation Element
1. Browns Point Blvd – Complete sidewalks along at least one side of Browns Point Blvd from 33 rd Street NE to intersection with Norpoint Way near 21 st Ave NE with priorities between Crescent Heights to Norpoint Way, Norpoint Way to 51 st St NE, Howard’s Corner to McMurray Rd, and 51 st St NE to the north end of Norpoint Way NE.	Northeast	Add as new NAS* Project
2. SR509 and Slayden Road Intersection – Install traffic control devices on all legs of the intersection to improve access and intersection movements.	Northeast	Add as new NAS Project
3. Northshore Parkway from Nassau to Norpoint Way - Provide uphill (eastbound) passing lane, bike lanes, sidewalks on north side, landscaping between Nassau and Norpoint Way, and evaluate signal at 45 th Ave NE and/or 42 nd Ave NE	Northeast	Amend NAS Project, “Northshore Parkway from Nassau to Norpoint Way”
4. McMurray Road from Marine View Drive to Browns Point Blvd – Install streetlights and sidewalk on at least one side	Northeast	Add as new NAS Project
5. 45 th Street NE from Nassau Ave NE to Norpoint Way – Install pedestrian protected crosswalk	Northeast	Add as new NAS Project
6. Jackson Ave from S 19 th St to SR 16 – Install traffic calming devices	West End	Add as new NAS Project
7. N 23 rd St and Shirley St – Install a roundabout or traffic calming devices near the intersection for pedestrians crossing to Kandle Park	West End	Add as new NAS Project
8. South Tacoma Gateways – Install streetscape improvements at all arterial entryways to the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council area	South Tacoma	Add as new NAS Project
9. S 60 th from Oakes to Pine Street – Install sidewalk	South Tacoma	Add as new NAS Project
10. Washington Street from S 54 th to S 58 th Street – Improve existing sidewalk and add separation between on-street parking	South Tacoma	Add as new NAS Project
11. South Tacoma Sound Transit Station – Complete sidewalks along S 58 th and S 60 th to connect to South Tacoma Way	South Tacoma	Add as new NAS Project
12. S 68 th St between S Mullen and S Gove St – Install sidewalks on the north side	South Tacoma	Add as new NAS Project
13. S 60 th at Lawrence, Montgomery, and Alder St – Install ADA ramps at each intersection.	South Tacoma	Add as new NAS Project

Proposed Project	Requested by (Neighborhood Council)*	Proposed Change to the Transportation Element
14. McKinley Hill to downtown Tacoma – Complete sidewalks	Eastside	Add as new NAS Project
15. Residential areas located just north of the intersections of East 38 th and Howe and East 38 th and K Streets – Install streetlights and pedestrian improvements, such as crosswalks	Eastside	Add as new NAS Project
16. E 54 th St from Pacific Ave to Bell St – Street improvements	Eastside	Add as new NAS Project
17. Railroad Crossings at E 48 th and E 52 nd – Improve roadway over railroad tracks	Eastside	Add as new NAS Project
18. N 21 st from Proctor to Pearl St – Complete sidewalk network	North End	Replace NAS, “N 21 st (Orchard to Huson, Bennett; Baltimore to Villard; Highland alley)
19. Pedestrian overpass between Old Town Business District and Ruston Way – Grade separated pedestrian link over the rail lines	North End	Add as new NAS Project
20. N 29 th Crossing between White and Carr St – Install pedestrian crossing/connection between Ursich Park and Old Town Park	North End	Add as new NAS Project
21. North 9 th and North 11 th St – Rehabilitate cobblestone streets	North End	Add as new NAS Project
22. N Steele and M St – Install historic style streetlights	North End	Add as new NAS Project
23. Sprague Ave from SR 16 to S 19 th St – Install streetscape improvements at entryway	Central	Add as new NAS Project
24. 6 th Avenue from Sprague to Alder St – Complete sidewalk network and provide crosswalks	Central	Add as new NAS Project
25. Union Ave between SR 16 and S 23 rd St – Complete sidewalk network and provide crosswalk between shopping center and Senior Center	Central	Add as new NAS Project
26. S 15 th , S 19 th , Prospect, and Trafton St – Provide street improvements to unimproved streets in this area.	Central	Add as new NAS Project

Notes:

- NAS = Neighborhood Action Strategy
- The New Tacoma and South End Neighborhood Councils had no changes to the previous Transportation Action Strategies.