



**Assessment of Application  
Planning Commission Determination**

July 17, 2019

<b>Application:</b>	<b>Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Amendments</b>
<b>Applicant:</b>	Public Works Department
<b>Summary of Proposal:</b>	Amending the TMP (the transportation element of the <i>One Tacoma</i> Comprehensive Plan) by updating policies, priority networks, project list, and performance measures; incorporating the Tacoma Mall Neighborhood Subarea Plan; making changes to support multimodal level of service, impact fees, or Vision Zero, a plan to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries; and incorporating the Dome District Business Association’s request to strengthen pedestrian priorities in the Downtown Regional Growth Center.
<b>Location and Size of Area:</b>	Citywide
<b>Current Land Use and Zoning:</b>	Various
<b>Neighborhood Council Area:</b>	Citywide
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**Public Scoping Comments and Staff Responses:**

The Planning Commission conducted a public scoping hearing on June 19, 2019 on the proposed scope of work for the application, and kept the hearing record open through June 21, 2019 to accept written comments. The following are a summary of the comments received and the corresponding responses from staff:

- **Comment (testimony)** – As referenced in the Dome District Business Association’s (DDBA) application that is included in this TMP Amendments application as an attachment, there is not enough focus on pedestrians in the TMP. The TMP Amendments should center on truly understanding how the pedestrians deal with the streets and other public spaces.

**Staff Response:** The DDBA’s application to the Transportation Commission submitted in 2018 requests to strengthen pedestrian priorities in the Downtown Regional Growth Center. Public Works staff and the Transportation Commission have already recommended including the request for evaluation as part of the TMP Amendments. The TMP’s role is to help Tacoma consider its transportation systems, how well they’re functioning and what needs, including funding, will be necessary over the next 25 years and beyond.

- **Comment (written comments)** – The commenter suggested a comprehensive project of “6th Avenue Corridor Walkability and Mobility Improvements” located on 6th Avenue from Ainsworth to Alder that would include major components of “Rework the Sprague/Division/6th Avenue intersection”, “Extend protected bike lanes through the 6th Avenue Business District on 6th Avenue”, and “Reduce Parking Requirements for Housing Developments Along 6th Avenue from Sprague to Yakima.” The commenter also argued for the potential benefits of each component and provided supplemental materials including sample photos of roundabouts and bike lane treatments and an article regarding the conversion of street parking into bike lanes.

**Staff Response:** The proposed project and associated information will be added to the scope of work for the TMP Amendments, to be reviewed by the Transportation Commission starting this fall. Staff notes that currently there are several projects listed in Appendix B of the TMP document, as shown below. Some of them may be conflicting with each other.

- 6th Avenue Roundabout
- Bike lanes on 6th Avenue between Ainsworth and Broadway, Walters Rd and Jackson,
- Shared lane markings on 6th Avenue between Sprague and Jackson
- 6th Avenue from Sprague to Alder - Complete sidewalk network and provide crosswalks, lighting, landscaping, and bulb-outs
- 6th Avenue – Jackson to Walters – Complete Streets/arterial improvement
- 6th Avenue – Jackson to Orchard – Traffic calming, install landscape medians on 6th Ave between Jackson and Orchard

Staff also notes that the 6th Avenue corridor is also listed on the conflicted corridor that lists transit (high capacity) as the primary priority and bike as secondary priority. A balance to support the modes within the given right-of-way is required, as well as a study to analyze the impacts of removing parking, eliminating turn lanes, and limited circulation. While there may be a low cost interim project, an evaluation of impacts prior to implementation would be required.

- **Comment (from the Planning Commission)** – What is the review timeline of the TMP amendments for the Transportation Commission and the Planning Commission?

**Staff Response:** The tentative timeline is as follows, subject to change:

<b>DRAFT Schedule for Transportation Master Plan Amendments 2019-2020</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Work or Meeting</b>
August 21, 2019	Transportation Commission review – Dome District application and Project List/Modal Priorities
September 18, 2019	Transportation Commission review – Dome District application and Project List/Modal Priorities
October 16, 2019	Transportation Commission review – Impact Fees
November 6, 2019	Planning Commission presentation – Status of Amendment Review
November 20, 2019	Transportation Commission review – Vision Zero and Impact Fees
December 18, 2019	Transportation Commission review – Vision Zero and Impact Fees
January 15, 2020	Transportation Commission TMP Amendments recommendation to the Planning Commission
February 5, 2020	Planning Commission review
March 4, 2020	Planning Commission review and release for public review
April 15, 2020	Planning Commission public hearing
May 6, 2020	Planning Commission post-hearing review
May 20, 2020	Planning Commission recommendation to the City Council

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission accept the TMP Amendments application, as reviewed by the Commission on May 29, 2019, and forward it to the technical analysis phase of the 2020 Amendment process, with the understanding that (a) the Dome District Business Association’s request has already been included in the scope of work of the application, (b) the “6th Avenue Corridor Walkability and Mobility Improvements” project will be added to the scope of work, and (c) the review of the TMP Amendments by the Transportation Commission and the Planning Commission will generally follow the above-mentioned schedule.