



# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

## PROPOSED LAND USE REGULATIONS CONCERNING BILLBOARDS

### PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, October 7, 2015 5:00 p.m. City Council Chambers  
Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

#### WHAT IS BEING CONSIDERED?

The Planning Commission is seeking public comment on the proposed land use regulations concerning Billboards. The proposal would amend the Tacoma Municipal Code to create an exchange program in which new billboards would be allowed in certain areas in exchange for removing non-conforming billboards. As proposed, the program would expand the areas where billboards would be allowed, reduce some development standards, incentivize removals from certain sensitive areas, and require removal or correction of all non-conforming billboards within 5 years.

#### WHAT IS THE PROPOSAL INTENDED TO ACHIEVE?

The City of Tacoma is exploring alternatives to its existing billboard regulations, which has resulted in litigation against the city. The goal is to have an overall reduction of billboards and protect neighborhoods and sensitive uses such as historic districts and shoreline areas.

### *The Proposal at a Glance*

1. Provides for relocation credits which emphasize removal of pole-mounted billboard signs in favor of billboard wall signs.
2. Opens the following additional zones to billboard wall signs: DCC, DMU, WR, PDB, UCX, CCX, CIX, and NCX.
3. Allows billboard wall signs over 300 square feet with staff review.
4. Increases height limit to 35 feet in areas over 500 feet from areas not permitting billboards.
5. Reduces required distance between both pole mounted and wall mounted billboards.
6. Reduces buffer distance from no-billboard zones and sensitive uses (such as schools, parks, historic properties) from 500 feet to 250 feet.
7. Reduces design standards while retaining prohibition of poles signs that are off-set, over-cantilevered, extend over buildings, and have more than one face per side of the billboard.
8. Requires efficient lighting and no illumination between midnight and 5 am.
9. Requires stricter enforcement for signs with graffiti.
10. Retains amortization as a means to remove non-conforming billboards.

## HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS?

You can provide oral testimony at the public hearing on October 7, 2015 or provide written comments using the return address on this card no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 9, 2015, by facsimile at (253) 591-5433 or via e-mail to [planning@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:planning@cityoftacoma.org)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A Preliminary Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) has been issued based on the completion of an environmental checklist. Comments must be submitted by October 9, 2015. Unless modified by the City, this determination will become final on October 16, 2015. The DNS, the environmental checklist, and additional information associated with the proposal, are available from the Planning and Development Services Department, 747 Market Street, Room 345; or visit the following website:

[www.cityoftacoma.org/Planning](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/Planning)

(and click on “Billboard Regulations”)

## STAFF CONTACT

If you have additional questions or comments please feel free to contact John Harrington at (253) 279-8950 or [jharring@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:jharring@cityoftacoma.org).

*The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of disabilities in any of its programs or services. Special accommodations can be provided upon request within five (5) business days prior to the hearing. To arrange for these accommodations please contact the Planning and Development Services Department at (253) 591-5030 (voice) or (253) 591-5153 (TDD).*



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