

# Tacoma Complete Streets Design Guidelines Project

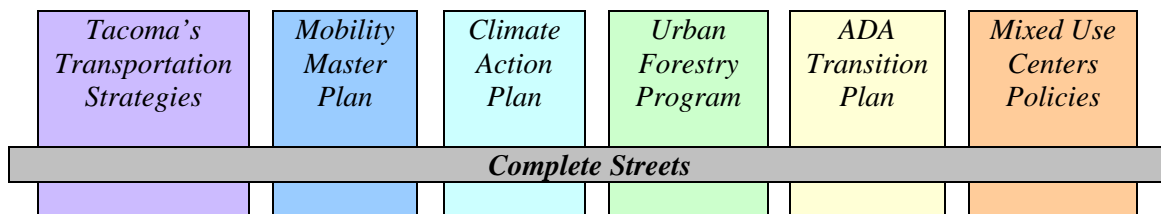
*PROJECT SUMMARY – November 17, 2009*



## *Overview*

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, the City Council adopted Resolution Number 37916 endorsing the creation and ongoing development of the Complete Streets Design Guidelines; and, directing the City Manager to implement the Mixed-use Centers Complete Streets Design Guidelines and the Residential Complete Streets Design Guidelines. The Guidelines are a comprehensive Complete Streets approach tailored to Tacoma. The objective is to provide a framework and cost-effective tools to support street designs that safely, comfortably and appropriately accommodate all users and transportation modes; foster a sense of place in the public realm; and, reduce environmental impacts.

## *Cross-Functional Approach*



## *Process Summary*

An interdepartmental/agency team collaborated to develop the draft Guidelines

- Public Works, Community and Economic Development, Tacoma Public Utilities, Tacoma Fire, Pierce Transit, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department; consultant services: AHBL, Inc. and David Evans & Associates
- Mixed-use Centers draft released December 2008, Residential draft released May 2009

Guidance from City committees/commissions and extensive public input resulted in changes to the drafts

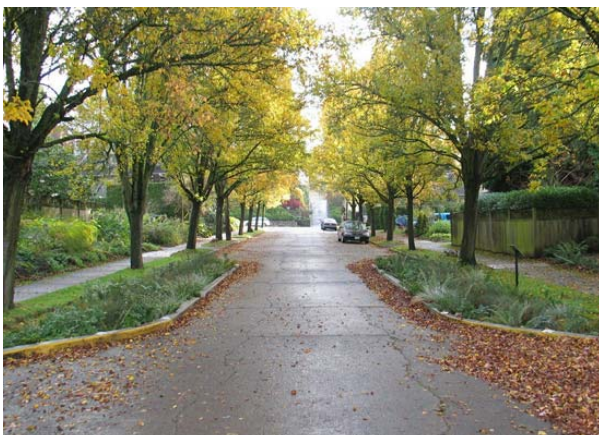
- Over 20 public meetings with a broad range of stakeholders, including:

*3 Community Workshops  
4 EPW Committee meetings  
2 Planning Commission meetings  
2 City Council Study Sessions  
Community Council  
Cross District Association*

*Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities  
Tacoma Wheelmen  
West Tacoma Mall Neighborhood Association  
West End Neighborhood Council  
Pierce Transit Senior Management Team  
Master Builders Association  
Edison Community Based Services Area Board  
Sustainable Tacoma Commission*

**OUTCOME:** The Guidelines are a well-vetted and supported approach to achieving Complete Streets objectives in Tacoma.

On October 14<sup>th</sup> the Environment and Public Works Committee directed staff to implement recommended changes resulting from the public review, and gave the Guidelines a Do Pass recommendation.



## ***Tacoma's Complete Streets Guidelines***

- *Support a balanced transportation system*
- *Provide options to reduce environmental impacts*
- *Safely accommodate larger vehicles such as transit and emergency services*
- *Add cost-effective street design options to Tacoma's "toolbox"*
- *All users and transportation modes to be considered in street design*
- *Support efforts to make streets safe, attractive and comfortable*
- *Support growth vision for Mixed-use Centers; livability in residential areas*
- *Approaches tailored to existing conditions in Tacoma and to community objectives*

## ***Summary of Changes to the Drafts***

**Bicycles:** The City's Mobility Master Plan effort has brought significant expertise and attention to bicycle related issues. Key changes: Clarify bike lanes are the preferred treatment; clarification on the use of Shared Lanes (Sharrows); bike lanes and angled parking.

**Persons with Disabilities:** Input from the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities and the City's ADA Coordinator has enabled the Guidelines to go further to ensure safe and comfortable access.

**Green Stormwater Features:** Clarifies when green stormwater features should be used; provide clear direction that the City should seek to reduce environmental impacts on all projects.

**Street Trees:** Emphasize the importance of street trees, and add new techniques and approaches brought to light through development of the City's Urban Forestry Program.

**Implementation:** Clarifies that the Guidelines provide the starting point for street design, but innovation is welcome; clarifies how the Guidelines apply to incremental changes such as street resurfacing.

## ***Complete Streets Implementation Is Ongoing***

- Design and review of proposed construction, alteration, and maintenance of City streets
- Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Program
- Revisions and additions to the City's code, standards and processes
- Development of additional guidelines
- Mobility Master Plan and implementation

## ***Project Contacts***

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