

Tacoma Complete Streets Design Guidelines Project

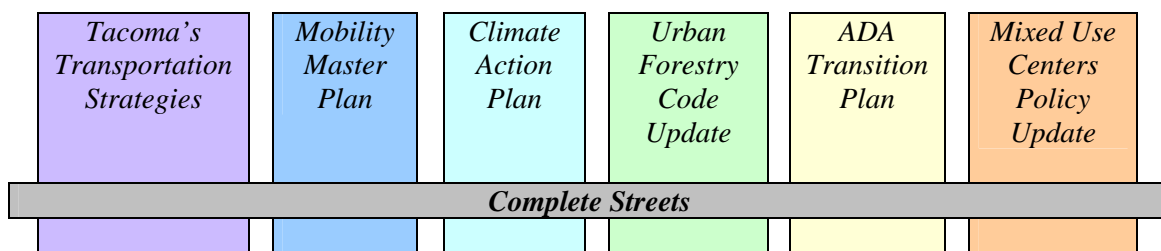
Sustainable Tacoma Commission – November 10, 2009



Overview

Tacoma's Complete Streets Design Guidelines for Mixed-use Centers and Residential areas are ready for City Council review, scheduled for November 17th. The Guidelines are a comprehensive Complete Streets approach tailored to Tacoma. The objectives are to safely and comfortably 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

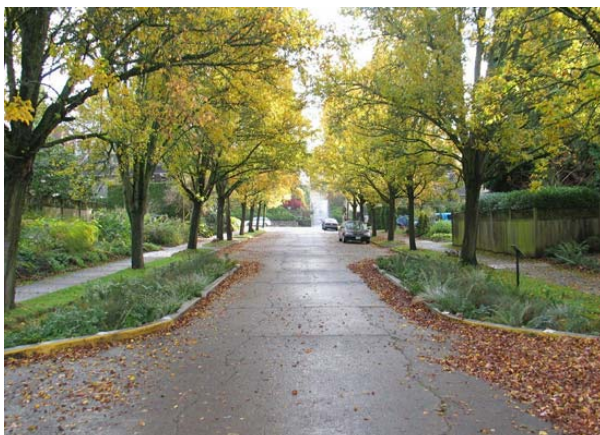
- Public Works, Community and Economic Development, Tacoma Public Utilities, Tacoma Fire, Pierce Transit, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department; consultant services: AHBL, Inc. and David Evans & Associates
- Mixed-use Centers draft released December 2008, Residential draft released May 2009

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
City Council Study Session
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*



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

On October 14th 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*
- *Provide options for streets that contribute to neighborhood character*
- *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 Tacoma*

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: More emphasis on the importance of street trees, and new techniques and approaches brought to light through the City's Urban Forestry Policy project.

Implementation: Clarifies that the Guidelines provide the starting point for street design, but innovation is welcome, as long as the designs meet Complete Streets objectives.

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

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Website: www.cityoftacoma.org/planning; select the *Complete Streets Design Guidelines Project*

