Greetings!

On behalf of the City of Tacoma's Planning Services Division, I hope this letter finds you in good health and happiness. As we turn the page on the New Year, it feels appropriate to reflect on what we have accomplished over the past year and look ahead to some of the interesting projects still to come, and how we can continue to partner to help shape the future of our great City of Destiny.

2018 saw a number of major planning initiatives come to fruition and we are poised to launch several new initiatives in 2019 that are likely to have Citywide significance. In the last year, the City Council adopted a subarea plan for the Tacoma Mall Neighborhood that will guide the growth and development of that area for decades to come; new interpretive elements were installed along the Prairie Line Trail in Downtown, continuing to enhance one of our signature public spaces; and the City formed a partnership with the University of Washington Livable City Year Program that resulted in 27 collaborative projects touching neighborhoods across Tacoma. In the year ahead we expect to be launching public engagement processes associated with the Pacific Avenue Bus Rapid Transit improvements, a Subarea Plan for the Port/Tideflats, and a Design Review Program. Expect to see updates on these efforts throughout the year.

In the following pages you will find more useful information on projects that are currently underway, those that we expect to start in 2019, as well as regional planning news and more. I ask that you share this information widely as you are some of our key conduits to communities across Tacoma. As always, if you have thoughts on how we can improve our communications please contact me or share your thoughts with my staff. We are always receptive to new ideas and feedback.

I look forward to continuing our partnerships with you and progressing towards our goals for this great community.

Best wishes,

BRIAN BOUDET, AICP, Manager
Planning Services Division
WE ALL MAKE
ONE TACOMA
LONG RANGE PLANNING NEWS AND UPDATES
Please join me in welcoming two new staff members to our Long-range Planning Team: Larry Harala and Mesa Sherriff. As our community partners, I hope you will take the time to reach out and introduce yourselves and your mission in Tacoma.

To learn more about our full staff team, please visit our website at www.cityoftacoma.org/planning.

**LARRY HARALA**

Larry Harala is an Associate Planner for the City of Tacoma. First working as a current planner, Larry is now focused on long range planning efforts, including code development and updates. Prior to joining Tacoma, Larry worked for the City of Las Vegas as a legislative analyst and as a city planner.

**MESA SHERRIFF**

Mesa Sherriff is a Senior Planner for the City of Tacoma, focusing on urban design and development. Prior to joining the city, Mesa has been an active contributor to both architectural and urban design projects in California, Washington State, and British Columbia. With this architectural background, Mesa will be a key contributor to the Urban Design Studio.
Under VISION 2040, the Regional Growth Strategy, Tacoma is expected to plan for an additional 320,000 new residents by 2040.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT
I want to first recognize that we are approaching the 30th anniversary of the Washington State Growth Management Act. Adopted in 1990 the Growth Management Act was crafted in response to a period of sustained regional growth and lack of local and regional coordination on how best to accommodate that growth. The William D. Ruckelshaus Center has been leading a comprehensive and collaborative look back on the Growth Management Act and to identify additions, revisions, or clarifications needed to help reach our goals in the coming decades.
For more information about the William D. Ruckelshaus Center’s effort, please visit: https://ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu/a-roadmap-to-washingtons-future/

VISION 2050
Likewise, the Puget Sound Regional Council is leading an update to the VISION 2040 Regional Growth Strategy. Based on the regional forecasts, the Puget Sound Regional Council expects that an additional 1.8 million people and 1.2 million more jobs will be coming to our area by 2050. The growth that our region has experienced in the past decades is expected to continue into the foreseeable future. Tacoma is designated as a key regional center for accommodating new jobs and housing in the years to come.
The VISION 2050 Plan will have a significant impact on how Tacoma expects to grow in the coming decades. I encourage you to contact Planning staff to learn more about how you can get involved in shaping this regional vision.
For more information about the Puget Sound Regional Council and the VISION 2050 Plan, please visit: www.PSRC.org/vision/.
Design review has been used by numerous communities throughout the nation to achieve local objectives such as: improving the architectural quality of new projects, enhancing the pedestrian environment, improving safety and security, preserving historic districts, improving compatibility between new and existing structures, involving community members in decisions about the built environment, and, in general, building more livable and economically viable communities.

In 2019, the City will be embarking on a public process to develop a design review program to compliment the review process already underway in the historic districts and the Thea Foss waterway. The first phase will involve significant public outreach to better understand our community’s objectives for design review before we move into program development.

**Project Milestones**
- **2016** - The Design Review Analysis Manual was completed to identify the key components and options for a design review program.
- **2017** - Project budget approved by council
- **2018** - Staff was hired to bring additional expertise
- **2019** - Consultants are being brought on to develop a work plan and initiate the program development. Staff will launch the public process and scoping phase of the project with program recommendations expected in 2020.

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REFLECTING ON OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LIVABLE CITY YEAR - HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
The Livable City Year (LCY) Program is an initiative led by University of Washington (UW) faculty that enables local government to tap into the talents and energy of the University of Washington in order to create livable communities. In 2017, the City applied for and was selected as the 2017-2018 LCY Community Partner. Through this fruitful partnership, two campuses, dozens of faculty members, and hundreds of students from multiple disciplines, mobilized with city staff and community members to undertake 27 community projects, all focused on improving equity and liveability in Tacoma. This project was recently recognized with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Departments “Healthy Communities Platinum Award” for 2018. Read about all 27 projects at: www.washington.edu/livable-city-year/2017-2018-projects/

TACOMA MALL NEIGHBORHOOD SUB-AREA PLAN APPROVED
This Subarea Plan is the community’s vision for the future of this important neighborhood, as well as roadmap for how businesses, residents and public agencies can partner on mutually beneficial implementation steps. As a designated Regional Growth Center, the 575-acre neighborhood is planned for substantial jobs and housing growth. The Subarea Plan initiates a broad range of actions to foster and guide growth while achieving the community’s goals for a distinctive, connected, livable, healthy neighborhood and thriving business district. The Tacoma Pierce County Health Department recognized the Subarea Plan with a Gold Healthy Communities Award in 2017. Learn more at www.tacomamallneighborhood.com

PRAIRIE LINE TRAIL HISTORIC INTERPRETIVE PROJECT
Take a walk into history along Tacoma’s Prairie Line Trail—a project that converts one mile of the historic Prairie Line railroad corridor through downtown Tacoma into a signature public space integrating a multi-use trail, historic/cultural interpretation, public art, multimedia, and green features. Thanks to a Washington State 2015-2017 Heritage Capital Projects Fund, the City developed the PLT Interpretive Plan to guide interpretive efforts over time, commissioned and installed five original public artworks, developed an interactive website, and crafted a Coloring and Activity Book (in partnership with the Tacoma Children’s Museum). The goal is to encourage Tacomans to connect with and inhabit the history of this place. Learn more about the Prairie Line Trail at www.prairielinetrail.org
LOOKING AHEAD to 2019

2019 AMENDMENT PACKAGE
The following projects are currently underway and expected to be completed in June/July of 2019. More information on these projects is available at www.cityoftacoma.org/2019Amendments
1. Future Land Use Implementation - Area-wide rezones intended to rectify inconsistencies between the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan and the City’s established Zoning District.
2. Affordable Housing Amendments - Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Code as part of the implementation of the City’s Affordable Housing Action Strategy.
3. Manitou Potential Annexation Area - Working jointly with Pierce County on the proposed annexation of the Manitou Area near Lakewood Drive W. and 66th St. W. and the associated amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.
4. Minor Amendments - This amendment is intended to address inconsistencies, correct minor errors, and improve provisions that, through administration and application of the code, are found to be unclear or not fully meeting their intent.

PROJECT LAUNCH IN 2019
There are several exciting projects on the horizon that we expect to launch in 2019 with extensive public scoping.

1. Tideflats Subarea Plan. This project will support the establishment of a shared, long-term vision, and more coordinated approach to development, environmental review, and strategic capital investment in the Port/Tideflats Manufacturing/Industrial Centres
2. Pacific Avenue Transit-Oriented Development Corridor Plan. This project will focus on coordinated land use and transportation investments to improve walkability and liveability along the Pacific Avenue Corridor, in connection with construction of Bus Rapid Transit.
3. Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review - Reviewing the shoreline master program and making any adjustments necessary to reflect changing circumstances, updated information or changes to state law.
4. Historic Preservation Code Amendments - Including enhanced demolition review, clarification of the nomination and designation processes, and updates to the Historic Conditional Use Permit process.

OPEN HOUSES
In support of the 2019 Amendments, Planning staff will be conducting open houses throughout the City to inform, listen, and gather feedback for the Planning Commission and City Council. A primary focus of these discussions will be the Future Land Use Implementation project and potential area-wide rezones. The meetings will be held in the following date and locations:

February 11th
6:00 - 8:00 PM
Stadium High School
111 N E St

February 13th
6:00 - 8:00 PM
Asia Pacific Cultural Center
4851 S Tacoma Way

February 21st
6:00 - 8:00 PM
Boys and Girls Club @ STAR Ctr.
3875 S 66th St

February 25th
6:00 - 8:00 PM
Geiger Elementary School
7401 S 8th St

February 27th
6:00 - 8:00 PM
Stewart Middle School

Food and beverages will be provided.

There will be a brief staff presentation beginning at approximately 6:15 followed by council member comments and staff lead discussions. Daycare will not be provided, but there will be activities for children and youth.
Community engagement is a key element in any successful planning project. While we continuously strive to enhance our community outreach and engagement, here are some of the immediate steps you can take to get involved and/or better understand and track our initiatives:

**MEET US IN PERSON**
Visit us at the City Hall or invite us to meetings of your affiliations to provide a briefing on any subject of your interest.

**FOLLOW ONLINE**
Visit the Planning Services Division’s website at [www.cityoftacoma.org/Planning](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/Planning) to learn more about the projects we are working on and to track progress.

**E-MAIL DISTRIBUTIONS**
Join the Planning Commission’s E-mail Distribution List to receive the Commission’s meeting agendas twice a month, and other announcements.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOPS**
Join us for one of our five upcoming Neighborhood Planning Workshops.

**AMENDMENT APPLICATIONS**
The Planning Commission will accept applications for the 2020 Amendment to the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan and/or the Land Use Regulatory Code. View application materials at [www.cityoftacoma.org/2020Amendment](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/2020Amendment)

**CONTACT STAFF**
E-mail us at planning@cityoftacoma.org or call us at (253) 591-5531.