Dear Planning Commission, City Council, City Clerk, City Manager, and Planning Department,

The Home In Tacoma contains development of the Midscale along transit corridors. This plan is nothing more than pandering to Transit and doing as it REQUIRES OF YOU as members of their boards. See Newsletter by MRSC in April of 2022.

We do not need Midscale! We need to keep land open for businesses to move to locations that they can build on these roads. We DON’T WANT TO BE A BEDROOM COMMUNITY TO SEATTLE.

An important issue is that Pacific Avenue is highly used by JBLM. You can frequently see long lines of military vehicles with men on board coming from JBLM area and traveling all the way to S. 38th.

Recently, when the Governor and the Legislature were working on rezoning our entire state, I asked my council representative to get rid of Midscale as it was NOT necessary. I personally asked my councilwoman to stop this Midscale in our area and she indicated that if we did not do it, the governor would. Well, HE DID NOT REZONE ANY MIDSCALE ANYWHERE IN THE STATE.

Our City Council was told by Brian Boudet, in a presentation, that Midscale WAS NOT NEEDED – yet you still did it.

This is what transit wants to generate customers for their transit. This system did not exist for the 16 years I took transit to and from Seattle. It is not needed now. People will use the bus when needed.

The problem with Midscale is that it is planned to be built with no parking. This is laughable. People will have cars because they NEED THEM. This will cause neighbors to fight for space on the street. People, many elderly, parking several streets away from their homes because the street in front of their homes is occupied by the renters in the Midscale. IT WILL AND DOES HAPPEN.

The other important item of concern is the development of 8plexes and other high density...
housing in our small neighborhoods. Our infrastructure – sewer and water pipes are not new. Those units require better systems that will attach to our smaller and much older lines and thus create issues to existing homeowners. Sixplexes will be bad enough.

A friend reported that she had 5 townhomes built in her neighborhood. The developers did not put in 10’ wide garage doors on the units, NO, they put 8’ wide garage doors. As a result folks are parking on the street because the doors are too small. That has added 13 cars in their small neighborhood. They have parking issues with these people parking and blocking areas.

Another bad part, basements are being flooded and water faucets coming on at certain times at night. When those townhomes are using water for washing clothes, dishes and bathing – it is higher pressure going into their newer pipes, but flowing to smaller and older piping that is causing a lot of pressure. WHO IS GOING TO PAY FOR THAT?

The City is not charging an IMPACT FEE. We tax payers are being saddled with the costs and giving away tax exemptions – while we PROPERTY OWNERS are paying the price for developers.

Stop this insanity and lower the development in duplex size. DO NOT BUILD MIDSCALE.

We are losing businesses because of the crime issue.

Well, get ready because we are going to have a lot more problems if you have not been watching scientific information about our water glaciers on Mt. Rainer. We lost 4 big ones that provide water runoff that feeds into Green River. The massive development that this state is going through between King and Pierce County is disgusting and much of it from Kent to here is draining Green River.

Last summer, during the 4 REALLY HOT DAYS, Eatonville water ran out. The State of Washington was in drought. Yet, if you have no real, experienced, scientific people on staff to give you an honest evaluation of the water situation – which our Tacoma Water does not!, then we are in trouble.

We don’t have qualified scientists on staff at the city, the county or the health department.

For that matter, I hear that we DON’T EVEN HAVE SUFFICIENT INSpectORS to handle all this construction. So, guess what? You may have a badly built apartment house built next to your home. Then you will find out what I’ve been talking about. It will be too late then – if they have a fire and the sprinklers don’t come on.

Wake Up City Council and Commission. This is happening.
Stop this insanity and don’t get carried away developing.

The Governor did not build Midscale! Please also do not build 8plexes (that is midscale in a different form).

MAKE developers pay impact fees. Our police are doing the best they can, but crime is high and will continue.

Make Developers pay for Impact Fees and make sure that Police and Fire are added. Developers add more people, more crime, more fire potential.

WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH WATER FOR ALL THIS DEVELOPMENT.

REMEMBER THAT and DO YOUR OWN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

Regards,
Esther Day
Former Tacoma Planning Commissioner
Why more space for mid-scale housing?

- Do we need mid-scale for our required housing growth capacity? No
- Home in Tacoma Goal: Housing supply, choice and affordability

Mid-scale is one of the most affordable housing types—particularly when combined with reduced transportation/household costs

This is what Boudet said when he presented this. It is on tape. Then why do Midscale?

Customers for transit and to hell with homeowners

11/4/2021
In This Issue

Are face coverings still required on transit?

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Have a question?

Officials and staff from eligible transit agencies can use our free one-on-one inquiry service, Ask MRSC.

Scroll down to read the answers
transportation conveyances and hubs through May 3, 2022. However, a federal judge in Florida issued a nationwide order voiding the requirement on April 18, 2022. That order is being appealed. Local agencies still have the authority to require face coverings. Many regional transit agencies have publicly announced that they are no longer requiring masks. But, check with your agency counsel on the most current requirements.

**Is there an RCW or federal clause limiting the use of retainage bonds for a construction project when using Federal Funds?**

The agency does not reserve retainage on public improvement contracts funded in whole or in part by federal transportation funds (RCW 60.28.011(1)(b)). Claims that would normally be paid out of retainage under RCW 39.08.010; or under Titles 50, 51, and 82 RCW are to be paid out of the contract’s performance and payment bond. See Federal Acquisition Regulation Section 28.102 for more details about the federal bond requirement and remember that the contract bond must stay in effect until all state requirements have been released.

**How do I balance my role as a city council member or county commissioner/council member with my role as a transit authority board member? What if the best interests of one agency “conflict” with the best interests of the other? Must I seek guidance from my fellow council members before voting?**

This question came to MRSC because the transit board was being asked to reduce its tax levy to make room for the use of those funds to build a much-needed mental health facility. This would have the immediate effect of reducing transit operations but would provide a benefit to the community at large.

There is no legally correct answer, but there are a few things to consider. Board members have those positions solely because of their respective city or county position. It is reasonable to assume that each board member will consider the effect of their board vote on their “home” jurisdiction. On the other hand, board members do have a fiduciary responsibility to act in the transit agency’s best interests. As an elected official with responsibility for your “home” jurisdiction’s budget you already balance competing interests, and this is just another place where you get to exercise your judgment.

As for seeking guidance from your colleagues, there is no statutory requirement that you do so. You were appointed to the transit board and with that appointment comes the authority to make decisions independently. Remember that the council or board can always take a formal position on the proposal regardless of how you vote on the transit board. But you may find it helpful to seek your colleagues’ opinions and there is certainly no statute that prohibits you from doing so (of course, you’ll remember to comply with the OPMA). As always, check with your agency attorney if you have questions about a specific action.

**Did the Legislature amend the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) in the last session?**

Yes, it did. MRSC’s Flannary Collins outlines the changes in a recent blog post. As she writes “The most notable change (which is really more of a clarification) is that meetings subject to the OPMA must have a physical location (with a few allowed exceptions). Another significant change is the requirement for public comment at regular meetings where final action is taken.” Meeting agendas for regular meetings must be posted online unless the agency:

- Has an aggregate valuation of the property subject to taxation by the district, city, or town of less than $400,000,000;
- Has a population of under 3,000; and
- Provides confirmation to the state auditor that the cost of posting notices on its website or a shared website would exceed one-tenth of 1% of the local government’s budget.

And if you go into executive session, you must include the purpose of the executive session in your meeting notes.

**Some of our staff members are attending an industry conference. Can they accept a prize awarded by random drawing?**

Probably. RCW 42.23.070(2) prohibits accepting gifts “for a matter connected with or related to the officer’s services.” The purpose of RCW 42.23.070(2) is to prevent the purchase of influence or special treatment. In most circumstances, that concern likely has no relevance to a random drawing. Also, while state law does not provide an exception for gifts of little or no value, many agencies have adopted
“de minimis” rules. The logic behind these rules is the assumption that something of low value is presumed to not influence the decision-maker. Also, if all attendees included in the random drawing are automatically entered then there’s a good argument that it’s not a “gift” because the right to participate is included in the registration cost for the conference. Check with your agency’s attorney and review the agency’s policies to see if this is addressed. If not, look at MRSC’s ethics page for examples. You may want to allow staff to participate in a random drawing unless they are directly involved in a contract or other solicitation with the company providing the prize.

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If you have questions or comments for the newsletter editor, please contact Steve Gross, Legal Consultant.
Hello,

I am writing on behalf of myself and my community. The city of Tacoma is failing to provide us with adequate crime enforcement. We do not see officers in our neighborhood, there is no patrol of the streets where we live, and crime is continuing to increase.

We have vehicles stolen from outside our homes. Our mail is routinely stolen, including important personal documents. Any items in our yards are subject to burglary.

This is not the fault of the police. Except the ones spending their time making Reels for Facebook instead of patrolling our streets.

I do not blame our officers. It’s obvious our current leadership is not able to draw in the people we need to serve our communities.

I have tried contacting the mayor previously and received nothing more than a formulated email. This is a true issue. Our taxes are increasing, but it isn’t reflecting in what we are receiving as citizens.

It seems there is a dereliction of duty and it needs to be addressed.

Please send more officers to 98407, specifically Vassault St. This needs to be brought back into control.

I don’t want to move, but it’s becoming to seem like time to throw in the towel and move to an area where the city leadership is competent and truly concerned about the well-being of its citizens.

Thank you,

Todd
Which City of Tacoma department is liable for lack of enforcement?
According to SeeClick this issue has been resolved by the individual city departments, this data displayed is incorrect.

There have been daily reports filed on SeeClick for the same violations at the same location. Illegal parking, spill respond, homeless outreach, engineer(ADOPT SIGNAGE), police, etc., etc., etc., All complaints on SeeClick are now being directed to Tacoma Police. Police obviously can do nothing for this pregnant women living next to a preschool.

Issue is never resolved
TO: MAYOR WOODARDS CITY MANAGER PAULI,
   CITY ATTORNEY FOSBRE, AND ALL MEMBERS
   OF TACOMA'S CITY COUNCIL.

SUBJECT: ANIMAL RIGHTS FOCUS

For a few years I volunteered for half-
 as often LG-BT QIA organization culminating
in Tacoma's 2002 Human Rights Ordinance and
the updating in 1999 update to Seattle LGBTQ
Ordinance.

Now, my future efforts will focus
on securing animal rights and protection,
which is the latest worldwide trend
in the Rights frontier! The rights and
protections for "FELINES" will be especially
of concern to me and my areas of expertise.

New issues and change is difficult to
accept for some reason in constrain. I
ran for CITY COUNCIL and received 40%
of the vote against Deputy Mayor Bill
Gove in the primary and maintained 40%
in the general Election despite recovering
from a life-threatening auto accident. The
reason I ran was because of problems within
Tacoma Police Dept and rampant DRUG CRIME.
I contemplated running this past election
cycle and I put my chances at securing
a Tacoma City Council seat at 50/50! It
is not my desire to replace any Council
member, I prefer to work on issues and
more them on behalf!

Sincerely, Michele Reich

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