



City of Tacoma

April 15, 2014

Mayor Marilyn Strickland

Julie Kanckstedt
Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services
P.O. Box 42525,
Olympia, WA 98504-2525

RE: The 2014 Governor's Smart Communities Award Application

Dear Ms. Knackstedt:

On behalf of the Planning and Development Services Department I am pleased to transmit our application for the 2014 Governor's Smart Communities Award in the category of Smart Vision for the South Downtown Subarea Plan.

The South Downtown Subarea Plan is an area-wide, long-range plan for South Downtown Tacoma which encompasses 600 acres of historic, industrial, and commercial land in the southern half of Tacoma's downtown regional growth center. As the second largest city in the Puget Sound region, Tacoma is the most important business center in the South Sound and the South Downtown Subarea Plan capitalizes on this potential and plan for expected future growth.

The overarching goal of the Plan is to promote economic development in South Downtown and to provide innovative planning and policy interventions to help South Downtown achieve its tremendous potential for economic development, an outcome that will deliver a broad range of equitable social and environmental benefits at both the local and regional scales. Broad objectives of the project include pre-approving up to 30 million square feet of new development space through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process; prioritizing transportation investments; identifying and prioritizing necessary infrastructure improvements; planning for parks, trails, and open space; and developing potential funding strategies. The Plan was crafted after extensive community outreach during a three-year process and was adopted by the Tacoma City Council in December of 2013.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marilyn Strickland", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Marilyn Strickland
Mayor, City of Tacoma

cc: Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services Department
Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, Planning and Development Services Department