



Right-of-Way Design Manual Update

City of Tacoma | Public Works

Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee

October 23, 2024

ITEM # 2



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OVERVIEW



- Background
- Issues
- Proposed Revisions
- Outreach
- Next Steps

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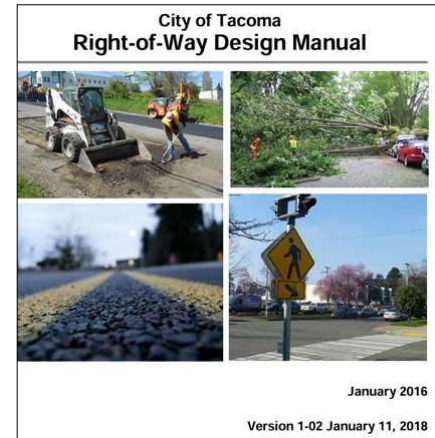
BACKGROUND

What is the Right-of-Way Design Manual?

- Minimum technical standards to construct improvements in the City's right-of-way (ROW)

Why do we have the Right-of-Way Design Manual?

- Required per RCW 35.78.040
- Staff and project design guidance
- APWA Accreditation



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BACKGROUND

2024 Right-of-Way Design Manual Updated Chapters

- Chapter 2 – Right-of-Way/Site Permitting and Local Improvement Districts
- Chapter 3 – Site Development Permit and Right of-way Construction Plan Format
- Chapter 4 – Street Design
- Chapter 8* – Pedestrian Facilities
- Chapter 9 – Tree and Vegetation Management
- Chapter 11 – Stormwater & Wastewater Sewer Design
- Chapter 12 – Water Plans

* *Dependent on other efforts (if time/schedule permits)*

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ISSUES



- New and changed City Policies & Objectives
- Updates in industry best practices & standards
- Staff-based review and design consistency

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PROPOSED REVISIONS City Policies and Objectives



Vision Zero

- Design Speed, Design Vehicle, Sight Distance
- Acknowledged other design guidance from NACTO & WSDOT Active Transportation Programs Design Guide
- Additional consideration for all road users



Home in Tacoma

- Additional flexibility for private access
- On-site pedestrian needs guidance related to land uses/Title 13 changes
- Allowances for smaller designs in certain scenarios
- Updated within ROW parking standards, including for bikes



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PROPOSED REVISIONS

Best Practices and Standards



Transportation Master Plan

- Strengthens reference to TMP for design guidance
- Added typical roadway cross-sections associated with roadway classifications

Complete Streets

- Allocations of uses within the ROW
- Streetside environments & provisions for pedestrians
- Information now included concerning curb extensions/bulbouts
- Traffic calming “toolbox” update

Additional Policies/Objectives

- Chapter 9 – Tree and Vegetation Management
- Chapter 11 – Stormwater and Wastewater Sewer Design



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PROPOSED REVISIONS

Best Practices and Standards



Chapter 4 – Street Design

- Street Geometry
 - General restructuring and expansion/clarifications on various topics

Pavement Design

- New section (previously part of Street Section)
- Particular topics updated (or new):
 - Simplified Pavement Design
 - AASHTO Pavement Design
 - Pavement Restoration
 - Permeable Pavements
 - Subgrade

Chapter 11 – Stormwater and Wastewater Sewer Design

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PROPOSED REVISIONS

Miscellaneous



- Chapter 2 – Right-of-Way/Site Permitting and Local Improvement Districts
- Chapter 3 – Site Development Permit & Right-of-way Construction Plan Format
- Chapter 9 – Tree and Vegetation Management
- Chapter 11 – Stormwater and Wastewater Sewer Design
- Chapter 12 – Water Plans

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PROPOSED REVISIONS

Miscellaneous



Chapter 4 – Street Design

- Replacing previous “Street Typologies” approach with defining roadway classifications and providing typical configurations
- Focuses on the main design/technical resources for street design and references other City plans and policies that could affect rather than overwhelming with various cross-references
- Overall design guidance expectations established in Ch 4 – Basis for Geometric Design
- Now includes a description of Permanent vs Temporary Improvements
- Expanded discussion and guidance on expectations for design of retaining walls

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OUTREACH



- **Throughout process:** Progress updates to the City's Standards Committee
- **February 2024:** Transportation Commission
- **June 18, 2024:** Summary presentation of updates/effort to Tacoma Permit Advisory Group (TPAG)
- **October 16, 2024:** Update to TPAG
- **Today:** IPS
- **End of October through end of 2024/January 2025:**
 - Update to Transportation Commission
 - Notice of proposed changes conveyed to the development community via permit system

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NEXT STEPS



- **Late October into January 2025:** Continued outreach
- **November 2024 into January 2025:** Review/final edits
- **Q1 2025:** Municipal Code updates specific to new content elements (as needed)
- **Q1 2025:** Finalization and adoption by Public Works Director
- **Q1 2025:** Integrate Updated Chapters into Design Manual website

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