



# TACOD 2024 Update

City of Tacoma | Office of Equity and Human Rights

**Community Vitality and Safety Committee**  
February 27, 2025



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## OVERVIEW



The Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities (TACOD) is providing an update to CVS members to keep them both apprised of its activities and preparing them for upcoming issues, recommendations, and potential actions to support those initiatives.

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## BACKGROUND



**Established in 1987 through City Council Resolution 29719**

### Mission

*"The Commission on Disabilities' mission is to remove barriers and promote the rights of all persons with disabilities to make Tacoma accessible for everyone. We advise, educate, collaborate and serve as a resource for the City on issues and laws for persons with disabilities."*

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## Agenda



Staff and commission member will offer CVS Members an update as to TACOD activity including:

1. Accomplishments
2. Consultative Events with Internal and External Partners
3. Future Priorities

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## Accomplishments: Highlight

### Transportation

- Commissioners completed an accessibility audit of the Tacoma Light Rail and provided a report on their observations to Sound Transit.
- Commissioners offered consultation on the **Transportation and Mobility Plan, Pierce Transit and Sound Transit.**
- TACOD's Chair and Vice Chair helped bring Braille Access to signage at Commerce Station.
- TACOD established a "Transportation" Subcommittee.



Amin "Tony" Hester, the chair of the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities, waits to catch the Tacoma Light Rail T-Line at the Tacoma Dome Station in Tacoma, Washington, on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023. [toverman@theolympian.com](mailto:toverman@theolympian.com)

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## Accomplishments: Highlight

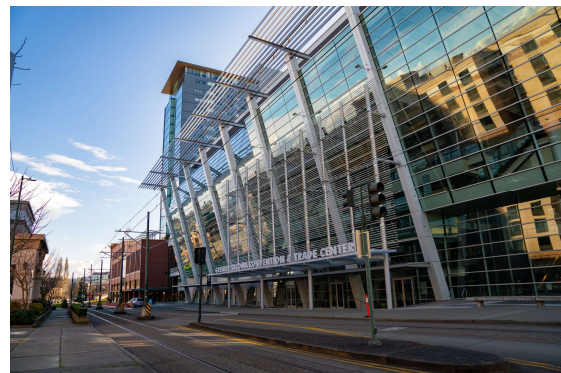
### Consultation with TVE on Universal Design And Access

- Commissioners devoted a full meeting to consultation with Tacoma Venues and Events to inform a 30-page Equity in Events Toolkit that has now become a statewide model.

[Equity in Events Toolkit — Tacoma](#)

[Venues & Events](#)

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## Accomplishments: Highlight

### De-Prioritization of Entheogens

- Led by Commissioner Lukas Barfield, TACOD submitted a letter of support and offered testimony to City Council in favor of the de-prioritization of the use of psychedelic substances due to their healing impacts on people with disabilities.
- Subsequently City Council unanimously passed a resolution to deprioritize entheogens in the city's law enforcement priorities.



Members of the Tacoma Psychedelic Society celebrated in city hall after the vote

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## Accomplishments: An ADA Networking Story

### Lifting Spirits with Helping Hands

- Commissioner **Shatone Martin** reported on her nonprofit organization's Lifting Spirits with Helping Hands (LSHH's) mission to provide medical equipment to the disabled.
- Former Commissioner **Krystal Monteros** was at the meeting as a community voice.
- Martin and Monteros connected after the meeting and nonprofit was able to supply an electric wheelchair to Ms. Monteros.



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## ●●● Other Accomplishments

**Completed a Strategic Planning Retreat That Led to Following:**

1. Established a New “Disability Resources and Access Platforms” Subcommittee.
2. Broadened “Accessible Taxi” Subcommittee to “Transportation”.
3. Discussion on Working with TACOD to generate a **Tacoma State of Disability Report** in 2026.

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## ●●● Consultative Events

**TACOD offered feedback, planning input and ADA access design considerations to these and other external and internal partners:**

| <b>External</b> | TACID Report on “Access to Services for People with Disabilities” | Sound Transit Expansion Plans                                     | South Sound Housing Affordability   | Tacoma Psychedelic Society informational presentation and proposed City Council resolution. |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Internal</b> | Transportation and Mobility Plan and TACOD Feedback               | Planning Dept. “Building Visitability into future housing codes.” | Tacoma Venue and Events “Equity in Events Toolkit and Universal Access Design.” | Public Works “Updates on ADA Access at Key Intersections in Tacoma.”                        |

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## ●●● Priorities and Future Considerations



1. Provide Educational Outreach to Public Works and the Tacoma Streets Initiative #2.
2. Support Tacoma Mobility and Transportation Plan and its Access Design Enhancements.
3. Work with Community Partners to Create One Stop Resource for People with Disabilities.
4. Continued Consultations with Pierce Transit and Sound Transit.
5. Support Updates of City of Tacoma ADA Plan in 2025.

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## Thank You!



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