



City of Tacoma  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

***Members of the Bicycle  
Pedestrian Technical  
Advisory Group***

David Cook, Co-Chair  
Daniel Hansen, Co-Chair  
Theresa Beaulieu  
Cassie Head  
Anne James  
Jennifer Halverson-Kuehn  
Leon Nettles  
Susan Reehill  
Jolene Rogers  
Aubrey Rosevear

July 17, 2017

Dear Tacoma City Council Members:

The City of Tacoma Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG) is writing to you to affirm our support for the passage of a complete street ordinance. We recognize that Tacoma City Council has long supported the concept of complete streets in its adopted policies and resolutions. The City now has an excellent opportunity to further that support by passing a complete streets ordinance. This ordinance will not only show the City's continued commitment toward providing a safe, equitable, and efficient transportation network for all citizens, but will also allow the city to accept a \$250,000 award from the state Transportation Improvement Board (TIB).

BPTAG fully endorses the concept of complete streets. The National Complete Streets Coalition sums up the importance of complete streets policies saying, "by adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct their transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right of way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation." Complete streets are an important equity issue as well. A 2015 report by the Puyallup Watershed Initiative demonstrates that areas of Tacoma with significant percentages of people of color experienced a disproportionate share of crashes involving youths who were walking or biking. A complete streets approach to redesigning the streets in these neighborhoods will ensure that all Tacomans have access to safe transportation choices.

The Washington State Legislature created the Complete Streets Grant program "to encourage local governments to adopt urban arterial retrofit street ordinances designed to provide safe access to all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, motorists, and public transportation users." (RCW47.04.320). BPTAG is aware that the TIB has already selected Tacoma for a complete streets award of \$250,000. To accept the award, the City need only pass a complete streets ordinance. This complete streets ordinance would not only secure vital funding this year, but would ensure the city's continued eligibility for future Complete Street Grants, which TIB plans to award every two years.

In light of all of the considerations enumerated above, BPTAG respectfully advises you to pass the complete street ordinance and continue Tacoma's progress towards a safer, healthier, more equitable transportation system.

Sincerely

Daniel Hansen  
Co-Chair

David Cook  
Co-chair

Staff Liaison:  
Meredith Soniat  
253-591-5380

City of Tacoma  
Public Works Department  
Engineering Division  
747 Market St.. Room 644  
Tacoma, WA 98402