



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Ian Munce, Special Assistant to the Director, Planning and Development Services Department
Peter Huffman, Interim Director, Planning and Development Services Department
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Growing Transit Communities Strategy and Compact – Requested City Council
December 3, 2013
DATE: November 13, 2013

SUMMARY:

Acknowledging the support and need for coordinating efforts to successfully implement the *Growing Transit Communities Strategy*, and to authorize execution of the *Growing Transit Communities Compact*.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Strickland

BACKGROUND:

The Growing Transit Communities Partnership, a broad coalition of stakeholders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors, came together in 2010 to identify what will be needed to create the sustainable, equitable communities envisioned in adopted regional plans and supported by the region's commitment of nearly \$20 billion in high-capacity transit investments. These plans and investments present a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to shape the region and ensure that transportation improvements support sustainable development and foster vibrant, healthy neighborhoods for all.

This summer, following an extensive 18-month collaborative process, the Partnership adopted the *Growing Transit Communities Strategy*. This document presents consensus approaches to how we want to develop in the region's high-capacity and high frequency transit areas, and what tools and resources we need to implement the region's adopted plans with a focus on three overarching goals:

- Attract more of the region's residential and employment growth near high-capacity transit
- Provide housing choices affordable to a full range of incomes near high-capacity transit
- Increase access to opportunity for existing and future community members in transit communities

The goals and recommendations in the *Growing Transit Communities Strategy* are wide-ranging, developed with the recognition that some approaches may work in some locations but not in others, and that each partner retains flexibility to pursue the actions most appropriate to local needs and conditions. The region's continued success will require an ongoing, dedicated partnership of a wide variety of public, private, non-profit, and community stakeholders.



ISSUE:

A continued involvement from a broad spectrum of public, private and nonprofit agencies and organizations is needed to succeed in supporting and growing thriving and equitable transit communities across our region. Staff is recommending that the Council support the Growing Transit Communities Strategy and authorize execution of the Growing Transit Communities Compact.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Compact is not legally binding and does not mandate adoption of any particular policies or actions; therefore, the Council has the option to taking no action to support the Growing Transit Communities Strategy or execute the Compact.

This regional work will go forward with or without City Council action. Tacoma has been a leader in the Growing Transit Communities work to date and ‘no action’ would negatively affect our position as a major advocate for implementing the regional development strategy VISION 2040.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Council approve the request for support to emphasize the need for many diverse partners to work together over time to achieve the goals, recognizing that opportunities for success cannot be achieved unless partners work together.

By acknowledging support, the City can work in partnership with a wide spectrum of public, private and nonprofit agencies/organizations to leverage transit investment to build sustainable communities; create new resources and tools; and, work together across the region for the common goal of improving existing communities and meeting regional goals.

Given that the Compact is not legally binding and does not mandate adoption of any particular policies or actions on the part of the City, there are no apparent disadvantages. It is anticipated that City elected officials and staff will continue to participate in regional discussion and actions plans and this Compact will assist in framing these discussions and actions. Action December 3 will allow the City to be included in a December 10 regional meeting announcing the ‘close-out’ of the first phase of the *Growing Transit Communities Strategy* and describing the steps to be taken to implement the Strategy.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.