



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Brian Boudet, Division Manager, Planning and Development Services
Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Task Force Creation to Provide Direction on Transit-Oriented
Development Polices and Plans – May 9, 2023
DATE: April 24, 2023

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution directing the Planning Commission and Transportation Commission to create a joint task force to provide coordinated policy direction on transit-oriented development policies and plans, with a particular focus on the upcoming periodic update of the Comprehensive Plan, including the Transportation Master Plan.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Victoria Woodards, Deputy Mayor Kristina Walker, Council Member Sarah Rumbaugh

BACKGROUND:

The City Council created the Transit-Oriented Development Advisory Group (TODAG), a citizen-based advisory group, through the passage of Resolution No. 40303 on April 16, 2019 (and extended them via Resolution No. 40889), to help inform the design and development of significant transit projects throughout the City, including the Dome District, one of the region’s most transit-rich areas. The TODAG was sunset at the end of 2022. In response to City Council request, the City Manager, on January 18, 2023, recommended the following regarding the future of the TODAG:

- Regarding citywide policy-level issues around transit-oriented development, the City should consider the creation of a joint subcommittee (or similar structure) of the Planning and Transportation Commissions to improve coordination and streamline review and input
- With regards to specific transit, infrastructure and planning projects, where the direct, focused input of local residents, businesses, key agencies and partners is needed, the City should continue to utilize project-specific community advisory committees

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Over the past three years this issue – improved collaboration on land use and transportation policies and projects – was partly addressed by the TODAG. The question of how to best continue collaboration on these policy issues and this recommended approach was based on input from the TODAG, the Transportation Commission and the Planning Commission.



2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: *Equity Index Score:* This is a citywide initiative
Primary goals of Tacoma 2025 under Equity and Accessibility include:

- Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure and employment
- Decrease the percentage of individuals who are spending more than 45% of income on housing and transportation costs

The City’s growth strategy is centered around coordinating new growth and development with public transportation investments to maximize the impact and use of transit services, reduce the need for and use of single-occupancy vehicles, and connect communities to jobs and services with more affordable transportation options. To support these goals, it is critical that the City partner with the public transit providers in the community and provide clear input on their projects to ensure they best align with the City’s transportation system plans, growth strategy and equity, livability, and economic goals.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
Not directing the Commissions to form a joint task force	Avoid the additional meetings and support necessary for the task force	Reduce coordination on citywide land use and transportation issues and major transportation investments
Reconstitute and continue the TODAG	Maintain the additional input and perspectives received from having an additional group	Increase challenges to coordination of review and input by having an additional group involved in the same policy issues

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

If adopted, staff from Planning and Development Services and Public Works are poised to work with the Planning and Transportation Commissions regarding the formation and operation of this joint task force. The Commissions already regularly report to the City Council and would continue to do so, including regarding the operations of this task force.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

The sponsors recommend the formation of a joint task force to help ensure critical collaboration with our transit partners and coordinated input on these critical policy issues and projects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

As outlined in the City Manager’s recommendations, the proposed joint task force of the Planning and Transportation Commissions would be supported by the Planning and Development Services



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

and Public Works Departments, as part of their role of supporting those commissions, and thus there would be minimal impact to staff and fiscal resources.

ATTACHMENTS:

- City Manager Recommendations Memorandum (December 2022)