



City of Tacoma

Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

January 26, 2026

Re: Sound Transit Tacoma Dome Access Improvement Projects (TDAI)

Dear Tacoma City Council - Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee,

Ahead of your 2/24 study session presentation from Sound Transit – we, the City of Tacoma’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG), are writing to reiterate our support for the Tacoma Dome Station Access Improvement (TDAI) project and fully endorse using this funding to construct projects that make it safer and easier to walk, bike, and roll to the Tacoma Dome Station.

Attached you’ll find the BPTAG’s September 2024 letter to the Sound Transit Board – in that letter we highlight the strengths of the active transportation improvements under consideration - including Puyallup Avenue, D St/McKinley Ave, and Pacific Avenue. TDAI funds would allow the City to address safety & accessibility issues that make it very challenging for community members to walk, bike or roll to the Tacoma Dome Station. We also urged the Sound Transit board to reject using the TDAI funding to build additional surface parking – especially given the availability of existing parking – and instead retaining as much space as possible for future affordable housing and transit-oriented development.

We wholeheartedly stand by these sentiments today.

Thank you for the opportunity to pass along our feedback. BPTAG has been actively engaged in TDAI planning and we strongly believe the proposed active transportation projects align with the City’s goals related to safety and multimodal access and the newly adopted Transportation & Mobility Plan. We look forward to seeing the Dome District continue to grow as a thriving, multimodal hub.

Sincerely,

Sara Kiesler & Julian Helmer

Co-Chairs, City of Tacoma Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

Cc:

Tacoma City Council

Interim Tacoma City Manager Hyun Kim

Interim Public Works Director Kurtis Kingsolver, P.E.

City of Tacoma Transportation Commission

City of Tacoma Planning Commission

Diane Wiatr, Sound Transit Development Manager – Tacoma Dome Link Extension



City of Tacoma
Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

September 23, 2024

Re: Sound Transit Tacoma Dome Station Access Improvement Project

Dear Sound Transit Board of Directors,

We, the City of Tacoma's Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG), thank Sound Transit for your commitment to increasing access to the Tacoma Dome Station!

We appreciate the outreach efforts that Sound Transit's staff made with us in August 2024 to inform us of preliminary plans and gather our feedback on this incredible investment in improving access to the Tacoma Dome Station.

We are incredibly supportive of the list of active transportation projects that prioritize the movement of people trying to access the station and we feel they will fill significant gaps in our transportation network. Currently, accessing the Tacoma Dome Station is unsafe and impractical, if not impossible, for many community members who cannot or do not drive or who would prefer the option to connect to regional transit via active transportation or local bus service.

Specifically, we appreciate the focus on:

- Puyallup Avenue. We fully support this project as the top priority for TDAI funds. This corridor is currently a significant barrier to safe, accessible and comfortable access to the Tacoma Dome. The planned improvements will include Tacoma's first transit lane, significant pedestrian safety and access enhancements, and protected bike facilities and incorporates Tacoma's portion of the spuyaləpabš regional trail. Sound Transit's support of this project will help ensure that it can move forward in a timely fashion and include the full scope of planned multimodal improvements.
- Addressing safety and connectivity on key corridors – like bicycle and pedestrian improvements on East D St/East McKinley Way and pedestrian safety and accessibility improvements on Pacific Ave which link residents to regional transit
- Creating a connected and protected network that is safe for people of all ages and abilities to use active transportation
- Constructing sidewalks, improving ADA accessibility, and building safer crossings
- Creating a better experience for transit riders at the station with improved wayfinding and accessibility improvements
- Increasing connectivity between the station and local Pierce Transit service

We celebrate all of this momentum towards making it safer and easier to access regional transit, and see the many ways it helps the City of Tacoma fulfill its commitment to the Green Transportation Hierarchy (prioritizing the movement of people over cars) and adhere to priorities laid out in its Transportation Master Plan, Vision Zero Action Plan, Climate Action Plan, as well as the City's safety and equity goals.

As this project moves forward, we do have one significant concern. We understand that adding additional parking is on the list for consideration. We wholeheartedly encourage the Sound Transit Board to reject this option.

As one of our BPTAG members shared in our August meeting – driving to the Tacoma Dome Station is easy, but accessing via walking, rolling or biking is dangerous. Another member highlighted how car-centric the Tacoma Dome station is – creating an uninviting atmosphere for anyone who bikes, walks, rolls or arrives via local transit.

The current parking lot at the Tacoma Dome Station is not full, despite being free and there being few safe alternatives to driving. If demand for parking grows over time, we urge Sound Transit to work with Pierce Transit and the City of Tacoma on parking management and transportation demand management strategies rather than building additional parking. In order for such strategies to succeed, however, we need make sure that infrastructure exists to allow transit riders to safely access the station by walking, rolling, biking or taking transit. We ask Sound Transit to remove the parking from the project list so as not to spend additional resources on this project.

We also have concerns about the use of prime space near the Tacoma Dome Station for parking rather than transit-oriented development and additional housing that would enable more Tacomans to meet their daily needs without a car.

As such, we do not believe vehicular parking should be a priority for these funds. We would rather see all funds dedicated to improvements that make it safe and easy to access the station via active transportation and local transit. Transit riders can already access the Tacoma Dome Station via a personal vehicle and have convenient free parking when they arrive. The best use of these funds is prioritizing resources for those who currently lack safe and convenient access: those who walk, bike, roll, and take transit.

As this project moves forward, please continue to prioritize the projects that have the least environmental impact and the greatest contribution to safety and equity. We look forward to working with you further as this project progresses.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Halverson Kuehn
Chair, City of Tacoma Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

Cc:

Tacoma City Council - Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee
Tacoma City Manager Elizabeth Pauli
Public Works Director Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP
City of Tacoma Transportation Commission
City of Tacoma Planning Commission
Diane Wiatr, Sound Transit Development Manager – Tacoma Dome Link Extension