



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli
FROM: Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Services
Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services *PA*
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Setting a Public Hearing on the Periodic Update to the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation and Mobility Plan
DATE: April 28, 2025

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution setting Tuesday, June 3, 2025, as the date for a public hearing before the City Council on the periodic update of the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan, including the Transportation and Mobility Plan and Minor Code Amendments, as recommended by the Planning Commission.

BACKGROUND:

This department's recommendation is based on Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) 13.02.070.I, which requires the City Council to hold at least one public hearing on proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Tacoma's Comprehensive Plan, *One Tacoma*, is the City's official statement concerning its vision for future growth and development. It identifies goals, policies, and strategies for maintaining the health, welfare, and quality of life of Tacoma's residents. The Comprehensive Plan comprises numerous individual elements, including elements addressing such important issues as land use, neighborhood completeness, environment and watershed health, parks and recreation, housing, economic development, historic preservation, and transportation and infrastructure.

The [Growth Management Act](#) (GMA) requires counties and cities to periodically conduct a thorough review of their plans and regulations to bring them in line with any relevant changes in the GMA, and to accommodate updated growth targets. [RCW 36.70A.130](#) establishes the review procedures and schedule for Comprehensive Plan amendments and periodic review. Tacoma last completed such a periodic update in 2015 and is mandated to undertake and complete another periodic update.

In addition, the City of Tacoma is the designated "Metropolitan City" for Pierce County and is allocated, through [Vision 2050](#) and the [Countywide Planning Policies](#), to accommodate a significant share of the region's population and employment growth. The Puget Sound Regional Council evaluates and certifies local comprehensive plans for consistency with the multi-county planning policies (see the [Plan Review Manual](#), page 27).

The One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan and Transportation and Mobility Plan have been updated to remain consistent with these pertinent state and regional planning requirements.

In addition, the amendment package includes minor amendments to TMC Title 13. The proposed amendments are considered to be minor in that they do not suggest substantive or policy-level changes to the plan or the code. They are intended to correct minor errors, address inconsistencies, keep information current, and clarify and improve provisions that, through implementation of the plan and the code, are found to be unclear or not fully meeting their intent.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

RCW 36.70A.130 of the GMA establishes the review procedures and schedule for Comprehensive Plan amendments and periodic review and RCW 36.70A.140 requires local jurisdictions to provide for “early and continuous public participation” during the periodic review and update of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Public Engagement Plan was approved by the Planning Commission on February 21, 2024, to guide the City’s engagement efforts in support of the Comprehensive Plan update. The Public Engagement Plan leveraged existing data and existing engagement efforts to minimize respondent burden and confusion. Additional resources or “new engagements” were focused on thematic gaps and/or gaps by community group.

- [Public Engagement Plan](#)
- [Existing Engagement Gap Analysis](#)

Engagement activities during the visioning portion of the Comprehensive Plan update included in-person and virtual workshops, pop-ups at community events, attendance at meetings of existing neighborhood groups, a website that hosted the Ideas Wall open public comment forum, and a community survey that was available in several languages. The City hosted a total of nine community visioning workshops during the initial phase of the update, one per neighborhood council area and one virtual, and received a total of 402 comments on thematic gaps identified in the gap analysis. Workshops included creative hands-on activities to get feedback on topics and were supported with robust outreach and by the City’s language ambassador team. The community survey received roughly 800 responses. In sum, the City received roughly 1,600 comments through these engagement efforts.

- [Public Engagement Summary](#) (One Tacoma Visioning Workshops Summer 2024)

The Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the draft One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan on March 5, 2025. City staff held several in-person and virtual informational events during the public comment period that led up to the public hearing for community members to learn about the draft plan and prepare to provide comments. A recording of the virtual information event was also made available online.

Over 100 people attended these events with 81 public comments provided by community members, City boards, commissions, and partner agencies. Comments were shared with Planning Commissioners in information packets and through a debrief presentation on March 19, 2025, which are public on the Planning Commission [webpage](#).

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

This resolution is intended to set a public hearing date to receive public comment on the proposed One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan, Transportation and Mobility Plan, and Minor Code Amendments as recommended by the Planning Commission. Setting the public hearing supports community involvement in the development and adoption of the City’s goals and policies.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score*: High Opportunity

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

The public hearing and comment period provide an opportunity for community members to inform the decisions that affect them. Based on the public comments, the City Council will have an opportunity to amend the proposals



in response to community input.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
Schedule the public hearing at a later date.	The City Council would have additional time to review the proposed Comprehensive Plan updates prior to setting the public hearing, which could enable the Council to integrate amendments into the public hearing draft.	Delaying the public hearing will impact the schedule for first reading and final adoption, which could have the detrimental impact of delaying plan certification and jeopardize eligibility for state and regional grants.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

This resolution sets the date for a public hearing. Upon completion of the public hearing, staff will review comments received, conduct necessary follow-up analysis and research as needed, and provide appropriate suggestions to the City Council at the first and final readings of the ordinance.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council conduct the public hearing on June 3, 2025. First and final readings of adopting the ordinance are tentatively scheduled for June 10 and 17, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact related to setting the public hearing date.