



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 841 6094 2983

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/84160942983](http://www.zoom.us/j/84160942983) Passcode: 614650

**March 30, 2021**

**10:00 AM**

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Chair Robert Thoms, Vice Chair Conor McCarthy, Keith Blocker,  
Catherine Ushka, Chris Beale (alternate)

## Call To Order

Chair Thoms called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Blocker

All Council Members participated virtually.

## Briefing Items

### 1. [21-0304](#)

Downtown Tacoma Partnership

[David Schroedel, Executive Director, Downtown Tacoma Partnership]

At approximately 10:01 a.m., David Schroedel, Executive Director, Downtown Tacoma Partnership (DTP), presented an update on the DTP, including the 2016-2017 Business Improvement Area (BIA) survey; history for the years 2016 through 2020; community outreach during the COVID-19 pandemic, noting the Rapid Mural Program, Hero Meals, outdoor seating options, [www.shopdowntowntacoma.com](http://www.shopdowntowntacoma.com), and 12 Days of Haul Crawl; Washington BIA activities; next steps, noting beautification, marketing and communication, COVID-19 impacts, and 2021 and beyond.

Discussion ensued regarding business closures and conducting exit interviews to help the City improve policies; proactive outreach; attracting people to the downtown area; streamlining building permitting; grants and zero-interest loans; long term vacancies; downtown police presence; businesses that had access to relief but experienced closures; downtown in 2025; streamlining outdoor permitting; vacancies outside of downtown; ordinances to fill empty spaces; retrofitting buildings; converting office space to housing; areas of the city that need improvement; where to spend

federal aid money; and investing more money into the partnership.

2. [21-0302](#) Port of Tacoma Strategic Plan  
[Eric Johnson, Executive Director, Port of Tacoma]

At approximately 11:03 a.m., Eric Johnson, Executive Director, Port of Tacoma, presented the Port of Tacoma Draft Strategic Plan, including an introduction to the Port of Tacoma Commissioners; background on the port, noting the Northwest Seaport Alliance; mission statement and values; five foundational goals, noting economic vitality, environmental leadership, organizational success, transportation advocacy, and community connections; implementation and budget of the Strategic Plan; and plan development and outreach.

Discussion ensued regarding workforce training; potential for additional ship builders; American Rescue Plan Act funds; big picture projects; the 11th Street Bridge; environmental remediation projects; and permanent Tideflat regulations.

## **Topics for Upcoming Meetings**

3. [21-0303](#) April 13, 2021 - To Be Determined  
April 27, 2021 - Broadband - How It Is Working for Tacoma's Residents, Businesses, and Schools; Outdoor Business Options

Chair Thoms stated the next meeting will be on April 13, 2021, and the topics are to be determined.

## **Other Items of Interest**

There were no other items of interest.

## **Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.



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Robert Thoms, Chair



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Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office