



ORDINANCE NO. 28441

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to Tacoma’s Complete Streets Design Guidelines,
2 identifying guiding principles and practices so that transportation
3 improvements are planned, designed, and constructed to encourage
4 walking, bicycling, and transit use while promoting safe operations for all
5 users of the City’s transportation network.

6 WHEREAS, on November 7, 2009, the City Council adopted Resolution
7 No. 37916: “A Resolution relating to the City’s street design; endorsing the
8 creation and ongoing development of Tacoma’s Complete Streets Design
9 Guidelines; and directing the City Manager to implement the Mixed-use Centers
10 Complete Streets Design Guidelines and the Residential Complete Streets
11 Design Guidelines,” and

12 WHEREAS Tacoma’s *Transportation Master Plan* identifies a vision for a
13 multimodal transportation system, offering travel options that provide safe access
14 for all users, and encouraging healthy living, and

15 WHEREAS Tacoma citizens identified increased transportation options as
16 a community priority in *Tacoma 2025*, and

17 WHEREAS Tacoma is expected to grow by 127,000 residents and 97,000
18 jobs by 2040, and

19 WHEREAS Complete Streets will create a comprehensive, integrated,
20 connected transportation system to serve the growing population, and

21 WHEREAS other jurisdictions and agencies nationwide have adopted
22 Complete Streets legislation, including the US Department of Transportation,
23 Washington State Department of Transportation, and Pierce County, and
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1 WHEREAS transportation improvements include an array of facilities and
2 amenities such as sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, traffic calming measures,
3 street and pedestrian lighting; targeted pedestrian and bicycle safety
4 improvements; access improvements for freight; access improvements in
5 compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; public transit facilities
6 accommodations including, but not limited to pedestrian access improvements
7 to transit stops and stations; street trees and landscaping; green infrastructure;
8 and street furniture.

9 WHEREAS the Public Works Department will design, operate, and
10 maintain the transportation network to improve travel conditions for bicyclists,
11 pedestrians, transit, and freight consistent with, and supportive of, the
12 community's needs, and

13 WHEREAS Complete Streets will balance access, mobility, health and
14 safety needs of all users, which include pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders
15 of all ages and abilities, as well as buses, high-capacity transit, and commercial
16 and private motorized vehicles, and

17 WHEREAS Tacoma's Transportation Master Plan calls for tracking of
18 performance standards that will continuously evaluate the Complete Streets
19 ordinance for success and opportunities for improvement; Now, Therefore,

20 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

21 Section 1. Purpose – Objectives. The purpose of this Ordinance is to
22 provide guiding principles and practices so that transportation improvements are
23 planned, designed, and constructed to encourage walking, bicycling, and transit
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1 use while promoting safe operations for all users of the City's transportation
2 network. The City of Tacoma Public Works Department shall develop a safe,
3 reliable, efficient, integrated, and connected multimodal transportation system
4 that promotes access, mobility, and health for all users. The Public Works
5 Department shall strive to ensure that the safety and convenience of all users of
6 the transportation system are accommodated, including pedestrians, bicyclists,
7 transit riders, people of all ages and abilities, motorists, emergency responders,
8 freight providers , and adjacent land users.

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10 Section 2. Definitions. For the purposes of this Ordinance the following
11 words shall have the following meanings:

12 A. "City Engineer" means the City Engineer or his or her authorized
13 representative.

14 Section 3. Applicability. The Public Works Department shall approach
15 every transportation improvement and project phase as an opportunity to create
16 safer, more accessible streets for all users. These phases include, but are not
17 limited to: scoping, planning, programming, design, right-of-way acquisition,
18 construction, construction engineering, reconstruction, resurfacing, operation,
19 and maintenance. Other changes to transportation facilities on streets and rights-
20 of-way, including capital improvements, re-channelization projects, major utility
21 work, and major maintenance, must also be included.

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24 A. Jurisdiction. All city-owned transportation facilities in the public right-of-
25 way, including but not limited to streets, bridges, and all other connecting
26 pathways shall be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained, when



1 appropriate and feasible, so that users of all ages and abilities can travel safely
2 and independently.

3 B. Network and Connectivity. The Public Works Department shall continue
4 to foster partnerships with Washington State Department of Transportation,
5 Pierce County, neighboring cities and communities, business and school
6 districts, and utility companies to encourage development of facilities that further
7 the City's Complete Streets policy and continue such infrastructure within and
8 beyond the City's borders. The City recognizes the need to create a
9 comprehensive, integrated, and connected network for all modes and
10 encourages street connectivity.
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12 C. Complete Streets may be achieved through single projects or
13 incrementally through a series of smaller improvements or maintenance activities
14 over time. It is the City of Tacoma's intent that all transportation projects
15 implement Complete Streets.
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17 D. Design. The Public Works Department shall follow accepted or adopted
18 design standards and use the best and latest design standards available,
19 including, but not limited to, existing design guidance from the American
20 Association of State Highway Officials, Washington State Department of
21 Transportation, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the National
22 Association of City Transportation Officials, the Americans with Disabilities Act,
23 and the Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines.
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25 E. Context Sensitivity. The Public Works Department shall implement
26 Complete Streets solutions in a manner that is sensitive to the local context and



1 character, aligns transportation and land use goals, and recognizes that the
2 needs of users may vary by case, community, or corridor.

3 F. Implementation. Implementation of Complete Streets shall begin
4 through the consideration of the following potential starting points:

- 5 1. Incorporate policy into the Comprehensive Plan.
- 6 2. Modify Rights-of-Way Manual and other guiding documents in
7 accordance with this policy.
- 8 3. Participate in US DOT's Mayor's Challenge for Safer People,
9 Safer Streets.
- 10 4. Pursue highest certification level of Walk Friendly Community
11 and Bicycle Friendly Community.
- 12 5. Continue engagement in Safe Routes to School program.
- 13 6. Identify gaps in the non-motorized transportation network, and
14 work to fill these gaps.

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17 Section 4. Exceptions. An exception to this Ordinance, including for
18 private projects, must be approved by the City Engineer and be documented with
19 supporting data that indicates the basis for the decision. Such documentation
20 shall be publicly available. Exceptions may be considered for approval when:

21 A. An affected roadway prohibits, by law, use by specified users (e.g.,
22 interstate highways or pedestrian malls);

23 B. The costs of providing the accommodation are excessively
24 disproportionate to the need or probable use;
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C. Routine maintenance of the transportation network does not change the roadway geometry or operations, such as mowing, sweeping and spot repair (in which case existing bicycle and pedestrian traffic must be safely accommodated during maintenance); or

D. Other available means or factors indicate an absence of need, including future need.

Passed _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney