



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

**TO:** Mayor & City Council  
**FROM:** Council Member Catherine Ushka and Council Assistant Lynda Foster  
**COPIES TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre,  
City Attorney  
**SUBJECT:** **An ordinance related to Sidewalk Protections**  
**DATE:** November 24, 2021

---

**I ask for your support for an ordinance relating to Public Ways; amending, retitling and renumbering Chapter 9.16 to add two new sections to prevent obstruction and damage to sidewalks from the loading, unloading and transport of goods, and amending the penalty provision to align with Tacoma’s Uniform Enforcement Code.**

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT:**

**Ordinance Request:**

The Tacoma Municipal Code does not have protections for City sidewalks from obstruction and damage caused by loading, unloading and transportation of goods using machinery. The City’s sidewalks are part of its transportation system and therefore it is important they are maintained in a safe usable condition. Sidewalks represent a major investment by the citizens of Tacoma. Inaccessible and damaged sidewalks can pose a hazard to pedestrians so maintaining conditions of sidewalks help reduce the likelihood of someone getting injured.

This policy proposal is intended to preserve critical infrastructure for the following reasons:

- The City holds developers accountable to building sidewalk infrastructure, which is expensive to initially build and to replace. Putting preservation standards in place will respect and make the most of this investment of private funds.
- The City also makes substantial investment in sidewalk infrastructure with public funds. We owe it to tax payers to preserve these investments for the public good.
- Recent large investments by the City are intended to be economic development enhancements in lower opportunity neighborhoods, such as the Lincoln District Revitalization project and Links to Opportunity in the hilltop. Preserving these investments is an economic driver and will ensure investments in low opportunity communities have long-term positive impacts.
- Access to sidewalks is an equity issue. Lower opportunity neighborhoods already have fewer sidewalks than higher opportunity neighborhoods. We must preserve what is currently available.

This ordinance would include language on loading and unloading on sidewalks and on damage to sidewalks from loading, unloading or transportation. Suggested edits to Chapter 9.16 of the TMC can be seen in the attached document, “Exhibit A”.

**DESIRED ORDINANCE DATE:** First reading of ordinance on December 7, 2021, and second reading of ordinance on December 14, 2021.

**ALIGNMENT WITH TACOMA 2025 KEY FOCUS AREAS:**

This program, project, or event is best aligned with the following (Check all that apply):

**Economy/Workforce:** *Equity Index Score:* Select Index Score.

Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

**Livability:** *Equity Index Score:* Select Index Score.

Increase the number of Complete Compact Communities/ 20-Minute Neighborhoods throughout the city.

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

How does your policy, program, or service help or harm the health of the natural environment?<sup>2</sup> (e.g. reduction in carbon emissions, open space conditions, sustainability, clean air, water and soil, and noise and light pollution).

If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Lynda Foster at 253.591.5166 or [Lynda.Foster@CityofTacoma.org](mailto:Lynda.Foster@CityofTacoma.org).

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Ushka

Mayor's initials

