



# Sidewalk Data Collection and Sidewalk Program Update

City of Tacoma | Public Works  
Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability  
Committee  
October 2, 2019



## OVERVIEW



1. Sidewalk data collection efforts
  - a. Elementary School Walking Audits
  - b. Pedestrian and Bicycle Counts and Facility Inventories
2. Sidewalk Program update

## BACKGROUND



### Tacoma 2025 Indicators:

- Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment
- Increase the number of complete compact communities
- Increase positive public perception of safety

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## WALKING AUDITS



### Elementary School Walking Audits

- Partnering with UW Tacoma to collect GIS data around 5 elementary schools
  - Blix, Manitou, Whitman, Mary Lyon, Edison
- Help identify small to large project that could add more SRTS
- Use data to update state-mandated school walking route maps
- Support future grant applications



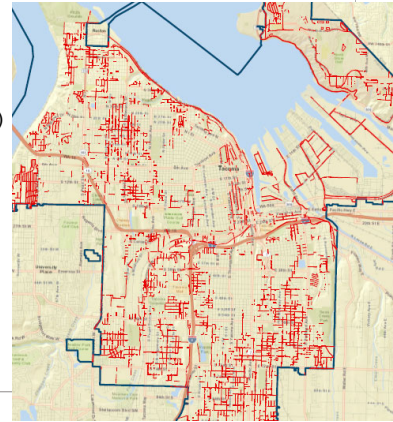
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## ● ● ● PED/BIKE COUNTS & FACILITY INVENTORIES



2018 City of Tacoma Road Safety Plan identified the need for data collection

- City-wide data collection effort (\$234,000 HISP grant)
  - Median and traffic islands
  - Missing sidewalks and width of sidewalks
  - Crosswalks (markings, signs, stop line, ramps)
  - Clear zone and fixed object inventory (poles installed in sidewalk)
- Help better understand why pedestrian and bicycle collisions occurring and if there is a relationship between the collision and the existing built infrastructure
- Estimated completion is fall 2020



## ● ● ● SIDEWALK PROGRAM



- Complaint based program
  - ~150 complaints/year
  - Over 1,100 sites in backlog
- 2017/2018 program funded with \$500K REET
  - 94 sites/0.7miles of sidewalk
- 2019/2020 Changes
  - Established a new sidewalk crew to address additional sites and provide flexibility
  - Established low income funding stream



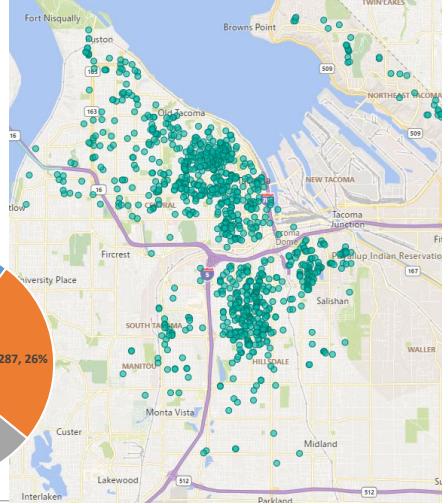
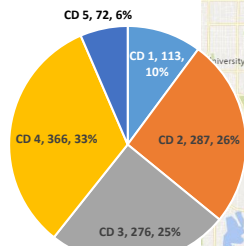
## SIDEWALK PROGRAM



- Program Delivery Issues
  - Not enough funding to partner with all sites
  - First come, first serve model
  - Willing participants turned away

- New Prioritization Process

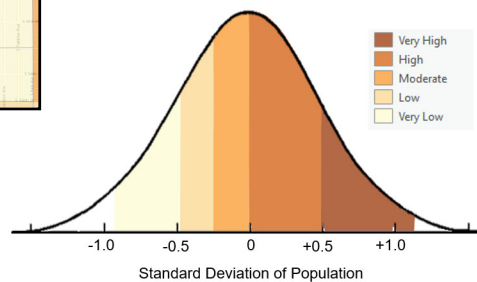
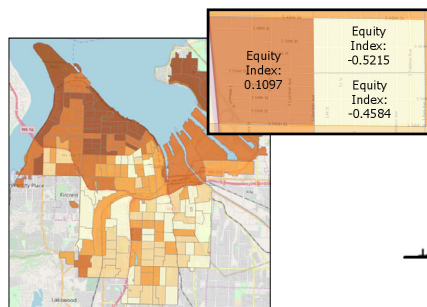
- Arterial streets
- Proximity to schools
- School walking routes
- Proximity to transit
- Equity index value



## EQUITY INDEX VALUES



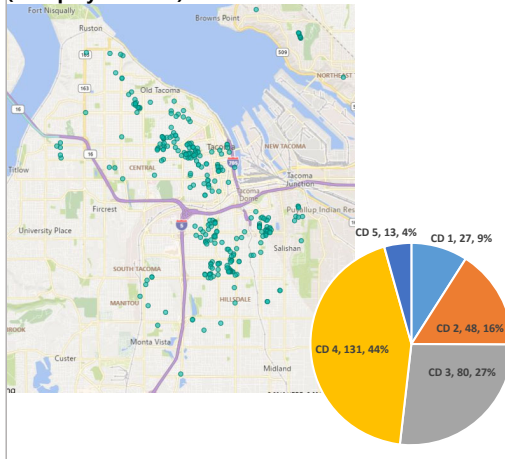
- Each census block has its own unique Equity Index Value.
- Values are shown as a plus/minus standard deviations (Range: -0.8 to +1.2)
- The Equity Index map groups the values into five colors.



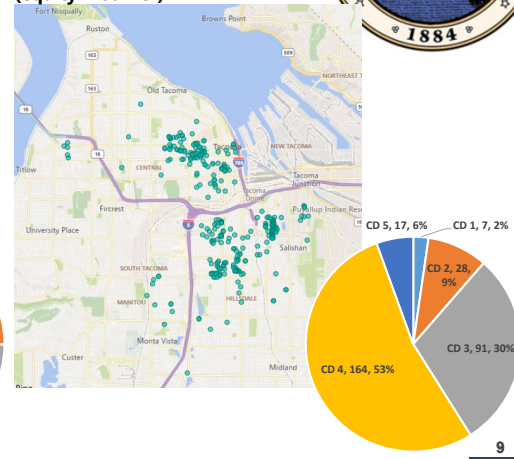
## SIDEWALK PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION



**Prioritized top 25% of sites  
(no equity modifier)**



**Prioritized top 25% of sites  
(equity modifier)**

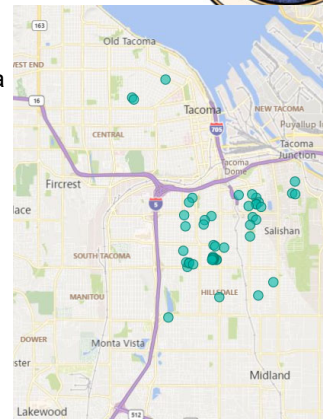


## SIDEWALK PROGRAM



### • Next Steps

- Leverage other City-led projects to incorporate work
- Continue to analyze data to update and refine criteria
- Work to lower barriers for residents who want to fix sidewalk outside of the City's program



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