



2020-2021 Tacoma City Council Priorities

City Council Study Session
June 30, 2020



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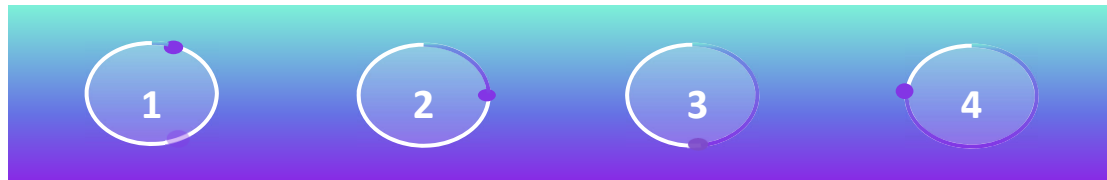
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AGENDA

- ☐ Council Priority Development Process
- ☐ Final Council Priorities and objectives
- ☐ Themes from most recent planning sessions with Council
- ☐ Next steps for implementation



Priority Development Process



Council Strategy Sessions

Individual sessions to identify CM priority indicators and problem statements

2020 Council Retreat

ID six priority indicators, created policy objectives for three consensus priorities

Council CoW

Created policy objectives for three non-consensus priorities

COVID-19 Reassessment

Councilmembers provided their input on how priorities have changed with COVID-19



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Equity and Anti-Racism

More Tacoma residents have access to livable wage jobs



Fewer Tacoma residents spend more than 45% of their income on housing and transportation



Improve access and proximity (for all Tacoma residents) to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.



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.



Increase positive perception of safety and overall quality of life



2020 Council Priority Indicators



Improve health outcomes and reduce inequities for all Tacoma residents



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Themes from COVID-19 Reassessments

- Many Councilmembers have a strong desire to make Social Justice and Anti-Racism the center of decisions in the upcoming Budget process
- All six Council Priorities continue to have support from Council, with acknowledgment that how we address those priorities may need to change
- Some priorities have become even more pressing/ more of a priority (the current situation has made them more visible)



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Improve access and proximity by all residents to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.

Livability #1

TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE:

- Increase access to opportunities for youth, (equitably distributed after school coordinated activities and high quality Pre-K)
- Improve neighborhood infrastructure necessary to provide access and proximity
- Increase comprehensive neighborhood planning
- Increase equitable distribution of investments and amenities
- Increase equitable digital access

COUNCIL FEEDBACK THEMES

- What access and proximity to services and facilities will look like is shifting because of COVID-19 and our lack of resources
- Many CMs want to ensure that we are looking at how we make our investments equitable to create thriving communities in the City of Tacoma, especially in relation to digital access
- Many CMs want to ensure that efforts to improve access also have co-benefits for other priorities

Improve health outcomes and reduce inequities for all Tacoma residents (in alignment with the CHNA and CHIP)

Livability #3

TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE:

- Improve access to healthy and affordable fresh food
- Improve and protect environmental health
- Address specific racial and other health inequities
- Increase access to behavioral health services, including for drug-related illnesses

COUNCIL FEEDBACK THEMES

- Health, and specifically addressing racial health inequities, has increased in importance due to COVID-19 for several CMs
- Some CMs do not want to lose track of efforts to ensure the health of our environment

Decrease the percentage of residents spending more than 45% of their income on housing and transportation

Livability #4

TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE:

- Increase mixed-income density (diverse housing types) along transit corridors
- Increase the number of affordable housing units in the City of Tacoma
- Increase the number of households helped to afford existing housing
- Increase the number of housing units serving people who often experience barriers to housing & those experiencing homelessness.
- Increase access to transit

COUNCIL FEEDBACK THEMES

- Housing remains a high priority for several CMs
- COVID-19 and economic recovery has shifted the path forward for our housing strategy as a City
- Focusing on racial inequities within our housing work remains critically important

Increase positive perception of safety and overall quality of life

Livability #5

TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE:

- Improve perceptions of safety in communities who feel least safe
- Reduce the negative community impacts of homelessness
- Ensure safe infrastructure in alignment with Vision Zero, including at schools
- Improve perception of lack of vibrant economy and lower quality of life
- Reduce property and drug-related crimes

COUNCIL FEEDBACK THEMES

- Safety remains one of the top, if not the top, priority for several CMs
- Defining safety more broadly than “traditional public safety” was important to many CMs
- Understanding what makes our community feel safe was important to a number of CMs
- Several CMs want to investigate shifting how we police, with or without additional resources
- Several CMs want to directly address the results of the Police staffing study, with or without additional resources

More Tacoma residents have access to livable wage jobs

Economy and Workforce #2

TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE:

- Increase collaboration of regional economic development institutions
- Increase the number of Tacomans who are prepared for and connected to livable wage jobs in key industry areas
- Increase the number of livable wage jobs in Tacoma and reduce income inequality

COUNCIL FEEDBACK THEMES

- Several CMs want to ensure that our Economic Recovery focuses on creating and supporting more diverse livable wage jobs (not just any jobs)
- Ensuring that Tacoma residents have access to future livable wage jobs remains an important part of this priority
- Many CMs commented on/questioned our Economic Development strategy as a City
- Many CMs expressed a desire to partner more in this area to expand our effectiveness

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.

Civic Engagement #3

TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE:

- Improve residents understanding and ability to access government processes and systems
- Simplify initiatives that engage community
- Eliminate barriers to participation in public meetings.
- Improve opportunities for residents to make meaningful decisions and inform/formulate policies.

COUNCIL FEEDBACK THEMES

- Several CMs view this priority increasing in importance due to COVID-19, as well as protests against racial injustice and unjust policing
- Focusing on communities that have the least trust in government is a focus for several CMs in this priority area
- Several CMs want to better define/understand how we would increase trust in government

Next Steps for Implementation

- Now that the Council has confirmed their priorities, we will ensure the implementation of Council's priorities for the remainder of 2020 and beyond.
- The City has framed the upcoming biennial budgeting process with the Council priorities. This way of organizing a budget is called **Priority Based Budgeting**. Each of the six Council Priorities will be used as a priority area to organize work across departments that seeks to impact the same community goal, i.e. health or housing.
- Other City processes such as **COVID-19 Response and Recovery** have been informed by Council priorities.
- Formalizing the Council priorities through a **Council Resolution**.



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Council Priorities and Priority Based Budgeting

- Each of the six Council Priorities with a racial equity/ anti-racism lens will be used as priority areas to organize work across departments that seeks to impact the same community goal, i.e. health or housing
 - Example: **Housing**
 - CED: Housing Division (HUD, CDBG), MFTE
 - PDS: Permitting, Long-Range Planning, Infill
 - NCS: TEMS, Rental Assistance
- Community outreach for the budget is structured around the six Council Priorities and racial equity/ anti-racism
 - Residents are being asked about what they most need in each area
 - Outreach will be complete in late July
 - We will come back to Council as a team in late July to share summary and themes



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Council Priorities and COVID-19 Actions



Livable Wage Jobs

- Small business stabilization program
- B&O deferral
- Commercial eviction moratorium
- Direct CoT staff implications

Housing

- Rental Assistance Program
- TPU Utility Assistance Program
- Foreclosure and Eviction Moratorium

Access to Services and Facilities

- Digital access to libraries
- Online portals for services
- Partnerships with MetroParks and others to provide programming on TV Tacoma

Belief and Trust in Government

- CoT COVID-19 Communications
 - Press Conferences
 - In tandem with partners
- Mayor's Online Town Hall
- Written comment for Council
- T-Town Halls

Safety and Quality of Life

- EOC operations
- Police
- Fire
- Homeless shelter expansion and COVID-19 response

Health

- Partnering with TPCHD on COVID-19 response
- Tacoma Dome testing
- City of Tacoma facilities
- Essential services continuation such as garbage pickup

"Action expresses priorities." –Mahatma Gandhi

Policy – Partnership - Platform

Our ability to achieve any of the Council Priorities is not limited to the programs and people that we directly fund. For us to achieve any of our priorities, we need to maximize the impact that we have with our policies, partnerships, and platform. In many cases, these policies and partnerships lay the foundation for effective programs.

- Which Council Priorities could we better achieve with an increased focus on policy?
- Which Council Priorities could we better achieve with an increased focus on partnership?
- Which Council Priorities could we better achieve by using our platform more?



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Thank You!



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