



Climate and Sustainability Commission (CSC)

**Informational Briefing
October 8, 2025
Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee**

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Background

Climate and Sustainability Commission Duties and Responsibilities:

Advise the City Council and staff to:

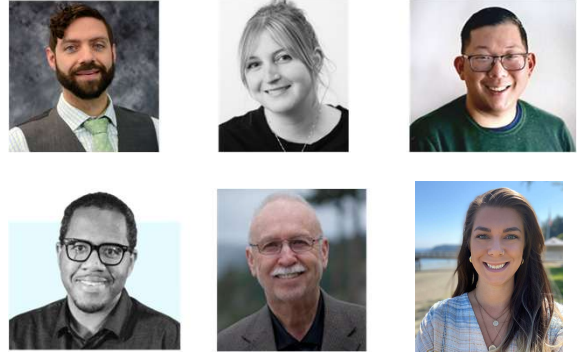
- Bring community accountability, transparency and vigilance to the long-term implementation of Tacoma's 2030 Climate Action Plan.
- Oversee, coordinate, communicate, and encourage public involvement regarding sustainability initiatives



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Background

- **13 at-large members**
 - 1 member is dedicated for youth
- **Terms are 3 years, youth seat is 1 school year**
- **Meet every 3rd Thursday of the month**
 - 5pm-7pm at TMB and online



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Background

- Climate science, policies, and solutions
- Local governance
- Energy systems management
- Waste/material management
- Ocean and marine sciences
- Multi-modal transportation
- Public health and healthy housing
- Food policy and programming
- Environmental justice
- Urban forestry
- Urban planning
- Community engagement and advocacy



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Our Recent Work



2030 Climate Action Plan Update
(2025-2027)



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Our Recent Work

Recommendation Letters on:

- 2026-2027 Budget
- Permitting, Health, and Climate
- Tideflats Subarea Plan
- Transportation & Mobility Plan
- Comprehensive Plan
- Climate Action Plan priorities
- Transportation Impact Fees & Business Development Charges



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Our Recent Work

Community Engagement

- Sustainability Expo
- Climate Leaders Cohort



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Our Recent Work

Annual Council Meetings for top Climate Action Plan priorities

1. Focus staffing on high impact sectors
2. Clarify role of OEPS under the City Manager's Office
3. Sustain long-term support for frontline CBOs
4. Advance the Resilience Hub program
5. Implement the Urban Forestry and Tree Resolution with urgency
6. Maintain investments in active transportation and safe mobility infrastructure
7. Engage industry to accelerate decarbonization
8. Support 2026 state building code improvements
9. Report regularly on implementation of adopted climate related plans



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Our Recent Work

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Commission Update

Climate And Sustainability Commission Ordinance

- December 2024



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Up Next

- Critical Areas Ordinance update review
- Tidelands Amendment
- Solid Waste CAP action update
- 2027-2028 Budget review with climate lens
- Possible joint meeting with Planning Commission
- Reduced staff support levels could hamper Commission's efforts



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Transportation Commission

Informational Briefing
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Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee

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Background

Resolution No. 38669

“...to advise on transportation-related matters such as short-term and long-range transportation planning; compliance with local, regional, and federal transportation regulations; bike, pedestrian, and mass transit-related planning initiatives; and parking and capital improvement plans...”



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Background

- Co-Chair Matt Stevens: At-Large No. 1
 - Co-Chair Bruce Morris: At-Large No. 2
 - Joe Korbuszewski: District 1
 - Rubén Casas: District 2
 - Austin Goble: District 3
 - Bronwyn Clarke: District 4
 - Penny Grellier: District 5
 - Felicity Waldron: At-Large No. 3
 - Richard Gardner: At-Large No. 4
 - Christiano Martinez: City Manager appointed, non-voting
 - Kerri Hill: City Manager appointed, non-voting
- 11-member Commission
 - Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month
 - Comprised of District representatives and subject matter experts



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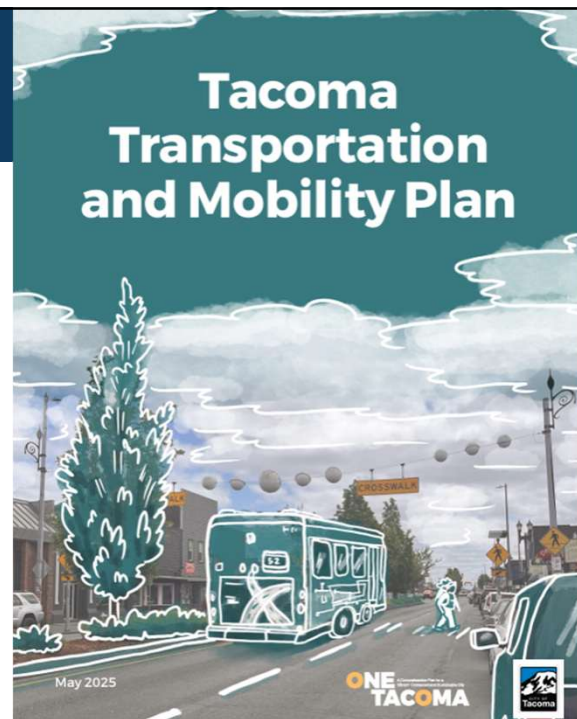
Our Recent Work

Transportation and Mobility Plan

- Three joint meetings with the Planning Commission
- Three special (extra) meetings
- Monthly TOD Task Force meetings

Letters of Recommendation

- Climate Action Plan update
- Pierce Transit Long Range Plan
- Sound Transit TDLE DEIS (joint with PC)
- Comprehensive Plan comments
- Streets Initiative 2.0 support
- TOD Task Force sunseting



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Representative on:

- Neighborhood Planning Steering Groups
- Picture Pac Ave Advisory Group
- Automated Enforcement Task Force

Attended open houses for:

- Large capital projects (Puyallup Avenue)
- Pierce Transit Long-Range Plan
- PSRC Safety Action Plan



Commissioner Casas speaking to the Climate Cohort Leadership Group about the importance of the public realm

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Commissioner Gardner attending the Pedal with the Politicians event

- Participated on Vision Zero road safety walking audits
- Interviewed by the Trust for Public Lands and Parks Tacoma

- Went to every One Tacoma Visioning event
- Consistent presence at DOTG events
- Represented Commission at District 5 Town Hall

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2025-2026 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN

MANDATED

- 6-year Transportation Improvement Program and Criteria Update

PRIORITIES

INVOLVEMENT

- Streets Initiative 2.0
- Neighborhood Greenways
- Opens Streets and the Public Realm
- Vision Zero and Safe Routes to School
- Biennium Budget
- Transit Support and Coordination
- Updates: Parking, Sidewalks

- Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan
- I-5 Crossings Study
- South Tacoma Vision Zero Project
- Portland Avenue Vision Zero Project
- ADA Transition Plan
- Schuster Parkway and other major capital projects
- Vision Zero Road Safety Audits

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Growing Our Role

Questions we will be pondering:

- How does Tacoma’s Transportation Commission compare to commissions in other cities, in terms of role and responsibility?
- How does the Commission ensure the new TMP is implemented and that projects support the vision?
- How can the Commission help with transparency and trust as we transform the transportation system?





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Tacoma Planning Commission

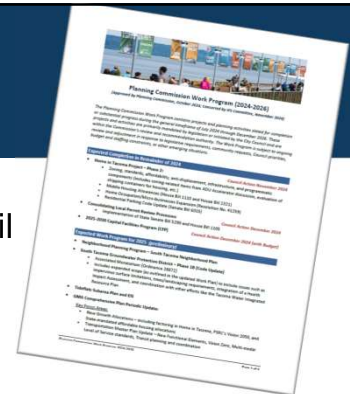
Robb Krehbiel, Chair
Chris Karnes, Past Chair

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Background

- Established by the City Charter to advise the City Council
- Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month
- Key Areas of Responsibility:
 - Develop and update the Comprehensive and its elements
 - Formulate effective, efficient land use and development regulations/processes
 - Area-wide zoning reclassifications, moratoria and interim regulations, annexations, historic district designation, urban design, and transportation and capital facilities programs
- Annual Work Program developed in collaboration with Council



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Planning Commission Members

9 members
mix of district representation and specific expertise/focus

Jordon Rash	Council District 1
Morgan Dorner	Council District 2
Payton Swinford	Council District 3
Troy Serad	Council District 4
Robb Krehbiel (Chair)	Council District 5
Anthony Steele (Vice-Chair)	Development Community
Brett Marlo	Environmental Community
Chris Karnes (<i>past Chair</i>)	Public Transportation
Marie Reynolds	Architecture, Historic Preservation and/or Urban Design



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Planning and Development Process



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Our Recent Work

- Home in Tacoma – Phase 2
- Neighborhood Planning Program – South Tacoma
- South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) – Moratorium and Code Update
- Local Historic Districts – Moratorium & Code Update
- Capital Facilities Program (2025-2030)
- Tidelands Subarea Plan & EIS
- *One Tacoma* Comprehensive Plan – Periodic Update



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Up Next

- Critical Areas Preservation Code Update
- Pacific Avenue Corridor Subarea Plan & EIS (“Picture Pac Ave”)
- 2026 Annual Amendment Package
 - McKinley Annexation
 - Special Needs Housing Code Update (includes Enhanced Services Facilities)
 - Legislative Code Amendments (includes Childcare Centers and Binding Site Plans)
 - Minor Amendments
- Capital Facilities Program (2027-2032)
- Parking Code Amendments



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Tacoma Planning Commission

Robb Krehbiel, Chair
Chris Karnes, Past Chair

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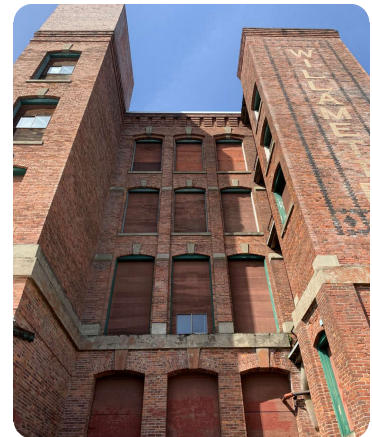
Landmarks Preservation Commission

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Background

- The Landmarks Preservation Commission is established by the City Charter and Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) 1.42.
- The Commission oversees the establishment and regulation of landmarks, local historic districts, review of certain property tax incentives, heritage grants and annual awards.
- Tacoma's Landmarks and Historic Districts are regulated by TMC 13.06 and 13.07.
- The Commission also reviews certain demolition permits under TMC 13.12.570.
- Advisory policy body to the Planning Commission and City Council.



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Commission

- 12 of 13 positions are currently filled
- Positions: Architects (3), Professionals (4), At-Large (4), and Ex Officio (2)
- 3-year terms (Ex Officio terms are 4 years)
- Regular meetings occur 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each* month (*only one meeting in November and December)
- Hybrid-format meetings, start at 5:30pm



Site visit to Fort Nisqually,
July 2025



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Our Recent Work

Accomplishments:

- 13 Historic Design Reviews
- 4 new Tacoma landmarks
- Historic Preservation Code Amendments for 2025
- 2024: Approx. \$317K in tax incentives (\$309 million since start of program)
- Tacoma Comprehensive Plan updates (adopted in June)
- 3 site visits



Site visit to Stadium High School,
August 2025



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Up Next

Upcoming Events & Projects:

- Historic Preservation Month and Annual Awards
- Commission Recruitment
- Community Heritage Register launch (pending Council adoption)
- Ongoing community partnerships and public events calendar



2024 Historic Preservation Awards



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Urban Design Board

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Urban Design Board– Background

- The Urban Design Board was established by City Council in 2024 within TMC Chapter 13.19 (Ord. 28966)
- Meets the third Thursday each month
- The Board has three core functions:
 - Review of Urban Design Project Review (UDPR) permits
 - Provide advisory input on matters related to urban design
 - Serve as educational resource and advocate for design excellence



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Urban Design Board 2025

- Seven members
- Required D3, D4, and D5 representation
- Represent range of professional and community perspectives related to urban design
 - 4 – Design & development professional
 - 1 – Sustainable development
 - 1 – Active/Multi-modal transportation
 - 1 – Culture & Heritage



From Left: Krystal Monteros, Clara Cheeves, Deborah Ranniger, Brett Santhuff (Chair), Chris Reeh, Jennifer Weddermann (Vice Chair), and Stephanie Gowing



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A New CBC: Our First Year



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Our Recent Work

- Training and Orientation**
- Neighborhood Walking Tours**
- Dome Area
 - Hilltop
 - Stadium



- Urban Design Project Review**
- Two Concept Design Reviews
 - Public Notice and Comment



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Our Recent Work: UDPR

Urban Design Project Review

Application 1

Northeast corner of 26th and Madison in Proctor

- Flexibility in meeting Design Standards (e.g., building modulation)
- Addressed farmers market proximity and challenge of no alley for utilities/service
- Guidance prioritized street-level façade activation and blank wall treatments



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Our Recent Work: UDPR

Urban Design Project Review

Application 2

Northwest corner of Tacoma Ave S & S 2nd in St. Helens

- Flexibility meeting Design Standards (e.g., building modulation)
- Responsiveness to T Line, Stadium District & First Presbyterian Church
- Design Guidance prioritized the street level and façade abutting historic church



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Up Next

- Urban Design Project Review
 - Ongoing
- Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE)
- Advisory opportunities
 - Pedestrian Street provisions, parking requirements/RPA, large site (re)development, and Building Design Standards in TMC



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