



Tacoma Streets Initiative: A Decade of Progress

Public Works Department
City Council Study Session
July 21, 2026
Item 1

Agenda

- Background
- Community Impact & Accomplishments
- Financial Stewardship & Economic Analysis
- Remaining Needs
- What's Next



Why was the Streets Initiative created?



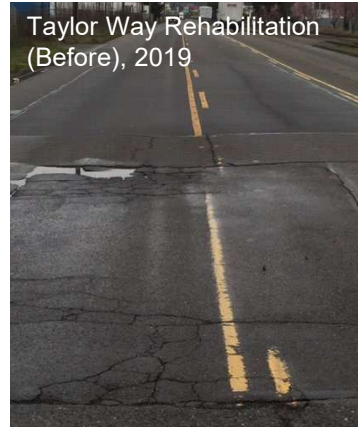
Meet Council's transformational goals



Growing backlog of deteriorating streets



Need for predictable, dedicated investments in street infrastructure



Taylor Way Rehabilitation
(Before), 2019



Taylor Way Rehabilitation
(After), 2022

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Background

- In 2015, Tacoma voters approved Proposition 3 and Proposition A, funding street repair, maintenance, and safety improvements, focusing on residential streets.
- Proposition 3 collected funds through an increase in property and utility gross earnings tax.
- Proposition A collected funds through an increase in sales tax.
- All taxes expired in 10 years. Projected to generate \$175 million in new revenue.



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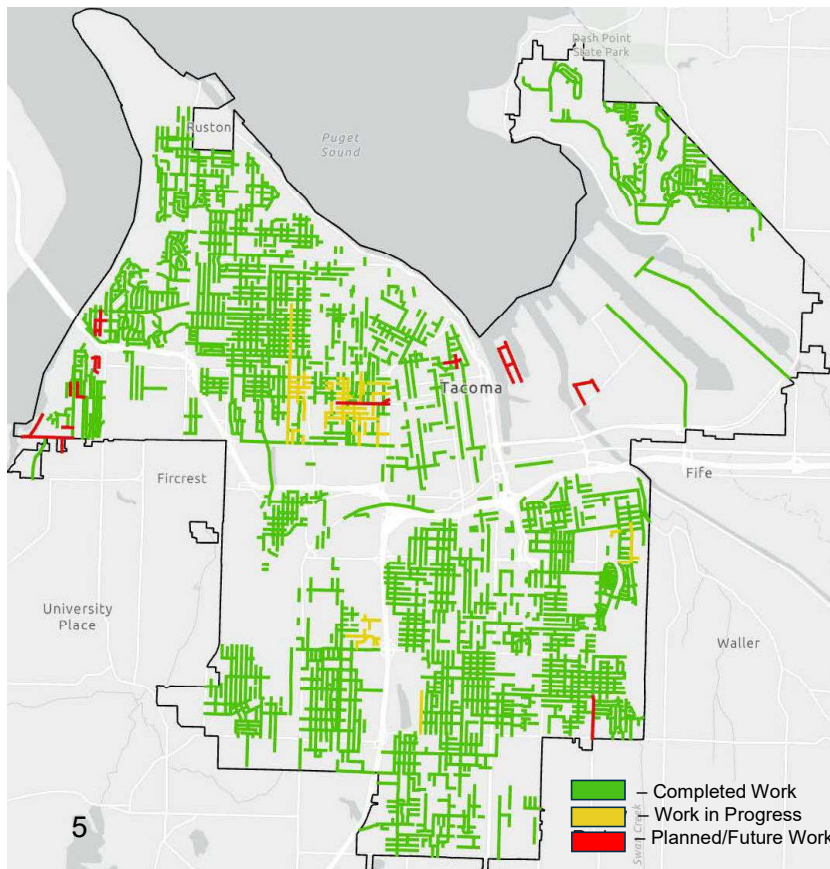


Community Impact & Accomplishments

- **Grant match success:** For every **\$1** of Streets Initiative Fund, we've been able to leverage grant match for approximately **\$3**.
- Built partnerships with Environmental Services, Tacoma Public Utilities, private developers, Tacoma Public Schools, and Pierce Transit on capital and residential projects.
- We've earned **over \$144 million** in state and federal grants, surpassing our original goal of \$90 million.
- 83% of expenditures have been utilized in contracted maintenance and capital project work.
- **No findings or recommendations** from the State Auditor's Office.
- Community Impact Report.



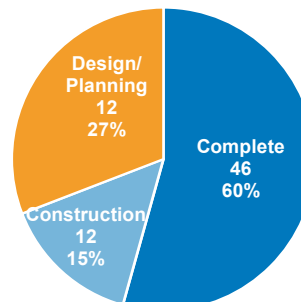
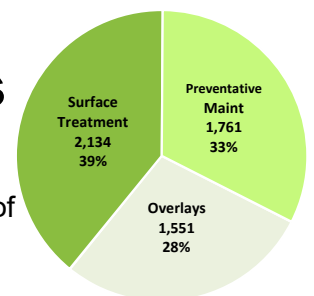
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What We Delivered

5,446 Blocks Improved

97% towards 10-year goal of 5,600 blocks



79 Capital Projects Supported





Capital Project Accomplishments

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YOUR VOTER-APPROVED 2015
TACOMA STREETS INITIATIVE
DOLLARS AT WORK



EAST 64th STREET

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YOUR VOTER-APPROVED 2015
TACOMA STREETS INITIATIVE
DOLLARS AT WORK

East 64th Street – Phase 1 & 2

Year Completed: 2025 (Phase 2)

Council District: 4 & 5

Funding Sources: Streets Initiative, TIB Grant, Tacoma Public Utilities, Environmental Services

Type of Improvement: Capital

Project Improvements:

- New Pavement
- Protected Bike Lanes
- New/Replaced Sidewalks & Curb Ramp Upgrades
- Upgraded Stormwater, Water, and Illumination Systems
- Landscaping & Public Art

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Lincoln District Streetscape

Year Completed: 2018

Council District: 4

Funding Sources: Streets Initiative, REET, TIB Grant, Tacoma Public Utilities, Environmental Services

Type of Improvement: Capital

Project Improvements:

- New Pavement
- Crossings & Curb Ramps
- Landscaping & Street Trees
- Upgrades to Stormwater, Water, Wastewater, and Streetlighting Systems
- Yakima Festival Street

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NORTH MULLEN STREET & NORTH 47th STREET (SI PROJECT #24 & #35)

Year Completed: 2025

Council District: 1

Funding Sources: Streets Initiative, Tacoma Public Utilities, Environmental Services, Local Improvement District/Property Owners

Type of Improvement: Maintenance & Local Improvement District (LID)

Project Improvements:

- New Pavement
- Curb Ramp Improvements
- Upgrades to Stormwater, Water, and Wastewater Systems
- New Curb & Gutter (LID)
- New/Replaced Sidewalk (LID)

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East Roosevelt Avenue

Year Completed: 2026

Council District: 4

Funding Sources: Streets Initiative, TIB Grant, REET, Parks Tacoma, Environmental Services

Type of Improvement: Capital & Maintenance

Project Improvements:

- New Pavement
- Curb Ramp & Crossing Improvements
- New & Replaced Sidewalk
- Flashing School Beacons
- Landscaping & Street Trees
- Stormwater System Upgrades



Larchmont 84th and A Streets

Year Completed: 2024

Council District: 5

Funding Sources:

Environmental Services, Streets Initiative, Department of Ecology Grant

Type of Improvement: Capital

Project Improvements:

- New Permeable Pavement
- Stormwater System Upgrades
- New Sidewalks & Curb Ramps
- Bike Boulevard
- Landscaping & Street Trees



Street Maintenance Accomplishments

Pothole Palooza



N 21ST ST



NORPOINT WAY

- Repairs at 10 Locations throughout the City
- Nearly 16,000 Square Yards of Pavement Replaced – Equivalent to almost 9,000 Individual Pothole Repairs



S Prospect & 10th through 12th
Before (2016)



S Prospect & 10th through 12th
After (2016)



East J Street & 56th through 57th
Before (2020)



East J Street & 56th through 57th
After (2020)

Residential Programs

- **Paving:** 1,551 Blocks to Date
- **Surface Treatments:** 2,134 Blocks to Date
- **Preventative Maintenance:** 1,761 Blocks to Date
- **\$1 Spent on Maintenance Saves \$250 in Future Reconstruction Costs by Extending the Life of the Existing Surface**



Financial Stewardship

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Streets Initiative Revenues

2015-2025 Streets Initiative Revenue		
Revenue Source	Actual Revenue (2025)	Initiative to Date (% towards 10-year goal)
City Funding	\$ 3.0 M	\$ 30.2 M (101%)
TBD Sales Tax (0.1%)	\$ 7.7 M	\$ 62.4 M (139%)
Gross Earnings Tax (1.5%)	\$ 9.3 M	\$ 90 M (100%)
Property Tax (\$0.2/\$1,000 AV)	\$ 4.7 M	\$ 42.8 M (107%)
Interest and Other	\$ 1.9 M	\$ 5.5 M
Total	\$ 26.6 M	\$ 230.9 M (113%)

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Streets Initiative Expenditures

2015-2025 Streets Initiative Expenditures		
Streets Initiative Funding Category	Actual Expenditures (2025)	Initiative to Date Expenditures (% towards goal)
Residential Maintenance	\$ 11.8 M	\$ 137.5 M (89%)
Capital – Arterial / Freight	\$ 3.0 M*	\$ 15.3 M* (51%)
Capital - Active Transportation	\$ 4.3 M*	\$ 19.3 M* (97%)
Overhead & Assessments	\$ 1.4 M	\$ 8.9 M
Total	\$ 20.5 M	\$ 181.0 M (88%)

* Capital expenditures do not capture future encumbrances for capital projects.

Beyond the Pavement: Economic Benefits of the Streets Initiative

Independent Economic Analysis Found the Streets Initiative Generated Positive Economic Benefits

- Generated **\$26–31 million annually** in economic activity.
- Households earned a cumulative **\$5–6.5 million annual increase** through project-related employment and business activity.
- The greatest economic impact occurred when local funding was combined with state and federal grants.
- The analysis found the Streets Initiative produced a **net positive economic impact**, even after accounting for the taxes used to fund the program.

Source: Sound Resource Economics, *Economic Impacts of the Tacoma Streets Initiative* (2026).

Building Tacoma's Workforce

- Created apprenticeship opportunities and career pathways in the construction trades.
- Supported local workers through Tacoma's Local Employment and Apprenticeship Training (LEAP) Program.
- Leveraged local investments to bring outside funding into Tacoma, supporting additional jobs and infrastructure improvements.
- Helped strengthen Tacoma's economy while delivering transportation improvements throughout the city.



41,000+

Apprentice Hours*



136,000+

Local Employee Hours*



\$9.3M

Local Wages*



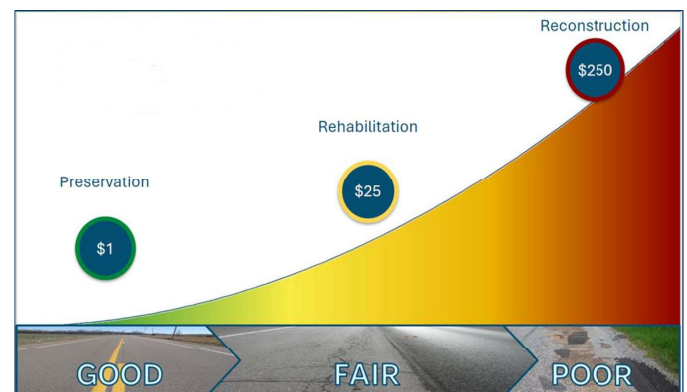
\$144M+

Grant Funding Leveraged

*2020-Present

Remaining Needs

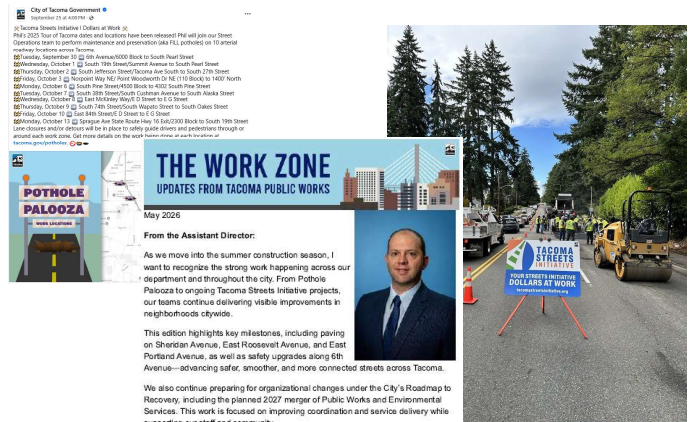
- Current Tacoma Street backlog total: **\$2.1 Billion***
 - **\$680 million** in deferred maintenance (76% of the network)
 - **\$1.4 billion** in reconstruction needs (24% of the network)



*Represents one-time maintenance cost and replacement value of street surfaces and basic curb ramp improvements. Sidewalks, mobility improvements, and other assets are an additional cost.

What's Next

- Continued Streets Initiative Projects
- Connect Tacoma Safe Streets and Sidewalks Levy
 - Better Neighborhood Streets
 - Safer Streets for Everyone
 - Improved Connections
- Levy Oversight Committee via Transportation Commission
- Improved Outreach, Communications, and Reporting



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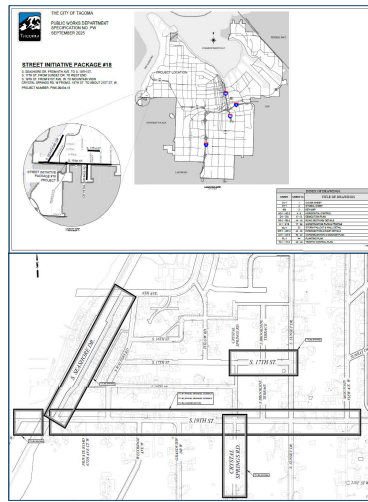
2026 Construction - Public Works

	Project Name	Advertisement Date	Construction Start	Construction End	Confirmed Funds
1	11th Street Paving Project	8/1/2026	11/1/2026	9/1/2027	\$ 3,227,000.00
2	34th Street Bridge Deck Repair and Seismic Retrofit	8/1/2026	11/1/2026	11/1/2027	\$ 8,220,000.00
3	East Portland Avenue (64-72) Overlay	9/1/2026	12/1/2026	9/1/2027	\$ 1,712,881.00
4	East Lincoln Avenue Bridge Seismic Rehabilitation	8/1/2026	11/1/2026	5/1/2027	\$ 1,220,000.00
5	Links to Opportunity Package 2	9/1/2026	12/1/2026	5/1/2027	\$ 2,000,000.00
6	Pedestrian Mobility & Safety Improvements at South 56th Street and Pacific Avenue	8/1/2026	11/1/2026	4/1/2027	\$ 782,000.00
7	South 11th Street and South Sprague Avenue Signalized Intersection Improvements	9/1/2026	12/1/2026	7/1/2027	\$ 1,200,000.00
8	South 25th Street Traffic Safety Enhancements	9/1/2026	11/1/2026	7/1/2027	\$ 2,015,000.00
9	South 48th Street Seismic Bridge Retrofit	8/1/2026	11/1/2026	6/1/2027	\$ 1,096,000.00
10	South 56th Street & A Street Crossing Improvements	10/1/2026	1/1/2027	5/1/2027	\$ 841,777.00
11	South 11th Street and Earnest S Brazil Protected Bike Lane Couplet	9/1/2026	11/1/2026	6/1/2027	\$ 1,956,131.00
12	Streets Initiative Package 18	10/1/2026	1/1/2026	1/1/2027	\$ 4,608,635.00
13	Streets Initiative Package 40	7/28/2026	11/1/2026	12/1/2027	\$ 5,102,704.00
14	Yakima Avenue Overlay	9/1/2026	12/1/2026	6/1/2027	\$ 1,669,000.00
15	2026 Sidewalk Improvement Package	Ad- Award	7/1/2026	11/1/2026	\$ 500,000.00
	Total				\$ 36,151,128.00

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FUTURE PROJECT



- Residential and Arterial Improvements Focused on the Western End of South 19th Street
- New Pavement
- Utility Upgrades
- Some Sidewalk & Curb Ramp Improvements
- Coordination with University Place, Pierce County, and the Department of Ecology

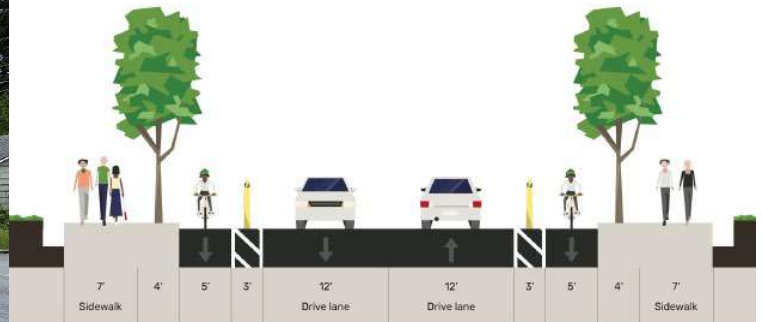
SOUTH 19TH STREET (SI PACKAGE 18)

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FUTURE PROJECT



SOUTH 12TH STREET



- South Grant Street to South Cedar Street
- New Pavement
- Stormwater, Wastewater, and Water System Upgrades
- Curb Ramp & Sidewalk Improvements
- Protected Bike Lanes
- Signal Improvements and New Flashing Beacons
- Funded by Streets Initiative and TIB Department of Commerce Grants

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Thank you, Tacoma.