



TO: Hyun Kim, Interim City Manager
FROM: Carol Wolfe, Division Manager, Community and Economic Development
COPY: Economic Development Committee
PRESENTERS: Carol Wolfe, Division Manager, Community and Economic Development
SUBJECT: Business Engagement Solutions Team (BEST) and Business District Program Update
DATE: January 27, 2026

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Community and Economic Development (CED) staff will provide updates from 2025 Council briefings regarding enhancements to Business District Programs and Services. Staff will also discuss how Councilmembers can impact Business Safety and Resilience through the Business District Program and the Business Engagement Solutions Team (BEST).

BACKGROUND:

CED staff is refreshing the Neighborhood Business District Program to a citywide Business District Program that will enhance our impact on economic prosperity, business resiliency, and sense of safety. BEST is an internal, City of Tacoma infrastructure of middle management and subject matter experts who deliver key services to communities. BEST staff work across departments to review issues impacting Tacoma's business climate and determine how existing services might mitigate priority issues within a 30, 60, 90-day timeframe.

Staff will share a timeline for BEST internal-external engagement, and for potential policy changes to:

- Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) 1.47 Neighborhood Business District Program, recognizing changes into a Business District Program, and
- TMC 1.48 Business Safety and Resiliency Program, to fully align with the provisions adopted by Council in December of 2025.

ISSUE:

This is an informational briefing only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an informational briefing only. No alternatives are being presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an informational briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational briefing only. No recommendation is being made.