



Business Districts & Solutions Team Update

City of Tacoma | Community & Economic Development



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••• What We Learned



1) Neighborhood Business District (NBD) Program Review

- 1) Program inadequate for current business district demand
- 2) Out of alignment with TMC 1.47
- 3) Lack of participation, underutilized, desire to rebuild capacity

2) City Council Neighborhood Business District Program Feedback

- 1) Continue support for existing NBD's
- 2) Expand support to other Business Districts
- 3) Increase engagement opportunities for Councilmembers
- 4) Technical Assistance must be culturally competent and geographically relevant

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What Was Done



1) Reactivated Partnership with Tacoma Neighborhoods Together

- 1) Identified barriers to NBD Association non-profit compliance
- 2) Activated solutions to NBD Association Operational and Barricade Relief funding
- 3) Provided administrative capacity support to NBD Associations and CDA

2) Expanded Business District Outreach

- 1) Developed commercial outreach approach for BEST priorities
- 2) Integrated existing NBDs and emerging commercial areas
- 3) Developed annual outreach calendar

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What Was Done



3) Business Engagement Solutions Team (BEST)

- 1) Internal middle management infrastructure in support of TMC 1.48
- 2) Cross functional service delivery w/in 30, 60, 90 days
- 3) Integrates business district engagement city wide

4) Business Safety and Resiliency Program TMC 1.48

- 1) Ordinance 29089 adopted December 16, 2025
- 2) Program proposals adopted by 2027
- 3) Advance objectives of multiple organization plans

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Who We Talked To



- **2014 & 2025** NBD program participants & city liaison surveys
- **2024** Business Climate Survey
- **2025** BEST Team participant feedback
- **2025** Business district participants not engaged with NBD program
- **2025** 4th Quarter City Council Debriefs

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Where We Are Headed



- **Jan 2026:** Lincoln, Hosmer, 12th Street, Pac Ave BD, Dome, Hilltop
- **Feb 2026:** Outreach schedule posted on Tacoma HUB
- **Feb 2026:** Coordinate engagement opportunities with Council
- **Feb 2026:** Convene 2026 Business District Presidents
- **March 2026 – Oct 2026:** Co-create policy aligned changes

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