



## The Work Zone September 2025

### A Message from the Director

Dear Tacoma Community,

As we transition into September, many of us are feeling the familiar rhythm of a new season — kids heading back to school, cooler mornings returning, and the City preparing for fall weather. This time of year reminds us how essential reliable streets, safe sidewalks, and responsive infrastructure are to daily life. At Public Works, we remain focused on delivering those services with care, consistency, and transparency.



In this issue of *The Work Zone*, you'll read about recent progress on several capital projects, including improvements to ADA curb ramps, resurfacing work made possible by the Streets Initiative, and planning underway to support our Vision Zero goals. Each of these efforts is grounded in a simple idea: every resident deserves to move safely through our city, whether by foot, bike, car, or bus.

This newsletter is just one way we are working to build trust through open communication. By sharing what we're doing, how we're doing it, and where you can get involved, we hope to close the gap between public service and public understanding.

If you haven't yet, I encourage you to visit our [Tacoma Streets Initiative I Milestones website](#), where you can explore how your dollars are being put to work across Tacoma. Transparency is not just a goal—it's a responsibility.

Thank you for staying engaged, asking questions, and helping us build a stronger Tacoma.

Sincerely,

**Jeffrey A. Jenkins**  
Public Works Director  
City of Tacoma

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## Project Updates

### Recently Completed



**Historic Water Ditch Trail (also known as Water Flume Line Trail) – Phase III & IV**  
| [Project Website](#)

Construction is moving forward on the Historic Water Ditch Trail along South Tacoma Way, delivering safer and more accessible connections for people walking, rolling, and taking transit

and timing details.

- **Phase IIIA (M Street to Sprague Avenue):** Final paving is complete. Pedestrian lighting is expected this summer, and landscaping is scheduled for fall 2025.
- **Phase IIIB (M Street to Pine Street):** Construction began July 7, 2025.

Project improvements include ADA-accessible curb ramps, upgraded traffic signals, new storm drainage, pedestrian lighting, and enhanced transit stops.

Phases III & IV represent the **final trail connections**, completing a **\$14 million investment in safer, more connected neighborhoods**, funded in part by the **Tacoma Streets Initiative I**, which supports local street, sidewalk, and trail improvements across the city.



#### **Pedestrian Accessibility Upgrades in District 10 Complete | [Project Website](#)**

Thanks to voter-approved Tacoma Streets Initiative I funding, paired with a federal Housing and Urban Development Grant, the City of Tacoma has completed a \$3.1 million project to improve pedestrian accessibility in District 10.

The project added or upgraded more than 130 ADA-accessible curb ramps across 21 intersections, making it easier and safer for people with mobility challenges to travel between streets and sidewalks. These upgrades were prioritized based on community requests and identified barriers, furthering Tacoma's goal of building more walkable and equitable neighborhoods.

As part of the project restoration, two trees removed during construction will be replaced in the nearby vicinity. Construction began in October 2024 and wrapped up in June 2025.



#### **Honoring Culture with Lushootseed Street Name Signs | [News Article](#) | [Video](#)**

Public Works, in partnership with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, installed new street name signs that honor Native language and culture. Standard street signs in select areas of tribal land were supplemented with honorary signs displaying Lushootseed names, the language of the Puyallup people.

Construction began in June 2025 and finished in July 2025.

This \$161,000 project is fully funded through a private contribution from the Puyallup Tribe.

## Projects In Progress



### Tacoma Spur Stadium Northbound and Southbound Ramps | [Project Website](#)

On August 11, Public Works began maintenance work on the I-705 Stadium Spur ramps that connect to Commerce Street and South Stadium Way. Improvements include a new concrete overlay, replacement of ramp expansion joints, and other repairs to enhance safety.

#### Updated Ramp Closures:

- **Northbound off-ramps (I-705 to Stadium Way and Schuster Parkway):** Additional repairs to the ramp deck are needed. The closure, originally expected to end in mid-September, is now estimated to extend about **two weeks beyond the original schedule**, with reopening anticipated in **late September or early October**. During this closure, the off-ramp to Schuster Parkway will remain closed to drivers traveling northbound on I-705.
- **Southbound ramps (Stadium Way and Schuster Parkway to I-705):** Now estimated to close in **early October** and reopen in **early November**. The on-ramp to I-705 from Schuster Parkway will also be closed during this time.

All work is weather dependent. Detours will remain in place, with alternate routes such as the A Street City Center exit, SR 509, South 21st Street, and Port of Tacoma exits available. Drivers should expect delays and are encouraged to plan ahead.

For details and detour maps, visit [tacoma.gov/Spur-Stadium-Ramps](https://tacoma.gov/Spur-Stadium-Ramps).

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### 2025-2026 Citywide Striping

The City of Tacoma is investing nearly \$2 million to refresh roadway striping, bicycle facilities, crosswalks, lane markings, and reflectors across the city. These improvements help ensure safer and more visible streets for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians alike.

Construction is expected to run from July through November 2025. The project is fully funded through the City's Transportation Capital & Engineering Fund.

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## Upcoming Work







#### East Portland Avenue (South 56th to South 64th Streets) Overlay | [Project Website](#)

A major street improvement project is moving forward on East Portland Avenue. The project will resurface the outer lanes with new asphalt, add ADA-accessible curb ramps where needed, and install a new pedestrian-activated HAWK signal at East Portland Avenue and South 60th Street to improve safety and accessibility.

Construction is scheduled to begin in fall 2025.



#### 6th Avenue & South 19th Street Railroad Crossing Improvements | [Project Website](#)

This \$2.1 million project is fully funded through a mix of federal and local sources, including \$265,000 from the voter-approved Tacoma Streets Initiative I Fund. These dollars, combined with federal transportation grants, are helping to create safer streets and better pedestrian connections in our community.

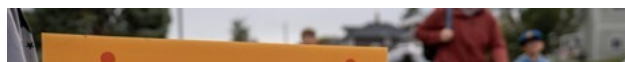
The City of Tacoma is moving forward with pedestrian and traffic safety upgrades at the 6th Avenue and South 19th Street railroad crossings. Improvements will include new pedestrian gates, upgraded rail signals, relocated vehicle gates, sidewalks, curb ramps, fresh pavement and striping, signage, fencing, and landscaping.

These supplemental safety measures are required for the City to apply for its first-ever **Quiet Zone**, which aims to eliminate routine train horn noise at these crossings once approved by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). While horns will still sound during emergencies, a Quiet Zone helps to significantly reduce noise impacts for nearby residents and businesses.

Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2025, with the FRA Quiet Zone application expected to follow in 2026.

This \$4.5 million project is fully funded through federal, state, and local sources — including **\$560,000 from the voter-approved Tacoma Streets Initiative I Fund**.

## Safe Routes to School





### **Program in Focus: Safe Routes to School** | [Program Website](#)

The City of Tacoma's **Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program** is helping make it safer, easier, and more enjoyable for K–12 students and families to walk, bike, and actively roll to school.

Launched in 2017 with the City's first **Safe Routes to School Action Plan**, and updated in 2023, this program is built on strong partnerships between the City, schools, neighbors, community organizations, and regional agencies. Together, we're working to improve safety and create healthier, more connected communities.

### **What We Do**

Tacoma's Safe Routes to School program combines:

- **Infrastructure improvements** like crosswalks, signals, and bike facilities near schools
- **Walking and biking safety education** for students and families
- **Encouragement programs** such as walking school buses, bike rodeos, and safety campaigns

### **Why It Matters**

Investing in Safe Routes to School benefits the entire community:

- Less traffic congestion and harmful emissions around schools
- Improved student focus, attendance, and academic performance
- Healthier students and families through daily physical activity
- More engaged, connected, and active neighborhoods

### **Program Accomplishments**

In its first five years, Tacoma's Safe Routes to School program has delivered meaningful improvements, with more to come in the next five. You can explore a presentation on accomplishments and future plans presented to the City Council's Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee. [🔗 Watch Now](#)

### **Explore Suggested Walking Routes**

Looking for a safe way to get to school? Check out our [Suggested Walking Route Maps for Elementary Schools](#) and plan your trip.

 Questions or ideas? Contact the program team at [saferoutestoschool@tacoma.gov](mailto:saferoutestoschool@tacoma.gov).

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## Job Opportunities

Want to make a difference in Tacoma? Join our Public Works team!

- [Transportation Design Engineer](#) | \$118,560.00 - \$166,920.00 Annually

Apply now: [Career Opportunities](#) | [Public Works Department](#) | [City of Tacoma](#)

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**SERVE TACOMA**  
COMMITTEES • BOARDS • COMMISSIONS

Do you live in Tacoma and want to help the City create a safe, equitable, and connected transportation system for people who walk, bike and roll?

Apply today to help guide Tacoma's active transportation projects, policies and priorities.

**Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG)**

**5 Openings:**

- 3 adult member positions
- 1 youth position (16-18)
- 1 alternate position (youth or adult)

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in a hybrid format with virtual and in-person options to attend.

**APPLY AND LEARN MORE:  
TACOMA.GOV/BPTAG**

**Applications due on Monday,  
September 29, 2025**

## Apply Now: Bicycle & Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group

The Tacoma City Council is seeking new members to join the Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group (BPTAG). Open positions include three adult seats, one youth seat (ages 16–18), and one alternate (adult or youth).

BPTAG members help shape Tacoma's active transportation future by prioritizing new projects, reviewing designs, providing feedback on programs, and elevating community concerns. Meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month from 5:30–7:30 p.m. in a hybrid format.

The City encourages applications from individuals of all backgrounds, especially those from communities that reflect Tacoma's diversity. Applications are due by **Monday, September 29, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.**

Learn more and apply at [tacoma.gov/bptag](https://tacoma.gov/bptag).

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## Upcoming Events and Meetings

September 17 @ 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm | [Transportation Commission Meeting](#) | **Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 243** 747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA, United States & [Zoom](#)

September 22 @ 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm | [Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group Monthly Meeting](#) | **Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 248** 747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA, United States & [Zoom](#) Passcode: 762319

October 2 @ 4:10 – 6:10 pm | [Parking Technical Advisory Meeting](#) | **Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 248** 747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA, United States & Zoom (see agendas for details)

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### Feedback or Report an Issue

Need to report a pothole or broken streetlight? 📞 Call 3-1-1 or report online:  
[tacoma.gov/311](https://tacoma.gov/311)

For more information, visit our [Public Works website](#) and for the latest active transportation updates, follow the City's active transportation team on [Facebook](#) (@mobility253) and on [Instagram](#) (@tacomamobility).

Questions or comments about active transportation policies, projects, or programs?  
You can reach us at [tacomastreets@tacoma.gov](mailto:tacomastreets@tacoma.gov) or (253) 363-1135.



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