

Hillside Development Council

Comments on the 2014 Transportation Master Plan

1. South 21st Street is a primary route for vehicles, both passenger and freight, between I-509 on the east and Yakima on the west. This road must not be narrowed by the inclusion of bicycle lanes and the primary sidewalk between Jefferson Avenue and Tacoma Avenue should be on the south side of 21st as part of the development of the City's six acre site.
 - a. Once I-509 gets connected to Highway 167 and I-5 this route will become the preferred way to access downtown Tacoma from the North and South 21st Street is the natural route for drivers to take.
 - b. The current way one would head West includes a jog on Market Street and then turning West on South 19th Street taking vehicles through the heart of the University of Washington Tacoma. By extending South 21st Street as an arterial further west, at least to Yakima Avenue and possibly to MLK Way it would eliminate problems between pedestrians (students) and vehicles within the UWT footprint.
 - c. The I-509/South 21st corridor is a major route for ambulances heading to St. Joseph's Hospital and they need to be allowed swift passage.

2. In business districts the master plan must not only consider freight traffic but also the availability of loading zones or other mechanisms for freight to make its way from trucks to businesses. Islands in the center of streets make this type of activity impossible.
 - a. Business is the lifeblood of any city. Many businesses require access to freight carriers to succeed both for inbound and outbound shipments. With more commercial businesses this often entails loading and unloading using forklifts and many of our older and historic buildings do not have adequate loading docks to keep this activity off of the streets.

3. Freight routes for inclement weather need to be considered especially in downtown Tacoma where grades on East-West streets can exceed 20%.

4. When planning bicycle facilities care must be taken not to negatively impact business by removing parking.
 - a. We have already seen this type of change happen in our area with the inclusion of bicycle facilities on South 25th Street.