# ORDINANCE NO. 28446

AN ORDINANCE relating to Tacoma's Complete Streets Design Guidelines, identifying guiding principles and practices so that transportation improvements are planned, designed, and constructed to encourage walking, bicycling, and transit use while promoting safe operations for all users of the City's transportation network; and amending Title 10 of the Tacoma Municipal Code by the addition thereto of a new Chapter 10.29, entitled "Complete Streets," consisting of four sections.

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2009, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 37916: "A Resolution relating to the City's street design; endorsing the creation and ongoing development of Tacoma's Complete Streets Design Guidelines; and directing the City Manager to implement the Mixed-use Centers Complete Streets Design Guidelines and the Residential Complete Streets Design Guidelines," and

WHEREAS Tacoma's *Transportation Master Plan* identifies a vision for a multimodal transportation system, offering travel options that provide safe access for all users, and encouraging healthy living, and

WHEREAS Tacomans identified increased transportation options as a community priority in *Tacoma 2025*, and

WHEREAS Tacoma is expected to grow by 127,000 residents and 97,000 jobs by 2040, and

WHEREAS Complete Streets will create a comprehensive, integrated, connected transportation system to serve the growing population, and

WHEREAS other jurisdictions and agencies nationwide have adopted Complete Streets legislation, including the U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation, and Pierce County, and

WHEREAS transportation improvements include an array of facilities and amenities such as sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, traffic calming measures, and street and pedestrian lighting; targeted pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements; access improvements for freight; access improvements in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; public transit facilities accommodations including, but not limited to, pedestrian access improvements to transit stops and stations; street trees and landscaping; green infrastructure; and street furniture, and

WHEREAS the Public Works Department will design, operate, and maintain the transportation network to improve travel conditions for bicyclists, pedestrians, transit, and freight consistent with, and supportive of, the community's needs, and

WHEREAS Complete Streets will balance access, mobility, health and safety needs of all users, which include pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities, as well as buses, high-capacity transit, and commercial and private motorized vehicles, and

WHEREAS the City's Transportation Master Plan calls for tracking of performance standards that will continuously evaluate the Complete Streets Policy for success and opportunities for improvement; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. Legislative Findings. The recitals and findings set forth above are hereby adopted as the City Council's legislative findings.

Section 2. That there is hereby enacted a new Chapter 10.29 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, entitled "Complete Streets," as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A."

Section 3. Implementation. Implementation of the Complete Streets Policy will include the following:

1. Incorporate policy into the Comprehensive Plan.

2. Modify the Rights-of-Way Manual and other guiding documents in accordance with this policy.

3. Participate in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Mayor's Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets.

4. Pursue the highest certification level of Walk Friendly Community and Bicycle Friendly Community.

5. Continue engagement in the Safe Routes to School program.

6. Identify gaps in the active transportation network, and work to fill those gaps.

Section 4. Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance or its application to any person or situation should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or its application to any other person or situation.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective ten days after its publication.

Passed AUG 0 8 2017

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney

# EXHIBIT "A"

## Chapter 10.29
## COMPLETE STREETS

Sections:

10.29.010 Short Title.
10.29.020 Purpose – Objectives.
10.29.030 Applicability.
10.29.040 Exceptions.

**10.29.010 Short Title.** This Chapter may be referenced as the "Complete Streets Code."

**10.29.020 Purpose – Objectives.** The purpose of this Chapter is to provide guiding principles and practices so that transportation improvements are planned, designed, and constructed to encourage walking, bicycling, and transit use while promoting safe operations for all users of the City's transportation network. The Public Works Department ("Department") will prioritize the safety and convenience of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, people of all ages and abilities, motorists, emergency responders, freight providers, and adjacent land users. The goals and policies of this Chapter 10.29 and as incorporated into the Transportation Element of the City of Tacoma Comprehensive Plan, are hereby designated as the Tacoma Complete Streets Policy ("Complete Streets").

**10.29.030 Applicability.** The Department should approach publicly funded transportation improvements as an opportunity to create safer, more accessible streets for all users.

A. Scope. Public works projects within City-owned transportation facilities in the public right-of-way, including, but not limited to, streets, bridges, and all other connecting pathways, should be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained, when appropriate and feasible, so that users of all ages and abilities can travel safely and independently.

B. Network and Connectivity. The Department will continue to foster partnerships with the Washington State Department of Transportation, Pierce County, neighboring cities and communities, business and school districts, and utility companies to encourage development of facilities that further the City's Complete Streets Policy and continue such infrastructure within and beyond the City's borders. The City recognizes the need to create a comprehensive, integrated, and connected network for all modes and encourages street connectivity.

C. Complete Streets may be achieved through single projects or incrementally through a series of smaller improvements or maintenance activities over time. It is the City's intent that all transportation projects implement Complete Streets.

D. Design. The Department will continue to follow accepted or adopted design standards and use the best and latest design standards available, including, but not limited to, existing design guidance from the American Association of State Highway Officials, Washington State Department of Transportation, Institute of Transportation Engineers, National Association of City Transportation Officials, Americans with Disabilities Act, and Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines.

E. Context Sensitivity. The Department will implement Complete Streets solutions in a manner that is sensitive to the local context and character, aligns transportation and land use goals, and recognizes that the needs of users may vary by case, community, or corridor.

**10.29.040 Exceptions.**

A. An affected roadway prohibits, by law, use by specified users (e.g., interstate highways or pedestrian malls);

B. The costs of providing the accommodation are excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use;

C. Repair and maintenance of the transportation network does not change the roadway geometry or operations, such as mowing, sweeping and spot repair (in which case existing bicycle and pedestrian traffic must be safely accommodated during maintenance); or

D. Other available means or factors indicate an absence of need, including future need.