

# Transportation and Equity

## YOUR ADVOCACY CHEAT-SHEET FOR TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY

### Who is Connected?

A long and shared history of racist housing practices, under-representation in the field of urban planning and at the elected level have left cities shaped for and by white people. Transportation is critical for access to jobs, schools, affordable housing, health care, grocery stores, arts, entertainment, and more.

Transportation investments need to meet the needs of communities of color, people with disabilities, and low-income people. This means undoing many existing systems that guide funding and the civic engagement process towards white neighborhoods and decision makers.

Every transportation, land-use, and housing policy should be crafted with equity at the forefront.

### The Cost of Car Ownership



Annual car ownership cost: \$9,000

Local median income is roughly \$50,000

If that \$9,000 was conservatively invested instead it could develop into more than \$500k dollars over 10 years.

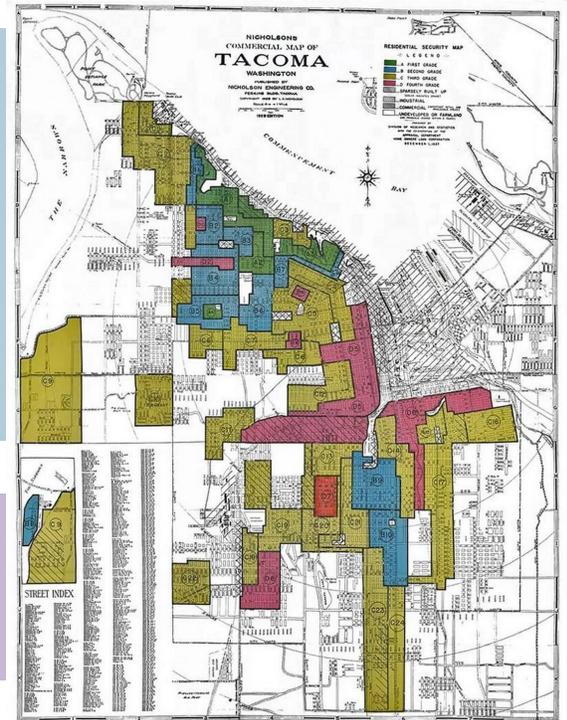


### What is Redlining?

The term “redlining” was adopted to describe the color coding system designed by the Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC) during the Great Depression. The Federal Housing Administration’s purpose was to “allegedly prevent inharmonious racial groups from mixing into communities” and to control poverty rates.<sup>1</sup>

Tacoma has a documented history of redlining that occurred in the late 1930s, in which more than two-thirds of the city had limited or no access to funds for buying or building a home in areas populated primarily by people of color.

<sup>1</sup> Hinesmon-Matthews, L.J. (2017). Redlining in the American Mosaic: The African American Experience



1930's Map of Tacoma from Federal Housing Administration



### Neighborhood Impacts

Students at low-income schools are four times more likely to walk to school, but lower-income communities tend to have less access to safe places to walk, bike, and skate.



DOTG Advocacy Philosophies and Priorities: To advance the equity of all users of our local and regional transportation system, and specifically employees, students, and residents in downtown Tacoma. In accordance with our mission and vision, we aim to support measures which:

- Increase ease, efficiency, and accessibility
- Increase safety
- Increase connectivity
- Reflect the “green transportation hierarchy”
- Reinforce a compact, urban core



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Puyallup Watershed Initiative  
Active Transportation



feet first  
promoting walkable communities

Transportation Advocacy Day is supported by: