

PIERCE COUNTY
WASHINGTON, USA

edb | **ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
BOARD** TACOMA
PIERCE COUNTY

ONWARD

PIERCE COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS

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Economic Development Happens Here

In March 2025, a new work program was created and approved by the Board of Directors for 2026-2030. The EDB's strategic plan includes 3 key pillars:

- Improve the Business Environment in Tacoma-Pierce County
- Attract, retain, and create quality jobs
- Create a long-term vision for Tacoma-Pierce County

Importantly, this plan represents an intentional, focused approach with measurable objectives to optimize the

EDB's impact on Pierce County as a premier business location and its value to investors. The Economic Development Board serves as the official economic development organization for Tacoma and Pierce County, dedicated to attracting and retaining quality jobs, promoting investment, and enhancing economic vitality in the South Puget Sound region. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the EDB pivoted to emergency response efforts, temporarily shifting focus from core economic development functions. The 2026-2030 plan will return the EDB to its primary mission and pursue strategies carefully aligned with community needs, opportunities, and perceptions to ensure that "economic development happens here."

Through candid and honest engagement with investors, business leaders, government officials, and community partners – including confidential interviews and focus groups/listening sessions – we heard strong consensus for the EDB to:

- Encourage and support streamlined permitting processes and other ways to make doing business in Tacoma-Pierce County easier
- Aggressively pursue strategic business attraction and retention
- Enhance workforce development through closer alignment of employer needs with training and education resources

- Lead the development of a unified vision for Tacoma-Pierce County's economic future

The 2026-2030 plan directly addresses these priorities through targeted strategies, collaborative partnerships, and metrics for success. We've listened – and heard what our constituents want from the EDB. We are responding with a thoughtful approach that builds on our strengths while addressing challenges head-on.

"Economic Development Happens Here" is the EDB's response to stakeholder opinions and perceptions and a deliberate approach to improve conditions for economic development to deliver more effective and impactful economic development.

I encourage you to read the full plan as well as the Capital Campaign Brochure [HERE](#).



Tideflats Subarea Plan Approved

In early December, the Tacoma City Council approved the Tideflats Subarea Plan, a move to advance the shared vision of balancing economic vitality, environmental restoration, and community well-being. As one of Washington's most critical industrial areas, the Tideflats Subarea includes more than 5,000 acres of waterfront land designated as the Port of Tacoma Manufacturing Industrial Center, or MIC. It is also Pierce County's highest concentration of industrial and manufacturing activity.

[Read More](#)



Board Retreat Recap – Site Selection

On November 19th, Sarah White, Principal + VP Site Selection from Global Location Strategies presented an EDB Stakeholders Workshop to the EDB Board of Directors on Site Selection. The presentation included an overview of the site selection process, product development, and a look into the Project Evergreen formula. The formula reminds GLS that no site is perfect and any weaknesses could possibly be mitigated while remembering the client's minimum criteria and timeline.

[Read MORE](#)



Tacoma Public School Prop 1 & 2

On February 10th, the Tacoma Public Schools have two replacement measures on the ballot for voters to consider. With a goal to maintain safe neighborhood schools, where every student has access to a high-quality education, technology and academic programs, TPS is asking for your support of Proposition 1 and Proposition 2.

[Read MORE](#)

NEWS & EVENTS

Tacoma Launches Program to Fast-Track ‘Missing Middle’ Housing

The City of Tacoma will launch a one-year pilot program this month aimed at accelerating the permitting and delivery of "middle housing" developments. The program specifically targets residential projects with seven to 20 units, as well as townhome subdivisions consisting of 10 to 20 homes. The City identifies these projects as the "missing middle," a housing category that bridges the gap between single-family detached homes and large-scale multifamily developments. Key operational changes include the consolidation of permitting authority within the Planning & Development Services Department, and the utilization of a dedicated staff review team. A heavy emphasis will be placed on the quality of initial applications to eliminate back-and-forth delays.

More information is available [HERE](#)

Be a Sponsor of the EDB Annual Meeting!

Join us on March 24, 2026, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM for the Economic Development Board Annual Meeting, a premier event celebrating economic growth and innovation in our community. Attendees will enjoy a dynamic panel discussion, network with industry peers, celebrate the Excellent 10 Awards, and witness the unveiling of the Golden Shovel winner!

Showcase your brand to an engaged audience of economic development leaders and business influencers by becoming a sponsor. Your support ensures that Pierce County's business community sees your brand before, during and after the event, demonstrating your commitment to fostering economic growth in our region.

To purchase a sponsorship package, click [HERE](#)

Table and individual tickets will go on sale in early 2026.



SAVE THE DATE
EDB ANNUAL MEETING

03.24.26

GREATER TACOMA CONVENTION CENTER
1500 BROADWAY TACOMA, WA 98402
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON

NEWS LINKS

[Industrial Symbiosis Grant Funding Opportunity](#)

[Pierce and Thurston Counties' Home Prices Rise Less Than 1% in November](#)

[Large-Scale Rehabilitation Project Kicks Off in Tacoma's Hilltop, Eastside Neighborhoods](#)

[Pierce County Launches Property Damage Reporting Page for Atmospheric River-Associated Damages](#)

Wishing You a Prosperous Year



Team With Us

253.383.4726

info@edbtacomapierce.org

ChooseTacomaPierce.org



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Onward is a service of the EDB, a non-profit corporation focused on recruitment and retention of primary businesses in Tacoma and Pierce County, Washington, USA.
950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 410 | Tacoma, Washington 98402 | 253.383.4726
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