

# Heidi Stephens

Please include the neighborhood called "South Tacoma" as a focus of an overburdened community, already very impacted by poor air quality -- this is not to mean the entire South Sound area -nor- the "South End" neighborhood of the city, but specifically the "South Tacoma" neighborhood which is west of I-5 and just north of Lakewood.

This historic neighborhood has been abused by city for decades, home to a superfund site left by early railroad shops and now still zoned Heavy Industrial right down the middle of our residential/recreational/schools and business districts, home to people of all ages and some of the most vulnerable (young children, elderly and health-compromised).

In addition to the polluting businesses, this neighborhood is near to I-5 and in the flight path to JBLM -- so we're getting contaminants from both toxic industry and transportation (diesel truck and other traffic emissions) as well as low-flying military cargo planes.

Per the county health department and WA state's own health inequity maps, this community has some of the highest illness and mortality rates (from many respiratory ailments and other degenerative diseases, linked to air pollution), and is one of the most diverse in ethnicity/minorities as well as lowest-income neighborhoods in the city.

Per the qualifying indicators, South Tacoma meets two "Community Indicators" and about five-to-seven "Air Pollution Indicators" within the Commitment Act summary.

The South Tacoma neighborhood already has high particulate matter (with exceedances of AQS for PM2.5 and other values) and needs better monitoring of this and other air pollutants. This neighborhood has less than 9% tree canopy, so needs more natural vegetation to help counteract the air pollution.

At the same time, this area is also in danger of more more damaging development/traffic, such as mega-warehouses, airports and other large-scale impervious paving which will further take green space/trees while bringing even more air pollution.

So, please include "South Tacoma" in your focus as an "overburdened community", and I'm hopeful the state will then be moving into actual solutions for this commitment plan soon.

Thank you,  
Heidi Stephens