
CITY OF TUKWILA TUKWILA URBAN CENTER GROWTH AND TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY CENTER PROGRAM



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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 1991, the City of Tukwila has participated in the Washington State Commute Trip Reduction program. As part of this program, the City has worked with major employers to reduce drive alone trips and vehicle miles traveled.

Under the Washington State CTR Efficiency Act, the City of Tukwila was given the option of developing a Growth and Transportation Efficiency Center (GTEC) program. The GTEC program is a voluntary program designed to encourage cities to expand CTR efforts to additional employers and residential groups within a defined area.

The City of Tukwila has proposed to develop a Growth and Transportation Efficiency Center (GTEC) for the Tukwila Urban Center (TUC). The TUC has been designated as a regional growth center by the Puget Sound Regional Council. The center is made up of retail, commercial and light industrial/warehouse uses. Though housing is planned within the TUC for the future, there is currently only one single family home within the TUC. However, a large number of multi-family units are situated nearby just north of the center across Interstate 405.

The GTEC program is a collection of City-adopted goals and policies, facility and service improvements and marketing strategies that are designed to help the City make progress for reducing drive alone trips and vehicle miles traveled for the GTEC over the next six years. The program also specifies a financial plan and organizational structure for implementing the program strategies and services. Building upon the success of the existing commute trip reduction (CTR) program, the City strives to meet the goals of the plan for the future by working in partnership and coordination with other agencies.

The GTEC program has been developed through extensive involvement by employers, organizations, and individuals from throughout the City who helped identify strategies for successful achievement of the goals. This plan helps to support the achievement of the City's overall CTR plan.

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A. Vision of the GTEC and how it relates to the base CTR program:

The vision of the TUC GTEC program, which echoes the goals of the City's Comprehensive Plan, is based on two primary objectives:

- Bolster the TUC's market position as a regional shopping center by creating an attractive central destination offering housing, shopping, entertainment and recreation. Connect dispersed retail activities, and provide a convenient, walkable, enjoyable and varied shopping environment.
- Use the planned commuter rail station, Tukwila Transit Center and other transportation investments as a catalyst to shift development patterns, provide amenities, and create a true center and focal point for the community.

The Plan provides guidance for restructuring and transforming the TUC from an area of dispersed, unconnected, and auto-dominated land use pattern, with little distinguished design, hidden amenities and no real center, to a center that is organized, connected, and where appropriate, pedestrian-oriented, and which is well-designed around its amenities. The components of the plan's vision are summarized below. Change is expected to be evolutionary, driven by market forces, catalyst public projects, and the guidance of new development regulations.

B. GTEC program goals and targets:

The goal of the GTEC program is to reduce drive alone trips by 10% and vehicle miles traveled by 13% among affected and unaffected CTR work sites.

C. GTEC target population:

The TUC GTEC program will focus primarily on commuters who travel to the TUC. However, as multi-family develops in the area, the program will be expanded to residential groups. There is a strong market for increasing transit and ridesharing programs among the following groups:

- Major Employers
- Unaffected Employers
- Westfield Shopping Mall
- Multi-family Residential Sites

D. Proposed GTEC program strategies:

To achieve the goals of the GTEC program, the City has developed a set of strategies that are designed to help the City make progress towards reducing drive alone trips and vehicle miles traveled over the next six years. The strategies are a combination of policies, regulations, services, facilities, marketing and incentive programs. The strategies include, but are not limited to:

- Development of Transportation Management Association or a coordinated program to administer CTR programs
- Area-wide Flexpass
- Vanpool Program
- Area-wide marketing and promotions
- Parking management
- Construction of the Tukwila Transit (bus) Center
- Construction of the Sounder Commuter Station
- Enhanced transit services for the Tukwila Urban Center
- Bicycle and Sidewalk Improvements
- Intensify land uses and group transit-supportive uses in the TUC

E. Key funding and service partnerships:

Funding for the GTEC is planned to come from a variety of sources. In order for the GTEC program to be successful, it must be done in partnership with other agencies. The City is expected to be the lead for the GTEC program and work with other partners to fund different aspects of the GTEC program. Partners for the GTEC include, but are not limited to:

- WSDOT GTEC funding
- City of Tukwila
- King County Metro Transit
- Sound Transit
- Major Employers