



## CITY OF TACOMA

University of Washington

Urban Design and Planning

URBDP 507B:

General Urban Planning Laboratory (Studio)

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# URBAN DESIGN PROGRAM GRAPHICS PACKAGE



## Introduction

The City of Tacoma is launching an Urban Design Program in 2018. To enhance the roll-out of that program, our LCY studio class is providing the City with a graphics package to explain the basics of urban design, zoning, land use, and other spatial planning concepts. “Graphics” include maps, diagrams, sketches, photographs and infographics used to convey concepts and best practices of design for a healthy, vital and resilient urban public realm, especially in the “20-minute neighborhood” walking radius of three of Tacoma’s emerging “mixed-use corridors”: Proctor, at N 26th St.; Hilltop, along MLK Jr. Way, between Kaiser Permanente and St. Joseph Medical Centers; and along South Tacoma Way near the Sounder commuter train

station. We sought to acknowledge the challenges of accommodating growth and investment while also protecting and amplifying community and neighborhood character. Another challenge is that of enhancing the environment for pedestrian, bicycle and transit travel.

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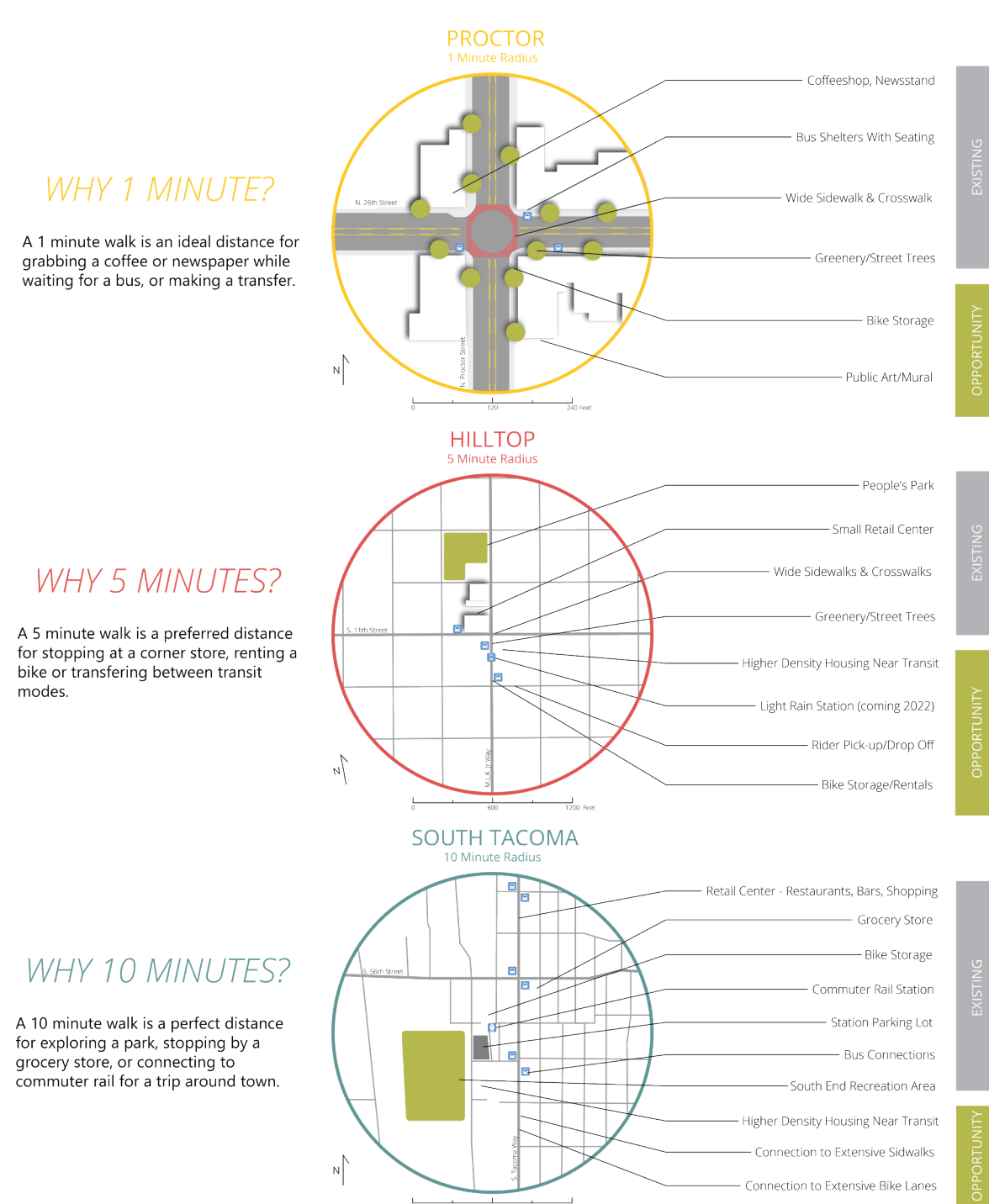
## Methods & Approach

All of the students are in their first-year of the Master of Urban Planning program, and most are enrolled simultaneously in URBDP 523, Introduction to Urban Design, and URBDP 573, Digital Design Practicum, whose assignments they apply to the this project. The students initially formed three teams based on a focus neighborhood, and observed the built environment and social

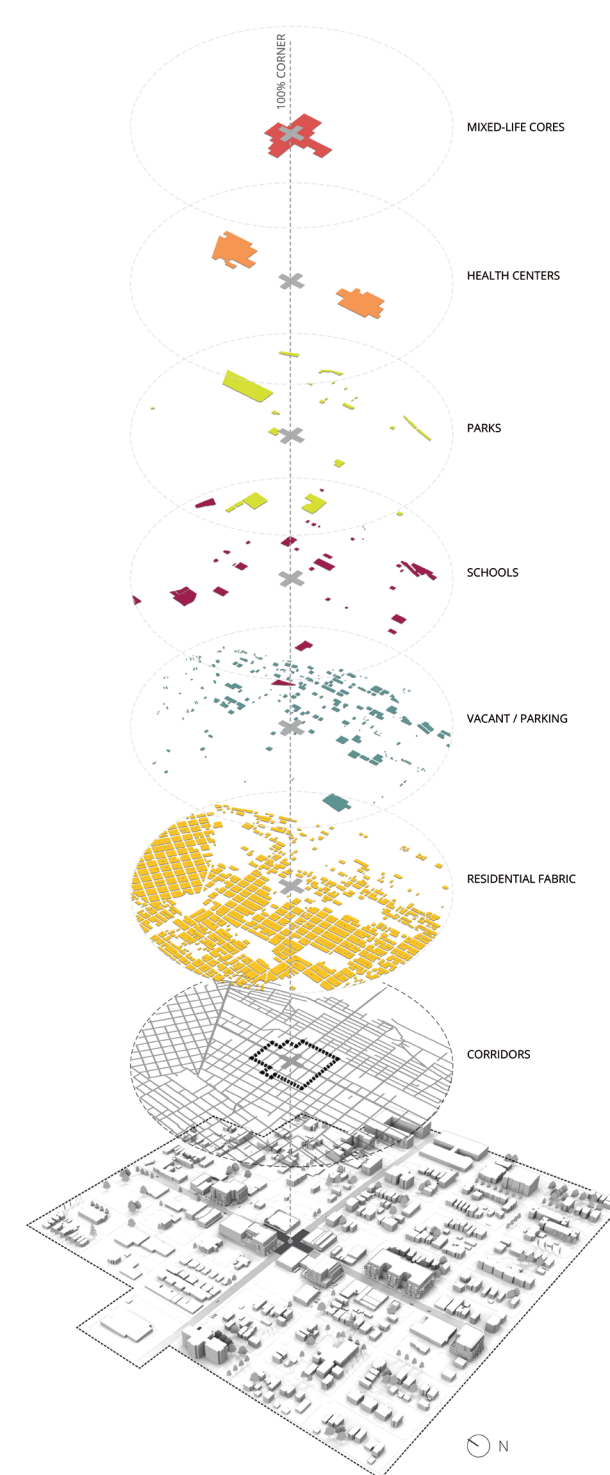
activity in public spaces. They then reorganized into thematic teams to create graphics on four broad topics: (1) systems of resilience assets, intermodal mobility transfers, green infrastructure, and legibility and wayfinding; (2) right-of-way design for pedestrians, bikes and transit; (3) neighborhood and building typomorphology; and (4) activation of underused public space.

## Initial Findings

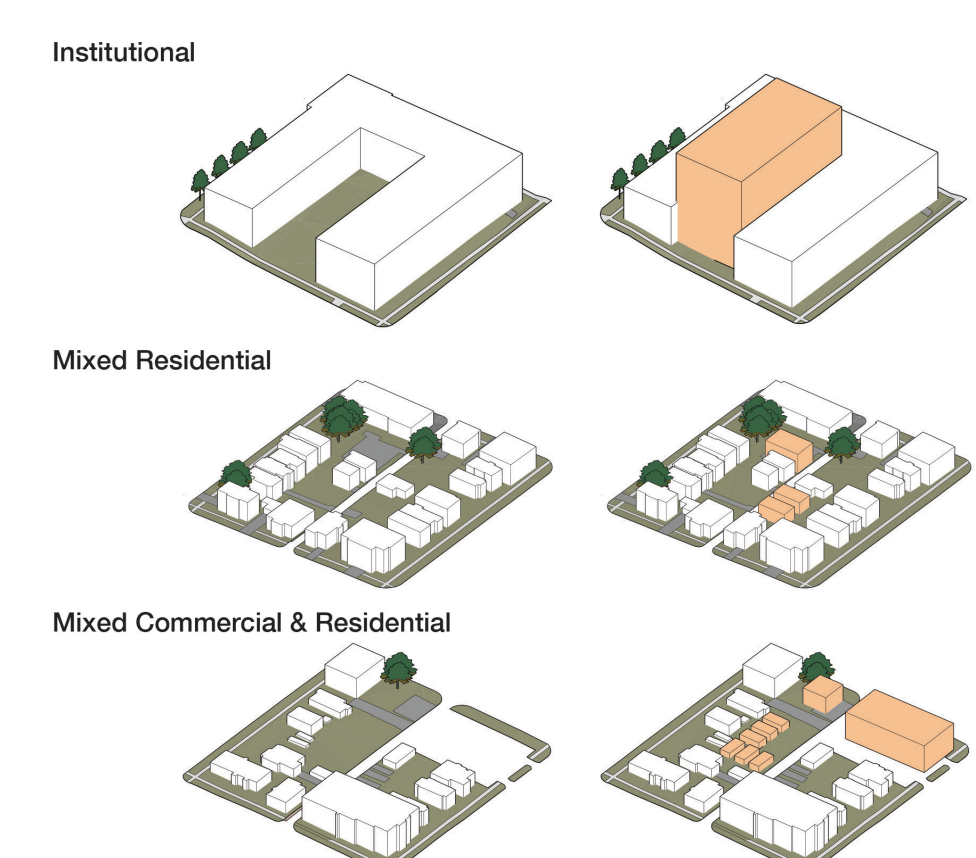
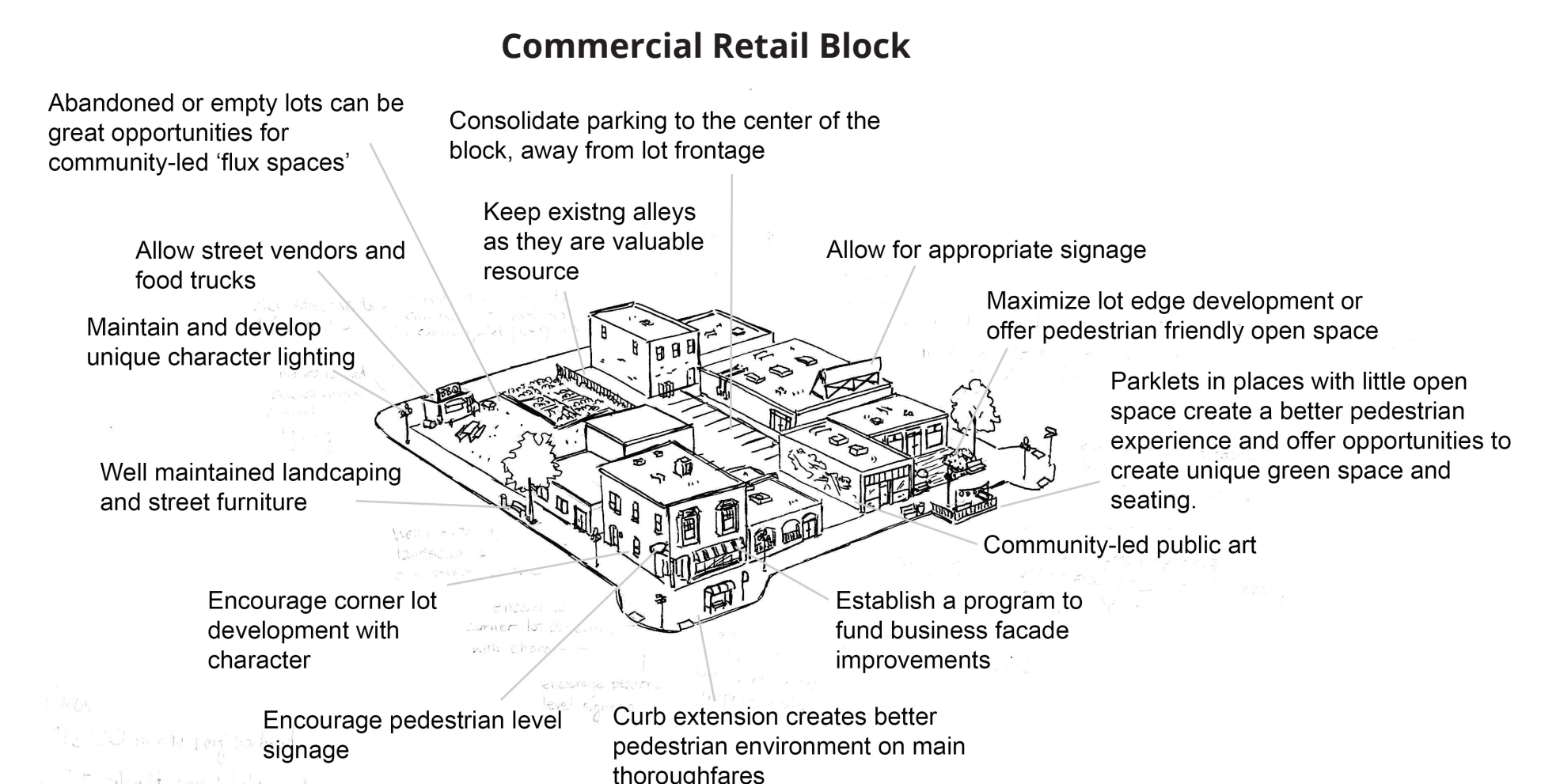
Images below show how students have begun to conceptualize systems and typologies within the framework of the “20-minute neighborhood,” as well as represent potential opportunities in the existing built form of different neighborhoods.



Re-considering the walkable public realm surrounding transit stops.



Opportunities in the 20 minute neighborhood: Categorizing types of space for a resilient framework of neighborhood adaptation.



Opportunities for density and vitality in Tacoma's built form.