



CITY OF TACOMA

University of Washington Tacoma
Urban Studies Program
T URB 490: Special Topics:
Urban Industry and Sustainability
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THEA FOSS PENINSULA MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIAL FUTURES STUDY



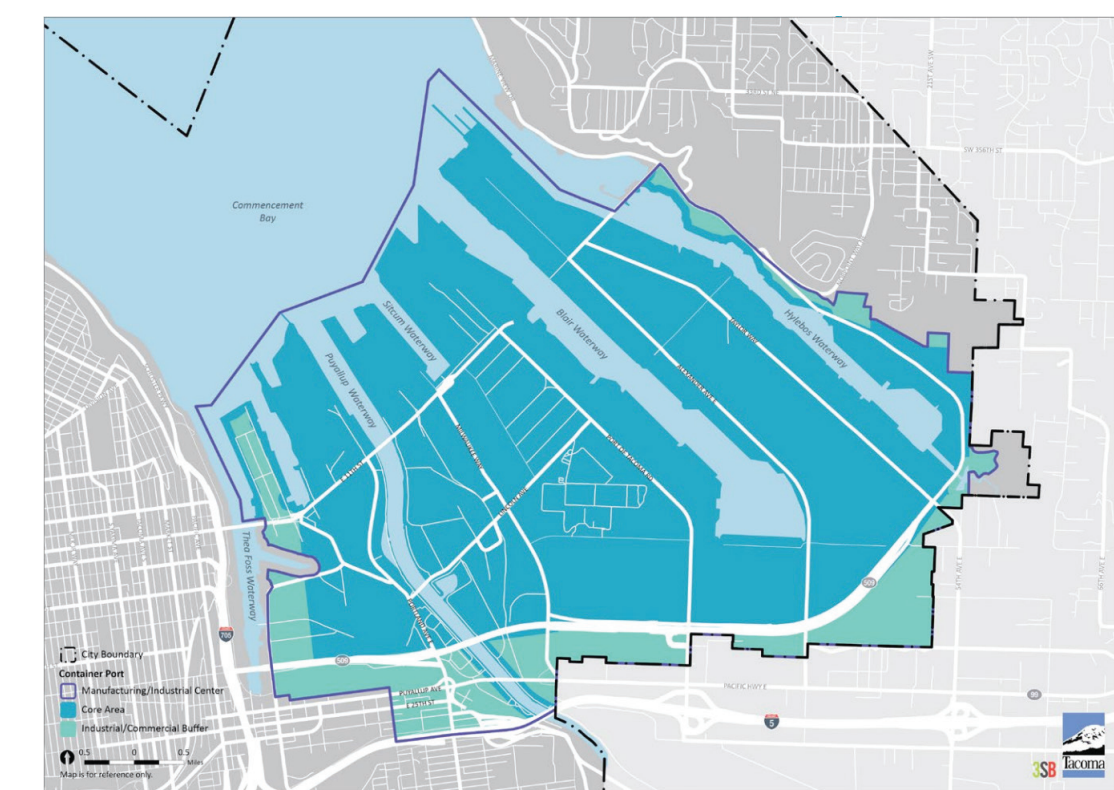
Introduction

This project aims to inform the ongoing port/tideflats sub-area planning process in the City of Tacoma by providing lessons for creating and maintaining space for urban industry.

In order to support the City of Tacoma's planning process, student research focused on specific case studies of urban industry within the United States, as well as three of the common barriers to urban industry: public opinion, financing, and brownfield redevelopment. Through independent and group research, students identified a number of lessons related to planning for urban industry.

These two primary lessons learned were:

- Creating and maintaining space for urban industry in the Tacoma tideflats is desirable, viable, and feasible.
- Other cities have most successfully created and maintained space for urban industry through the prioritization of industry, partnerships and collaborations, and protective policy.



This map from the City of Tacoma's Comprehensive Plan: One Tacoma, depicts the boundary of the designated Manufacturing and Industrial Center as well as the core and transition areas defined in the Container Port Element.

Credit: City of Tacoma

Research Findings

Students used both descriptive and analytical methods, depending on their research focus. Overall, the report is divided into four sections:

- 1. Public Comments:** Coded, sorted, and processed citizen comments regarding urban industry gathered over the past two years of planning meetings and public hearings, identifying themes in public attitudes towards industry.
- 2. Examples:** Effective and innovative industrial planning in port districts:
 - Workforce training:** Port of San Antonio and Louisville, KY
 - Green ports:** European Eco-ports and LEED certified Green Ports
 - Heritage and regional identity:** Pittsburgh and Port of Liverpool
 - Intermediaries and advocates:** Brooklyn Navy Yard, SF Made and The Pratt Center for Community Development
- 3. Financing:** Financial mechanisms and ideas for urban industry in Washington state and elsewhere.

- 4. Brownfield Redevelopment:** Evaluation of the role of brownfields in urban industrial planning:

- Identified revenue streams and strategies for brownfield remediation
- Identified and mapped existing brownfields in the tideflats sub-area



The Port of Tacoma as seen from a vantage point near the Thea Foss Waterway.

Photo Credit: Joe Mabel

Recommendations

Our research suggests that creating and maintaining space for urban industry in Tacoma is desirable, viable, and feasible; and can be accomplished through the prioritization of industry, partnerships and collaboration, and protective policy. Students conducted an analysis of planning for urban industry in Tacoma with planning documents from The City of Tacoma and the Port of Tacoma. This analysis of Tacoma presented a number of lessons:

1. Strength: Protective policies in Tacoma

The goals and policies listed in One Tacoma: Comprehensive Plan (City of Tacoma, 2017) protect industry from a variety of potential challenges outlined previously in our research.

2. Needs improvement: Prioritization of industry in Tacoma

The land use of industry and its barriers, specifically in the port, are not clearly defined in One Tacoma: Comprehensive Plan (City of Tacoma, 2017).

3. Weakness: Partnerships and collaboration in Tacoma

The city expresses a desire for partnership, but the Port of Tacoma's strategic plan does not reference the city.