

1946 Plan for Olympia: Leads to Master Street Plan and describes the concept of 4th & State one-way couplet



1950's
Retail uses in Central Business District (CBD) are unrivaled

1960's
CBD is strong - Plans focus on retaining manufacturing uses north & east of CBD

1970's
Sawmills close in 1967, and suburban malls take department stores - CBD and waterfront suffer

1980's
Plans' redevelopment strategy includes retail, State offices, housing & a conference center

1990's
St. office growth slows - Numerous studies state waterfront/amenities required to get housing

2000's
Major public investments & cont. focus on housing, but waterfront strategy challenged on Isthmus

2010
Economic recession hits businesses hard & more homeless seek shelter on downtown streets

2012
As demand for new offices dries up, demand for multi-family housing & adaptive reuse grows

2014
Council establishes Alcohol Impact Area – Private investment picks up and downtown starts to see mixed use development



1959 Plan saw the future mostly as a continuation of trends - with downtown as the commercial center of the region



1962 - City buys Columbia St parking lot in response to parking demands



1970 Toward a New Tomorrow Plan ponders best location for a central plaza or green



1979 R/UDAT Design Process leads to WA Center, Percival Landing Boardwalk, Olympia/Senior Center & more



1982 - City passes Historic Preservation Ordinance

1986 Downtown Plan is folded into 1988 Comp Plan, which guides 1991 Urban Design Strategy – emphasizing compact & highly urban building forms consistent with goal for pedestrian orientation



1994 Comp Plan incorporates downtown plans from 80's – 1996 Heritage Park Fountain block purchased for civic plaza



1999 Unocal Charrette leads to Percival Park – an environmental clean-up & part of a strategy to build amenities for housing

2002 Parks Plan identifies several projects for downtown environs, incl. West Bay Park

2002 - New Urban Waterfront Housing zone and development & design changes for downtown
2003 Downtown Streetscape Strategy
2003 East Downtown Development Plan



Photo: R. Droll Landscape Architect, PS

2003/4 Port Master Plan calls for redevelopment of old timber mill sites – becomes East Bay Plaza by 2012 (City is a major partner)



2008 - Site purchased for new City Hall on 4th Avenue

2011 – Percival Landing Reconstruction Phase I completed



2012 - "A Safe & Welcoming Downtown for All" Goal leads Council to start the Downtown Ambassador



2013 – Council reinstates the Downtown Walking Patrol

2013 - Washington Center receives major upgrade to facade



2014 - Construction of a 138 unit mixed use building starts at 123 4th Ave. – the result of a public/private partnership devised in 2002 to develop market rate housing downtown