

JOINT STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Port of Tacoma | City of Fife

Fabulich Center: 3600 Port of Tacoma Road, Fife, WA

October 5, 2022 - 4:00 PM



The Port of Tacoma Commission and the City of Fife Council met for a special study session on October 5, 2022 at the Fabulich Center, 3600 Port of Tacoma Road, Fife, WA. Commissioners Ang, Keller, McCarthy, Marzano and Meyer were present, along with Mayor Roscoe, Deputy Mayor Gethers and Councilmembers Fagundas, Hulcey, McClellan and Wolfram. Councilmember Yambe was excused.

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Meyer called the joint study session to order at 4:05 pm. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Meyer also acknowledged that we are situated on the shores of the Salish Sea and reside on the ancestral lands of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved unanimously without revision.

JOINT STUDY SESSION:

A. Port of Tacoma - Roadway Infrastructure Priorities:

1. Commissioner Meyer introduced the topic and acknowledged that much of our success depends on infrastructure that the Port of Tacoma doesn't own.
2. Eric Johnson, Executive Director, discussed the Port's transportation priorities. SR-167 and the I-5/Port of Tacoma Road interchange are our two top priorities. The next challenge is to find the most efficient way to get cargo east - west across the Puyallup River.
3. In this analysis, 2018 is compared with 2040 projections. The criteria to evaluate each project was reviewed.
4. Potential projects to improve cargo movement were reviewed to include the expected improvement with each project.
5. Three projects appear to score the highest: (1) Portland Ave Freight Access, (2) Lincoln Ave/Portland Ave intersection and (3) the 54th Ave/SR-509 intersection.
6. Commissioner McCarthy feels that some of the beginning assumptions were in question and would like to see more information on how the criteria was applied to each project.
7. The benefits derived from the six projects studied for the City of Fife were discussed. The Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge is currently approximately 30%-40% complete. The City of Tacoma owns this bridge. The price tag for completion is approximately \$280 million. The City feels that they need federal grant funding to finish the bridge. The City of Tacoma is starting some analytic work now that will be required to apply for federal grant funds.
8. Councilmember Hulcey feels that the Fishing Wars Bridge project should be a joint project between the City of Fife and City of Tacoma.

8. City of Fife - Port of Tacoma Road, Phase II:

1. Mayor Roscoe - Port of Tacoma Road / 1-5 Interchange Project: This is a large project for the City of Fife. WSDOT originally was leading it, but their completion timeline did not align with the City's.
2. The project was discussed by phases:
 - a. **Phase I:** Completed in 2020.
 - b. **Phase IIA:** Will be shovel-ready in the summer of 2023. This portion of the project is estimated at \$51 million. Fife will contribute \$3.2 million. They are asking for a \$2 million commitment from the Port now; however, the City wouldn't need that funding until 2024 or 2025. This phase of the project would be completed in approximately June of 2025.
 - c. **Phase 118:** This phase is expected to be shovel-ready in the summer of 2025. The benefits of this portion of the project were discussed. They are waiting to hear about a \$4 million appropriation. WSDOT requires that the project be completely funded before they will go forward. It made sense to split phase II into two parts, as there is more work to be done and more properties to acquire to get Phase 118 ready. This portion of the project will take approximately one year to complete.
3. Without this project, by 2040 the truck and vehicle backups would be extreme.
4. Overall project cost: \$119 million. The City of Fife is contributing \$17.1 million overall. They are requesting a \$2 million commitment from the Port for Phase IIA. They will need that commitment soon, as they hope to advertise for bids in June and start construction in August 2023. FMSIB contributed approximately \$3 million but stated that the funding must be used by June.

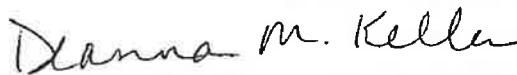
5. Commissioner McCarthy asked if the \$2 million shortfall was due to inflation. Costs did increase due to Right-of-Way issues on 20th that got political; splitting Phase II into two parts added some cost, as did inflation. However, The City always intended to ask the Port to contribute.

C. Port of Tacoma | City of Fife • Roundtable:

1. The encampment on the Port's property before the curve on 54th. The City of Fife would like to partner with the Port to remove this camp, which is the last encampment in that area. The businesses there are experiencing difficulties. Many of these businesses benefit the Port.
2. Homelessness is becoming a huge problem that will have to rise to the level of a major issue for strategic plans. We will need to partner to figure out this issue. Commissioner Keller is working on this through JMAC. She will also present a Port resolution on this topic on October 20th.
3. We do need to start working on a Safe Parking or Community First Village. "Not in my backyard" is clearly not working.
4. The City of Fife has starting a program to combat regional homelessness through a jobs program: They are housing the homeless people and employing them in the City's parks. The City has been successful by keeping this program small enough to manage well. It involves 10 people at a time. Everyone is working at a different pace. As soon as one person gets out of the program, the City brings another one in. City staff invited the Port to tour this program.
5. Pierce County and the City were considering a hotel conversion, but the county declined. The funding that the City put aside for this will be used for a homeless project in Pierce County. There are hotel conversions happening in the city organically.
6. At the RAMP meeting yesterday the Canyon Road extension was discussed. County Councilmembers voted down applying for a grant. Commissioner Keller feels that was very short-sighted. As a council, the City of Fife has not discussed this project. City Manager Matheson stated that it would affect the City of Fife greatly, as it is a key connector, but they have been focused on the Port of Tacoma Road project.
7. The City asked about car importers. Has the Port heard anything about how cars will be stored before being shipped to dealerships or buyers? The online model of purchasing vehicles is becoming more common. If dealers in Fife won't need large swaths of acreage that would change their business model. Port staff reported that we are going to see more vehicles coming in through the Port, as we've added another manufacturer. The marketing scenario may be changing, where a dealership only requires space for a small number of vehicles for test drives.
8. Two areas that the City and the Port are interested in exploring more in the future include (1) zoning and the subarea planning process and (2) the relationship with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. Commissioner Marzano added that there used to be Valley City Committee that he served on. Perhaps the Port and City could look at forming a smaller committee to work on these issues.
9. Transportation conversations will continue and the Port and City will continue to share information. Crucial issues were brought up today and the commissioners and councilmembers would like to meet jointly on a more regular basis.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Commissioner Meyer adjourned the meeting at 5:29 pm.

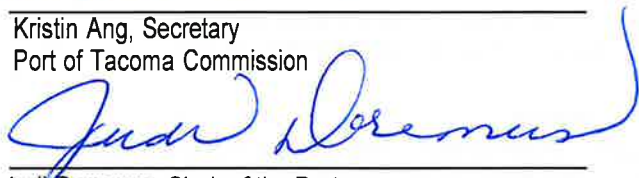


Deanna M. Keller, Vice President
Port of Tacoma Commission

Attest:



Kristin Ang, Secretary
Port of Tacoma Commission



Jud Doremus, Clerk of the Port
Port of Tacoma