

# COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No: 6A

Meeting: 11/17/22

**DATE:** November 2, 2022

**TO:** Port Commission

**FROM:** Eric D. Johnson, Executive Director

Project Manager: Sean Eagan and Jason Jordan

**SUBJECT:** Port of Tacoma Bridge and Road Projects

## **A. ACTION REQUESTED**

Approval of the Port of Tacoma Bridge and Road Priorities

## **B. SYNOPSIS**

Approval of the Port of Tacoma Bridge and Road Priorities in support of Strategic Plan Goal TA-2. These priorities were derived from the truck freight study conducted by the Port in support of Strategic Plan Goal TA-3, examining both the demand and operational analysis of how six different projects would impact the future operation of the transportation system in the Tideflats. These six projects were chosen because they correspond with areas of congestion and prior study.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

In response to Commission requests for data to support the Ports' Strategic Plan Goal TA-3, staff began work on a truck freight study in January 2022. Part 1 focused on current system demands; staff briefed the Commission on its results in July 2022.

Staff subsequently briefed the Commission on Part 2 of the study in September 2022, with a shorter briefing provided in October during a joint study session with the City of Fife. Part 2 provided the results of both demand and operational analysis of the impact of six different projects on the future operation of the transportation system in the Tideflats. Part 2 of the study also included an evaluation of these projects based on a proposed set of outcome and benefit criteria designed to provide information to support policy decisions.

Attached is a copy of the presentation provided at the September Commission meeting. Key findings of Part 2 were:

- Priority Projects Identified under Strategic Plan Goal TA-1 (State Route 167 and the Interstate 5/Port of Tacoma Road Interchange): Will do their job and should be seen through to completion.
- Intersection Projects (such as Lincoln Avenue / Portland Avenue and Milwaukee Way / Pacific Highway): Provide highest benefits at lowest cost.
- Local Projects (as Portland Avenue and 54th Avenue / SR-509 intersection): Already under development deserve support.

- Analysis shows worsening congestion along Marine View Drive / Taylor Way / 509 that should be further evaluated.

Staff has also prepared the attached supplementary technical memo that provides additional information.

#### **D. SCOPE**

During the September Commission meeting, staff heard a strong preference from Commissioners for completing projects already started. We also heard that the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge is the preferred priority for crossing the Puyallup River, building on prior investments and traction with partner government priorities. Staff also heard support for the four smaller road and intersection improvements. Those preferences are captured in the proposed list of Bridge and Road Priorities. We are happy to make amendments should the Commission desire.

To date, the analysis of transportation priorities has focused on Tideflats projects. During the September Commission meeting, staff heard an interest in identifying regional projects that also benefit the Port beyond the identified top priorities. Staff would welcome additions or changes to the proposed list of secondary projects.

Please see the attached list of proposed Port of Tacoma Bridge and Road Priorities.

#### **E. FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Adopting the proposed Port of Tacoma Bridge and Road Priorities does not have any cost. However, project sponsors may ask the Port to provide financial support in the future.

#### **E. PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS**

Date	Action
January 2022	Tideflats Truck Freight Study commences
July 21, 2022	Commission briefing on Part 1 of Tideflats Truck Freight Study
September 15, 2022	Commission briefing on Part 2 of Tideflats Truck Freight Study
October 5, 2022	Tideflats Truck Freight Study briefing at joint Commission/City of Fife Study Session

#### **F. NEXT STEPS**

- Develop Tideflats street vacation strategy, per Commission request.
- Advocate for the Legislature to appropriate remaining funding authorized in *Connecting Washington* and *Move Ahead WA* for SR-167 and Port of Tacoma Road Interchange during the 2023-25 legislative session.
- Coordinate with the City of Tacoma on advocacy strategy for Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge (including potential federal grant applications).

- Support cities of Tacoma and Fife in their efforts to finalize funding packages for the Portland Avenue Freight and Access Improvements and 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue/SR-509 intersection, respectively.
- Advocate for scoping and design of improvements to the Milwaukee Way/Pacific Highway and the Portland Avenue/Lincoln Avenue intersections.
- Express support when asked for regional projects.

**G. ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REQUEST**

- Slide presentation.
- Draft Port of Tacoma Bridge and Road Priorities
- September 15, 2022 slide presentation
- Technical Appendix
- East 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Corridor Study—Final report