

MEETING MINUTES

Port of Tacoma Commission



JOINT STUDY SESSION – Port of Tacoma Commission & Fife City Council

OCTOBER 2, 2024 – 3:30 p.m. – FABULICH CENTER, ROOM #104: 3600 PORT OF TACOMA ROAD, TACOMA

The Port of Tacoma Commission (Port) and the Fife City Council met for a Joint Study Session on **Wednesday, October 2, 2024**. Those present were:

Port of Tacoma - Commissioners Kristin Ang, Deanna Keller, John McCarthy, Dick Marzano, & Don Meyer, and Eric Johnson (Executive Director).

City of Fife - Mayor Kim Roscoe, Councilmembers Dee-Dee Gethers (attended online), Pat Hulcey, S. Joey Murphy, & Lew Wolfrom (joined at 3:49pm), and Derek Matheson (City Manager), Greg Amann (City Attorney), Megan Jendrick (Assistant City Manager & Parks and Rec Director), and Greg Vigoren (Public Works Director).

1. CALL TO ORDER: Port of Tacoma Commission President, Kristin Ang, called the meeting to order at **3:34 p.m.** The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Ang acknowledged that we are situated on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup Tribe and committed to uplifting the voices, experiences, and histories of the Indigenous people of this land.

2. INTRODUCTIONS & MEETING OVERVIEW:

- Mayor Roscoe offered a brief welcome, thanked the Port of Tacoma for their generous contributions to both their homelessness outreach efforts and support of their road projects.
 - Commissioner Ang requested that everyone around the table introduce themselves.
 - Eric Johnson welcomed the group on behalf of the Port and provided a brief synopsis of what the Port will present. He presented a small, personal gift to the City of Fife, of a framed aerial photo from about 1957, when the City was formed. It previously belonged to Eric's family and depicts the City prior to the freeway installation.
 - Derek Matheson provided a brief overview of what the City of Fife will be presenting during the session.
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3. HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE EFFORTS IN THE TIDEFLATS:

- A. City of Fife** – Megan Jendrick presented on behalf of the City of Fife, and provided an update on their outreach efforts, the success of the Fife Jobs Program & resources, as well as current challenges. Chief of Police, Pete Fisher, provided some additional information on how they address homeless encampments. He reported that there are currently no active encampments. Discussion followed.
 - B. Port of Tacoma** – Colin Millan – Director of Port Security presented on behalf of the Port of Tacoma. He reported on current challenges involved with industrial sites, and presented the Port's solutions, including a Port Patrol Officer assigned as a liaison for our homeless outreach & partnerships. Discussion followed.
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4. TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES:

- A. City of Fife** – Greg Vigoren presented on behalf of the City of Fife and provided updates on their current transportation projects. Those highlighted included: I-5/Port of Tacoma Road phases 2A and 2B, phase 1 of the I-5/54th Avenue new on/off-ramp design, Taylor Way/SR 9 turn lane design with shared City and Port design costs, and the Milroy/66th Avenue bridge inspection efforts. Discussion ensued throughout presentation.
- B. Port of Tacoma** – Ryan Medlen (Senior Planner) & Matthew Mauer (Government Affairs Manager) presented on behalf of the Port of Tacoma. The Port primarily supports other entities with their transportation projects and provided a list of priorities. The report included projects with other jurisdictions

which affect the Port. An update on the impact of the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge closure and the City of Tacoma's efforts to address it was given. Discussion followed.

5. COUNCIL MEMBERS & COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

- A. Port of Tacoma Commissioner Marzano** – Thanked everyone for attending. He would like joint meetings conducted annually. Given the time element involved in the transportation projects, he feels joining forces lends a lot more strength when approaching the legislature on major projects of interest.
- B. Fife Councilmember Hulcey** – Reported that SR 167 is on time and expected to be done by late 2026. The interchange between SR 509 and SR 167 will change. The lanes will be moved to east side, where it meets Alexander. The overlay should be completed in the spring. The bridges are in, but faced some challenges with completion, causing some delays, but the detour is working well.
- C. Port of Tacoma Commissioner Keller** – The Canyon Road extension was discussed. A new bridge over the river would improve mobility access for residents, per the Mayor. Pierce County Council has placed a greater emphasis on the northern portion of the corridor, which aligns nicely with Fife's transportation priorities.
- D. Fife Mayor Roscoe** – Feedback on the roundabouts from a freight and trucking industry was discussed, as well as signal lights, where the yellow lights seem to be at the very minimum of standard times. No feedback has been received by the Port on the roundabouts from truckers.
- E. Port of Tacoma Executive Director Eric Johnson** – Thanked the City for joining us for the joint study session and echoed Commissioner Marzano's desire to do this annually. Political advocacy with regards to the transportation efforts is powerful and we should continue in this partnership.
- F. Port of Tacoma Commissioner McCarthy** – Mentioned officiating a varsity football game between Fife and Orting high schools. Congratulated the citizens of Fife on their conduct and community during a tight game.
- G. Port of Tacoma Commissioner Ang** – Thanked the City of Fife, Councilmembers, and staff for the joint study session and their efforts.

6. ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Ang adjourned the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

Attest:



Kristin Ang, President
Port of Tacoma Commission



Dick Marzano, Secretary
Port of Tacoma Commission



Helen Hickman, Clerk of the Port
Port of Tacoma