

COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No: 9B

Meeting: 9/15/22

DATE: September 15, 2022

TO: Port Commission

FROM: Eric D. Johnson, Executive Director
Sponsor: Jason Jordan, Director, Environmental and Planning Services
Project Manager: Christine Wolf, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Issue Briefing: Tideflats Truck Freight Traffic Study – Part 2

A. BRIEFING REQUESTED

In response to Commission requests for data to support the Ports' Strategic Plan Goal Transportation Advocacy TA-3, staff began work on a truck freight study in January 2022. During this presentation, Port staff will expand on the information provided by Part 1 of the Tideflats Traffic Study, provided in July. The July presentation focused on **current demand** on the system. Part 2 of the study provides 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 includes an evaluation of these projects based on a proposed set of criteria designed to support policy decisions.








No action is requested.

B. SYNOPSIS

Based on the findings and feedback of Part 1, the consultant team selected areas for further study that have traffic congestion, as well as some related to the loss of continuity on the East 11th Street corridor. Part 2 of the study provides the results of demand and operational analysis of the impact of six different projects that could impact the **future operation** of the transportation system in the Tideflats:

1. East 11th Street Bridge replacement (*current demand evaluated in Part 1*)
2. Widened Lincoln Avenue bridge and corridor (*current demand evaluated in Part 1*)
3. Portland Avenue freight and access improvements
4. Improvements to the intersection of Lincoln and Portland avenues
5. Improvements to the intersection of Milwaukee Way and Pacific Highway combined with the removal of the weight restrictions on the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge
6. Adding a second left turn lane from 54th Avenue to west-bound SR-509

These projects are evaluated against the following set of criteria, using a human health and equity lens, to help guide policy decisions:

Criterion		Measurement	Rating Methodology
	Mobility, Access & Reliability	How does the project improve freight mobility and access to the Tideflats?	Decrease Travel Time (Some; Little; None)
		Does it improve reliability?	Increases options for routing to/from major POT/NWSA destinations (Yes; No)
	Safety & Resiliency	Does it improve a potential safety issue?	Eliminate; Reduce; Neutral
		Does it improve resiliency of the system?	High; Medium; Low
	State of Good Repair	Does the project repair/rehabilitate a road or bridge in way that makes it last?	Yes; No
	Sustainability	Will the project reduce greenhouse gas emissions or support Zero Emissions infrastructure?	Average potential; Low potential; Not likely
	Implementation Timeframe	What is the timeframe for implementation?	< 3 years; 3 to 6 years; 6+ years
	Cost Analysis	What is its relative cost?	General Magnitude (High, Med, Low)
		How many truck trips does it carry?	Number of Port Trucks (High, Med, Low)
		What is the opportunity cost? What other project(s) could be funded instead?	Degree of Impact on Other Projects (High, Med, Low)
	Partnership Opportunities	How important is the project to our partners?	Directly benefits partners; Does not directly benefit partners

C. FINDINGS

	PROJECT								TOTAL
1	11th St Bridge Replacement								
2	Lincoln Avenue Corridor								
3	Portland Avenue Freight Access								
4	Lincoln Ave/Portland Ave Intersection								
5	Milwaukee Way/Pacific Hwy & Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge								
6	54th Ave/SR 509 Intersection								

High
 Average
 Low

Key findings:

- Intersection projects, such as Lincoln Avenue / Portland Avenue and Milwaukee Way / Pacific Highway - provide highest benefits at lowest cost.
- Local projects - Portland Avenue, 54th Avenue - already underway deserve support.
- Funded mega projects such as the Gateway Program and Interstate 5 / Port of Tacoma Road will do their job.
- Analysis shows worsening congestion along Marine View Drive/Taylor Way/509—these should be further evaluated.

D. BACKGROUND

The study was designed to support Port of Tacoma Strategic Plan Foundational Goal - Transportation Advocacy (TA) to “Promote road, rail and navigation infrastructure and technology improvements to strengthen the regional maritime industry and economy.”

Efficient transportation connections and systems for roads, rail and waterways are essential components of a robust economy. The Port collaborates with partner agencies on key transportation projects that support freight mobility needs.

TA-1	Support infrastructure projects that increase Port freight mobility, prioritizing the SR 167 Gateway Project, and the Port of Tacoma Road/I-5 interchange.
TA-2	Advocate for the transportation infrastructure and system management needs of Port-related businesses in the Tideflats and Pierce County.
TA-3	Develop criteria and policies to guide decision-making for Port transportation advocacy efforts and to prioritize infrastructure investments.
TA-4	Develop and maintain an understanding of regional transportation projects that support Port-related mobility.

E. ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REQUEST

- Slide presentation

F. NEXT STEPS

Commission Decisions on Future Efforts—Advocacy For:

- 1) Partner agency projects:
 - a. Portland Avenue Freight and Access Improvements (Project #3)
 - b. Improve 54th Avenue (Taylor Way) / SR 509 Intersection Improvements (Project #6)
- 2) More robust analysis of freight movement related to our facilities at the local, regional and state level
- 3) Future efforts related to large partner agency projects outside the Tideflats

Staff Efforts:

- 1) Finalize operational analysis of:
- 2) Lincoln Avenue / Portland Avenue Intersection Improvements (Project #4)
- 3) Improve Pacific Hwy / Milwaukee Way / 20th St Intersection Improvements and Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge (Project #5)
- 4) Share results with Tideflats Subarea Plan partner agency staff
- 5) Share models and results with partner agencies—with reciprocity
- 6) Respond to comments and requests received today
- 7) Develop a work plan for next year and share efforts with the Commission on a regular basis – semi-annually