

COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No: 4A

Meeting: 07/26/2018

DATE: July 11, 2018

TO: Port Commission

FROM: John Wolfe, Chief Executive Officer
Sponsor: Evette Mason, Government Affairs Manager
Presenters: DuPont Mayor Mike Courts & City Administrator Ted Danek, Jr.

SUBJECT: DuPont-Steilacoom Road Improvements

A. PURPOSE OF STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

The City of DuPont Mayor and City Administrator will share visibility of congestion concerns on DuPont-Steilacoom Road. The roadway serves the DuPont industrial area, as well as military, commercial and residential developments. The City of DuPont is working with the Tacoma Pierce-County Economic Development Board to share awareness of the issue and identify possible funding partners. No action is requested of the Commission at the July 26 Commission Meeting.

B. BACKGROUND

DuPont-Steilacoom Road (D-S Road) is the eastern border of DuPont city limits. The land is part of Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). The road infrastructure is an asset of Pierce County and the City of DuPont provides the road maintenance. D-S Road runs from Interstate 5 Exit 119 to the Steilacoom Ferry terminal.

D-S Road consists of a three-lane roadway section with two through lanes and a dedicated two-way left turn lane in the center. It is in relatively good condition despite heavy vehicular and freight traffic volumes during peak hours. During certain hours, trucks comprise about eight to ten percent of the total vehicle traffic on D-S Road. Arterials with truck traffic greater than five percent are considered major freight corridors.

D-S Road serves as the last mile connector from Interstate 5 for several warehouse and distribution centers that service marine terminals at the Port of Tacoma, including IKEA, Dania, Amazon, FedEx and Carlson Pet Products.

The City of DuPont's commercial, residential and industrial areas are developing and growing. City elected leaders and the administration are concerned with increased vehicular and freight traffic congestion on D-S Rd, and recently accepted the responsibility of lead agency for a widening project. The proposed 1.5 mile-project between Barksdale Avenue and Wharf Road will add a travel lane in each direction allowing higher volumes of traffic to access JBLM and DuPont's commercial, industrial and residential areas, as well as intersection improvements.

The original estimate for the design/planning phase is approximately \$900,000, however, the City of DuPont has an opportunity to work with the Washington State Department of Transportation as they begin their work on the Interstate 5 Exit 119 improvement project. This partnership would reduce the cost of the design/planning phase to \$500,000. The DuPont City Council recently committed \$250,000

toward this work. They are in discussions with Pierce County, our federal representatives, Washington legislators and JBLM for an additional \$250,000.



C. NEXT STEPS

Port staff will provide the Commission with a partnership recommendation following the July 26 meeting for possible consideration at the August 16 Commission Meeting.