

Project Description

This project will provide road, intersection, and interchange improvements of great value to the Port of Tacoma, the surrounding industrial area, and businesses in the Cities of Fife and Tacoma. The project is a multi-phased plan to improve the Port of Tacoma Road/Interstate 5 interchange, Pacific Highway East and the Port of Tacoma Road.

The project has been developed in phases over more than a decade, with past work on surface streets completed and a wetland mitigation site nearing completion.

The project will reconfigure the existing interchange to a split diamond with one-way couplet. The Port of Tacoma Road and its existing bridge over I-5 will be converted to one-way southbound traffic while the parallel 34th Avenue East and its new bridge over I-5 will be made one-way northbound.

Recent Developments

Phase 1 of the interchange is fully funded through construction and the right-of-way acquisition process is underway. The next funding is being sought for Phase 2.

Project Justification

The Port of Tacoma indirectly accounts for more than 43,000 jobs and generates \$637 million in annual wages in Pierce County. Design, Value Engineering and Traffic Modeling studies have confirmed the need for the improvements and identified an alternative configuration for the interchange and the I-5/ POT road ramps. The interchange reconstruction will improve level of service for trucks traveling to and from the Port of Tacoma.

The project will improve the operation of the I-5 mainline and all streets and intersections in the project vicinity. Traffic analysis indicates that the entire area would be in gridlock conditions in 2040 if anticipated growth occurred without project construction. With project construction, every intersection in the project vicinity will operate at level of service "D" or better and queue lengths will be reduced from thousands of feet to hundreds.

Proposed construction of the SR 167 freeway extension will substantially improve access to the east portion of the Port of Tacoma but this project is still necessary in order to provide access to the west portion of the Port.



Phase 1 – Funds	
City of Fife	\$8.6 M
Port of Tacoma	\$1.5 M
Federal Highway Administration/PSRC	\$11.1 M
Federal Highway Admin./SAFETEA -LU	\$0.9 M
Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Brd	\$8.7 M
Transportation Improvement Board	\$7.1 M
Connecting Washington – 2015 Legislation	\$2.6M
Total Phase 1	\$40.5 M
Future Funding - Phase 2	
City of Fife	\$1.5 M
FMSIB	\$7.5 M
Connecting Washington – 2015 Legislation	\$19.7 M
Unsecured	\$6.6 M
Total-Phase 2	\$35.3 M

SUMMARY OF BENEFITS

- Improves Access to Port of Tacoma
- Improves Safety
- Improves I-5 Main Line Operation

Map Legend

- Phase I
- Phase 2

Partners



Project Description

This project will follow on the preliminary IJR, funded in the 2013-2014. The preliminary IJR is proceeding towards development and concurrence with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Federal Highway Administration, and Washington State Department of Transportation regarding a recommended configuration for the interchange. This project will complete the required analysis and documentation leading to formal approval of the alternative, including environmental mitigation. With final approval, design and construction funding opportunities can be pursued.

Project Justification

The 54th Avenue E interchange with I-5 experiences congestion for much of the day and based on traffic forecasts; it is predicted to become more congested in the future. The interchange's existing configuration has four closely spaced intersections along 54th Avenue E at Pacific Highway, I-5 southbound ramps, I-5 northbound ramps and 20th Street E. These closely spaced intersections cause 54th Avenue E to be congested, making it difficult to access businesses, and dividing the City into areas north and south of I-5.

The City of Fife is in the process of updating their Transportation System Plan and performing a City Center Visioning Study. As part of these projects, the City has completed a concept design study for a Proposed City Center Interchange that will improve the 54th Avenue E interchange operations and meet the goals of improving connectivity and stimulating new pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use development. The City Center interchange concept removes the I-5 ramps from 54th Avenue E, allowing it to become a four-lane roadway with sidewalks, and function as a local street, reconnecting both sides of I-5 for vehicles and pedestrians.

Completion of the IJR will support the City Center vision and provide certainty on FHWA acceptance. This acceptance will put the project in a position to compete for design, right-of-way and construction funding opportunities.

Proposed City Center Interchange



54TH AVENUE E / I-5 INTERCHANGE



TASK	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Concept Selection								
Environmental Process								