

COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No: 4A

Meeting: 02/22/2018

DATE: February 8, 2018

TO: Port Commission

FROM: John Wolfe, Chief Executive Officer

Sponsor: Evette Mason, Local Government Affairs Manager

Presenters: Steve Worley, City of Fife Public Works Assistant Director

Russ Blount, City of Fife Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Commission Briefing by City of Fife Staff on Two I-5 Interchange Projects

A. GENERAL BRIEFING

The Port of Tacoma Commission requested updates on the Port of Tacoma Road Interchange project and the 54th Ave Interchange project. The City of Fife is the lead agency for both Interstate-5 improvement projects, and Public Works Deputy Director Steve Worley will provide the Commission with an update at the February 22 Commission Meeting. No action is requested.

B. BACKGROUND

Port of Tacoma Road/Interstate-5 Interchange Project (one-page document attached):

This project provides road, intersection, and interchange improvements of significant value to the Port of Tacoma, surrounding industrial area and businesses in the cities of Tacoma and Fife. The project will provide better access to the Port, increase traffic safety and improve I-5 main line operations. The project has been developed in two phases with the necessary preliminary work on surface streets and the wetland mitigation previously completed. The existing interchange will be reconfigured into a split diamond with a one-way couplet. Phase 1 of the interchange is fully funded through construction. In November 2016, the Port Commission committed \$1.5 million minus the net proceeds from the sale of city-owned right of way parcels previously owned by the Port of Tacoma.

Interstate-5/54th Avenue E Interchange Project: The interchange experiences significant congestion and vehicle queuing, lacks non-motorized facilities and has a high number of vehicle collisions. The purpose of the project is to improve the efficiency of the interchange, as well as safety, interchange reliability and the circulation of the local street network for motorized and non-motorized traffic. As part of Fife's Transportation Plan and City Center Visioning Project, the City of Fife evaluated improvements for the interchange. In 2013, the City of Fife began discussions with the Washington State Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Port of Tacoma, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and other stakeholders to analyze improvement alternatives for the interchange.