



**TO:** Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Jack Niehuser, P.E., Division Manager, Public Works  
 Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Public Works Director/City Engineer DS  
RACPP  
**COPY:** City Council, Deputy City Managers and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution - Ratifying the City Manager’s Declaration of Emergency for the Hylebos Bridge –  
 December 19, 2023  
**DATE:** December 5, 2023

**SUMMARY & PURPOSE:**

A resolution ratifying the City Manager’s Declaration of Emergency for the Hylebos Bridge to allow application for a loan from the Washington State Public Works Board, in the amount of \$1,000,000, to fund emergency repairs.

**BACKGROUND:**

On October 13, 2023, the west protective fender of the Hylebos Bridge at 3590 East 11th Street on the Blair Waterway was severely damaged due to a shipping vessel collision. Due to the damage of the fender system, the shipping lane and bridge are compromised, and the United States Coast Guard has ordered the City to implement fender replacement immediately. The compromised condition of the Hylebos Bridge poses a threat to public health, safety, and welfare in Tacoma, and requires immediate action to preserve public health and protect life.

The City Manager, as Director of the City’s Emergency Management, determined that it was necessary for the City to proclaim a state of emergency retroactive to October 13, 2023, and to take actions authorized under Chapter 1.10 (Emergency Management) of the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) and Chapter 38.52 (Emergency Management) of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) including, but not limited to, the definitions in RCW 38.52.010, the authorizations in RCW 38.52.070 and RCW 38.52.110, the liability, immunity, and indemnification provisions of RCW 38.52.180, et. seq.

The City intends to apply for a loan from the Washington State Public Works Board, in the amount of \$1,000,000 to fund the emergency repairs, and City Council ratification of the Declaration of Emergency is required for the application.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

This matter is an emergency due the U.S. Coast Guard’s mandate that the City repair the damage to the Hylebos Bridge to ensure the safety of those utilizing the navigable waters of the Hylebos Waterway.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility:**

This resolution will ensure the continued safe navigability of the Hylebos Waterway for commerce and public assess and promote the maintenance of living wage jobs and the growth of green jobs within the Port Maritime Industrial Area.

**Economy/Workforce: Equity Index Score: High Opportunity**

This resolution will contribute to public safety and support living wage jobs within the Port Maritime Industrial Area.



**Livability:** *Equity Index Score:* High Opportunity

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

This resolution will contribute to public safety and support living wage jobs within the Port Maritime Industrial Area.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. Do not approve the resolution.	None.	Without approval of the resolution, the City must identify other funds to address the U.S. Coast Guard’s repair mandate.

**EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:**

The City will closely monitor the repair work on the Hylebos Bridge to ensure it meets applicable requirements and remains safe for use both regarding navigable water and road transport.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

The recommendation is to approve the resolution ratifying the City Manager’s Declaration of Emergency for the Hylebos Bridge to allow application for a loan from the Washington State Public Works Board, in the amount of \$1,000,000, to fund emergency repairs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This action does not result in a fiscal impact, however, approval of the anticipated loan will. Once approved for the loan, the fiscal impact will be detailed out at that time.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Emergency Proclamation