



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Phyllis Macleod, Hearing Examiner *PKM*
Ronda Cornforth, Senior Real Estate Specialist, Public Works, Facilities *WJ*
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance Request 15-0735 – Street Vacation 124.1355 – August 11, 2015
DATE: July 9, 2015

SUMMARY:

An ordinance to vacate all that certain alley lying between East 25th Street and East 26th Street from the easterly margin of East G Street to the westerly margin of East J Street to allow for construction of the Sound Transit Tacoma Trestle Replacement Project.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

N/A

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

The alley vacation would facilitate Sound Transit's Tacoma Trestle Replacement Project which furthers the following Strategic Policy Priorities:

- Foster neighborhood, community, and economic development vitality and sustainability.
- Plan for and improve public infrastructure that meets the transportation needs of all Tacoma residents and visitors.

BACKGROUND:

The Petitioner in this matter is the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority d/b/a Sound Transit. Sound Transit is proposing a project that would replace the existing wooden railroad trestle with a new double-track bridge. The other elements of the project include crossover tracks, an expanded passenger platform to accommodate Amtrak passenger trains, street repairs, relocation of various utilities, and upgraded railroad signals. The alley area proposed for vacation is needed to undertake this phased construction project. The portion of the alley involved is currently fenced and gated to prevent damage to the wood trestle. It is not used for traffic circulation. There is no anticipated public need for the alley in the future. The public would realize a benefit from the alley vacation because the action would return unneeded right-of-way to a useful purpose. The project will facilitate economic development and improve transportation options for citizens. No member of the public appeared at the hearing opposing the alley vacation.

The Hearing Examiner issued Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Recommendation supporting approval of the requested alley vacation with conditions.

ISSUE:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could choose to deny the alley vacation request, although the project appears to meet the criteria for approval of a right-of-way vacation and the improvements would enhance public transportation.

RECOMMENDATION:

The vacation requested is hereby recommended for approval, subject to the conditions contained in Conclusion 5, of the Hearing Examiner's Report and Recommendation.



FISCAL IMPACT:

Not applicable.