



**TO:** Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer, Planning and Development Services  
Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution – Renaming the Puyallup River Bridge/Eells Street to the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge/Fishing Wars Memorial Crossing – May 21, 2019  
**DATE:** May 6, 2019

**SUMMARY:**

A resolution renaming Eells Street and the Puyallup River Bridge to the “Fishing Wars Memorial Crossing” and “Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge,” as recommended by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

- Encourage thriving residents with abundant opportunities for life-long learning.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Tacoma and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians are requesting to name the bridge, which extends from Puyallup Avenue across the Puyallup River to Fife, the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge and to name the roadway, which crosses the bridge, the Fishing Wars Memorial Crossing. These name changes would recognize the Puyallup Tribe’s historic and ongoing ties to this location. The bridge is located within the boundaries of the Puyallup Reservation, which is near multiple historic Puyallup village sites. It is above the Ceremonial Grounds used for the First Fish Ceremony. The bridge is also the site of some of the most intense events of the Fishing Wars. Recognition of the site and event is part of the reconciliation between the Tribe and the City. The bridge will also have interpretive signage that includes the Twulshootseed name and an explanation of the historic significance of the site.

On October 2, 2018, the Tacoma City Council adopted Resolution No. 40122 to initiate the renaming process. Adjacent properties owners were notified and public comment was taken. On December 12, 2018, the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to schedule the request for public hearing, and on January 23, 2019, the Commission held its hearing. The comment period has remained open for 30 days. On February 27, 2019, the Commission voted to recommend to Council approval of the name change. On April 24, 2019, the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee recommended adoption of the proposal.

**ISSUE:**

The naming request is intended to recognize the Puyallup Tribe’s current and historical presence in the area, to memorialize and increase awareness of the Fishing Wars, and to demonstrate the City’s ongoing commitment to strengthening the relationship between the Puyallup Tribe and the City.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The bridge and crossing could retain their current names.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Landmarks Preservation Commission and Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee recommend that the City of Tacoma rename Eells Street and the Puyallup River Bridge to the “Fishing Wars Memorial Crossing” and “Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge,” per the Council Policy on Place Names and Name Changes.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Limited fiscal impacts are anticipated, and would include the costs associated with the changing of street signs and updating GIS maps and data layers. No business addresses are impacted.