



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Josh Diekmann, P.E., Engineering Division Assistant Division Manager
Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer *KDK*
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance – Amending Tacoma Municipal Code Title 11 – July 16, 2019
DATE: June 21, 2019

SUMMARY:

An ordinance amending Chapters 11.05 and 11.55 of the Municipal Code, relating to the Model Traffic Ordinance and the Heavy Haul Industrial Corridor, to rename Eells Street to the “Fishing Wars Memorial Crossing.”

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Encourage thriving residents with abundant opportunities for life-long learning.
- Cultivate a vibrant cultural sector that fosters a creative, cohesive community.
- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

The Tacoma Municipal Code amendments reflect the City Council policy and recognize the Puyallup Tribe of Indians’ (Puyallup Tribe) current and historical presence in the area.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Tacoma and the Puyallup Tribe requested renaming 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 recognize the Puyallup Tribe’s historic and ongoing ties to this location. The bridge and roadway are located within the boundaries of the Puyallup Reservation, which is near multiple historic Puyallup village sites and above the Ceremonial Grounds used for the First Fish Ceremony.

On October 2, 2018, the 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 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. On May 21, 2019, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 40333 renaming the Puyallup River Bridge to the “Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge” and Eells Street to the “Fishing Wars Memorial Crossing.”

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.

The proposal will amend the following sections of Chapter 11.05, Model Traffic Ordinance:

- 11.05.490 Arterial streets designated.
- 11.05.500 Yield right-of-way intersections designated.
- 11.05.520 Thirty miles per hour limit – Streets designated.
- 11.05.540 Forty miles per hour limit – Streets designated.



The proposal also amends Chapter 11.55, Heavy Haul Industrial Corridor, by revising Section 11.55.020, Defined terms. The roadway at the southern extent of the existing Heavy Haul Industrial Corridor, Milwaukee Way, will be renamed to the “Fishing Wars Memorial Crossing.”

ALTERNATIVES:

The roadway could retain the current name.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Public Works Department recommends amending Chapters 11.05 and 11.55 of the Municipal Code, relating to the Model Traffic Ordinance and the Heavy Haul Industrial Corridor. The proposed amendments are consistent with Resolution No. 40333.

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.