

WEEKLY REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL
February 20, 2014

Members of the City Council
City of Tacoma, Washington

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Please mark your calendars for the **February 21st Council Strategic Planning Work Session from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, at the Center for Urban Waters.

TOPICS OF INTEREST

2. In September 2010, the City Council approved Resolution No. 38107, which authorized a no interest loan of \$20 million for the **Murray Morgan Bridge rehabilitation**. Attached for your information, I am providing a memorandum with background information related to Local Agency Agreement, Amendment No. 2, which allows the City to accelerate the repayment of the loan and reduce the debt to \$10 million, provided the City pays the loan off within three years (2014-2016).

STUDY SESSION/WORK SESSION

3. The **City Council Study Session** of Tuesday, February 25, 2014, will be held in Room 16 of the Tacoma Municipal Building North, at Noon. Discussion items will be: (1) **Environmental Services – Strategic Plan 2013-2018**; (2) **Other Items of Interest**; (3) **Agenda Review**; (4) **Closed Session**; and, (5) **Executive Session – Pending and Potential Litigation**.

At Tuesday's Study Session, **Environmental Services Department staff will share the Environmental Services Strategic Plan for 2013-2018**. This Strategic Plan emphasizes the department's vision, mission, and values, as well as the goals and objectives, while addressing the increasingly complex environmental issues that our City encounters. Moreover, the plan is designed for alignment with the strategic direction of the City Council and the goals of the City Manager.

4. The updated **Tentative City Council Forecast** and **Consolidated Standing Committee Calendars** are attached for your information.

COUNCIL REQUESTS/INQUIRIES

5. Recently the City Council and City Manager's Office have received numerous complaints about **The News Tribune's (TNT) extra delivery placed in orange bags for non-subscribers**. I met with TNT Publisher David Zeeck today to discuss these concerns. I am providing the attached memorandum, which highlights our conversation, as well as the TNT's Implementation Strategy which Mr. Zeeck shared with me today.

6. At the last Study Session, during the **Smelter Plume Project Cleanup Program** update presentation, Council Member Mello requested data on the costs of the eight cleanups completed through the program. Washington State Department of Ecology (WSDOE) Cleanup Manager, Amy Hargrove reports that the total cost of the first eight yard cleanups was \$326,912, with a cost of \$40,864 per yard.

WSDOE's \$50,000 per yard estimate was based on the Everett Smelter yard cleanups and other similar projects; however, a couple of the yards in Tacoma were smaller than average city lots. The cleanup activities include:

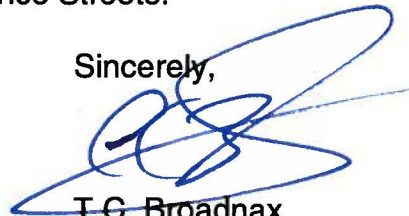
- Fencing and preparing the yard for cleanup.
- Soil excavation.
- Soil transportation and disposal.
- Replacement soil.
- Replacement sod, plants, and other landscaping material.

In addition, Council Member Ibsen asked who residents should contact for advice on cleaning up their own soil. The contact is WSDOE Technical Assistance Coordinator Elizabeth Weldin, Elizabeth.Weldin@ecy.wa.gov, or 360-407-7094.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

7. You have been invited to the following events:
- **State Legislators' 2014 Town Hall meeting on Saturday, February 22nd, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, at Jason Lee Middle School Cafeteria, located at 602 South Sprague.
 - **Because Parks Matter Luncheon on Wednesday, February 26th, 11:30 a.m.**, at the STAR Center, located at 3873 South 66th Street.
 - **Annual Sister City Film Festival February 6th through April 3rd**, at the University of Puget Sound – Tahoma Room, located at the corner of North 13th and Lawrence Streets.

Sincerely,



T.G. Broadnax
City Manager



TO: Mayor and Council Members
FROM: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
SUBJECT: Murray Morgan Bridge Loan Repayment
DATE: February 20, 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T.C. Broadnax", written over the "FROM:" line of the memo.

This is to advise you of an opportunity that the City agreed to for reducing its debt to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for the Murray Morgan Bridge rehabilitation. The loan from WSDOT was for \$20 million, which would have been budgeted and paid for over the next five years (2015-2019). However, WSDOT approved the attached Local Agency Agreement, Amendment No. 2, which allows the City to accelerate the repayment of the loan and reduce the debt to \$10 million, provided the City pays the loan off within three years (2014-2016).

Since the amendment to the loan agreement is less than the original agreement that was approved by Council through Resolution No. 38107, the amendment will be done administratively by accessing reserve funding for the 2014 payment since that payment was not budgeted in this biennium. The payment in 2015 and 2016 will be \$3 million each year, which is a reduction from the original agreement of \$4 million each year and a savings of \$2 million for the next biennium, with a total saving of \$10 million over the next five years.

Attached is a memorandum from Public Works Director Kurtis Kingsolver, which provides additional information and background. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

cc: Kurtis Kingsolver, Public Works Director
Andy Cherullo, Finance Director
Elizabeth Pauli, City Attorney
Tadd Wille, Budget Officer



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Lynn Peterson
Secretary of Transportation

Transportation Building
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504-7300
360-705-7000
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov

February 18, 2014

Mr. Kurtis Kingsolver
Public Works Director
City of Tacoma
747 Market Street, Room 408
Tacoma, WA 98402-3701

RECEIVED
FEB 20 2014
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION

Re: LA 7269 Amendment No. W for Murray Morgan Bridge Rehab

Dear Mr. Kingsolver:

Enclosed you will find an original of the amendment named above. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Olympic Region Local Programs Engineer Neal Campbell at 360.357.2666, or by e-mail at CampbeN@wsdot.wa.gov.

Respectfully,

Kathleen B. Davis
Director
Highways & Local Programs

KBD:sas
Enclosure

cc: Neal Campbell, Olympic Region Local Programs Engineer, MS 47440

LA 7269
Amendment No. 2
Murray Morgan Bridge Rehabilitation

This Amendment No. 2 is made and entered into between the STATE OF WASHINGTON, Department of Transportation, hereinafter the "State," and the City of Tacoma, 747 Market Street Room 408, Tacoma, WA 98402, hereinafter the "Agency."

WHEREAS, the Parties hereto entered into original Local Agency Agreement LA 7269 on the 23rd day of September, 2010, providing federal funding including a STP loan for the rehabilitation of the Murray Morgan bridge, and

WHEREAS, the Parties hereto executed Amendment No. 1 to the original Local Agency Agreement LA 7269 on the 23rd day of August, 2013, and

WHEREAS, the Agency has agreed to an accelerated repayment plan if the State provides additional federal funds,

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the above recitals that are incorporated herein as if fully set forth below, and in consideration of the terms, conditions, covenants, and performances contained herein,

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

A. The Additional Provisions of Local Agency Agreement LA 7269 as amended by Amendment No. 1 are deleted and replaced with the following:

1. Pursuant to RCW 39.69.020 the State loaned the Agency the sum of Twenty Million (\$20,000,000.00) Dollars, shown as "line m. Other STP Loan" on page 1 of this Agreement. The State will provide Ten Million (\$10,000,000.00) Dollars in federal funding to reduce the "line m. Other STP Loan" to Ten Million (\$10,000,000.00) Dollars.
2. The Agency agrees to repay the sum of Ten Million (\$10,000,000.00) Dollars to the State before April 1, 2016. Acceptable forms of payment include: check, de-obligation of funds obligated by this Agreement or other form of payment found acceptable by the State.
3. The State and Agency agree to the following repayment schedule:

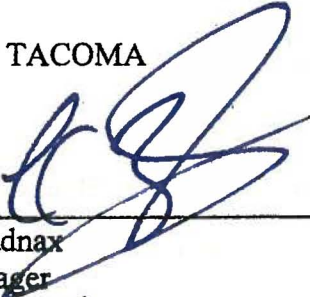
Four Million (\$4,000,000.00) Dollars before August 1, 2014, and
Three Million (\$3,000,000.00) Dollars before April 1, 2015, and
Three Million (\$3,000,000.00) Dollars by April 1, 2016,
for a total of Ten Million (\$10,000,000.00) Dollars.
4. The State and Agency agree that repayment is not to be considered a general obligation of the Agency but instead is an obligation payable from the identified revenues set aside for the repayment of the loan.

5. The Agency agrees that if it fails to make payment within the time identified in the repayment plan, the Agency will pay the STATE interest of 1% per month on portions of the loan used, retroactively beginning upon its use.
 6. The Agency agrees that if the full sum of Ten Million (\$10,000,000.00) Dollars, plus any interest due, is not returned to the State before April 1, 2016, the State shall effect reimbursement of the total sum due from the regular monthly fuel tax allotments to the Agency from the Motor Vehicle Fund and no additional Federal project funding will be approved until full payment is received unless otherwise directed by the Director of Highways and Local Programs.
 7. If payments have been made since the last supplement to this Agreement, the Agency agrees to supplement this Agreement at least yearly to de-obligate portions of the loan that have been repaid.
- B. All other terms of Local Agency Agreement LA 7269 and Amendment No. 1 remain in effect.
- Balance of page purposefully left blank


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the Party's date signed last below.

CITY OF TACOMA


STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



T.C. Broadnax
City Manager

 2-14-14

Kathleen B. Davis
Director, Highways and Local Programs



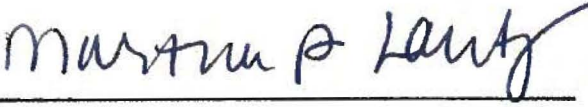
Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E.
Public Works Director/City Engineer

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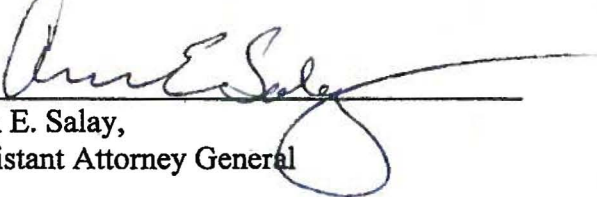

Andrew Cherullo
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED AS TO FORM



Deputy City Attorney



Ann E. Salay,
Assistant Attorney General

APPROVED:



Debbie Dahlstrom
Risk Manager

ATTEST:

 2-11-2014

Doris Sorum
City Clerk



TO: T.C. Broadnax
City Manager

FROM: Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E. / *KDK*
Public Works Director/City Engineer

SUBJECT: Murray Morgan Bridge Loan Repayment

DATE: January 29, 2014

Summary

The City has been in discussions with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to reduce the \$20 million loan for the Murray Morgan Bridge rehabilitation to \$10 million if the City can accelerate the repayment of the loan (pay within the next three years). Public Works, Finance and Budget have been working on various scenarios which would allow the City to take advantage of WSDOT's offer to reduce the \$20 million loan to \$10 million. One scenario that was discussed with WSDOT, and WSDOT has shown an interest in pursuing, is a 2014-2016 repayment plan. The draft amendment to the Local Agency Agreement reflects this scenario. Staff recommends this scenario and approval of the draft amendment to the Local Agency Agreement.

Background

In 2009, the City began negotiations with WSDOT to transfer the Murray Morgan Bridge from the State back to the City. The Turnback Agreement was approved by Resolution No. 37941 in December 2009 and was finalized with the State in January 2010. The agreement provided \$26,277,000 in Federal funds and \$11,150,292 in State funds, for a total of \$37,427,292, toward the rehabilitation of the bridge. Because the funding provided by the Turnback Agreement was less than the estimated cost of \$65 million, the City began planning a phased approach to the rehabilitation of the bridge. In August 2010, WSDOT offered the City a \$20 million dollar no interest loan payable in 10 years to be used for the bridge rehabilitation. The City accepted the loan offer (through Resolution No. 38107) which allowed the City to complete most of the rehabilitation of the bridge. The WSDOT loan required the City to submit a repayment plan by September 2015 and complete repayment of the loan by September 2020.

In 2013, the legislature passed a Transportation Bill, ESSB 5024, that allowed a longer repayment period for the loan (up to 25 years), and specified that the loan funds were not to be considered a general obligation of the City but an obligation payable from the revenues to be identified in the repayment plan. In July 2013, WSDOT proposed reducing the \$20 million loan repayment amount to \$10 million if the City could repay the loan sooner, preferably within three years.

Public Works, Finance, and Budget evaluated WSDOT's proposal to reduce the loan and agree that it is worthwhile to pursue taking advantage of WSDOT's offer. Last month, staff discussed a repayment plan with WSDOT that would have the City pay \$4 million in July 2014, and \$3 million each in 2015 and 2016. For 2014, we would recommend using surplus General Fund dollars to make the \$4 million payment. For the 2015 and 2016 payments, we would recommend that \$6 million (\$3 million in each year) be built into the 2015-2016 biennial budget. A comparison between the reduced loan repayment using the above schedule and repayment of the \$20 million loan pursuant to the original Local Agency Agreement is shown below. WSDOT likes the City's proposal and sent a draft amendment to the Local Agency Agreement for the project (attached) for review and approval.

	Option A	Option B	Difference	Note
	Pay WSDOT over 3 year period - \$10M reduced loan repayment offer	Pay WSDOT pursuant to original agreement - \$4M per year for 5 years	(Option A - Option B)	
2014	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$4,000,000	Anticipated to be paid from General Fund Surplus
2015	\$3,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$(1,000,000)	Amount to be built into 2015-2016 Budget
2016	\$3,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$(1,000,000)	Amount to be built into 2015-2016 Budget
2017		\$4,000,000	\$(4,000,000)	Amount would be built into 2017-2018 Budget
2018		\$4,000,000	\$(4,000,000)	Amount would be built into 2017-2018 Budget
2019		\$4,000,000	\$(4,000,000)	Amount would be built into 2019-2020 Budget
Total	\$10,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$ (10,000,000)	

Recommendation

Staff recommends accepting WSDOT's offer to reduce the \$20 million loan repayment to \$10 million by approving the draft amendment to the Local Agency Agreement to repay the loan in three years. This will reduce the loan amount by 50%. According to the Agreement, \$4 million will be due by August 1, 2014, \$3 million will be due by April 1, 2015, and \$3 million will be due by April 1, 2016.

Attachment

**City of Tacoma 2013-2014
City Council Forecast**

Date	Meeting	Subject	Department
2014			
February 25, 2014	Study Session	Environmental Services Strategic Plan 2013-2018	ESD
		Closed Session - Labor Negotiations	HR
		Executive Session -Pending & Potential Litigation	CAO
	City Council Meeting		
March 4, 2014	Study Session	Legislative Update	GRO
		Subarea Plan & Eis: Hilltop (tentative)	PDS
	Committee of the Whole		
	City Council Meeting	Criminal Mischief	CAO
March 11, 2014		CANCELLED	
March 18, 2014	Joint Utility Board Study Session		
	Study Session	Community Development Block Grant & Emergency Solutions Grant Funding Recommendations for 2014-15 Action Plan	CED
	Committee of the Whole	CBC Application Process & Recruitment Methods	CMO
	City Council Meeting	Stalking and Harassment Protection	CAO
March 25, 2014	Study Session	Legislative Update	GRO
		Temporary Homeless Camp Permitting Process	PDS
	City Council Meeting		
April 1, 2014	Study Session	P3 Partnerships - Public Safety	TPD/TFD
	Committee of the Whole		
	City Council Meeting		
April 8, 2014	Study Session	Proposed New Pierce County Campus	Pierce County
		Legislative Update	GRO
	City Council Meeting		
April 15, 2014	Study Session		
	Committee of the Whole		
	City Council Meeting		
April 22, 2014	Study Session	Legislative Wrap-up Report	GRO
	City Council Meeting		
April 29, 2014	Study Session	2014 1st Quarter and 2013 Year End Report	Finance (Budget)
	City Council Meeting		
May 6, 2014	Study Session	Subarea Plan & Eis: North Downtown (tentative)	PDS
		SBE Revisions (tentative)	CED
	Committee of the Whole		
	City Council Meeting		
May 13, 2014	Study Session	2014 Annual Amendment	PDS
	City Council Meeting		
May 20, 2014	Study Session	2015 GMA Update and Annual Amendment (tentative)	PDS
	Committee of the Whole		
	City Council Meeting	2014 Annual Amendment - 1st Reading	TFD
		Changes to the Harbor Code (tentative)	
May 27, 2014		CANCELLED	
June 3, 2014	Joint Utility Board Study Session		
	Committee of the Whole		
	City Council Meeting		
June 10, 2014	Study Session	CBS Speaker's Bureau	NCS
	City Council Meeting		
June 17, 2014	Study Session		
	Committee of the Whole		
	City Council Meeting		
June 24, 2014	Study Session	Gun Safety Education Campaign	NCS
		Human Services Strategic Plan Recommendations	NCS
	City Council Meeting		
July 1, 2014	Study Session		
	Committee of the Whole		
	City Council Meeting		
July 8, 2014	Study Session		

Council Committee Report

(Subject to Change)

<i>Economic Development Committee</i>	
Committee Members: Campbell (Chair), Boe, Walker, Mello, Alternate -Thoms	2nd, 4th, and 5th Tuesdays
Executive Liaison: Nadia Chandler Hardy; Staff Support - Anita Gallagher	10:00 a.m. Room 248
CBC Assignments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tacoma Arts Commission • Greater Tacoma Regional Convention Center Public Facilities District • Foss Waterway Development Authority • City Events and Recognition Committee
February 25, 2014 CANCELLED	CANCELLED
Future:	
March 11, 2014 Fourth Quarter 2013 Financial Indicators Report	<i>Elly Walkowiak, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development</i>
March 25, 2014 Tacoma Arts Commission Report (tentative) Economic Development Trends in the Puget Sound Region	<i>Traci Kelly, Chair, Tacoma Arts Commission</i> <i>Patrick Pierce, Program Manager, Economic Development/Prosperity Partnership, Puget Sound Regional Council</i>

<i>Government Performance and Finance Committee</i>	
Committee Members: Lonergan (Chair), Campbell, Thoms, Strickland, Alternate- Lopez	1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays
Executive Liaison: T.C. Broadnax; Staff Support - Reid Bennion	4:30 p.m. Room 248
CBC Assignments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Utility Board • Board of Ethics • Audit Advisory • Civil Service Board
March 5, 2014 CANCELLED	CANCELLED
Future:	
March 19, 2014 SAP Strategic Assessment Report Out (Tentative) Tacoma 24/7 and Budget Book Performance Measures (Tentative)	<i>Jack Kelanic, IT Director</i> <i>Tadd Wille, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget</i>
April 2, 2014	

<i>Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee</i>	
Committee Members: Mello (Chair), Boe, Walker, Ibsen, Alternate-Campbell	2nd and 4th Wednesdays
Executive Liaison: Nadia Chandler Hardy; Staff Support - Carmen White	4:30 p.m. Room 16
CBC Assignments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Tacoma Commission • Planning Commission • Board of Building Appeals • Transportation Commission
February 26, 2014 Transfer of Development Rights	<i>Ian Munce, Special Assistant to the Director, Planning and Development Services</i>
2014 Annual Amendment/ Planning Commission 2013 Accomplishments and Proposed Work Plan for 2014	<i>Brian Boudet, Division Manager, Planning and Development Services</i>
Transportation Commission 2013 Accomplishments and Proposed Work Plan for 2014	<i>Jennifer Kammerzell, Engineer, Public Works</i>
Future:	
March 12, 2014 Complete Streets Quarterly Update Board of Building Appeals 2013 Accomplishments and Proposed Work Plan for 2014	<i>Jennifer Kammerzell, Engineer, Public Works</i> <i>Sue Coffman, Division Manager, Planning and Development Services</i>
March 26, 2014 Growing Transit Communities (tentative) Parking System Initiatives 17th Street Extension and UW-Tacoma	<i>Kurtis Kingsolver, Director, Public Works</i> <i>Dana Brown, Assistant Division Manager, Public Works</i> <i>Darius Thompson, Associate Engineer, Public Works</i>

Council Committee Report


(Subject to Change)

<i>Neighborhoods and Housing Committee</i>	
Committee Members: Walker (Chair), Boe, Ibsen, Lonergan, Alternate-Woodards	1st and 3rd Mondays 4:30 p.m.
Executive Liaison: Tansy Hayward; Staff Support - Christina Watts	Room 248
CBC Assignments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landmarks Preservation Commission • Tacoma Housing Authority • Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority
March 3, 2014 House for Hope Rapid Removal Graffiti Pilot Update Code Compliance Windshield Survey	Tansy Haward, Assistant City Manager Allyson Griffith, Program Development Specialist, Community Based Lisa Wojtanowicz, Division Manager, Neighborhood and Community
Future:	
March 17, 2014 TCRA Update Temporary Homeless Camps Permit Process	Jacinda Howard, Community and Economic Development John Harrington, Planning and Development Services
April 7, 2014 Neighborhood Council Boundary Adjustment (tentative)	Carol Wolfe, Program Development Specialist, Community Based Services

<i>Public Safety, Human Services, and Education Committee</i>	
Committee Members: Woodards (Chair), Campbell, Lonergan, Strickland, Alternate-Mello	2nd and 4th Thursdays 4:30 p.m.
Executive Liaison: Tansy Hayward; Staff Support - Julie Stoltman	Room 248
CBC Assignments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Review Panel • Human Services Commission • Human Rights Commission • Commission on Disabilities • Library Board
February 27, 2014 CANCELLED	CANCELLED
Future:	
March 13, 2014 CANCELLED	CANCELLED
March 27, 2014 Report from Commission on Disabilities	Gerrit Nyland, Chair, Commission on Disabilities; Gail Himes, ADA Coordinator, Neighborhoods & Community Services
Report from Human Rights Commission	Fred Schuneman, Chair, Human Rights Commission; Marya Gingrey, Human Rights Manager, Neighborhoods & Community Services
Eastside Community Center Feasibility Study	Alisa O'Hanlon, Government Relations Coordinator (tentative)



TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager 

SUBJECT: **The News Tribune Non-Subscriber Advertising Bags**

DATE: February 20, 2014

As you are aware, the City has received numerous complaints about The News Tribune's (TNT) extra delivery placed in orange bags for non-subscribers. Citizens have requested that the City take action against the TNT for what they considered littering. Citizens have also requested that the City take action on our current Codes, or change our Codes so that the deliveries would be code violations.

Earlier today I met with TNT Publisher David Zeeck, and we had a very productive conversation about this issue and how the City and the TNT could work together to address the issue for both the residents and the TNT's advertising customers. Here are a few of the highlights of the TNT's strategy to address many of the concerns raised by residents:

- Continue the direct deliveries where it is working well and work with the Post Office to move a portion of these products back into direct mail.
- Stopping direct delivery to some neighborhoods with wide grassy strips between the street and public sidewalk, and neighborhoods that have hilly terrains with homes a few feet above street grade.
- Converting the TNT's non-subscriber product (both direct delivery and direct mail) to a weekly newspaper model, which would include news content in addition to the advertising within the next several weeks.
- Monitor the quality of the direct deliveries to ensure the carriers do not throw additional papers if the previously delivered papers are still visible, and by offering incentives for carriers with "clean" routes (picking up unretrieved papers in gutters and near storm drains).
- Offer an opt-out form on the TNT website so vacant homes can be reported and residents can request the deliveries to stop.

The above-mentioned changes that the TNT has committed to making, clearly demonstrates their willingness to work with the City and residents to address the many concerns that have been expressed. The City will continue to work with the TNT and observe whether or not the proposed changes have the desired impacts. For additional information, please see the attached Implementation Strategy which Mr. Zeeck provided during our meeting today.

“The News Tribune *Extra*” Implementation Strategy

We’re moving some delivery back to direct mail

- We’ve decided direct delivery doesn’t make sense in some neighborhoods, especially where houses are close together and where property boundaries aren’t clearly divided by driveways, for example. We’re moving those neighborhoods back into direct mail.
- We are working to stop direct delivery to neighborhoods with especially wide grassy strips between the street and sidewalk. Delivery will go back to direct mail.
- We are working to stop direct delivery to neighborhoods with hilly terrain where homes are more than a few feet above street grade. That delivery will go back to direct mail.

We’re converting the product to a weekly paper

- Both direct delivery or direct mail products are being converted into a weekly newspaper. That weekly paper will include news content and more retail and classified advertising, in addition to inserts. That’s more attractive for readers and provides another way to promote community events and share community news.

Improving delivery

- We asked our delivery vendor to increase the random checks supervisors make on every route each week. They also continuously train their carriers on the GPS technology that helps carriers deliver -- and skip -- the right houses.
- Delivery will be to driveways where possible. That makes it more obvious who is intended to receive the product. That also makes it easier the next week for a carrier to spot an unretrieved paper and not deliver a second one.
- We’re asking our distribution partner to constantly remind carriers not to throw a new paper if the last week’s paper is still there.
- Our distribution partner instituted a carrier incentive system that puts a greater emphasis on “clean” routes. The system also puts special emphasis on keeping unretrieved papers away from storm drains.

Making opt-out easier to find

- We set up a an opt-out form on the TNT website. It can be found at www.thenewstribune.com/extraoptout Residents can also use that form to report papers delivered to vacant homes, so we can check it out and stop them if needed.
- For some people who called and emailed us, it truly WAS about the bags being orange. But we also hope the clear bags allow people to find the opt-out message at a glance. More true opt-outs save us time, money, newsprint and plastic.

We’ve been here more than 125 years. The 300+ people who work at the TNT live in and love this community. Some of us grew up here. The rest of us choose to stay here out of affection for the place. Our mission is producing newspapers (and websites) that are an essential element of a strong civic culture. We fund the mission through the home delivery and/or digital delivery of news, and by building and distributing advertising that helps locals businesses grow. We also strive to be good neighbors, listen to both our friends and critics, and try to operate in a responsible and ethical way.