



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
 FROM: Josh Diekmann, P.E. PTOE, Public Works Transportation Division Manager/City Traffic Engineer  
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RACPP  
 COPY: City Council and City Clerk  
 SUBJECT: Resolution Naming the Tacoma to Puyallup Regional Trail – January 16, 2024  
 DATE: December 28, 2023

**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

A resolution naming the new trail formerly referred to as the Tacoma to Puyallup Regional Trail to **spuyaləpabš Trail**.

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Mayor Victoria Woodards and Council Member Kristina Walker.

**BACKGROUND:**

**This Recommendation is Based On:** In 2019, WSDOT led an advisory group of local elected officials and community leaders and launched the Tacoma to Puyallup Regional Trail Connection Route Analysis Study. The study evaluated three potential trail routes (Levee Road, River Road, and the new State Route (SR) 167 alignment) for safety, connections, accessibility, equity, and other factors. In February 2020, the advisory group selected the future SR 167 corridor as the preferred alignment for the new trail.

The Tacoma to Puyallup Regional Trail will connect downtown Puyallup to Fife and downtown Tacoma, providing people who live and work in the area with a new option to travel without a motorized vehicle to a variety of destinations. The trail will route along WSDOT’s future SR 167 alignment from Puyallup to SR 509 in Fife. From there the trail will route along the west side of Alexander Avenue East and continue along the south side of Pacific Highway East. The trail will extend into Tacoma via the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge, and connect along Puyallup Avenue to the Thea Foss Esplanade.

The future trail passes through the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Reservation, and regional partners have worked with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and with the community to plan and fund the trail for the past five years, recognizing a significant and crucial opportunity to honor the tribal language, history, and culture through trail design, public art, and the trail name.



**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

In Summer 2023, the partners agreed to a trail naming process by which each entity would forgo its individual trail naming protocol to select a name approved by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, including names provided in Lushootseed, to create a healthy environment for Lushootseed language to grow and to be visible in our communities. In October 2023, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Tribal Council approved and enthusiastically supported one name for consideration: **spuyaləpabš Trail**, which is the Lushootseed name for the Puyallup People, translated as “people from the bend at the bottom of the river”, but has come to be a word associated with generous and welcoming behavior. On November 21, 2023, the partners agreed to adopt the name as recommended, and the agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding in December 2023 to memorialize this agreement.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility:**

The adoption of the recommended trail name is a way of recognizing that the future trail passes through the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Reservation, land on which they have lived on and stewarded since the beginning of time and continue to do so today. This project reflects ongoing, authentic collaboration between trail partners and reflects a shared intent to honor the Puyallup Tribe’s Lushootseed language, history, and culture through trail design, public art, and the trail name.

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

Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

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

Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.

**Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).**

The adoption of the recommended trail name is a way of welcoming and acknowledging the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and the land the future trail will pass through, building a stronger partnership with our partners to agree on the recommendation, and reflecting the diversity of the Tacoma community.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Decline to approve.	None.	Risk our strong partnership.

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

The adoption of the recommended trail name will memorialize the new, official name, providing consistency in naming for the trail in multiple jurisdictions.

**STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends City Council adopt a resolution naming the new trail, **spuyaləpabš Trail**, on the new trail segments to be constructed in Tacoma.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Memorandum of Understanding