



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer /KDK
Justin E. Davis, Division Manager, Public Works Facilities Management
Troy Stevens, Sr. Real Estate Specialist, Real Property Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Setting Hearing Date for Street Vacation 124.1347 – December 16, 2014
DATE: November 25, 2014

SUMMARY:

A resolution setting Thursday, January 15, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., as the date and time for a hearing before the Hearing Examiner on the request to vacate portions of Jefferson Avenue southerly of South 17th Street.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- 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.

The vacated area will be used for a mix of pedestrian and bicycle improvements, landscaping, traffic management, parking and vehicle access to the University of Washington Tacoma (UWT) campus and adjacent buildings, which will improve public infrastructure that meets the transportation needs of all Tacoma residents and visitors and foster neighborhood and community vitality.

BACKGROUND:

In working toward the fulfillment of the UWT Master Plan (2008) and the City of Tacoma’s South Downtown Subarea Plan (2013), UWT wants to vacate portions of Jefferson Avenue southerly of South 17th Street to help improve street function, streetscapes, and pedestrian safety immediately adjacent to the South 17th Street Realignment project.

In the short term, UWT will use the vacated right-of-way to provide open space and enhanced pedestrian safety. Long term, UWT may incorporate some of the vacated area into future campus building developments.

UWT requests that the City waive payment for the street vacation in consideration of the substantial public benefits that campus activities and improvements bring to the community. In this instance, UWT is funding \$1.25 million in street improvements for the South 17th Street Realignment project.

ISSUE:

UWT would like to vacate portions of Jefferson Avenue southerly of South 17th Street to help improve street function, streetscapes, and pedestrian safety immediately adjacent to the South 17th Street Realignment project.

ALTERNATIVES:

An alternative is to deny the street vacation, which would hamper UWT’s attempt to improve street function, streetscapes, and pedestrian safety around the campus. Additionally, denial of the street vacation perpetuates the City’s maintenance obligations.



RECOMMENDATION:

The Public Works Department recommends City Council set Thursday, January 15, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., as the date and time for a hearing before the Hearing Examiner on the request to vacate portions of Jefferson Avenue southerly of South 17th Street.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This action only sets the date and time of the hearing before the Hearing Examiner. Unless decided otherwise, the City will receive market value compensation for the vacated right-of-way. The proceeds will be deposited in accordance with Tacoma Municipal Code 9.22 Vacation of Streets.