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PRESENTER: E. Leigh Starr, P.E., PMP, Public Works, Engineering Division
SUBJECT: Traffic Synchronization
DATE: May 9, 2018

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Public Works staff will present information regarding traffic signal timing and synchronization. The presentation will explain the various types of signal timing and synchronization, identify and explain some of the challenges associated with seamless synchronization, describe technological advances in the signal industry and Intelligent Traffic Systems, and provide an overview of the current status of the City of Tacoma's Traffic Signal System.

BACKGROUND:

The Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee expressed an interest in traffic signal operations including timing and synchronization. Throughout the region, traffic congestion has become an increasing concern over the past several years. Recent advances in technology and the media covering the implementation of those systems by various public agencies have heightened the awareness of the impacts to various stakeholders when traffic signals are not properly synchronized.

ISSUE:

Traffic congestion has real impacts on commerce, public safety and the environment. Every business and citizen is impacted by poor traffic systems. There are numerous opportunities to improve traffic flow within the City with new technology. However, like much of the City's infrastructure, the City has deferred maintenance and capital replacement of its signal system over multiple decades. A significant investment in the City's infrastructure will be required in order to bring the system up to a level consistent with the standard of the industry and to allow the City to take advantage of many of those new technologies.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an informational briefing only. Alternatives will be discussed in a follow up Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee presentation on June 13, 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an informational briefing only. Fiscal impacts will be discussed in a follow up presentation on June 13, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational briefing only. Recommendations will be discussed in a follow up presentation on June 13, 2018.