



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

**TO:** Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Chris Storey, P.E., Principal Engineer, Public Works  
Josh Diekmann, P.E. PTOE, Interim Public Works Director/City Engineer  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution - Public Works Board Loan and Grant for the Union Avenue Bridge Fire Damage – August 15, 2023  
**DATE:** July 26, 2023

FOR 

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**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

A resolution authorizing the execution of a loan and grant agreement with the Washington State Public Works Board, in the amount of \$1,000,000, including loan forgiveness up to \$250,000; and accepting and depositing said sum into the Transportation Capital Fund, for the Union Avenue Bridge Emergency Fire Damage Repair Project.

**BACKGROUND:**

This Department's Recommendation is Based On: The damage sustained to the Union Avenue Bridge off ramp due to a homeless encampment fire in February of 2023. An initial assessment determined approximately \$1,000,000 worth of damage was done to the structure. Following the assessment, the Public Works Engineering Division began to pursue funding options to conduct the repairs and reopen the off ramp to traffic.

On June 27, 2023, the City Council approved a Proclamation of Emergency, waiving certain contracting requirements, authorizing staff to implement emergency purchasing requirements, and to take other steps in response to the emergency, retroactive to February 27, 2023.

In July of 2023, the Public Works Department was informed the City was successful in obtaining approval for both a \$750,000 loan and \$250,000 grant from the Washington State Public Works Board.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

Due to the fire, the safety of the ramp was compromised forcing the City to close the ramp to all vehicle traffic. The ramp serves a vital role for emergency vehicles, utility vehicles, and the traveling public, and this closure poses a threat to the health and lives of the community members of Tacoma.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility:**

By repairing the damage and reopening the bridge off ramp, vehicular and pedestrian users will have a more convenient route from Union Avenue to South Tacoma Way. This project will also return to use an ADA route along the same alignment.

**Economy/Workforce:** *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*

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

**Livability:** *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.



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

The project will reopen infrastructure that is currently out of service to both the public and the local businesses that utilize it. Reopening this will show the City’s commitment to keeping its assets in good working condition.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Utilize City funding solely.	Eliminate debt on loan.	The City would need to identify a funding source and potentially pull funding from other priority projects.
2. No action.	No financial impact.	Bridge off ramp stays closed.

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

Once the structural repairs are complete the bridge off ramp will be reopened to traffic, which is expected to be completed in October 2023.

**STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

The Public Works Department recommends adopting the resolution authorizing the execution of a loan agreement with the Public Works Board, in the total amount of \$1,000,000, including a 25 percent loan forgiveness amount up to \$250,000, and accepting and depositing said sum into the Transportation Capital Fund, for the Union Avenue Bridge Emergency Fire Damage Repair project.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total estimated cost for the bridge off ramp repair is \$1,000,000. The Washington State Public Works Board has approved our funding request to award \$750,000 in loan funding and \$250,000 in grant funding for the Union Avenue Bridge Emergency Fire Damage Repair project.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. 1060-CAPTL & Debt Service Fund [For Loan]	PWK-G0067	various	\$750,000
2. 1060 CAPTL Fund [For Grant]	PWK-G0067-FS-04	4332360	\$250,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,000,000</b>

**What Funding is being used to support the expense?**

The funding for this expense will be from the Public Works Board Loan and grant funding.

**Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget?**

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

The damage to the structure occurred recently and was not included in the current Biennial Budget.

**Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?**

YES. By not implementing the legislation the bridge off ramp would remain closed until other funding could be identified.

**Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?**

YES. Repayment of the loan funding used will be completed over a period of 20 years.



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**Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?**

No

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Site Map
- Proclamation of Emergency
- Public Works Board Grant and Loan Agreement
- Public Works Board Award Letter