



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer *1/1600*
COPY: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee
Mark Lauzier, Assistant City Manager
Joe Rempe, Tacoma Power, Project Lead
Bob Mack, Deputy Director for Public Affairs
SUBJECT: North 21st Street Project
DATE: October 20, 2016

SUMMARY:

On October 20, 2016, Public Works staff will present a progress update on the North 21st Street Project to the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee. The presentation will be a continuation of the presentation provided on September 28, 2016, and will include additional detail about traffic forecasts and alternative roadway designs.

BACKGROUND:

The lattice towers that run from North Adams to North Highland (along with those in and around Westgate Center) are part of the Potlatch Transmission Line, which was originally built in 1925 to bring power from the Cushman Hydroelectric Project to Tacoma. Other than a few structures at the hydroelectric project, the lines on North 21st Street will be the last of the original transmission line structures to be replaced. Tacoma Power replaced the Narrows lines in 2006 and North Bay lines in 2014; the Henderson Bay towers at Purdy will be replaced in 2018.

Tacoma Power is planning to replace the aging lattice towers with 12 steel monopoles. Construction is scheduled to start in April 2017. As part of the project, the Cushman Substation will be disconnected from the electrical system, and equipment in its fenced yard will be removed. The building will remain untouched by the project. Decisions about the building's future have not yet been made.

ISSUE:

The lattice towers along North 21st Street are over 90 years old and in a state of significant deterioration. The replacement of the towers with monopoles will include significant impacts to the street. The City of Tacoma would like to leverage this opportunity to update North 21st Street to meet current design standards that include sidewalks, turn lanes and bike lanes. While a construction timeline for the Tacoma Power pole construction has been set, funding has not been secured for design or construction of a new street design. The City is seeking input on the potential street design, which will determine where Tacoma Power's new poles will be placed.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an informational only presentation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an informational only presentation.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational only presentation.