



WEEKLY REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

April 6, 2017

Members of the City Council
City of Tacoma, Washington

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

ACTION REQUESTED

1. This is a reminder that **you are required to submit** to the Public Disclosure Commission, **no later than Monday, April 17th, your “Personal Financial Affairs Statement.”** In addition, **please provide a copy of your report to the City Clerk’s Office for our records.**

ITEMS OF INTEREST

2. Tacoma Venues & Events Director Kim Bedier is pleased to report **that Matt Balk, Operations Manager for the City of Tacoma, is a 2017 Excellence in Operations & Engineering Award recipients!** Matt is one of two professionals receiving the award for going above and beyond in solving problems, creating solutions, instituting a new program, innovating with a new idea, or leading in a highly creative way to benefit our venue in these areas. Matt will be highlighted in the April issue of *Venues Today* magazine and will be honored at the Venue Operations Summit in Nashville, Tennessee on April 30-May 2, 2017. To learn more about Matt’s accomplishments, please see the attached article.
3. The **April 12, 2017 Public Utility Board meeting agenda** is attached for your information.

STUDY SESSION/WORK SESSION

4. The **City Council Study Session** of Tuesday, April 11, 2017, will be held in Room 16 of the Tacoma Municipal Building North, at Noon. Discussion items will include: (1) **Opioid Epidemic**; (2) **Other Items of Interest – Council Consideration Request – Funding for Implementation of an Anchor Institutions Initiative**; (3) **Committee Reports**; and, (4) **Agenda Review and City Manager’s Weekly Report**.

At Tuesday’s Study Session, the Director of Health for Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Anthony Chen, MD, MPH, will provide a **presentation on the opioid epidemic, which will include statistics, effects of opioid misuse, and how we use the Washington State Interagency Opioid Working Plan in our community response.**

Under Other Items of Interest at Tuesday's Study Session, **Council Member Ibsen will be sharing a Council Consideration Request (CCR attached) for the use of up to \$50,000 of City Council contingency funds for a third party consultant to assist staff with the development of a targeted Anchor Institutions strategy.** As background, Council Member Ibsen shared a CCR for staff to formalize an Anchor Institutions strategy at the December 7th Study Session. The stated focus areas include workforce development, procurement, community wealth building, and increased livability. Staff indicated that the next step in developing the strategy is to partner with a consultant experienced in anchor-related planning and outreach; therefore, this follow-up CCR is requesting the use of the Council Contingency Fund for that purpose.

5. The updated **Tentative City Council Forecast and Consolidated Standing Committee Calendars** are attached for your information.

COUNCIL REQUESTS/INQUIRIES

6. In response to a request raised at Citizens' Forum at the March 22nd City Council meeting, Public Works Director Kurtis Kingsolver provides the attached memorandum with an **update on additional traffic and pedestrian controls at the McCarver Street rail crossing**, which were identified in a letter to BNSF dated February 27, 2017.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

7. You have been invited to the following events:
 - **15th Annual Sister Cities International Film Festival every Monday, March 6th through May 29th, 6:30 p.m.**, at the Grand Cinema, located at 606 Fawcett Avenue.
 - **The Northwest Seaport Alliance Annual Breakfast "Power of 2: New Tools for New Times" on Wednesday, April 12th, 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.**, at the Washington State Convention Center, 705 Pike Street, Seattle.
 - **University of Washington Tacoma's Milgard School of Business 16th Annual Business Leadership Awards on Thursday, April 13th**, at the Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center, located at 1500 Broadway. Reception at 5:00 p.m. and Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
 - **Citizens for a Healthy Bay Cheers to a Healthy Bay Annual Dinner and Auction on Saturday, April 15th, 5:30 to 10:00 p.m.**, at the Foss Waterway Seaport, located at 705 Dock Street.

- **Tacoma Community House 107th Annual Luncheon on Wednesday, April 19th, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**, at the Hotel Murano-Bicentennial Pavilion, located at 1320 Broadway Plaza.
- **United Way of Pierce County's Celebrate Our Community Breakfast on Thursday, April 20th, 7:30 a.m.**, at the McGavick Conference Center at Clover Park Technical College, located at located at 4500 Steilacoom Blvd. SE, #23, Lakewood.
- **2017 Daffodil Marine Parade VIP Yacht on Sunday, April 23rd, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, at Tacoma Yacht Club, located at 5401 Yacht Club Road.
- **Graduate Tacoma 2017 Community Impact Report on Friday, April 28th, 8:00-10:00 a.m.**, at the STAR Center located at 3873 South 66th Street.
- **The Pierce County Police Chief's Association Annual Memorial Ceremony Honoring Law Enforcement Officers killed in the line of duty and those who continue to serve on Wednesday, May 3rd, 6:00 p.m.**, at the McGavick Student & Conference Center at Clover Park Technical College, located at 4500 Steilacoom Blvd. SE, #23, Lakewood.
- ***Tacoma's Maritime History: Rails to Sails - Amazing Preservation Race on Sunday, May 7th, 11:00 a.m.***, at the University of Washington Tacoma campus stairs, located at 1754 Pacific Avenue.
- **REACH Center's College 5K event** to promote post-secondary opportunities for youth on **Saturday, May 13th, at 9:00 a.m.**, at Wright Park, located at 501 South I Street.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Pauli
Interim City Manager

CONGRATULATIONS 2017 EXCELLENCE IN OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING AWARD RECIPIENTS!

by VT Staff | Published: April 3, 2017

Text Size

Congratulations to the 2017 Excellence in Operations & Engineering Award recipients!

Congratulations to these two professionals who have gone above and beyond in solving problems, creating solutions, instituting a new program, innovating with a new idea or leading in a highly creative way to benefit your venue in these areas.

The winners were selected by the VOS Board of Advisors, the Venue Solutions Group team and the Venues Today team. The winners, one operations and one engineering professional, will be highlighted in the April issue of Venues Today magazine.

The inaugural award winners will be honored at the Venue Operations Summit in Nashville, Tenn., April 30-May 2, 2017. Learn more at venueoperationssummit.com.
(<http://venueoperationssummit.com>)

Matt Balk - VOS Excellence in Operations Award winner

Operations Manager

Tacoma Venues & Events at the City of Tacoma, WA

Matt joined Tacoma Venues & Events (formerly Public Assembly Facilities) just over 3 years ago. He arrived to an operations team decimated by recent layoffs, a city budget \$60m in the red, and a clear mandate for change. Matt did not shy away from the challenge.

Matt worked creatively with the local utility and leveraged very limited funds to complete several key capital projects, including the installation of energy and cost-saving LED lighting in the Convention Center Exhibition Hall, wireless lighting controls and improvements in sound and rigging. He has nurtured a 33-year-old stadium and successfully secured funding for over \$21 million in key improvements for the Tacoma Dome. In spite of its age and considerable deferred maintenance issues at the Dome, through the diligence of Matt and his operations team, customer and client satisfaction remains high. Simple, cost-effective aesthetic changes (all completed with in-house labor) allowed Matt and team to transform the back of house entrance and hallway area and ensure a more positive experience for production staff, artists, coaches and athletes. Matt facilitated the installation of a massive DAS/WIFI infrastructure upgrade in both the Dome and the Convention

Center and coordinated the selection, installation, and operations of walk-through metal detectors at all Dome entrances. At the 13-year-old Convention Center, clients constantly marvel at the pristine condition of the venue and the exceptional service provided by maintenance workers and custodians.

If the definition of a true leader is someone who offers hope and vision, Matt fits the bill. His consistent approach, passion for fairness and excellence and zero tolerance for complacency has created nothing short of a 180-degree shift in the operations department. In his first year, the number of grievances filed plummeted by 95%, and since then he has been able to deliver terms favorable to both the labor unit and the city in several rounds of contract negotiations. Matt revitalized the safety committee and directed resources to address safety issues in a timely fashion. Matt infused new energy into his workforce. He patiently and thoughtfully placed staff in areas where they could be most successful. Through clear communication and respect for his experienced team, now joined by carefully selected new team members, Matt initiated an obvious positive culture shift in a relatively short period of time. Everyone is happier to come to work and contribute to the ongoing improvements and review of existing processes.

Jan Szabat - VOS Excellence in Engineering Award winner

Director of Engineering Services

Shaw Conference Centre (Edmonton, Alberta Canada)

For the past 30 years, Jan Szabat has played an instrumental role in overseeing the maintenance of one of Edmonton's most iconic assets. Leading the engineering operations for a 33-year-old facility is not easy, but through Jan's leadership the Shaw Conference Centre has maintained its position as a premier meetings and events destination in Canada.

Throughout the last year, Jan has overseen numerous major projects in the facility. These include flood mitigation and major bathroom renovations to the \$12.5-million replacement and modernization of six escalators. Moreover, he has overseen the development of sustainable permaculture on the grounds, including the creation of an Indigenous Medicine Wheel Garden on the rooftop of our Riverview Room.

And that's not all. With the entire atrium roof of the 150,000-square-foot facility covered in glass, Jan has also developed plans to phase in the replacement of the glass next year, a multi-million-dollar project that could have a major impact on operations. He also has had his plans approved to replace all the carpet on our stairs, and will oversee the modernization of the large canopy outside the main entrance to our facility. This is all in addition to his day-to-day responsibilities of making sure the building is running efficiently so we can best serve our guests.

Jan's commitment to sustainability has played a major role in allowing the Shaw Conference Centre to receive BOMA Best certification, and be the first conference venue in Canada to receive Green Key

Level 5 certification. He has also helped lead efforts for the facility to become APEX/ASTM certified, which we are currently being evaluated for.

The above is only a small snapshot of what Jan has done over the past year. His dedication and leadership over the past 30 years at Edmonton's convention centre is unapparelled within our industry. I strongly believe he deserves this industry recognition.

Contact an account executive to reserve a congratulatory ad!

Rich DiGiacomo, Northeast, Western U.S., & International
310.429.3678 rich@venuestoday.com

Jim McNeil, Texas, Southeastern & Midwest U.S.
207.699.3343 jim@venuestoday.com

by VT Staff | Published: April 3, 2017

Text Size



**City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Meeting
April 12, 2017; 6:30 p.m.
Tacoma Public Utilities Auditorium
(3628 South 35th Street)**

Call to Order

Roll Call

- A. Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings**
- B. Comments by the Public**
- C. Consent Agenda**
- D. Regular Agenda**

Departmental

- D-1 Resolution U-10922 – Award contracts and approve purchases:**
 - 1. Award 18-month contract to IDCON, Inc., for onsite consulting, coaching, training, document review, and document preparation to support the implementation of a strategic maintenance management program (\$316,920, sales tax not applicable, plus the option to renew for two additional one-year periods for an aggregate total of \$525,120, sales tax not applicable).**

Tacoma Power

- D-2 Resolution U-10923 – Authorize execution of a utility installation agreement between Tacoma Power and James Hardie Building Products, Inc., to accept funds to provide new electrical service and to execute contracts to be developed and approved by the City Attorney required to perform said work.**

F. Unfinished Business

- F-1 Resolution U-10918 – Approve conveyance of an easement to Elbe Water and Sewer District over approximately 2.04 acres of Tacoma Power property within the Nisqually River Hydroelectric Project for \$5,000.**
- F-2 Resolution U-10920 – Authorize transfer of approximately 1.95 acres of Tacoma Water property to the Department of Public Works for \$50,000 for the Puyallup Avenue Bridge replacement project.**



The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any of its programs, activities, or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the TPU Director's Office at 253-502-8201. TTY or speech to speech users please dial 711 to connect to Washington Relay services.



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST (CCR)**

TO: Mayor and Council Members
FROM: Councilmember Anders Ibsen
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, Interim City Manager; Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant to the City Manager; Executive Leadership Team; File
SUBJECT: Funding for Implementation of an Anchor Institutions Initiative
DATE: April 4, 2017

ITEM/ISSUE PROPOSED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

The following item will be scheduled on the agenda of the earliest available Study Session:

I respectfully ask for City Council concurrence to allocate \$50,000 from the Council Contingency Fund for hiring a third party consultant to help staff develop a targeted anchor institutions strategy.

BRIEF BACKGROUND:

Anchor institutions are non-profit institutions with a large economic footprint that, once established, tend not to move location. Anchors have major impact in their cities due to their roles as employers, purchasers of goods and services, and as real estate, business, and human capital developers. Many communities increasingly rely on anchor institutions as engines to stimulate local economies and enhance their competitiveness. Our anchor institutions include: University of Washington Tacoma, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma Community College, Bates Technical College, Tacoma Public Schools, CHI Franciscan, Tacoma Housing Authority, Multicare, and the City of Tacoma, as well as other partners such as Greater Tacoma Community Foundation.

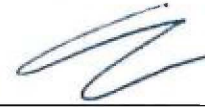
A formalized anchor institution program is fully supportive of Tacoma 2025 metrics. These include its goal areas of Livability, Economy and Workforce, Civic Engagement, and Education and Equity and Accessibility. Furthermore, the City of Tacoma's involvement in the national Anchor Institutions Task Force will allow us to continue to learn alongside other cities hoping to make similar progress.

At the December 7, 2016 Study Session, the City Council discussed a CCR which directed staff to begin the implementation of an anchor institutions strategy. The stated focus areas included workforce development, procurement, community wealth building, and increased livability. Staff indicated that the next step in developing the strategy is to partner with a consultant experienced in anchor-related planning and outreach.

FUNDING/ACTION REQUEST:


I request that the City Council allocate up to \$50,000 from the Council Contingency Fund to hire a third party consultant to assist staff with the Anchor Institutions Initiative. The focus of this Initiative will be to complete a comprehensive study to align current planning efforts, identify gaps, and achieve Tacoma 2025-related goals. Furthermore, I request that the Interim City Manager negotiate a professional services agreement that outlines the strategy's scope of work and deliverables.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: _____




Council Member Anders Ibsen

SUPPORTING COUNCILMEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)

1.  _____

POS # Mayor _____

2.  _____

POS# 4 _____

2017-2018 Council Contingency

2017-2018 Biennium Budget (\$750,000 reduced for Fire/Police staffing)	\$	500,000
2015-2016 Reappropriation Estimate*	\$	359,515

Funding Request/Resolution

2017-2018 Budget

Prior Biennium City Council Contingency Requests

<i>Ordinance 28270 (12-9-2014)</i>		
Equity and Empowerment Capacity Building - Proyecto Mole Program	\$	2,250
Center for Working Families	\$	7,369
<i>Resolution 39219 (6-16-15)</i>		
Heritage Organization Funding	\$	42,896
<i>Resolution No. 39321 (11-24-15)</i>		
Eastside Healthy Food	\$	10,000
<i>Resolution 39511 (08/2/2016)</i>		
Sister City Assessment and Strategic Plan	\$	7,000
<i>Resolution 39526 (8/23/16)</i>		
Peace Community Center Capital Fund	\$	50,000
<i>Resolution No. 39577 (11/1/16)</i>		
Hire Consultant for Click! Analysis and Audit *	\$	100,000
*To be reimbursed by Tacoma Power		
<i>Resolution No. 39597 (11/22/16)</i>		
Chinese Reconciliation Park	\$	90,000
<i>Resolution No. 39596 (11/22/16)</i>		
Tacoma Community House Capital Campaign	\$	50,000
2017-2018 City Council Contingency Requests		
<i>Resolution No. 39693 (03/28/2017)</i>		
Hilltop Regional Health Center (\$50K 2017, \$50K 2018)	\$	100,000
Total 2015-2016 Reappropriation Estimated Amount	\$	359,515
Total 2017-2018 Approved by City Council Through Legislation	\$	100,000
2017 -2018 Biennium Remaining	\$	400,000

City of Tacoma 2017
City Council Forecast

Date	Meeting	Subject	Department
April 11, 2017	Study Session	Opioid Epidemic Presentation	Dr. Chen TPCHD
		Other Items - CCR Anchor Institutions Initiative Funding	CM Ibsen
	City Council Meeting		
April 18, 2017	Study Session	Tacoma Link Project	ST/GRO/PW
		Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program	PW
		Washington State Legislative Updates	GRO
		Executive Session - Pending Litigation	CAO
	City Council Meeting		
April 25, 2017	Study Session	2016 Financial Year-end and 2017 1st Quarter Financial Reports	OMB
		Correctional Facilities Interim Regulations Status Review	PDS
	City Council Meeting	Correctional Facilities Regulations Public Hearing	PDS
May 2, 2017	Study Session	Historic Preservation Annual Update	PDS
		Billboard Update	CAO
	City Council Meeting	Budget Reappropriations Ordinance	OMB
May 9, 2017	Joint Utility Board Study Session	Tacoma Power's Solar Power Program and Incentives Update	TPU
		Executive Session - Pending & Potential Litigation (Jt Council/U-Board)	CAO
	City Council Meeting		
May 16, 2017	Study Session	Tacoma Smelter Plume Project Update	WDOE
	City Council Meeting		
May 23, 2017	Study Session	Washington State Legislative Updates	GRO
	City Council Meeting		
May 30, 2017	CANCELLED		
June 6, 2017	Study Session		
	City Council Meeting		
June 13, 2017	Study Session		
	City Council Meeting		
June 20, 2017	Study Session		
	City Council Meeting		
June 27, 2017	Study Session		
	City Council Meeting		
July 4, 2017	CANCELLED		
July 11, 2017	Study Session		
	City Council Meeting		
July 18, 2017	Study Session		
	City Council Meeting		
July 25, 2017	Study Session		
	City Council Meeting		
August 1, 2017	Study Session		
	City Council Meeting		
August 8, 2017	Study Session		
	City Council Meeting		
August 15, 2017	Study Session		
	City Council Meeting		
August 22, 2017	Study Session		
	City Council Meeting		
August 29, 2017	Study Session		
	City Council Meeting		

Community Vitality and Safety		
Committee Members: Blocker (Chair), Campbell, Lonergan, Walker Lee, Alternate-Mello Executive Liaison: Nadia Chandler-Hardy; Staff Support - India Adams	2nd and 4th Thursdays 4:30 p.m. Room 248	CBC Assignments: • Citizen Police Advisory Committee • Human Services Commission • Human Rights Commission • Housing Authority • Commission on Disabilities • Library Board • Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority
April 13, 2017 South Tacoma Community Policing Plan <i>[Informational Briefing]</i>	<i>Captain Shawn Stringer and Lt. Alan Roberts, Tacoma Police Department;</i> <i>Pam Duncan, Human Services Division Manager</i>	TPD and NCS will present on the current policing plan and highlight targeted areas of emphasis in the area. They will specifically focus on the area in proximity to the future site of the young adult drop in center (5401 S. Tacoma Way).
Future: April 27, 2017 Human Services Commission Interviews Innovative Grants	<i>Doris Sorum, City Clerk's Office</i> <i>Shari Hart, Program Development Specialist, Community and Economic Development Department</i>	More information will be available closer to the date. CEDD staff will provide a summary of funding recommendations for Innovative Grant projects by Neighborhood Council districts.
May 11, 2017		

Economic Development Committee			
Committee Members: Campbell (Chair), Mello, Strickland, Thoms, Alternate-McCarthy		2nd, 4th, and 5th Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. Room 248	CBC Assignments: •Tacoma Arts Commission •Greater Tacoma Regional Convention Center Public Facilities District •Foss Waterway •City Events and Recognition Committee
Executive Liaison: Mark Lauzier; Staff Support - Brad Forbes			
CBC Assignments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tacoma Arts Commission • Greater Tacoma Regional Convention Center Public Facilities District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foss Waterway • City Events and Recognition Committee 	
April 11, 2017	Small Business Enterprise (SBE) & Local Employment & Apprenticeship Training Program (LEAP) Update <i>[Informational Briefing]</i>	Keith Armstrong, Community and Economic Development Supervisor, Community and Economic Development	This presentation will discuss recent performance outcomes of these two programs and improvements that we can expect to see.
	BIA Survey Results <i>[Informational Briefing]</i>	Debbie Bingham, Program Development Specialist, Community and Economic Development	Guest speaker David Schroedel from the BIA is going to discuss the survey they conducted among their members and the ten year outlook for the BIA.
Future:			
April 25, 2017	City Events and Recognitions Committee (CERC) Interviews	Doris Sorum, City Clerk	Interviews
	Waterfront Update <i>[Informational Briefing]</i>	Pat Beard, Project Manager, Community and Economic Development	CED staff will introduce a panel to provide updates on three major initiatives as well as a summer outlook for tourism: Festival of Sail, Dome to Defiance Trolley, and Point Defiance Park development projects
May 9, 2017	Update on Small Business Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Unit <i>[Informational Briefing]</i>	Carol Wolfe, Assistant Director, Community and Economic Development	Staff will provide an update on strategic Small Business Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Unit.

Government Performance and Finance Committee

Committee Members: Lonergan (Chair), Campbell, Ibsen, Walker Lee,
Alternate-Strickland

Executive Liaison: Andy Cherullo; Staff Support - David Nash-Mendez

1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays

4:30 p.m.

Room 248

CBC Assignments: •Public Utility Board •Board of Ethics

•Audit Advisory Board •Civil Service Board

April 19, 2017

Future:

May 3, 2017

May 17, 2017

Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee

Committee Members: Mello (Chair), Ibsen, McCarthy, Thoms, Alternate-Blocker

Executive Liaison: Mark Lauzier; Staff Support - Rebecca Boydston

**2nd and 4th Wednesdays
4:30 p.m.
Room 16**

CBC Assignments: •Sustainable Tacoma Commission
•Planning Commission •Landmarks Preservation Commission
•Board of Building Appeals •Transportation Commission

April 12, 2017 Sustainable Tacoma Commission Interviews
[Request for Recommendation]

Doris Sorum, City Clerk

Interviews for STC. 4 open adult positions, 1 youth. We anticipate approx. 8 interviews.

Complete Streets Ordinance [Informational Briefing]

Jennifer Kammerzell, Engineer, PW

The presentation will include information regarding the City's current policies, guidelines, and practices to promote and encourage safe walking, bicycling, and transit use for all users of the City's transportation network in response to the Committee's questions from the March 22, 2017 presentation.

Cushman Substation [Request for Recommendation]

Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer, PDS

Staff will present the nomination of the Cushman and Adams Street substations to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places, and the recommendations by staff and the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Staff will seek a recommendation from the Committee to the full Council regarding the nomination and the specific elements of the properties to include in the designating resolution, including the site, exteriors of the existing buildings, a single transmission tower, and the interior of the condenser room at Cushman.

Future:

April 26, 2017 Environmental Action Plan Update [Informational Briefing]

Kristi Lynett, Sustainability Officer, ES

Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability staff will provide an overview of the first year Progress Report of the 2016 Environmental Action Plan.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory [Informational Briefing]

Kristi Lynett, Sustainability Officer, ES

Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability staff will provide an overview of the recently completed municipal and community-wide greenhouse gas emission inventory and compare to previous year's carbon pollution

May 10, 2017 Board of Building Appeals Interviews [Request for Recommendation]

Doris Sorum, City Clerk

Safe Routes to School Update [Informational Briefing]

Jennifer Kammerzell, Engineer, PW

Public Works staff will present a progress update on the Safe Routes to School Implementation. The presentation will include an overview of the community engagement, program goals, and implementation actions.

Transportation Commission Annual Report and Work Plan [Informational Briefing]

Jennifer Kammerzell, Engineer, PW

PW and TC co-chairs will present on past accomplishments and future work plan



TO: Elizabeth A. Rauli, Interim City Manager
FROM: Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer /KDK
CC: Mark Lauzier, Assistant City Manager
SUBJECT: McCarver Street Rail Crossing
DATE: April 4, 2017

ISSUE:

The Public Works Department is responding to a request for information that arose during Citizens' Forum at the March 22, 2017, City Council meeting. A citizen requested an update on the letter that was sent to BNSF regarding the McCarver Street rail crossing.

BACKGROUND:

On January 27, 2017, the Public Works Department upgraded the traffic and pedestrian control signage for the McCarver Street crossing. This included special and customized warning and regulatory signing determined to be appropriate for the crossing conditions.

On February 27, 2017, Public Works submitted a letter (copy attached) to BNSF describing the City of Tacoma's intentions for additional traffic and pedestrian controls for the McCarver Street rail crossing. The letter recommended the following that will require some level of review, approval, and/or implementation by BNSF:

- Fencing
- Sidewalk Modifications
- Pedestrian Gate Arms
- Investigate Installing an Another Train Warning System
- Street Lighting
- Upgrade Existing Flashing Warning Lights

UPDATE:

Public Works and BNSF staff have had several interactions regarding the installation of traffic controls recommended for the McCarver Street rail crossing:

- March 9, 2017: Conference call with BNSF outlining specific pedestrian and traffic controls to be implemented by Public Works and requesting what process/permitting would be necessary to obtain BNSF approval and implementation.
- March 23, 2017: Follow-up conference call with BNSF for mutual update of coordination efforts.
- March 24, 2017: Public Works installed supplemental graphical-based signs indicating a two-track crossing for pedestrians.
- March 31, 2017: BNSF submitted for review the cost estimate for pedestrian gates and is evaluating a "second train approaching" advanced warning sign.
- April 3, 2017: Public Works responded to BNSF with regard to their estimate with some additional questions and asked if fencing improvements could be approved and installed prior to the 4th of July.
- Public Works is working to schedule a site survey with the BNSF Roadmaster of existing rail and roadway infrastructure for the development of project plans.

Elizabeth A. Pauli, Interim City Manager
McCarver Street Rail Crossing
April 4, 2017
Page 2

- BNSF will continue to work internally for coordination primarily on the preliminary engineering, cost estimate, and/or feasibility for the pedestrian gate arms and an Another Train Warning System.
- Public Works is still working with BNSF to better understand and define their potential schedule for installation of traffic controls.

Attachment

Attachment



City of Tacoma
Public Works Department

February 27, 2017

Mr. Richard Wagner
Public Projects Manager
NW Division BNSF Railway
2454 Occidental Ave. S., Ste. 2D
Seattle, WA 98134

Dear Mr. Wagner:

The Public Works Department has reviewed the traffic controls at the McCarver Street crossing (#085730J). We appreciate your continued coordination and feedback regarding vehicular and pedestrian controls at this crossing. The City's recommended controls for this specific crossing are described below, but please note there are several other track crossing environments within the City such as 6th Avenue at Titlow Beach (#085742D) that will be undergoing similar crossing assessments, which will require your continued coordination in the near future. The City understands most of these controls will require some level of review, approval, and/or implementation by BNSF.

- **Fencing:** this work is envisioned to be carried out by City forces or City-contracted forces and may require a work easement and/or permanent easement from BNSF. A fencing plan will be developed by the City that best directs pedestrians to the appropriate crossing location (without impeding BNSF access needs).
- **Sidewalk:** the addition of new sidewalk and modification/removal of existing sidewalk will be carried out by City forces or City-contracted forces and may require a BNSF easement to conduct the work and/or BNSF notification prior to carrying out the work. The sidewalk changes, which will also include removal of the unnecessary asphalt paving within the northeast quadrant of the crossing, will be complementary to the fencing plan.
- **Pedestrian Gate Arms:** this control will provide a visible and physical barrier. We understand that this control will be assessed, designed, procured, and implemented by BNSF as part of an anticipated formal agreement and Notice to Proceed process.
- **Another Train Warning System:** the City requests that BNSF investigate track signaling and circuitry infrastructure requirements, and the related design, procurement, and implementation costs, to incorporate Another Train Warning System (ATWS), similar to what is currently in use on the Metra/Union Pacific West Line in the Chicago area. Depending on the cost estimate developed by BNSF, the City may choose to initiate an additional agreement to design and implement the system.
- **Lighting:** this work is envisioned to be carried out by City forces or City-contracted forces and may require a work easement and/or permanent easement from BNSF.

Richard Wagner
Re: McCarver Street crossing (E085730J)
February 27, 2017
Page 2

- **Replaced Flashing Lights:** the City understands that the existing flashing lights at the crossing, either on the vehicle gate arms and/or the railroad signal poles, can be replaced with newer LED technology that will be more visible in daytime and nighttime conditions. If this is confirmed and the cost to procure/implement is commensurate with the benefit, the City requests this control.

For the crossing controls listed above that require BNSF involvement, the City would like to enter into a formal agreement with BNSF to proceed with the necessary actions related to design, cost determination, and implementation. We understand that this process will entail one or more of the following: 1) formal safety assessment on-site with other agency stakeholders, 2) BNSF-led survey and assessment of rail-related infrastructure, 3) preliminary and final cost estimate preparation for materials, labor, and installation of applicable elements, 4) procurement of equipment and materials, and 5) scheduling of track operations to facilitate implementation of control elements.

The City is committed to making and/or funding these improvements, and is interested in expediting the approval process. To that end, please let us know how we can work together to get these controls constructed as soon as possible and please continue to work with Brennan Kidd in our Engineering Division for any additional information or action needed from the City.

Sincerely,



Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E.
Public Works Director/City Engineer

cc: Chris Larson, Engineering Division Manager
Brennan Kidd, Engineer
Chris Bacha, Chief Deputy City Attorney