



WEEKLY REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

November 22, 2017

Members of the City Council
City of Tacoma, Washington

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. Please note, **City Offices will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th, for the Thanksgiving Holiday.**
2. Public Works Director Kurtis Kingsolver provides the attached memorandum with an **update on the installation of fencing and other control enhancements** in conjunction with ongoing coordination with BNSF Railroad **at the McCarver Street rail crossing.**
3. Planning and Development Services Director Peter Huffman reports that the City of **Tacoma's Historic Preservation Program was featured in the October issue of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation's newsletter, TRUSTNEWS.** The newsletter highlighted the 2017 Youth Heritage Project: Maritime Heritage, which Tacoma hosted and helped organized. The rehabilitation of Stewart Middle School, an individual landmark on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places, is also highlighted in an article by one of the project architects. Tacoma Historic Preservation Intern, Anneka Olson, was chosen as a Preserve WA Fellow and authored the article, "A Window onto Main Street." Relevant excerpts from the *TRUSTNEWS* are attached.
4. **Economic Development Weekly Update Report** – Please see the attached update report on projects and initiatives from the Community and Economic Development Department for the week of November 20, 2017.

STUDY SESSION/WORK SESSION

5. The **City Council Study Session** of Tuesday, November 28, 2017, will be held in Room 16 of the Tacoma Municipal Building North, at Noon. Discussion items will include: (1) **2018 State and Federal Legislative Agendas**; (2) **Other Items of Interest**; (3) **Committee Reports**; and, (4) **Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report.**

At Tuesday's Study Session, **Government Relations Office staff will share the draft 2018 State and Federal Legislative Agendas.** These agendas identify and communicate a selection of issues that the City would like to see addressed by the Legislature and Congress each year. Prioritizing issues informs the public on what issues under consideration in Olympia and Washington D.C. are most important to

the City Council. Attached for your review and input during Tuesday's discussion are the draft agendas. A resolution to adopt the agendas will be prepared for your consideration at the December 12th City Council meeting.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

7. You have been invited to the following events:

- Broadway Center for the Performing Arts presents the **72nd Annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Saturday, November 25th, 5:00 p.m.**, at the Pantages Theater Lobby, located at 9th and Broadway.
- **Rebuilding Together South Sound's Opening Reception of the Gingerbread Showcase on Thursday, November 30th, 6:00 p.m.**, at the Courtyard Marriott Downtown, located at 1515 Commerce Street.
- **2017 Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber's Public Officials Holiday Reception on Monday, December 4th, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, at the Washington State History Museum, located at 1911 Pacific Avenue.
- **YWCA Reception for Elected Officials on Thursday, December 7th, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**, at the YWCA Pierce County, located at 405 Broadway.
- **Reception for Tacoma City Council, Metro Parks Board Commissioners and State Legislators of the 27th, 28th and 29th Districts on Wednesday, December 13th, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**, at the Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, located at 901 Broadway.
- **Washington State Department of Transportation and Sound Transit Opening Ceremony for the new Amtrak Cascades Station on Friday, December 15th, 2:00 p.m.**, in Tacoma's Freighthouse Square, located at 422 East 25th Street.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Pauli
City Manager



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer
SUBJECT: McCarver Street Rail Crossing Fencing Improvements
DATE: November 21, 2017

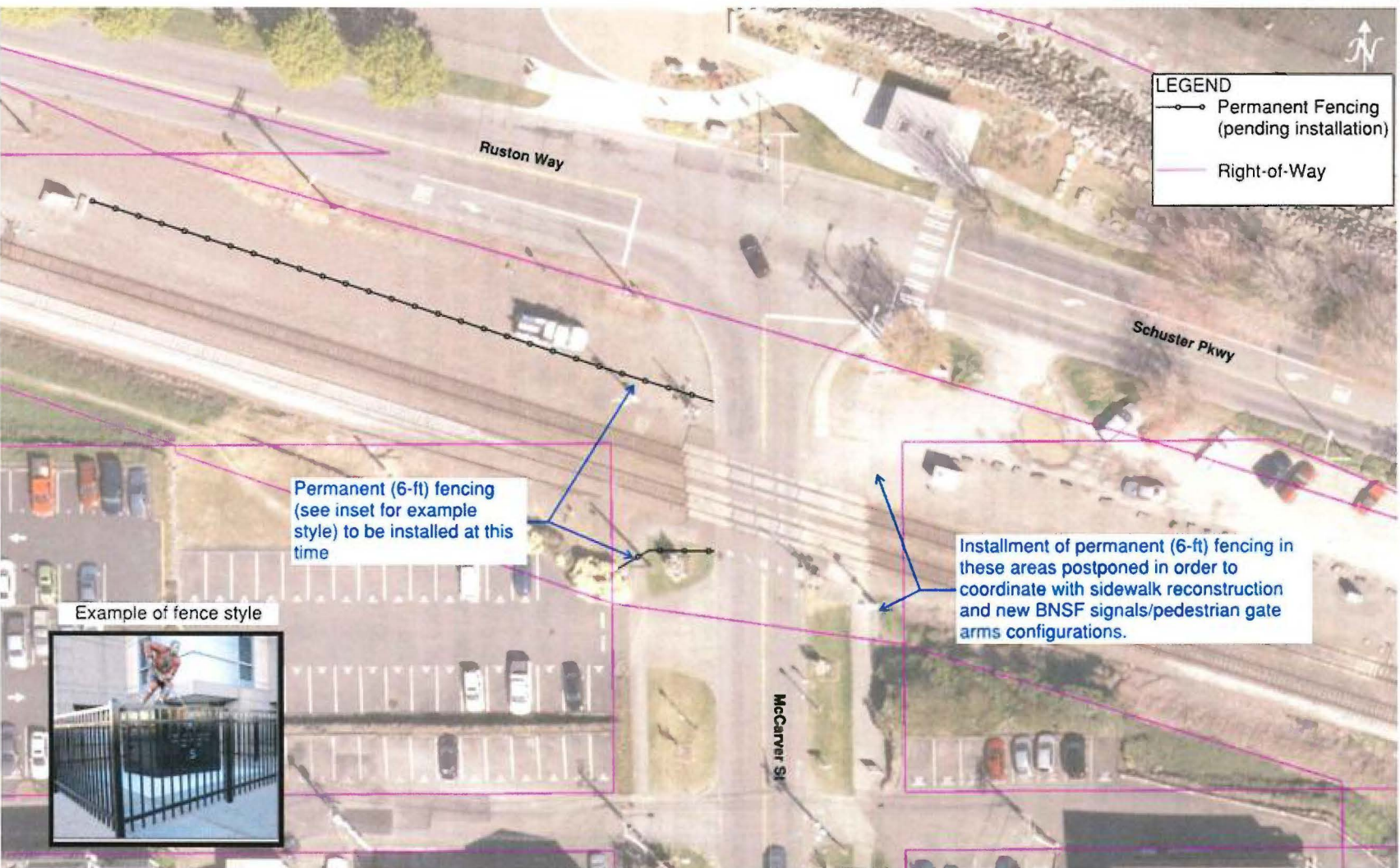
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The Public Works Department (Public Works) is providing updated information regarding the coordination and installation of fencing and other control enhancements at the McCarver Street rail crossing.

After months of phone and email communications with BNSF and their consulting company, Jones, Lang, LaSalle, Public Works was able to clarify and confirm areas of the McCarver Street rail crossing that only required BNSF approval for access rather than a separate agreement and/or lease agreement for installation of permanent fencing. Public Works submitted the access permit application on October 19, 2017. Weekly check-in meetings have been conducted in an attempt to expedite review and approval, but to date City staff still does not have an approved access permit for our contractor to install fencing.

Nonetheless, in anticipation of permit approval and in close coordination with BNSF, Public Works has proceeded with arranging for a fencing contractor and necessary BNSF track flagging so that fencing installation can begin on November 27th and continue through November 28th. Only the fencing on the west side (see enclosed graphic) will be installed at this time, if the permit is approved. On the east side of the crossing Public Works will be reconstructing the sidewalk and installing new fencing designed to channel pedestrians to the crossing that will eventually have pedestrian signals and gate arms designed and installed by BNSF (paid for by the City). The additional fencing and sidewalk work is tentatively scheduled for mid-December.

BNSF design work for the new pedestrian signals and gate arms is dependent on the City and BNSF reaching an agreement on the language of a BNSF-developed document called a Grade Crossing Construction Agreement. Once this document is fully executed, it serves as BNSF's notice to proceed with completing the design, procuring the equipment, and installing pedestrian signals and gate arms. Public Works has been working with BNSF on this agreement for months and hopes to execute this document as quickly as the respective legal reviews will allow, and then leverage our recently awarded Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission grant to expedite BNSF's design and installation work. The deadline to utilize these grant funds is April 2, 2018.



YOUTH HERITAGE PROJECT

Making a case for a Maritime Heritage Area

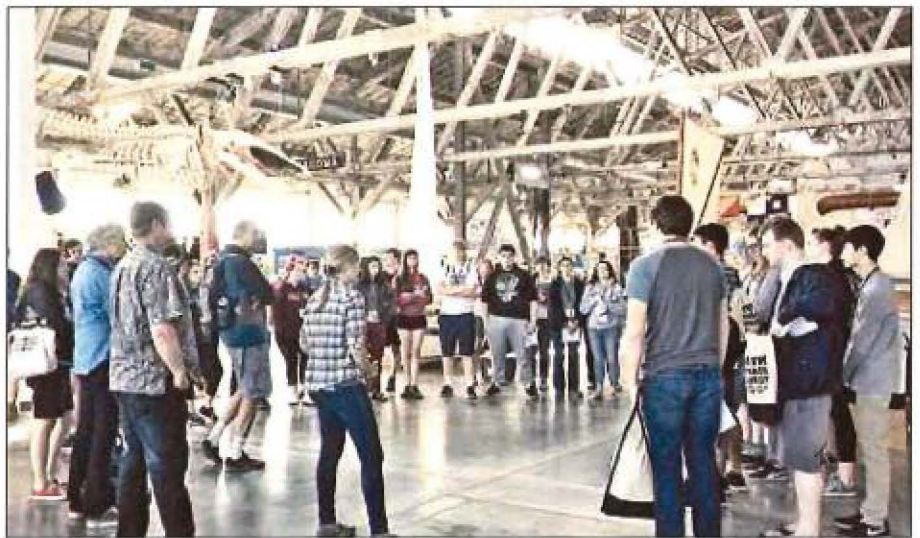
The Youth Heritage Project (YHP) is designed to introduce historic preservation to a younger generation. They are the future leaders who will work to save the places that matter in Washington State and beyond. This year's program focused on Washington State's maritime heritage: from Native American canoe cultures to the age of exploration to the continued growth and development of maritime industry, maritime heritage and culture have shaped western Washington and contributed to the story of our development as a nation.

The Washington Trust was delighted to again work with the National Park Service and the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. Both agencies have served as our anchor partners since establishing YHP in 2012. We would also like to thank the City of Tacoma's Historic Preservation Office for planning and fundraising assistance for this year's program. Additional funding for YHP 2017 was generously provided by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Pierce County Landmarks & Historic Preservation Commission, Tulalip Tribes, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 4Culture, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Bassetti Architects, Pioneer Masonry Restoration Company, and the Suquamish Tribe.

New this year, we added a technology element to YHP: students were tasked with creating video projects. Our students became cinematographers, directors, and editors, assembling video narratives in support of establishing the proposed National Maritime Heritage Area in Washington.

Our group visited the Puyallup Spirit House where we were treated to a wonderful dinner and presentation by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. The presentation challenged our students' understanding of the region's conventional historical narrative and inspired a deeper introspection about why sacred places are important.

The Foss Waterway Seaport in downtown Tacoma is an interactive cultural institution with a wealth of maritime-related information and artifacts. Our students brainstormed



Taking in all the Foss Waterway Seaport has to offer.



Students immersing in history at Fort Nisqually!

ideas for future exhibits and explored the Seaport's existing collections. Students discussed which artifacts appealed to them and why, and how they represented our maritime themes.

Just outside the doors of the Seaport, our group boarded the vessel *My Girl* for a close-up tour of the Foss Waterway itself. Students continued to identify examples of our maritime themes, but this time with a focus on buildings and physical features along the historic waterway instead of individual artifacts.

Our group also toured the Port of Tacoma on the *My Girl*, learning about the evolution of shipping and maritime

commerce in the Pacific Northwest. By touring the Port from the water, students were able to experience entry to the Port from the same vantage point as crews aboard the massive container ships unloading their cargo.

After leaving the Port, we toured the Center for Urban Waters which monitors the health of the Foss Waterway. The Foss Waterway is a Superfund site, and ecological considerations are an important part of the proposed Maritime Heritage Area.

Next, at Waterway Park, students generated ideas for incorporating our maritime heritage themes into a new

design for the site. Students worked in groups, considering how our maritime themes could be represented through art, landscaping, building forms, and other community assets.

We ventured to the Fort Nisqually Living History Museum where students immersed themselves in the history of early European settlement in the Puget Sound Region. In addition to donning period costumes (of course!), students learned how to felt wool, make rope, tie knots, and bake apples on an open fire, all under the tutelage of the gracious Fort Nisqually volunteers who spent their evening with us. Much the way Fort residents might have done over a century ago, we wrapped up the evening with live music and dancing.

Students spent a morning aboard the *Commencement*, a historic fishing boat now used for educational purposes. While motoring from Tacoma to Gig Harbor, students explored the vessel, learning about specific modifications made for the transition from a fishing vessel to an educational charter boat—adaptive use applies to more than just buildings!

Once in Gig Harbor, we stopped at the Harbor History Museum to learn about maritime heritage from a local perspective. Students browsed historic photographs of the Gig Harbor waterfront and were treated to a special tour of the *Shenandoah*, a historic fishing vessel currently undergoing restoration at the museum.

The boat building theme continued as the group visited the Gig Harbor Boatshop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard. Students witnessed a master and apprentice at work while engaging in hands-on work of their own assembling boat building kits.

No Gig Harbor experience would be complete without a tour of the historic netsheds scattered along the inner waterfront. With 17 remaining structures, Gig Harbor boasts the largest inventory of historic netsheds on Puget Sound. Many are privately owned, but the Skansie Netshed in the Skansie Brothers Park has been converted into a public space dedicated to documenting, promoting, and preserving local fishing family histories and Gig Harbor's maritime heritage.

On production day, all student groups worked to plan, edit, and complete their video projects. Each student group selected themes, footage, audio, and sites most meaningful to them in order to craft their message in support of establishing a maritime heritage area in Washington.

Presentation of the final video projects took place at the culminating Town Hall event held at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. Our students explained their creative approaches, screened their videos, and responded to questions from our invited panel. A huge thanks to our three panelists for offering great feedback to our students: Marilyn Strickland, City of Tacoma Mayor; Sarah Creachbaum, Acting Deputy Director of the National Park Service Pacific West Region; and Greg Griffith, Deputy Washington State Historic Preservation Officer with the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation.

You can find more information about YHP, including our eight student videos, on our website:

preservewa.org/yhp

We are delighted to announce that YHP 2018 will take place in North Cascades National Park where we will explore the three historic dams near Ross and Diablo Lakes while looking at preservation issues facing the company towns of Newhalem and Diablo.



Motoring on the Commencement from Tacoma to Gig Harbor.



Exploring the Skansie Netshed in Gig Harbor.

A Window onto Main Street

By Anneka Olson, Historic Preservation Intern, City of Tacoma & Graduate Student, University of Washington Tacoma

Rottle's Clothing and Shoes

In 1914, my great-grandfather Abdo boarded a ship from Tripoli, Lebanon, with Washington State as his final destination. Just over 100 years later, the clothing and shoe store that he had helped found closed its doors along Main Street in Auburn, Washington. Within the span of that hundred years, and under three generations of family ownership, the store's windows had looked out over decades of urban and demographic changes in two small town Main Streets.

One day, driving past the empty storefront, I realized that the windows offered an ideal tableau to connect the history of my family's store with that of the broader Auburn community. In the empty windows, I saw an opportunity to connect site-specific public history with Main Street regeneration efforts. Using both public archives and family files, I put together a series of five window display panels as a street-side exhibition, filling the empty storefront for 6 months while it sat vacant.

An Immigration Story

Abdo Rottle immigrated to the U.S. from Lebanon in 1914, joining his uncle and older brother in their business in Montesano, a booming lumber community. The store proffered flannels and waterproof gear to the loggers doing work in the mills and forests, as well as selling fine dry goods to the town's urban community. In Montesano, his older brother John served a term on the local town council, while Abdo's early efforts to secure citizenship were unsuccessful, possibly because of increasingly restricted naturalization laws.

Abdo met Rose Gee, a girl from Virginia, on a boat in Puget Sound, writing to her of the thriving real



Abdo and Rose's wedding photo, 1920.

estate market in Montesano, "you can't rent any house for love or money!" After they married, he applied again for naturalization, which was granted in 1925.

Two more brothers followed from Lebanon, joining the business and allowing the family to open four stores throughout the Grays Harbor area.

The Depression Era

On January 7, 1930, the brothers incorporated, unaware of the depth of the recession to come. A local mill fire and Montesano's exhausted timber supply further plunged the town into economic hardship.

Unable to subsist on dry goods sales, Abdo's Montesano store began selling groceries to make ends meet. In 1939, the partnership was no longer tenable, and the brothers split up, with each brother taking a store.

Abdo looked to other places in the region that could sustain his store, settling on Auburn, which was poised to grow as Boeing and other large employers ramped up production prior to World War II.



Don Rottle in uniform, c. 1944.

Rottle's Grows with Auburn

In 1939, when Rottle's of Auburn opened their doors, the town had numerous small retailers dotting the Main Street. With his son, Don, serving in the Air Force, Abdo joined the rest of the local businesses in selling war bonds, advertising in the local newspaper.

When Don returned from the service in 1945 as store manager, he quickly recognized that expansion would be critical to allow them to compete with the growing number of large retailers. Under Don's leadership, the store grew, relocating in 1963 to a much-updated space one block away.

Throughout the 1960s and 70s, the store underwent multiple remodels, many of them designed to compete with the malls, easily accessible by the new highways that were connecting Auburn to Seattle, Tacoma, and other nearby towns. Active in the local downtown association, Don worked with other merchants to tout the benefits of shopping on Auburn's Main Street as an alternative to the growing shopping malls. Rottle's also emphasized their connection to the Auburn community—another way that the store could out-compete mall retailers.

A Changing Downtown

By 1995, the Auburn Supermall opened just two miles from downtown, threatening to further diminish foot traffic along Main Street. Again adapting, the store shifted their main entrance to the rear parking area, renovating the entrance to accommodate the increasing number of drivers arriving at the store.

In 2015, after decades of adaptation to the changing downtown and retail landscape, with the third generation of the Rottle family nearing retirement age, the store closed its doors—with hopes that the space can be again repurposed to breathe new life back into Auburn's Main Street.

Historical Connections

What can we learn from the history of this one small business? While compiling the window display, I focused on history that might have contemporary resonance for Auburn today.

For example, I was interested in my great-grandfather's experience of immigration, naturalization, and assimilation, and more broadly, the role of newcomers in bringing

Site-Specific Storefronts

For those interested in pursuing a similar project, some things to consider:

Partnerships are key

Many downtowns have vacant spaces, and still more have windows that are under-utilized—but it can be challenging to know where to begin. I was lucky to know the property owners, but there are many possible partnerships, including arts commissions, storefronts programs, or local museums that can provide access to storefronts.

Connecting to new stories

Site-specific history can also provide an opportunity to discuss larger stories, and can reach people with public history in the every day places where they travel, live, and work. New media can also connect people to expanded content and broader stories. Window displays can provide a QR code or web link to expanded online content, such as audio, expanded text, or information about institutional partners.

new ideas and energy to shape the future of places. This topic continues to deserve our attention, as the demographics of South King County continue to shift towards an increasing number of immigrants, drawn by the expanding economic opportunities our region can offer.

The changes in transportation infrastructure and urban policy—and how both have impacted downtown vitality—can also be instructive as our region grows rapidly, makes investments in public transit

infrastructure, and chooses how to allocate public dollars. All of these things can have important impacts on existing businesses, towns, and communities.

These connections are subtle, but, by exploring the forces that have shaped our downtowns, they can tell us important stories about the kinds of urban futures we seek. And, by offering an opportunity to reach broader public audiences, it's what sets apart site-specific projects.

Local

Rottles business has matched Auburn growth

By MARJORIE RÖMMELE
Correspondent

Don Rottle, owner of Rottle's Apparel and Shoes in downtown Auburn, remembers a day when his father, Albin J. Rottle, took in only \$1.50 all day in the family's clothing and grocery store in Monticello. That was back in the 1930s, and the store wasn't doing well.

Now, as Rottle's marks its 50th anniversary in the city, the store can claim a position as Auburn's top choice for women and men and as a lasting anchor for the city's downtown.

The store began in Monticello, as one of a chain of Rottle Department Stores in the Clatsop Harbor area. In the 1920s, the chain broke up, with each of the five brothers taking a store.

The University of Washington and served with the U.S. Army Air Corps. He returned home at the war's end in late 1945 to his own young family and the store.

When he returned, Rottle recalled, "There had been a fire in the Rainbow Cafe next door and the store was empty. They were painting the walls."

Rottle bought the store, located where the Auburn Mini Mall now stands, when his dad retired to Ephrata in 1953 (the elder Rottle died in 1966) and soon began moves and expansions he said have made the store what it is today.

The first move, in 1962, took the store east along Main Street to its present location, where Johnson's Hardware had been. Five years later, it was expanded into the next door, then five years



Don Rottle says downtown Auburn is a great place for merchants to conduct business.

A 1989 story in the Valley Daily News with an image showing the Rottles Store after remodels in the 1960s and 1970s.

Transforming Stewart Middle School

By Jordan Kiel, Principal, Bassetti Architects

A (very) Brief History of Stewart Middle School

In 1914, the Panama Canal opened for business and Tacoma felt the impact. Almost immediately, the city saw a surge in population from increased port activity. By the 1920s, the young public school system in Tacoma was showing signs of stress from the rapid growth, and desperately needed more space. In 1923, Tacoma voters authorized an unprecedented \$2.4 million of spending on six new intermediate schools. Included in this bond was Stewart Middle School (then called Stewart Intermediate School), named after James P. Stewart, Tacoma's first teacher, as well as a territorial legislator.

In post-war 1950s and 60s, a surge in population impacted the public school system once again, and Tacoma responded with more building. In 1964, as baby boomers reached middle school age, a single-story classroom annex was built, followed by a separate addition of an industrial arts and gym building ten years later.

Fast forward to 2010, the school population declined to several hundred students, and test scores put Stewart in the bottom one percent of schools statewide. Stewart Middle School was failing academically, and the building reinforced the sense of decline, while decades of deferred maintenance had taken a serious toll. In 2013, Tacoma voters approved a \$500 million bond measure, which included funds to renovate Stewart. In addition, in 2014, the Federal Department of Education awarded a grant in an effort to improve educational outcomes. The building had long ceased to adequately serve the needs of students and educators, and Bassetti Architects was hired to lead a design effort focused on transforming the building to support the next 100 years of educational delivery.



The exterior of Stewart Middle School after rehabilitation. Photo by Jeff Amram Photography.



The north project lab of Stewart Middle School. Photo by Jeff Amram Photography.

Project Goals

The overarching goal of the project was to remodel the school to support 21st century learning, while preserving the 1924 historic building. Common to many historic schools, the building plan was disjointed from years of incremental modifications with isolated classrooms, poor

sightlines, and outdated technology. The auditorium felt like a dark void in the center of the building and divided the school. The cafeteria, located on the ground floor with seven-foot ceilings, felt like a dank basement. The design advisory committee requested that the renovation help support a sense of school wholeness, allow for

Grant program for National Register of Historic Places signage comes to Washington

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of our nation's historic places worthy of preservation. When a property or district is placed on the National Register, the designation does not include funding for a plaque or sign. As a result, many sites do not have signage to convey their significance to the public.

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation has generously offered to supply National Register markers to public or non-profit 501(c)3 agencies who wish to commemorate individually listed National Register properties and/or districts. At this time, funding is not available for private residences or commercial properties. The foundation accepts applications at any time throughout the year.

The free-standing plaques are cast aluminum, weigh almost 50 lbs., and are 3 feet wide, 2 feet tall and a half-inch thick. The plaque also comes with an aluminum mounting post. A grantee may also select a plaque that can be mounted to a flat surface if that is preferred. The Foundation will cover the cost of a plaque or sign, the pole, and shipping.

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation is a private grant-making foundation with offices in Syracuse, New York. Established by Bill Pomeroy in 2006, one of the Foundation's main initiatives is to help preserve history and promote historical tourism through signage. The first historic signage grant program provided funding for Historic Roadside Markers in New York State. In 2013, they established a grant program to provide funding for a sign or a plaque

for public properties or districts in New York state that are on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2017, the Foundation generously decided to extend that program to Washington State. We are thrilled about this opportunity and hope to see stewards of historic sites take advantage of the offer!

For more information and to find a link to the grant application, visit:

wgpfoundation.org



passive supervision, make the ground floor feel open and welcoming, and maintain the historic quality of the place.

The Restoration and Renovation

On the exterior, the three primary facades were selectively repointed, and the brick and precast concrete over entrances are now tied back to the concrete structure with helical fasteners. The back of the building was a plain, plaster façade and became the logical place to attach the addition to accommodate a modern gym. Severely deteriorated windows necessitated replacement. The new windows mitigate solar heat gain and sit within the original window frames,

closely replicating the profiles of the historic windows.

Inside the building, the walls were not only in the wrong place, but the hollow clay tile posed a serious safety risk. Almost all of the interior partitions were demolished, insulation was added to exterior walls, and new materials were layered onto the historic bones of the building.

The result is spaces that meet the programmatic requirements, while exposing as much of the concrete structure as possible. New life is breathed into the auditorium, restoring the plasterwork and transforming it into the social center of the school. The light wells flanking the

auditorium have been converted into interior sky-lit atria, which are used as hands-on learning labs showcasing the STEM education focus of the school. New group collaboration spaces are layered into the historic volumes of the light wells, allowing occupants to see and understand the original fabric of the building and the modifications that have been made. A new central stair in the north atrium, transparency throughout, and the beautiful renovation of the historic student commons combine to create a sense of connectedness throughout the school, exude its history.

With student success now on the rise, Stewart Middle School is ready for the next one hundred years.

WHERE IN THE WA IS YOUR TRUST?

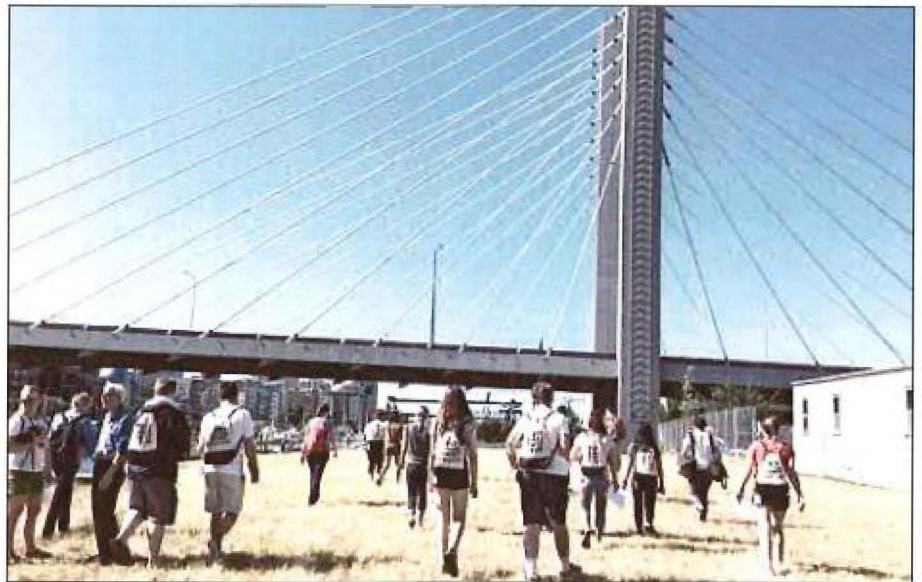
We received three correct guesses for the structure featured in our July 2017 issue of Trust News. Roger Johnson of Tacoma was, not surprisingly, the first to identify the East 21st Street Bridge in Tacoma. Washington Trust board member Kelsey Doncaster of Yakima happened to be in Tacoma with his wife to celebrate their anniversary when he recognized the top of one of the bridge's two towers. Kelsey waited until he returned home to confirm his recollection and call in his correct guess. Phil Brooke of Kosmos recognized the same distinctive tower in sending his guess.

Completed in January 1997, this cable-stayed bridge spans the Thea Foss Waterway and connects downtown Tacoma with the Port of Tacoma via State Route 509. Its two towers rise 180 feet and anchor the cables that support the bridge deck with four lanes of traffic. According to HistoryLink.org, the bridge's distinctive design was not the first planned by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). The project initially called for a more typical concrete highway bridge as part of a new route between downtown and the port that skirted the industrial tideflats. It was local architect Jim Merritt who took the initiative to propose a better alternative and who enlisted

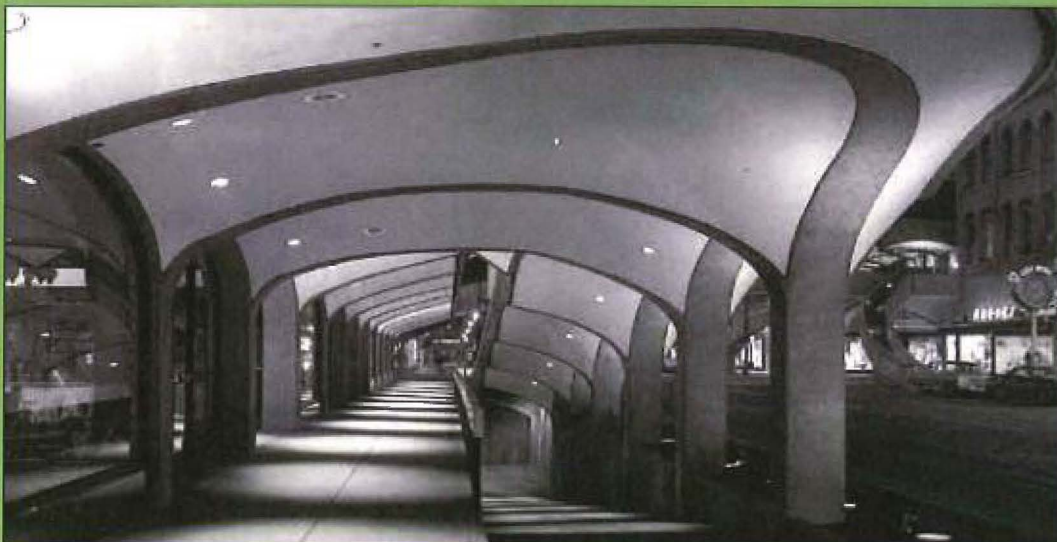
the assistance of U.S. Representative Norm Dicks to help convince state officials. Tacoma offered to pay for any additional costs of the new bridge, but the project came in under budget.

Washington Trust staff became very familiar with the bridge while in Tacoma in July for our Discover Washington: Youth Heritage Project (YHP). We saw it from every angle on land and water and had the pleasure of driving over it several times in the course of our activities on the Thea Foss Waterway and at the Port of

Tacoma. Additionally, we held one of our YHP activities at Waterway Park, just below the bridge. The students worked in groups, considering how maritime heritage themes could be represented on the site through art, landscaping, building form, and by creating community assets. The site currently features an existing building located near the shoreline, causing students to consider the pros and cons of re-purposing the existing building from the standpoint of public benefit and connection to the past. See pages 4-5 for more details about YHP 2017!



YHP participants at Waterway Park below the East 21st Street Bridge.



Where in the WA? October 2017

For your next challenge, can you identify the structure seen here? If so, email us at info@preservewa.org or call us at 206-624-9449 with the answer. Good luck!

We welcome images from readers taken in their favorite places around our beautiful state that we might be able to feature as a *Where in the WA* in the future. Email us a selfie with your favorite landmark, or post it on our Facebook page.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT

Week of November 20, 2017

Bronze Medal at the 2017 Cadets2Vets iGEM

This month Tacoma's first-ever student team took the Bronze Medal at the 2017 Cadets2Vets iGEM competition in Boston for its project on an arsenic sensor. Organized by the Readiness Acceleration and Innovation Network ("RAIN") at The Wedge Biotech Incubator at 2304 Jefferson Avenue, Tacoma's team included students from University of Washington-Tacoma, West Point, Charles Wright Academy, and Bellarmine Preparatory School. iGEM is a premiere science competition in synthetic biology and promotes teams working together to solve real world problems with innovation in genetic engineering. Establishing a location for biotech innovation linked to military readiness was a City Manager strategic goal in 2016 and resulted in the formation of RAIN and acquisition of the former Nativity House for adaptive reuse for biology-related innovation. More information on the project the Tacoma team submitted is available at the following link: <http://2017.igem.org/Team:Cadets2Vets>

Tacoma's First Citywide GIS Day

On November 15th, Tacoma held its first Citywide GIS Day. There were 28 presentation and poster sessions done by GIS staff throughout the City. Estimated attendance was over 200 staff and managers. GIS Day was sponsored by the GIS Advisory Team.

State of Washington Ranks First in CNBC's America's Top States for Business

For the past eleven years, CNBC has used state economic indicators (workforce, taxes, regulations, etc) to rank states in their America's Top States for Business study. This year Washington came in first. More information is available at the following link:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/07/11/washington-is-americas-top-state-for-business-in-2017.html>

DRAFT

2018 City of Tacoma State Legislative Agenda

Economic development:

- The City supports the use of economic development tools that facilitate urban redevelopment and encourage new development, including affordable housing. This includes, but is not limited to, incentives for downtown commercial office construction or rehabilitation, tax increment financing, and restored funding of existing tools such as local infrastructure financing.
- The Legislature has begun a study concerning establishment of a jobs investment fund that would provide financial support for certain types of public economic development projects. The City supports continued examination of this idea as a means to make it easier to finance projects which attract or create jobs throughout the state.
- The Legislature has proposed sale of the Rhodes building complex in downtown Tacoma. The City supports low cost transfer of this property to the City for future downtown economic development opportunities.
- Cross laminate timber is a building technology that shows promise and has been proposed for use in some Tacoma projects. The City supports legislation directing the State Building Code Council to authorize the use of CLT for construction of mid-rise buildings in Washington.

Environment:

- The City supports creation of a sustainable funding source to assist local governments with obligations under Federal storm water regulations. Funding should encourage innovation to meet permit goals for water quality and quantity.
- The State is considering investments in projects that reduce greenhouse gases. The City encourages the Legislature to prioritize these investments in proven programs such as complete streets, fixes to existing infrastructure, and expediting major transit projects.

Fiscal:

- The City believes local control of tax and regulatory processes is in the best interest of city residents and businesses. Local control allows innovation and greater flexibility to match taxes and regulations to a changing local economy. Local control also means allowing the City more authority over its local taxes, such as business and utility taxes. The City supports removing existing State controls over these taxes to allow the City to become less dependent on shared revenue from the State and will oppose legislation that attempts to further restrict City revenue authority.

DRAFT

2018 City of Tacoma State Legislative Agenda

- The City supports changes to the 1 percent cap on property tax collections that will allow growth in revenue year over year of up to the rate of inflation in Washington. The City also seeks full restoration of liquor taxes taken by the State and a greater share of tax collections from recreational marijuana sales.
- Property owned by a municipality is exempt from property tax so the Legislature established the leasehold excise tax for the privilege of occupying or using publicly owned real estate. The Tacoma Dome and the Seattle Center lease space to food and craft vendors, arts organizations, ticket vendors and concessionaires that must currently pay 12.84% of their rent to the State while Safeco Field and CenturyLink Field have been exempted from this tax, allowing them a competitive advantage for events. The City will join with the City of Seattle to seek exemption from the leasehold tax for these facilities.

Human Rights:

- Affordable housing provides medium and long term housing solutions to individuals and families at risk of homelessness. The City supports state policies that incentivize affordable housing and programs to prevent homelessness and to address the needs of those who become homeless. These include eliminating sunsets in the current document recording fees earmarked for homelessness programs, increasing the existing \$58 surcharge, and securing greater flexibility for use of real estate excise and sales taxes for housing programs.

Policies that protect consumers and support families also reduce homelessness. The City supports wide adoption of programs for family stability based on the successful McCarver Housing Program. The City supports workplace skills and financial literacy programs for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Many other local government agencies are dealing with the same issues concerning homelessness as Tacoma. The City will look for ways to maximize legislative success by working collaboratively with these agencies wherever practicable.

Neighborhoods:

- A recent Supreme Court ruling limited the authority of financial institutions to initiate foreclosure. The City will work with financial institutions to restore some of this authority if long-standing concerns of local government about the impacts on neighborhoods of the long foreclosure process are addressed.

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2018 City of Tacoma State Legislative Agenda

- Unit-price contracting authority will provide more efficient responses to many City services, including securing abandoned properties and any subsequent mitigation actions. The City supports changes to unit-price contracting law similar to that granted to PUD's.
- Restrictive property covenants often contain language that is illegal under Washington's anti-discrimination law. While void, this language remains visible in certain property documents. The State provides a means for home owner associations to mark such language as void. The City supports legislation that will allow any property owner to file a non-judicial procedure to mark such language on any title document as void.

Transportation:

- Despite recent approval of robust funding proposals at the state and local levels, serious infrastructure funding needs remain. In Tacoma and throughout Washington there are heavily used aging local bridges that need significant repair or replacement. The Puyallup River Bridge carries over 30,000 cars per day even with existing load limits. After a decade of applying, the City has acquired partial grant funding to replace two segments of the bridge. The remaining six segments will require \$100 million more. Existing grant programs are inadequate to provide this level of funding. The state needs to provide new tools, which may include tolling, to help local governments preserve existing transportation infrastructure.
- The City supports adoption of authority to create a fee based street utility. Similar funding mechanisms are in use in other states and result in a much higher level of citizen satisfaction with the maintenance of local streets.
- Voters in Tacoma and throughout the region approved the Sound Transit 3 ballot measure. The City will oppose legislative efforts to undermine this approval and thereby delay or cancel projects promised to the voters of the City. The City will also oppose attempts to change the governance structure of Sound Transit.
- Transportation network companies (TNCs) have sought legislation that restricts city authority to regulate their businesses, which compete with the regulated legacy taxi companies operating in cities. The City will oppose restrictions on background checks, local authority to license, and set fees or taxes for operation of TNC's.
- Passenger only ferries are increasingly viewed as important options for travel in the congested Puget Sound area and for providing resiliency for our transportation infrastructure. The City supports the State sharing in funding of a comprehensive study of the cost and ridership of potential routes in the region and supports options for governance of such systems.

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2018 City of Tacoma Federal Priorities Agenda

Community Safety and Human Services:

- In 2015, the City launched Project PEACE to respond to national events that exposed the polarizing and difficult relationships between some law enforcement agencies and the communities they protect and serve. Project PEACE is highlighted by the COPS Office among the success stories of the Advancing 21st Century Policing Initiative. The Initiative provides assistance to law enforcement agencies that have already made strides in advancing community policing and produces guiding materials for other agencies to use in their efforts to advance policing practices. The City joins the U.S. Conference of Mayors in urging the Administration to uphold its promises to support law enforcement by increasing funding of the COPS Office and the critical programs it administers.
- An estimated one in five American adults experience mental illness. Children are vulnerable to the mental health of their parents. Tacoma youth report lower rates of mental wellness than statewide counterparts. Living in poverty adds to the risk of mental health disorders. One in four children in Tacoma are living in poverty. Exposure to violence creates risk for long-lasting mental and physical health conditions. Domestic violence is higher in Tacoma than in Washington State and violent crime rates remain higher than comparable cities. Poor mental health and lack of access to mental health support undermines household and community resilience. The City joins the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities in calling on Congress to pass legislation to address mental health to support local communities to improve mental health and especially to lend critical support to families and youth.
- Heroin-related deaths quadrupled in the eleven year period of 2002-2013. Pierce County is higher than Washington State's rate in opioid overdose death rates. Tacoma has a higher-than-expected rate of maternal inpatient stays with an opiate-related diagnosis – at almost twice the rate for Western Washington. The City joins the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities in urging Congress to provide funding to respond to the national opioid epidemic and expand access to treatment.
- Nearly 20% of Tacoma's population speaks a language other than English in their home and nearly 20% of Puget Sound business owners are immigrants. It is a priority of the City to make Tacoma a "Welcoming City" and to cultivate an immigrant-friendly environment. The City joins the United States Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities in calling on the federal government to enact comprehensive immigration reform including creating a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and permanently addressing the legal status of DREAMERS.

2018 City of Tacoma Federal Priorities Agenda

- The Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma is a privately-owned detention facility. It operates under contract with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration & Customs Enforcement to house non-U.S. citizens who are apprehended and determined to need custodial supervision. In August 2016, the U.S. Department of Justice announced it had begun the process of reducing – and ultimately ending – its use of privately operated prisons in part because they do not save substantially on costs and do not maintain the same level of safety and security. The City urges its Congressional delegates to call on DHS to join DOJ to end the use of privately operated prisons.

Economic Development:

- In a survey of Tacoma residents, nearly half said the City should do more to support small and growing businesses. Tacoma is a competitive environment for biological innovation due to its proximity to the medical center at Joint-Base Lewis McChord and home to two leading private medical providers. RAIN, the Readiness Acceleration and Innovation Network, is a life science innovation hub in downtown Tacoma that provides innovators and expert practitioners access to these largest providers in the South Puget Sound to speed the commercialization of new products fifty percent sooner than elsewhere. Tacoma seeks federal investment to support RAIN in launching these new companies that will serve the military and medical sectors.
- The nonprofit arts and culture sector in Tacoma generates a total of \$137.2 million in economic activity. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis calculates the sector's contributions to U.S. GDP at 4.2% or \$730 billion. The City has adopted an action plan to position art as an economic driver. The City joins the United States Conference of Mayors in urging the federal government to invest in nonprofit arts organizations as a catalyst to generate economic impact and to improve the overall quality of life in America's cities.

Environment:

- At the Center for Urban Waters, world class laboratories are creating, evaluating, and applying the best possible scientific and engineering clean water technologies to protect and restore Puget Sound and to lead development of solutions for all urban coastal communities. The Center supports innovative surface water projects across the community making Tacoma a leader in green infrastructure such as downtown rain gardens and the nation's highest concentration of Greenroads™. The City supports legislation that would acknowledge and build upon innovative stormwater work such as that being done at the CUW and applauds the leadership in Washington's congressional delegation to introduce legislation that would protect the water quality of Puget Sound.

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2018 City of Tacoma Federal Priorities Agenda

- Tacoma has been long committed to reducing greenhouse gases since becoming a signatory to the 2005 Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. Under the agreement, participating cities commit to striving to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban forest restoration projects to public information campaigns; to urge their state governments, and the federal government, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol, and to urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation. In December 2015, mayors from 115 countries gathered in Paris, France to affirm their commitment to address climate disruption. In 2018, Tacoma again stands with The United States Conference of Mayors in calling upon the Trump Administration and Congress to support the fight against climate change by fully committing themselves to Paris Climate Accord, the Clean Power Plan, the Clean Energy Incentive Program, and other efforts that will provide cities the tools they need to combat climate change.

Housing and Homelessness:

- Since the Housing Act of 1949, the goal of a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family – and the expectation for economic stability to maintain it – has been foundational to federal housing programs. Programs such as HOME (established in 1990), Moving to Work (established 1996), and the Community Development Block Grant (established in 1974) have been key in helping Tacoma design and advance local strategies that achieve this nationally shared goal. Availability, affordability, and accessibility are the major barriers for vulnerable people most in need of housing.

The severity of the homeless condition in Tacoma prompted the City to adopt a Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan. More than 1,300 people were found in the greater Tacoma area during the 2017 point-in-time count. Job loss/other economic reason, eviction and family crisis are the main causes of homelessness. Mental illness is the most commonly reported disability, affecting nearly one-third of the homeless population. Physical disability, chronic health condition, substance abuse and developmental disability are the other most common disabilities. Twenty-percent of those homeless are households with children or unaccompanied youth and young adults.

The City joins the National League of Cities and the United States Conference of Mayors in opposing elimination of HOME, and CDBG that serve the most vulnerable populations. Tacoma has invested these programs wisely in our community and will continue to draw on their support to catalyze the array of public and private investments needed for individuals, families and neighborhoods to gain stability.

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2018 City of Tacoma Federal Priorities Agenda

Opportunities and Education for Youth:

By 2025, Tacoma intends to lead its region in educational attainment amongst youth and adults. Lifelong learning and access to education will be prioritized. By the end of this decade, 65% of all jobs in the economy will require post-secondary education beyond a high school diploma. A K-12 education model no longer meets the needs of the global economy, making the new standard a pre-K to 14th Grade model. The City joins the U.S. Conference of Mayors and National League of Cities in calling on Congress to provide robust funding for education from childhood early learning programs to programs that help students to obtain a post-secondary degree.

Transportation and Infrastructure:

- The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has consistently graded our country's infrastructure as failing, issuing a D+ in 2017. Tacoma citizens have approved initiatives to invest in local streets and transit, but the magnitude of some projects such as replacement of the 100-year old Tacoma Trestle or the almost 90-year old Puyallup River Bridge cannot be achieved through local funds alone. TIGER has been the only source with the capacity to fund some key transportation projects in Tacoma. The City of Tacoma joins the U.S. Conference of Mayors in urging Congress and the Administration to fund the TIGER program at or above FY2017 appropriated levels.
- Broadband is the essential foundation for our digital economy, taking its place alongside other municipal utilities such as water, sewer and power. Access to high-speed broadband service in every community is essential to our ability to provide quality education, create more jobs, and increase small business growth. Local communities must have the option to own and operate public broadband networks. Local governments are central players in ensuring broadband connection to homes and businesses is achieved. Local governments must maintain their local authority to manage their rights-of-way to ensure the siting of cell towers and small cells is safe and appropriate. The City of Tacoma joins the National League of Cities and U.S. Conference of Mayors in calling on the Federal Communications Commission and Congress to preserve local government authority to manage their rights-of-way and determine where wireless infrastructure is sited.

**City of Tacoma 2017
City Council Forecast Schedule**

Date	Meeting	Subject	Department	Background
November 28, 2017	Study Session (TMBN 16, Noon)	State and Federal Legislative Agendas	GRO	Government Relations Office staff will share the proposed 2018 state and federal legislative agendas for Council's review and input prior to the resolution to adopt.
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)	Public Hearing - Mid-Biennial Budget Modifications & Ordinance First Reading	OMB	

**City of Tacoma 2017
City Council Forecast Schedule**

Date	Meeting	Subject	Department	Background
December 4, 2017	Special Joint Port Study Session (TMBN 16, 9:00 AM)	Tideflats Subarea Plan Interlocal Agreement		The City Council and the Tacoma Port Commissioners will be discussing the draft Interlocal Agreement for the Tideflats Subarea Plan. The Puyallup Tribe and Pierce County have been invited to participate in the Special Study Session.
December 5, 2017	Study Session (TMBN 16, Noon)	Federal Transit Administration Ladders of Opportunity Grant – Final Findings & Recommendations	PDS & CED (with Smart Growth American Representatives)	The City was awarded a grant from the FTA to study and identify transit-oriented economic and housing opportunities in the Hilltop neighborhood. The technical assistance team from Enterprise Community Partners and Smart Growth America will present their findings and recommendations for how the City, local partners, and Hilltop residents can stabilize the neighborhood, including ways to preserve affordable housing, incentivize new development, and capitalize on opportunities for small-scale infill development.
		Environmental Action Plan and Biogas Project	ESD-OEPS	Update on the Environmental Action Plan First Annual Progress Report, to include briefing on the City's climate goals.
		Tacoma Police Department Hiring Process Update	Police	Briefing on the Police Department's efforts to improve their recruiting and hiring process
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)	Mid-Biennial Budget Modifications Ord. Final Reading Billboard Sign Code Amendments Ord. First Reading	OMB CAO	
December 12, 2017	Joint Utility Board Study Session (TMBN 16, Noon)	Quarterly Joint Meeting	TPU	
		Joint Executive Session - Pending Litigation	CAO	
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)	Billboard Sign Code Amendments Ord. Final Reading	CAO	
December 19, 2017	Study Session (TMBN 16, Noon)			
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)			
December 26, 2017	CANCELLED			

Community Vitality and Safety				
Committee Members: Blocker (Chair), Campbell, Lonergan, Walker Lee, Alternate-Mello Executive Liaison: Linda Stewart; Staff Support - Will Suarez		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
November 29, 2017	Creation of a Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs	Marty Campbel, Council Member		Special committeee meeting to discuss in more detail the commission on Immigrant and Refugee affairs.
Future:				
December 14, 2017	Citizen Police Advisory Committee Interviews	Clerks Office		
December 28, 2017				

Economic Development Committee			
Committee Members: Campbell (Chair), Mello, Strickland, Thoms, Alternate-McCarthy Executive Liaison: Tadd Wille; Staff Support - Lynda Foster		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
November 28, 2017	Adaptive Reuse of the Old Post Office - Past, Present and Future Plans	Gloria Fletcher, Business Development Manager, community and Economic Development	The developers of Courthouse Square building, which was formerly the Old Post Office Building on 11th and A Street, will be presenting the story of this adaptive reuse project. It will include a history of the building, and it's current use as restaurant, office, and event space.
	SBE/LEAP Proposed Code Changes	Keith Armstrong, SBE & LEAP Supervisor, Community and Economic Development and Carrie Lynn, Contract & Program Auditor in Community Economic Development	CEDD staff will present proposed code changes to streamline the LEAP code: Increase SBE preference from 5% to 10%; add 5% preference for SBEs on Small Works Roster; delete community empowerment zone and adjustments provisions; add 15% apprenticeship goal; add 15% priority hire goal; and add vendor performance evaluation report for all contracts.
Future:			
December 12, 2017	NBD Program Activity Update [Informational Briefing]	Shari Hart, Program Development Specialist, Community and Economic Development	Bi-annual status report on the Neighborhood Business Districts element of the "Economic Development Strategic Framework Plan"; including retail activities, physical improvements, and adaptive reuse and infill development.
	Foss Waterway Development Authority Interviews	Doris Sorum, City Clerk	
December 26, 2017	CANCELLED		

Government Performance and Finance Committee			
Committee Members: Loneragan (Chair), Campbell, Ibsen, Walker Lee, Alternate-Strickland Executive Liaison: Andy Cherullo; Staff Support - Chris Bell		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
November 29, 2017	CANCELLED		
Future:			
December 6, 2017	Joint Audit Advisory Board		
December 20, 2017			

Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee			
Committee Members: Mello (Chair), Ibsen, McCarthy, Thoms, Alternate-Blocker Executive Liaison: Kurtis Kingsolver; 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
December 13, 2017	Landmarks Preservation Commission Interviews	<i>Doris Sorum, City Clerk</i>	
	Revolving Loan for Historic Buildings Pilot Program [Informational Briefing]	<i>Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer, PDS</i>	On May 24, 2017, staff will provide a briefing on the Historic Preservation Rehabilitation and Repair Loan. This low-interest loan was created in 2014 to provide gap financing for commercial projects that involve City Landmarks, and may be used for envelope and systems improvements, tenant improvements, and restoration of historic elements, in amounts ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000.
Future:			
December 27, 2017	CANCELLED		