



WEEKLY REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

January 25, 2018

Members of the City Council
City of Tacoma, Washington

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. Planning and Development Services Director Peter Huffman is pleased to report that the City of Tacoma is a recipient of the **2017 Healthy Communities Gold Award for our planning efforts on the Tacoma Mall Neighborhood Subarea Plan**. The Healthy Communities Award, sponsored by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, recognizes local jurisdictions that employ sincere intent and committed steps to promote healthy communities and improve health equity. The award ceremony will take place at the Pierce County Regional Council General Assembly on February 15, 2018. City staff and the Planning Commission have been working on the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan since July 2015. The draft plan, as recommended by the Commission, is currently under review by the City Council's Infrastructure, Planning & Sustainability Committee, with City Council consideration slated for spring of 2018.
2. **T-Town: Play, Explore, Learn City Services Expo on Saturday, March 24th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, at the Tacoma Dome. This is a free, fun, interactive community event featuring demonstrations and activities for the entire family. Parking is also free.

This event is a great opportunity to bring your neighborhood to work and raise their awareness about the many services we deliver here at the City of Tacoma, while also gathering their ideas and feedback about how we should utilize our resources. Check out cityoftacoma.org/playexplorelearn for the latest updates.

3. **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 January 22, 2018.

STUDY SESSION/WORK SESSION

4. The **City Council Study Session** of Tuesday, January 30, 2018, will be held in Room 16 of the Tacoma Municipal Building North, at Noon. Discussion items will include: (1) **Legislative Session Updates**; (2) **Other Items of Interest**; (3) **Committee Reports**; (4) **Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report**; (5) **Closed Session – Labor Negotiations**; and (6) **Executive Session – Potential Litigation**.

At Tuesday's Study Session, **Government Relations Officer Randy Lewis will provide the City Council an update on the Washington State Legislative Session.**

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

COUNCIL REQUESTS/INQUIRIES

6. Public Works Director Kurtis Kingsolver provides the attached memorandum in response to Council Member Beale's **inquiry about the history of the Rail Crossing Improvement Project and what the Project's scope will include.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

7. You have been invited to the following events:
 - **Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber's West Side Wake Up! Conversation with Congressman Derek Kilmer on Friday, January 26th, 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.,** at the Salvation Army, located at 1110 South Puget Sound Avenue.
 - **Grand Opening of the New Environmental Learning Center and Point Defiance Park Celebration on Saturday, January 27th,** at 5715 North Animal Loop Road. Learning Center Open House is from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Zoo hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - **2018 Pierce County Opioid Summit on Friday, February 2nd, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,** at the University of Washington Tacoma, William W. Philip Hall, located at 1918 Pacific Avenue.
 - **Welcoming Reception for the Tacoma Library Director Kate Larsen on Tuesday, January 30th, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.,** in the Olympic Room at the Main Library, located at 1102 Tacoma Avenue South.
 - **MultiCare's Winter 2018 Community Leaders Luncheon on Monday, February 5th, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,** at the MultiCare Tacoma General Hospital, Jackson Hall Medical Center, located at 314 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.
 - **Asia Pacific Cultural Center 20th Annual New Year Celebration,** featuring the beautiful country and culture of Korea, **on Saturday, February 10th, 11:00 a.m.,** at the Tacoma Dome, located at 2727 East D Street.

- **World Trade Center Celebrates Trade Excellence with the Globe Awards on Monday, February 12th, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**, at the Foss Waterway Seaport, located at 705 Dock Street.
- **2018 Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year Celebration on Thursday, February 22nd, 6:30 p.m.**, at the Hotel Murano-Bicentennial Pavilion, located at 1320 Broadway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "EAP", followed by a stylized flourish that resembles the word "Pauli".

Elizabeth A. Pauli
City Manager

EAP:crh
Attachments

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT

Week of January 22, 2018

Affordable Housing Action Strategy Update:

The Housing Division has convened an internal task force to develop an affordable housing action strategy. The intent of this strategy is to identify actionable and quantifiable steps the City can take to preserve and increase the supply of affordable housing. In addition to Housing Division staff, staff from the City Manager's Office, Planning and Development Services, Neighborhood and Community Services, Office of Equity and Human Rights, and Government Relations Office participate on the task force. A Request for Proposals has been issued to identify a consultant that can assist the task force in developing the action strategy for future consideration by the City Council. Proposals are due on February 2, 2018, with the selection of consultant expected by February 9, 2018.

Horizons Economic Forecast 2018

On January 24th, the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber presented its annual Economic Forecast.

Dr. Bruce McCain, Key Private Bank, spoke about the national economy and predicted continued growth. He included highlights that hold implications for apprenticeship and workforce programs:

- As baby boomers retire, filling out the labor force is key to a strong economy. There is an experience gap making replacing labor a challenge.
- In some cases, technology and automation can substitute for people to address the shortage.
- The existing labor force needs to become more productive if labor force growth cannot keep up.

Dr. Neal Johnson, Sound Resources Economics, provided the outlook for Pierce County. Among highlights of his report, he noted:

- Economic growth for the county is expected to continue through 2018.
- Non-farm employers have added 8,000 – 10,000 jobs per year from 2014 – 2017 and another 9,500 jobs are anticipated to be added in 2018.
- Personal income grew by 3.6-percent in 2017, with an estimated increase of 3.2-percent projected for 2018.
- Closed sales on housing increased by 9.8-percent in 2017, relative to 2016.
- The county's affordable housing index remained stable during 2017, largely due to low mortgage rates compensating for increased home prices.
- Rental rates for apartments rose 7.4-percent. Population growth exceeded building permits for new housing units, a trend that expected to continue in 2018.
- The commercial and industrial sectors remained strong, however the office sector was "lackluster". Commercial rental rates increased 16-percent from 2016, while office rental rates increased 2.2-percent.

- Retail sales continue to increase, with a 6.1-percent increase projected for 2018. The strongest sector was drug and convenience stores.
- The Northwest Seaport Alliance faces stiff competition from other west coast ports. Container traffic for year-end 2017 was projected to be 13.6-percent share as opposed to 14.2-percent in 2016.
- Projected continued economic growth through at least 2020.

**City of Tacoma 2018
City Council Forecast Schedule**

Date+1:151	Meeting	Subject	Department	Background
January 30, 2018	City Council Study Session (TMBN 16, Noon)	Legislative Session Updates	GRO	Government Relations Officer Randy Lewis will provide the City Council will updates from the 2018 Washington State Legislative Session.
		Closed Session - Labor Negotiations Executive Session - Potential Litigation	CAO CAO	
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)			

**City of Tacoma 2018
City Council Forecast Schedule**

Date+1:151	Meeting	Subject	Department	Background
February 6, 2018	City Council Study Session (TMBN 16, Noon)	Proposed Recommendations for Correctional and Detention Facilities Permanent Regulations	PDS	Presentation on the proposed Correctional and Detention Facilities Permanent Regulations recommended by the Planning Commission.
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)	Public Hearing on Proposed Recommendations for Correctional and Detention Facilities Permanent Regulations	PDS	
February 13, 2018	City Council Study Session (TMBN 16, Noon)	Community Survey Results	OMB	Staff will share the analysis of the Community Survey results on major services, quality of life and other community issues conducted in January.
		Proposed Recommendations for Correctional and Detention Facilities Permanent Regulations		Follow up discussion on the proposed Correctional and Detention Facility Permanent Regulations after receiving public comment at the 2/6/18 Public Hearing.
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)	Proposed Correctional and Detention Facilities Permanent Regulations Ordinance First Reading		
February 20, 2018	City Council Study Session (TMBN 16, Noon)	Legislative Session Updates	GRO	Government Relations Officer Randy Lewis will provide the City Council will updates from the 2018 Washington State Legislative Session.
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)	Proposed Correctional and Detention Facilities Permanent Regulations Ordinance Final Reading		
February 27, 2018	City Council Study Session (TMBN 16, Noon)	Tacoma Anchor Institutions Initiative Briefing	CED/CMO	Briefing on the anchor institutions mission work and the Democracy Collaborative's key findings/recommendations from their study with Tacoma's anchor institutions. They will connect community wealth building and anchor collaboration to existing goals within Tacoma 2025 strategic plan.
		Project PEACE Update and 2018 Plan	Police/OEHR	Council Member Blocker requested an update on Project PEACE and what the next steps will be for 2018.
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)			

Community Vitality and Safety				
Committee Members: Blocker (Chair), Beale, Thoms, Ushka, Alternate-McCarthy 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
January 25, 2018	CANCELLED			
Future:				
February 8, 2018	Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair			
	Community Vitality and Safety Committee 2017 Year End Report [informational briefing]	Will Suarez, Management Fellow, City Manager's Office	2017 Annual Report, including key accomplishments, informational briefings, and requests for action.	
February 22, 2018	Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Board, Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, and Human Rights Commission Interviews [appointment]	Clerk's Office	TCRA has 3 vacancies, Human Rights Commission has 2 vacancies, and Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs has 11 vacancies	
	Human Services Commission Report [informational briefing]	Jovan Dumas, Chair, Human Services Commission	Report on the accomplishments of the Human Services Commission and future work.	

Economic Development Committee			
Committee Members: Thoms (Chair), McCarthy, Ushka, Woodards, Alternate-Beale		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: Tadd Wille; Staff Support - Lynda Foster			
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	
January 30, 2018	EDC 2017 Year-End report [informational briefing]	<i>Tadd Wille, Executive Liaison to EDC</i>	
	NBD Program Activity #2 of 2 [Informational briefing]	<i>Shari Hart, Program Development Specialist, CEDD - Neighborhood Business District Revitalization</i>	Staff will provide a 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
	LEAP intro [informational briefing]	<i>Keith Armstrong, Community & Economic Development Supervisor, CEDD - Housing Division</i>	Staff will provide an introduction to LEAP, a program that allows apprentices and local labor to participate on city projects by placing a 15% labor hours goal on large projects.
Future:			
February 13, 2018	Annual BIA Update [informational briefing]	<i>Debbie Bingham, Program Development Specialist, CEDD - Neighborhood Business District Revitalization</i>	Staff will present an overview of the BIA, its history, purpose, and services and walk through the ten year renewal process. the process was initiated in late 2017 by the City receiving a petition from the BIA Board of Directors signed by a majority of the property owners within the BIA boundaries.
	LEAP proposed changes [request for action]	<i>Keith Armstrong, Community & Economic Development Supervisor, CEDD - Housing Division</i>	Staff will present a request for action on LEAP code changes to update code to be consistant with state and federal laws.
	SBE Intro [informational briefing]	<i>Keith Armstrong, Community & Economic Development Supervisor, CEDD - Housing Division</i>	Staff will provide an introduciton to the SBE program.
February 27, 2018	Farmers Markets Annual Report	<i>Shari Hart</i>	
	Downtown to Defiance Trolley, MetroParks Update on Pt. Defiance Zoo	<i>Pat Beard</i>	

Government Performance and Finance Committee				
Committee Members: Ibsen (Chair), Blocker, Hunter, Mello, Alternate-Thoms 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	
January 31, 2018	Fixed Charge Proration [request for action]	Sean Senescall, Manager of Tacoma Water Finance & Analytics.	A request to amend Tacoma Municipal Code to allow for the proration of certain Tacoma Power and Tacoma Water fixed charges	
Future:				
February 7, 2018				
February 21, 2018				

<i>Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee</i>				
Committee Members: Mello (Chair), Beale, Ibsen, McCarthy, Alternate-Hunter		2nd and 4th Wednesdays	CBC Assignments: •Sustainable Tacoma Commission •Planning	
Executive Liaison: Kurtis Kingsolver; Staff Support - Rebecca Boydston		4:30 p.m.	Commission •Landmarks Preservation Commission •Board of Building	
		Room 16	Appeals •Transportation Commission	
February 14, 2018	Tacoma Planning Commission Interviews [appointment]	<i>Doris Sorum, City Clerk</i>	2 vacancies	
	Cellular Attachment to City Poles in the Right of Way [informational briefing]	<i>Jana Magoon, Planner, PDS</i>		
	Code and Process Improvements	<i>Jana Magoon, Planner, PDS</i>		
Future:				
February 28, 2018	Sound Transit ST3 Update	<i>Brian Boudet, PDS</i>	Brian will confirm with Sound Transit	
	Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan [informational briefing]	<i>Elliott Barnett, PDS</i>	update on the Tacoma Mall subarea plan	
	2018 Amended and 2019-2024 Transportation Improvement Program	<i>Diane Sheesley, Engineer, PW</i>		
March 14, 2018				



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer / *KDK*
CC: Tadd Wille, Assistant City Manager
SUBJECT: Rail Crossing Improvement Project
DATE: January 24, 2018

The Public Works Department is providing information at the request of Council Member Beale regarding the history of the Rail Crossing Improvement Project.

The Rail Crossing Improvement Project involves reviewing existing conditions at five rail crossings:

- East C and East D Streets in the Dome District
- Titlow Beach & 6th Avenue and South 19th & Narrows Marina in the West End
- McCarver Street at Ruston Way in Old Town

The project scope includes soliciting feedback from the public regarding the crossings, evaluating the concerns raised and developing alternatives, where appropriate. To facilitate this, there are two rounds of public outreach planned. This first round is to collect feedback on existing conditions and the second outreach meeting is designed to review the alternatives the team develops in response to public comments, based on an expert review of rail crossing conditions. The final report will summarize the outreach and alternatives and provide rough order-of-magnitude for capital improvements and maintenance costs. Typical alternatives may include implementation of a quiet zone, wayside horns, new/relocated vehicular/pedestrian gate arms, realignment of walks, signage, grade separations and signal timing improvements.

The concept for the original rail crossing study began after receiving multiple requests from the Dome District for a quiet zone at both the East C and East D Street crossings. Public Works hired a consultant to look at the process for creating a railroad crossing quiet zone. A report was generated in 2013. The scope of the project was then expanded to include the McCarver crossing, the Titlow crossing and the 19th Street crossing. The rail crossings at South 56th Street and South 74th Street were not included in the scope of the current project, as those crossings went through a safety analysis process and public review meetings during the planning and design of the Point Defiance Bypass Project managed by the Washington State Department of Transportation for the new Amtrak route.