



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Mayor Victoria Woodards
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution Naming the 34th Street Bridge “Harold G. Moss Bridge” – October 1, 2019
DATE: September 13, 2019

SUMMARY:

Resolution to name the 34th Street Bridge, spanning SR7 between East B Street and East D Street, as the “Harold G. Moss Bridge” so that the lights on that bridge may stand as a shining monument to the numerous ways that Tacoma is brighter today due to the leadership and countless contributions of Mayor Emeritus Moss, and that others may be inspired to lives of service and civic engagement.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Woodards and Council Members Blocker and Ushka

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

The naming of the 34th Street Bridge after Harold G. Moss best aligns with the following City Council strategic policy priorities:

- Encourage thriving residents with abundant opportunities for life-long learning.
- Cultivate a vibrant cultural sector that fosters a creative, cohesive community.
- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, the City Council adopted an Equity and Empowerment framework which made equity a guiding principal across the organization and committed the City to changing practices which created or sustained inequities. On August 20, 2019, the City Council approved Resolution No. 40408 amending the City’s policy on place names and name changes. One of the primary recommendations for updating this policy was to align it with guiding City principals and include the concepts of equity, diversity, and inclusion when considering place names and name changes throughout the City. The policy amendment also provided the Mayor and City Council with the authority to make naming proposals.

Mayor Emeritus Harold G. Moss became the first African American member of the Tacoma City Council when he was first appointed to the Tacoma City Council on October 6, 1970. He was subsequently elected to a four-year terms in 1971, 1987, and 1991. Overall, he served more than a decade as a dedicated member of Tacoma’s City Council. On January 25, 1994, Harold G. Moss was appointed Mayor of the City of Tacoma, becoming the first African American Mayor to ever hold that office.

In his many years of tenure with the City of Tacoma, he served in a broad range of leadership roles, including the Association of Washington Cities Executive Board; the Law Enforcement Support Agency Board; the National League of Cities; the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners; the Public Safety Committee; the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health; the SR509 Executive Committee; the Puyallup Indian Settlement Implementation Assistance Committee; the Tacoma-Pierce County Commission on Children, Youth, and their Families; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Mayor Emeritus Moss also made history in his lifetime of service by being the first African American member of the Pierce County Council.



In addition to the projects and legislation that he carried out in his elected leadership roles, Mayor Emeritus Moss made countless contributions to the community including helping to found the Tacoma Urban League and securing key funding for its Urban Services Center. He was also a founding member of the Black Collective, and his life of dedication to civic engagement through volunteer service has long reflected the key mission of that organization. In all of his roles, he provided mentorship and support to a number of developing leaders across the region, and he continues to engage and inspire a living legacy of those dedicated to public service, civic engagement, and volunteering.

When asked about his many accomplishments as a City government leader, Mayor Emeritus Moss reflected that he was most proud of his role in lighting the 34th Street Bridge.

In congruence with the City’s naming policy, as well as the Equity and Empowerment framework, I am proposing that the 34th Street Bridge, spanning SR7 between East B Street and East D Street (Structure ID Number 08512700), be named the “Harold G. Moss Bridge,” so that the lights on that bridge may stand as a shining monument to the numerous ways that Tacoma is brighter today due to the leadership and countless contributions of Mayor Emeritus Moss, and that others may be inspired to lives of service and civic engagement.

ISSUE:

We are requesting consideration by the City Council confirming this bridge name on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, the date of Mayor Emeritus Moss’s 90th birthday, to be effective immediately upon passage.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could chose to modify or reject this resolution.

RECOMMENDATION:

In congruence with the City’s naming policy, as well as the Equity and Empowerment framework, we are recommending that the 34th Street Bridge, spanning SR7 between East B Street and East D Street (Structure ID Number 08512700), be named the “Harold G. Moss Bridge,” so that the lights on that bridge may stand as a shining monument to the numerous ways that Tacoma is brighter today due to the leadership and countless contributions of Mayor Emeritus Moss, and that others may be inspired to lives of service and civic engagement.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact in naming the 34th Street Bridge after Harold G. Moss.