

BNSF Access Study Project



July 2015

Project Overview

The City of Tukwila is partnering with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) to study alternative access routes to BNSF's intermodal yard in Allentown.

- Trucks currently access the facility via 42nd Avenue S and S 124th Street through the Allentown neighborhood.
- The City is building upon previous studies by examining the feasibility of the previously-identified routes, evaluating them given current conditions and broad screening criteria.
- This study is essential in helping the City seek future funding for design and construction from State and Federal sources.

BNSF Facility Background

The BNSF facility in Tukwila became fully operational in 1970. The intermodal facility manages containerized cargo transferred from truck to rail or from rail to truck. Handling mostly domestic cargo destined for distribution centers or stores in the Puget Sound region, this facility, in connection with BNSF's nationwide rail network, helps support the region's economic trade vitality.

Current Status

Previous studies have examined four alternative access routes in addition to a "no-action alternative" (maintaining the existing route). By partnering with BNSF, the City is building on these past studies and is now focusing on the financial and technical feasibility of the alternatives. The exploration of these alternatives is still in the early stages. The City will ensure its findings and any actions are communicated clearly to the community.

Have questions or Interested in learning more?

Sign up to receive project updates by emailing the project at AccessStudy@Tukwilawa.gov. The City will ensure that the community is updated on project progress, evaluation of alternatives, and any decisions placed before the City Council.

Contact Information

Email address: AccessStudy@Tukwilawa.gov

Phone number: (206) 431-2446



Project Schedule

The evaluation of the various alternative access routes is expected to be complete by the end of 2015.

SUMMER 2015

- Engage and inform the public
- Develop a selection criteria for access study alternatives
- Brief the City Council and public on process progress

FALL 2015

- Finalize draft access study report
- Present draft report to and receive input from the City Council

EARLY 2016

- City Council to approve resolution choosing preferred alternative

MOVING FORWARD

- Depending on the recommendations of the alternative access study, further project phases may include:
 - ♦ Environmental studies
 - ♦ Identify funding sources
 - ♦ Design
 - ♦ Construction



Tukwila BNSF Intermodal Facility Access Alternatives



S 124th St

This is the current route most trucks and vehicles use to access the facility. This will be considered the no-build or baseline alternative.

Gateway Drive – North Leg

This proposal would connect with the existing gate through the north leg of Gateway Drive, a new roadway between the Boeing Employee Credit Union and ITT Technical Institute building, and a new bridge over the Duwamish River.

48th Avenue S

This alternative accesses the facility at the south end via the existing 48th Avenue S roadway and a new bridge over the Green River Trail and Duwamish River.

S 112th Street

This alternative accesses the facility at the northern half via a new roadway along the existing Seattle Public Utility and Seattle City Lights utilities corridor.

Airport Way S

This alternative accesses the facility at the north end via an existing railroad access road that goes under Boeing Access Road and Sound Transit Link Light rail line.