

January 25, 2022 Allentown Community Meeting Q&A Responses

Question	Answer
Can the City record the Allentown meeting to help share timely/relevant information with the community?	<p>For 2022, the city implemented a new policy regarding Teams recordings due to the significant public records and data storage impacts discovered over the last couple of years of Teams use. The written policy is intended to be applied fairly across all types of meetings, including community meetings. The policy was developed in consultation with the City Attorney, City Clerk, and Chief Technology Officer, and prohibits using the recording feature in Teams (except for City Council meetings), instead encouraging the use of written summaries that are key word searchable.</p> <p>All records associated with public business are subject to the State’s Public Records Act, which has strict requirements around retention and disclosure, and with associated staffing and budget impacts. Teams recordings create a new record which then requires the need to search, review and disclose upon request. Teams recordings are not keyword searchable like other types of meeting records, so this presents a challenge. In addition, our technology team shared that the Teams recordings themselves are very large files that were causing a strain on our electronic storage capacity. Due to the nature of the Public Records Act, once records are created, they cannot be deleted until the appropriate retention period has been met.</p> <p>For the Allentown community meetings, written summaries are provided to community members for input to ensure all are in agreement with what is recorded.</p>
How do we bring BNSF to the table?	The City is actively engaging with BNSF and sharing concerns regarding the truck traffic through Allentown. Our goal is to find a solution that will be beneficial for all parties.
Can we request weight receipts from BNSF?	City sent letter to BNSF week of February 1, 2022 to request this information.
What is the sufficiency rating of the 129th Street Bridge?	The sufficiency rating is 4.56, according to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) 2021 inspection report.
Is the council presented with the options at a council meeting or privately?	Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act (chapter 42.30 RCW), Council is provided information for their awareness and discussion in both open public meetings (Council committees (TIS, CSS, etc.), regular business and Committee of the Whole meetings), as well as in executive session consistent with RCW 42.30.110. The Open Public Meetings Act requires that decisions of the Council be made in meetings open to the public. The decision regarding when and how to safely re-open the 42nd Ave S bridge will be made by City Administration based on the advice and recommendations of expert bridge engineers.
Does Council vote on the three re-opening options for the 42nd Ave S Bridge?	No

Does the Council decide or does the City Manager and Public Works Director decide on the reopening options for the 42 nd Ave S Bridge?	The final decision rests with the Mayor who relies on the advice and recommendation of the Public Works Director and a team of consultants that includes expert bridge engineers.
What are the final reopening options for the 42 nd Ave S Bridge?	The final option will be determined from a thorough review of the bridge's safety based on factual engineering data and what is the ability of the repaired bridge to be reopened safely or not. Options to be considered are the three previously mentioned, including: keep it closed, two-way or one way. Based on engineering data, it will be determined what additional weight restrictions, if any, would be required if opening is an option.
Multiple times you have stated that the reasons for these monthly meetings with the residents you serve is to NOT display a lack of transparency. When you don't answer these simple questions at the time asked it does not relay a feeling of trust. We await the answers to our questions before the decision is made and finalized.	As the questions are new, we do not always have an answer on the spot, but as I promised and as seen in this reply, we would get back with a complete answer. We will also include these answers in the ongoing notes and follow-up during our upcoming February monthly meeting.
Will you please let us know by email what the final weight restrictions and rating of the bridge are after repair when you receive them.	Yes, we anticipate receiving this information in the next three weeks.