

ALLENTOWN COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

April 26, 2022 at 5:30pm

Tukwila Community Center

MINUTES

Welcome and introduction from David Cline, City Administrator

- David Cline introduced Tukwila City Council Members, Thomas McLeod and Kate Kruller. He also introduced Representative Hackney and King County Council Member Girmay Zahilay.
- Hari Ponnekanti, Public Works Director reviewed meeting agenda, as well as the Shared Goals and Guiding Principles

42nd Ave S Bridge: Updates on Bridge Reopening Updates

- On April 4, 2022, the 42nd Ave S Bridge opened to southbound traffic.
- The City received multiple comments about wrong way drivers the day of the reopening. A City staff person from Public Works went out and monitored the bridge traffic.
- On April 5th, the City added three types of barricades and called the police to begin issuing tickets.
- On April 26th, another message was received about wrong way drivers.
- On April 26th, a detour sign was removed, and a 'Do Not Enter' sign was added to try to deter wrong way drivers. The City is continuing to monitor complaints.
- The meeting attendees provided suggestions for signage to help with the flow of one-way traffic. Suggestions included signage with the fine amount for drivers traveling in the wrong direction, as well as signage on S 124th Street to let drivers know they can exit Allentown via the bridge Southbound.
- It was also suggested that the 'No Trucks' sign along 115th street be made larger or moved so that trucks can see it better.
- Allentown residents aren't sure if drivers understand that the 42nd Ave S bridge is open to one-way southbound traffic. The City will look at ways to better distribute that message.

Truck Reroute EIS Updates

- Mark Hafs provided an overview of what a Request for Proposals (RFP) is and why it will be an important part of the Allentown Truck Reroute Environmental Impact Study (EIS) process. More detailed information can be found in the attached PowerPoint slides.
- An RFP is an informational document for consultants interested in working on a project. It describes basic information such as what the project is, where it is located, existing land uses, why the project is needed, etc. For instance, it will let consultants know that the project will consider options for rerouting truck traffic out of Allentown, and that the EIS must adhere to State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) regulations and standards.
- It will also outline the required applicant proposal format, deadline, and a maximum page number.
- As part of the RFP process, consultants will need to have recent (within 5 years) past experiences that are relevant to the project.
- The consultants will also need to highlight their qualifications, including the experience of key staff, and show how they plan to address key concerns and implement the project.
- City staff have drafted the RFP for the Truck Reroute EIS, and meeting attendees were invited to provide input on how the RFP's focus should reflect Allentown's concerns. In response, Allentown residents gave input on the following concerns:

- Recent incidents of near misses of pedestrians who were nearly struck by heavy trucks – including an Allentown advocate on their way to the Community Center – underscore the dangers of heavy truck traffic to pedestrians in Allentown.
- Efforts to reach out to the Allentown community as part of the EIS’s public outreach will need to consider that about 40% of Allentown’s residents come from around another country. Effective public outreach must include communication that considers and includes multiple languages and cultural practices.
- From one Allentown resident: The benefits and shortcomings of the five truck reroute alternative that have been studied so far were summarized, with the conclusion that the Airport Way alternative provides the best opportunities for successful rerouting of heavy truck traffic.
- Heavy truck traffic on the 1289th St Bridge – particularly heading downhill into Allentown – results in noise, vibration, and conflicts with people on foot or bicycle - that make for unsafe conditions and affect the quality of life for Allentown residents.

This information (including written and graphic input) will be included in the project background information that the City provides to the EIS consultant team.

Other Items:

- The safety of the S 129th Street bridge and emergency exit routes out of Allentown were also raised as concerns by attendees.
- In the past three or four months, there have been multiple situations that have affected traffic flow and emergency response, including the closure of the 42nd Ave S Bridge, downed power poles, a snowstorm, etc. Residents want to reiterate the need for a proactive (vs. reactive) emergency plan.
- After presentations there was an opportunity for breakout discussions, which focused on Neighborhood Traffic Calming and the Truck Reroute EIS.
- Senator Hackney was thanked for his support of the 42nd Ave S bridge replacement and helping to pass \$17 million through the Washington State Transportation Package for this project.

Questions & Answers

1. Q: When will work begin?

- **A:** Mark Hafs mentioned that hiring a consultant for EIS work would take about six weeks. He has asked that the meeting minutes include the following clarification: Once the RFP is advertised, we expect selection of the consultant will take about six weeks. After the best-qualified consultant is selected, the City will negotiate the terms of a contract with them. We will then submit the consultant and contract terms to the City Council for approval and finalize the contract. We estimate that the consultant will begin work on the EIS at the beginning of the 3rd quarter of 2022.

2. Q: Are we expecting consultant interest?

- **A:** Yes, we anticipate that consultants will be interested in this project and that we will get a good response from the RFP.

3. Q: I assumed the EIS had a specific recipe, but it sounds like the consultants get to envision the project versus having straight forward EIS requirements. Is that accurate?

- **A:** Both the National Environmental Planning Act and State Environmental Planning Act will require a project-specific approach to the truck reroute EIS, one that will consider the unique conditions and population of Allentown and its surroundings, and will also include studies of the

potential effects of proposed alternatives – both adverse and beneficial – that are specific to the project area.

4. Q: Will the five alternatives identified in the most recent BNSF study be the alternatives that the consultant looks at?

- **A:** It is likely that the five options identified in the 2016 BNSF study will be analyzed as part of the EIS, although they would be revised to include updated and more detailed information about existing conditions, design assumptions, and understanding of the potential effects of the alternatives. Other alternatives could be examined as well if they are feasible and achieve project goals.

5. Q: Could the consultant conclude that none of the reroute alternatives are feasible?

- **A:** It is possible.

Next Meeting: May 24, 2022 at 5:30pm