

# ALLENTOWN COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

May 24, 2022 at 5:30pm  
Tukwila Community Center

## MINUTES

### Truck Reroute EIS Updates

- The EIS process will start with a pre-submittal meeting on June 6, which is when we expect to hear back from consultants. We have already heard back from 2 consultants, which is a little unusual. We will also allow consultants a few days to ask questions.
- The EIS proposals will be due on June 13<sup>th</sup>. The City will review proposals for about a week and shortlist the consultants, do interviews in June, and finally, select a consultant. It takes 6 weeks for staff to select the consultant/contract, then it can take an additional 3-4 weeks to go through Council for their approval. Then we go through a signature process, which can take another few weeks.
- Kelle gave a review of the BSNF alt access study history and how none of the alternatives selected in the study went through an EIS previously.
- Mark is leading the effort to hire a team of consultants to prepare the EIS. Once the consultant is hired, he will manage the consultant's work and make sure the work complies with NEPA/SEPA. It will take 18-24 months to complete the EIS.
- The EIS will require experts from a variety of different fields, including planners, engineers, and ecologists, who will study how the proposed alternatives might affect Allentown, including streams, parks, roads, air, and people who live and work there. Some of the experts on the consultant team will be subconsultants working under the primary consultant selected to do the EIS.
- The process will invite input from multiple stakeholders, including business owners, residents, tribes, river keeper organizations, national resources groups. It is an expansive group of whoever wants to be involved.
- The EIS will take 18-24 months to complete. However, 18 months of work won't happen evenly. There will be some busy months where work is happening, and some months where we are waiting for responses and reports.
- Up to this point, the Allentown community meetings have used a presentation model to share information about the EIS process. The City would like to have a more collaborative meeting style to have discussions and receive feedback from the community. If you have ideas about how to structure a meeting that would be useful to the project, please let Mark know.
- The NEPA citizen's guide is now available on the Allentown project website ([tukwilawa.gov/Allentown](http://tukwilawa.gov/Allentown)). These documents will provide a background of the EIS process and elements. Mark reached out to see if the guide was available in multiple languages, but it is available only in English and Spanish.

### Question & Answer

- Does any major project require an EIS? Some projects don't require an EIS, but they still need to go through a regulatory process that documents that they won't cause serious impacts.
- Will the EIS determine the best route? That is the goal.
- Will BNSF be the final decision maker on the route? Like other stakeholders, BNSF will be invited to provide input into the project but will not be part of decision-making.

- For the BNSF intermodal yard, is there a NEPA/SEPA on file for that site? It was built in 1969, which would have been right before SEPA/NEPA, so the answer is no. Railroads are also under national railroad act, meaning that for the most part they are subject to oversight at the federal level, but not state or local levels.

### **Updates on Traffic Calming**

- The City has identified two traffic calming projects that will be implemented in Allentown this year, which will be installing two Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) along S 124<sup>th</sup> street; one at 44<sup>th</sup> Ave S and another at 46<sup>th</sup> Ave S.
- The RRFB installation is going out to bid this week. The City has the materials secured already and the project is on track to be complete by end of October.

### **Questions & Answers**

- Has work on the Allentown traffic calming progressed? Unfortunately, the City's traffic calming project manager was recently in a car accident and has needed to limit work. However, KPG (the City's consultant for the project) has continued its work. We expect work on the traffic calming will take a few more months.
- Meeting attendees suggested that 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S and S 51st have traffic cushions installed.
- Concerns were raised over drivers speeding and passing on 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave S. It has happened multiple times to many of the residents.
- It was shared that there will be an increase of children crossing the S 119<sup>th</sup> Street pedestrian bridge to go to the park once school is out. There are safety concerns about them crossing 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave S due to the speeding and passing issues.
- It was shared that a Semi-truck was parked on sensitive shoreline along 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave S.

### **42<sup>nd</sup> Ave S Bridge Reroute**

- There have been issues with vehicles travelling in the wrong direction over the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave S Bridge. PW acknowledged that this is a high priority and have reached out to the police department.
- The City is also looking at the signage related to the reroute to see if improvements can be made.
- Kelle asked for confirmation on the bridge timeline. Bridge design will be completed by end of 2023. Construction is planned for 2024 and will be completed at the end of 2025.

### **Stormwater Management Action Plan Survey**

- The Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP) is assessment of surface water resources in the City of Tukwila. Stormwater is rain and snow melt that runs off surfaces like rooftops, streets, driveways, and parking lots, where it picks up pollution like oil, fertilizers, pesticides, and dust from vehicle tires and brake linings. When stormwater enters Allentown's street drains, these pollutants can get washed into Duwamish River, where they can harm fish and other aquatic species.
- The City's Surface Water staff are reaching out to entire Tukwila community to determine what is important to you and what areas of surface water management the City should focus on. There is a full report on the website, along with a survey. The link to the SMAP survey will be on Allentown website and the City's social media sites. Kelle Symonds will also share on Allentown Advocates FB page. The survey needs to complete by June 10th.

### **Follow-ups for Next Meeting**

- Are speed cushions happening?
- From Lisa and Kelle: Over the last couple weeks, there has been a steady stream of bobtail tractors without trailers, mostly coming in along 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S, but leaving over the bridge. The City will take this information back to BNSF to see if they have made operational changes that could have led to increased bobtail tractor traffic.

**Next Meeting: June 28, 2022 at 5:30pm**