



Puget Sound Regional Council

2024 FHWA REGIONAL COMPETITION: PROJECT SPONSOR FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

AGENCY: Fife

PROJECT: I-5/Port of Tacoma Road Interchange Improvement Project

Question #1: In the meetings you had with PSRC staff prior to submittal of your screening form, it was confirmed that the one portion of the Port of Tacoma Interchange Improvements project that has not previously received PSRC funds for construction is the conversion of Port of Tacoma Road to one-way. However, the scope description included in the application does not make clear that this is the segment of the overall project for which funding is being requested. As follow-up, (1) please provide confirmation that that conversion of Port of Tacoma Road to one-way is the portion of the project that would be funded with the requested funds, and (2) provide a cost estimate for this section that identifies the proportions that would be funded with the requested STBG funds, non-federal matching funds, and/or any other federal sources.

Answer #1: Our meeting with Miles Stepleton yesterday, May 7th, was very helpful for us to understand what work items and areas in Phase 2A had previously received construction funding. We are working with our consultant team to pull together a cost estimate for items that have not previously received construction funding. Our list is based on our discussion with Miles along with an email from Jennifer Barnes dated yesterday. We will have an estimate turned in by the end of day Friday, May 10th, if not sooner.

Question #2: In the application, you mentioned that “The public outreach efforts were done early in the planning phase and comments were incorporated into the design.” Please provide more information on how the outreach influenced the project and what you heard from the members of EFAs.

Answer #2: In 2012, the city hosted a series of planning commission meetings and an open house. During these meetings, the public was encouraged to provide input on the Port of Tacoma Road Interchange project. Project presentations were also done at city council meetings. Citizens had the opportunity to provide public comments and give feedback on the project. It’s unclear if any public input from EFAs influenced the project during these public meetings since it wasn’t documented.

In 2015, the city held a limited access hearing for the Port of Tacoma Road Interchange project. Property owners within the project limits were invited to attend the hearing to provide input on the proposed right of way plans. There were several comments that addressed safety concerns with commercial traffic and driveway/drive through access to local businesses. Based on the comments received, the court finding indicated that the city would incorporate those comments into the plan revisions. There were hearing attendees that may have been members of an EFA but the attendees didn't state or specify their ethnicity or socioeconomic status in their comments or documentation.