

City Council Chambers, 7:00 P. M.
Tuesday, August 21, 1962

HEARING ON THE 6-Year Street Program 318

Present on roll call: 6; Cvitanich, Finnigan, Haley, Herrmann, Murtland and Mayor Tollefson. Absent 3, Bott, Price and Steele.

Mayor Tollefson announced that this meeting has been reconvened from the 4:00 P. M. recessed Council meeting for the purpose of the Hearing on the 6-Year Plan regarding Streets and Bridges. Proper notice has been given of the hearing as set up by State Law.

Mr. Rowlands explained that charts have been prepared by the Public Works Department setting up the Projects year by year, and if it is agreeable with the Council, Mr. Schuster, Public Works Director, will point out the various projects as listed in the 6-year program which has been submitted to the Council. Under State Law this report must be submitted to the Highway Dept. so that the City does not jeopardize some \$400,000.00 that we receive from the State for the 1/2¢ gasoline tax. He further stated this plan can be modified or changed according to priority, or additions made from year to year.

Mr. Schuster explained the projects listed for 1962, stating a good portion of these projects are underway or expected to be underway before the year is over. Mr. Schuster proceeded to point out each item on the map for the year 1962.

Mayor Tollefson asked if Item 8, Realignment, Widening and paving of four lanes, had been completed on Browns Pt. Blvd.

Mr. Schuster stated, this area is under construction at the present time.

Mayor Tollefson asked, how much would the State pay for their share in the 1962 program.

Mr. Rowlands explained the State Aid for Arterials is \$594,228, the State Aid for other improvements is \$139,600, and for Federal Aid \$323,800. He stated, the State Aid Arterial has to be kept separate as at present it is a separately constituted fund. In connection with this Arterial tax money, it is necessary for the City to put up \$1.00 for every \$3.00 received by the State.

Dr. Herrmann asked if there was any way to determine whether it is a GOB or L I D participation.

Mr. Rowlands said it was suggested at last week's meeting that this GOB and L I D participation was somewhat premature until the Staff and the Council members had an opportunity to review it, to designate whether certain projects should be on GOB or L I D participation. Since last week's meeting the GOB and L I D projects have been pooled within the 6-year Plan. These, however, are merely suggestions.

Mr. Schuster continued with the 1963 projects.

Mr. Murtland asked if item No. 1 for the year 1963 pertaining to So. 19th, Bantz to Vassault for widening and an oil mat, four lanes, extended into the City of Fircrest.

Mr. Schuster stated the City limits' line is on South 19th Street. The City of Tacoma owns half of the Street and the County the other half. This would be a mutual project.

Mayor Tollefson asked if they had anticipated an overpass at So. 19th and Bantz Blvd.

Mr. Schuster said they would maintain the level crossing. Eventually when Bantz Blvd. is made into a Highway by the State Dept. in place of Sixth Avenue, it is likely an overpass will be built.

Mr. Cvitanich asked, on item 4 for 1963 for the realignment and paving of four lanes on No. Union Ave. from 9th to 18th Streets, why did they stop at 18th St. instead of continuing onto 21st Street.

Mr. Schuster explained they ended the project at 18th St. because there has not been any requests from the property owners beyond No. 18th St. for any improvement.

Mayor Tollefson asked regarding item 8 for the year 1963, acquiring R/W at Browns Pt. Blvd, City Limits, if they anticipate a new route.

Mr. Schuster explained, it will be constructed primarily along the same route, however, there will be some straightening of the old road, taking out some of the curves which might make a little different connection at the top of Julia's Gulch.

Mayor Tollefson asked if there would be only one exit on the freeway between 38th St. and Pacific Avenue.

Mr. Schuster said there would be one exit between 38th and Pacific which is the Bantz - Blvd. connection. We would like another connection from the Makima Ave. Bridge but there is not enough land available. He further stated there will be 19 structures on the Pacific Ave. interchange and it will be one of the most complicated interchanges in the State.

Mr. Schuster continued, the years 1964 and 1965.

Mayor Tollefson stated that item 11 for the year 1965 regarding the pedestrian mall at So. Broadway from 9th to 13th St. is not a part of the Street program for the State, and he wondered why it was in the Plan.

Mr. Schuster stated that was not a part of the Plan, however, it will have an affect on the street pattern for the downtown area.

Mr. Rowlands said, since the new Council members have not had a copy of the study of the Pedestrian Mall prepared by the Planning Commission, he would see that they were provided with one. He further stated, this project is very involved because of L I D participation and rights of property owners. This was put into the plan as suggested by the Planning staff.

Mayor Tollefson stated he did not think it should be included in this Plan.

Mr. Murtland moved that the Pedestrian Mall from So. 9th to So. 13th Broadway be removed from the Plan. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Mr. Schuster then continued on the projects for 1966.

Mr. Cvitanich asked, regarding the property east of the 15th St. Bridge over the City waterway, has the City done anything in reference to purchasing property for right-of-way purposes in this area as the street is very narrow coming from the Tide Flats into Tacoma.

Mr. Schuster said the Department feels it would be premature to purchase and to rebuild the 15th St. Bridge because the effect of the traffic would not be known before the "A" Street Viaduct is constructed leading off of the freeway. Also the Puget Sound Regional Study is being conducted and within the next year the Dept. should have facts and figures pertaining to the traffic in this area. It is a recognized fact there is a pertinent need for this facility.

Mr. Rowlands said a meeting will be held at the Utilities Auditorium on September 12th, 1962, set jointly by the Mayor and the County Commission members of the Transportation Study Group to review what has transpired to date.

Mr. Finnigan said the Council should make every effort possible to expedite this program. He said residents in the Tide Flats feel somewhat like orphans when it comes to improvements. There is a lot of traffic on the Tideflats as all of the heavy trucks, trailers, etc. are routed off Highway 99 down into the Tideflats. There is a tremendous amount of work to be done there. Mr. Finnigan recommended that they advance this project from the 1966 schedule to an earlier completion date as this is the heart of the industrial area in Tacoma and something should be done.

Mayor Tollefson said he agreed with Mr. Finnigan that the area has been a difficult problem for many years and also feels that the project should be moved up in the timetable.

Mr. Schuster said, this construction could be moved forward. However he added the bridge, the street viaduct and other projects are dependent to a great extent on the completion of the Freeway and the Pacific Ave. interchange.

Mr. Finnigan said at present the people down on the Tideflats are trapped by draw bridges and railroad tracks and something should be done for the working personnel who travel that route three times a day. He said we should at least indicate to the industry that something is being done to alleviate the traffic problem. He felt the Tideflats could be expanded if a better transic system were available.

Mayor Tollefson urged that an intense study be made of this particular project, working with the Port, and also, consideration of a Highway from the Auburn road on the Freeway, through Federal Way into the Tideflat area.

Mr. Haley said it is more and more difficult for the people who live in Federal Way to get into downtown Seattle. It would be to Tacoma's advantage if it were more convenient for the traffic to travel to Tacoma.

Mayor Tollefson suggested that the City Council meet with members of the Port of Tacoma to look over their maps, so the Council can be more informed of their plans. Mayor Tollefson asked Mr. Rowlands to set up such a meeting.

Mr. Schuster continued, explaining the projects for the years 1967 through 1968.

Referring to the projects for 1968, under item I regarding the "A" St. Viaduct, So. 14th to the Freeway, Mr. Haley asked if this were put in for construction for 1968 without any knowledge of the Pacific Interchange being completed. In other words, he wanted to know why was the "A" St. Viaduct put off until 1968, as he thought this was one of the more important strips of highway construction in the City which leads into the heart of the City and should be constructed as quickly as possible.

Mr. Schuster stated, Pacific Ave. is under contract at the present time.

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He thought, perhaps, the State Highway Dept. is waiting for the Puget Sound Transportation Study which will be out in 1963, before they go into their engineering designs. Mr. Schuster, added, it will undoubtedly be two or three years before the interchange will be finished, temporary connections are anticipated for a period of time into Pacific Avenue.

Mr. Cvitanich suggested, before the Council adopts the 6 year Plan that the City Manager submit a priority list of those projects on the Tideflats in relation to the 15th Street bridge referred to by Mr. Finnigan.

Mayor Tollefson said he thought it was concluded that these do not have priority at the present time but can be adjusted later.

Mayor Tollefson asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak regarding the 6 year Program.

Mrs. Botts, member of the audience, urged the Council to proceed as quickly as possible on some of the main projects.

Resolution No. 17181:

Adopting the Comprehensive Street Program for the ensuing six years from 1962 through 1967.

Mr. Haley moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Dr. Herrmann.

Mayor Tollefson said Resolution No. 17181 is now before the Council for adoption.

It was moved by Mr. Haley that the Resolution be adopted as amended. Seconded by Dr. Herrmann.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

The Resolution was then declared adopted by the Chairman.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion duly seconded and passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 P. M.


Mayor of the City Council

Attest: 
City Clerk