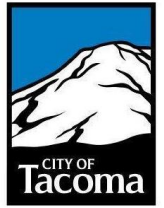


# CITY OF TACOMA

## 2023 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

### \$4 MILLION FOR FISHING WARS MEMORIAL BRIDGE PLANNING



**Project Request:** The City of Tacoma requests \$4 million within the 2023 capital budget to initiate planning for the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge (FWMB) Design Build project. The project will remove and replace the phase 2 portion of the structure that spans the Puyallup River from the east side of phase 1, replaced in 2019, to the city limits of Fife. Planning work includes preliminary engineering, specification development, environmental documents, permitting, right-of-way and preparing Design Build solicitation documents.

**Background:** The FWMB replacement project will provide road, intersection, and interchange improvements of great value to the Port of Tacoma, The Puyallup Tribe, the surrounding industrial area, and the Cities of Fife and Tacoma. The project is a multi-phased plan to replace the 2,400 foot long Bridge. Phase 1 of the bridge replacement was completed in 2019. Phase 2 of the project will replace the remaining 1,400 feet of the bridge by installing a steel tied truss arch, which fully spans the Puyallup River, and makes the final connection into the City of Fife over the Union Pacific Railroad. It is estimated the cost of the Phase 2 work will be \$280 million. Planning work would begin in 2023 and be completed by 2030. The project will remove columns in the water which will improve fish habitat in the Puyallup River.

**Why is this needed:** The FWMB is part of the City's freight corridor and is also a vital bypass route when blockages impact I-5. The structure is currently load restricted to 20 tons and only allows empty trucks to cross, buses are not allowed to cross, and there is no bicycle facility. The remaining original bridge sections continue to deteriorate, and over time will require further load restrictions and increased maintenance, unless the structure is replaced. Replacement of the structure would re-establish the freight route to the Port of Tacoma and add pedestrian and bicycle access. FWMB was selected as the route for the Tacoma to Puyallup Regional Trail, a partnership with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and the cities of Tacoma, Fife, and Puyallup.

**Finances:** \$4 million in state funds would allow the City of Tacoma to begin the planning work for this design-build project. The total planning effort is estimated at \$9 million. The city will also be applying for a \$5M RAISE planning grant for the project.

