

January 31, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Transportation and Seattle Public Utilities Committee  
**From:** Eric McConaghy, Analyst  
**Subject:** Resolution 32080 - Dzidzilalich Honorary Street Designation and Council Bill 120507- Elliott Way Street Name Designation

On February 7, 2023, the [Transportation and Seattle Public Utilities Committee](#) (Committee) will discuss and possibly vote on two, related pieces of legislation: [Council Bill \(CB\) 120507](#) and [Resolution \(RES\) 32080](#).

**Key Takeaways**

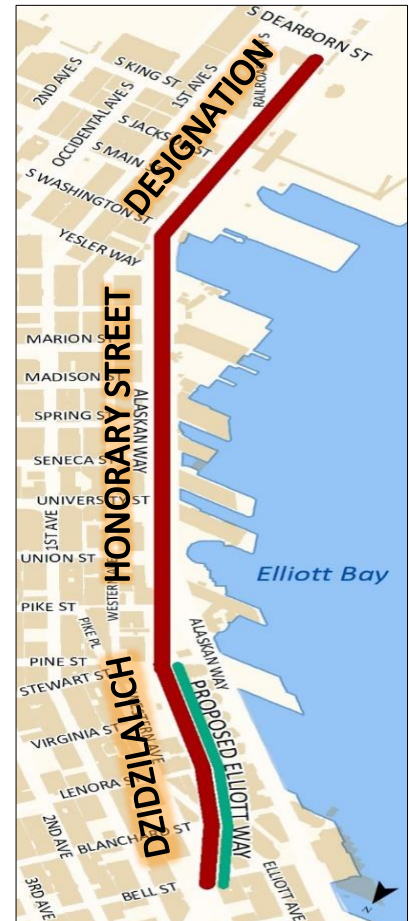
CB 120507 would officially name a new street constructed as part of the Central Waterfront project. This new roadway connects Alaskan Way with Elliott and Western Avenues, between Pike and Bell Streets. From Pine Street to Bell Street the roadway would be designated “Elliott Way” as shown in Figure 1. The segment of the new roadway from Union Street to Pine Street would be a continuation Alaskan Way. CB 120507 would also truncate the use of the Elliot Avenue at Western Avenue.

RES 32080 would provide an honorary designation of “Dzidzilalich” (pronounced: dzee-dzuh-lah-leech) to the continuous roadway composed of Alaskan Way between Dearborn and Pine Streets and the proposed Elliott Way between Pine and Bell Streets. Dzidzilalich is the name by which the Waterfront was known to the Coast Salish people in the Lushootseed language and roughly translates to the English “Little crossing over place.” Please, access these recordings online to hear the spoken pronunciation of the word<sup>1</sup>:

- Warren KingGeorge, Muckleshoot Tribe, on [how to pronounce "Dzidzilalich."](#)
- Joseph Moses III, Muckleshoot Tribe, on [how to pronounce "Dzidzilalich."](#)

The Suquamish and the Muckleshoot Tribal Councils provided guidance in selecting the honorary name. The Mayor’s Office (MO), the Office of the Waterfront and Civic Projects (OWCP), the Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR), and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) worked with the Suquamish and Muckleshoot Tribal Councils. The Honorable Leonard Forsman, Chair of the [Suquamish Tribe](#) and President of the [Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians](#), and the

Figure 1: Dzidzilalich & Elliott Way



<sup>1</sup> Sourced from Waterfront Seattle’s webpage on the honorary designation. <https://waterfrontseattle.org/dzidzilalich>

Honorable Jaison Elkins, Chair of the [Muckleshoot Tribe](#), have each separately expressed support for the honorary designation<sup>2</sup>.

## Background

Unlike official names for streets in Seattle, honorary designations are not used in the addresses of adjacent properties and are not used for routing emergency services. The honorary designation of Dzidzilalich is intended to be a part of the City of Seattle’s effort to acknowledge and recognize tribal history and culture on the Waterfront.

The Executive proposed “Elliot Way” as the official name for the new roadway because the name is consistent with the names of Elliot Avenue and Alaskan Way. The City first unofficially used the name, Elliot Way, in Waterfront planning, design and outreach documents regarding the [Waterfront Seattle Framework and Concept Plans](#) in July 2012. The name also appears in the [Final Environmental Impact Statement](#) for the project. No properties would be assigned new addresses because of the official naming of the new roadway.

Honorary street signs are brown with white lettering to make them distinct from official street signs in green with white lettering. Figure 2, selected from a Waterfront Seattle graphic, shows how the signs would appear once installed<sup>3</sup>.

*Figure 2: Street Signs Example*



SDOT is required to manufacture, install, and maintain new, official street name signs. The 2023 Adopted Budget includes appropriation necessary to pay for the signs. Council adoption of RES 32080 would require SDOT to manufacture, install, and maintain 42 honorary signs at a cost of \$10,000 from the Waterfront Project budget.

Committee Chair Pedersen, Council President Juarez, and Councilmember Lewis are sponsoring CB 120507 and RES 32080

## Next Steps

If the Committee votes on CB 120507 and RES 32080 on February 7, then Council could take final action on February 14.

cc: Esther Handy, Director  
Aly Pennucci, Deputy Director  
Brian Goodnight, Lead Analyst

<sup>2</sup> MO press release, December 12, 2022. <https://harrell.seattle.gov/2022/12/14/mayor-harrell-council-president-juarez-propose-honorary-name-dzidzilalich-for-alaskan-way-and-elliott-way-elevating-coast-salish-tribal-history-and-culture/>

<sup>3</sup> Waterfront Seattle’s webpage. <https://waterfrontseattle.org/dzidzilalich>