

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

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** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to the South Park Bridge project; authorizing the Director of the Seattle Department of Transportation to acquire, accept, and record, on behalf of The City of Seattle, a quit claim deed from King County, a political subdivision of the State of Washington, for property situated in Lots 9 through 13, Block 37, South Park; placing the real property rights and interests conveyed by such deed under the jurisdiction of the Seattle Department of Transportation and designating for transportation purposes; laying off the deed as right-of-way; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Summary and Background of the Legislation: This Council Bill authorizes the Director of the Department of Transportation to acquire, accept, and record a quit claim deed transferring two parcels of property in the South Park neighborhood of The City of Seattle (the “City”), places the property under the jurisdiction of the Seattle Department of Transportation and designates it for transportation purposes, lays the property off as right-of-way, and ratifies and confirms prior acts.

The original South Park Bridge, built in 1931, was a double-leaf bascule bridge listed on the National Historic Register and designated as a King County Landmark. The 1,045-foot long bridge connected Seattle neighborhoods across the Duwamish Waterway, a navigational channel used for commercial, industrial, and recreational purposes that was popular with the local residents for its look and importance to the community.

The bridge was closed on June 30, 2010 due to safety concerns because it was rapidly deteriorating and seismically vulnerable. To that end, King County approved a capital improvement project to develop and issue an Environmental Impact Statement for design alternatives to the existing South Park Bridge and to conduct the subsequent engineering and design of the preferred alternative (the “Project”). Pursuant to Ordinance 123549, the City and the County entered into an Interlocal Agreement, dated February 28, 2011, to establish mutual roles and responsibilities regarding the funding, design, and construction of a new South Park Bridge (the “Bridge”).

The City and the County also entered into an Interlocal Agreement, dated June 17, 2010, and approved under Ordinance 123101, relating to the conveyance of road-related property (the “Interlocal Agreement”), for the purpose of acquiring property and permitting in support of the design of the Bridge.

Construction of the Bridge has now been completed and the Bridge opened on June 30, 2014, providing a reliable link to the South Park neighborhood businesses that depend on it for economic development, and for community enhancement and development.

Pursuant to the terms of the Interlocal Agreement, the City and the County reviewed the inventory of the property King County acquired for the Project, and mutually agreed that two parcels totaling 81,000 square feet would be transferred to the City.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? Yes No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? Yes No

Are there financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?

The City and County would not be in compliance with the terms of the Interlocal Agreement if this legislation does not pass.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?

No.

b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No.

c. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

No.

d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

Yes. Two parcels that were acquired by King County for the Project are being transferred to the City as right-of-way pursuant to the terms of the Interlocal Agreement.

e. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?

Prior to the closure of the original South Park Bridge, the bridge served a neighborhood with a high percentage of low income residents and businesses that relied on the access it provided. Its closure from 2010-2014 impacted some 20,000 vehicles that traveled it daily. However, the closure was necessary to keep the community safe and construct the Project.

Because the South Park Community falls under Environmental Justice regulation, good communication and involvement with the local minority population was especially important. Minorities make up a majority of the population in this community.

In 2002, a public involvement plan was developed. This plan identified ways that the Project team could communicate most effectively with this diverse population. All the Project information was distributed in the area's three most prevalent languages: English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Flyers, e-mails, website updates, and numerous community meetings were held to relay information. Translators were also available during the community meetings and open houses.

f. Climate Change Implications

1. Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?

No.

2. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.

An Environmental Impact Statement was published in December of 2009. The Project site fell within the lower five miles of the Duwamish Waterway that has been designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Superfund Site, among the most-contaminated sites in the nation. As such, the Project included extensive environmental mitigation features. Riverbank restoration was extensive. It was regraded to be gradual, more like a natural river, with a restored intertidal zone and native vegetation. The restoration made the riverbank more conducive to migrating salmon, the foundation type of the Bridge takes up a much smaller footprint in the riverbed, and a lot of contamination from a century's worth of industrial pollution was remediated. It is believed that these mitigation features will increase Seattle's climate change resiliency by cleaning up the site and restoring it closer to its natural state.

g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)?

This legislation does not include a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion.

Summary Attachments:

Summary Exhibit 1 – Vicinity Map