



## INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

TO: **Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee**  
FROM: **Hari Ponnekanti, Public Works Director/City Engineer**  
BY: **Mark Hafs, EIS Project Director**  
DATE: **March 3, 2023**  
SUBJECT: **Allentown Truck Reroute EIS**  
**Project No. 92110405**  
**Outreach Update**

### **ISSUE**

Provide an update on the Allentown Truck Reroute EIS scoping process and outreach.

### **BACKGROUND**

Truck Traffic accessing the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) multi-modal facility causes adverse effects in the Allentown community such as noise, vibration, vehicle emissions, surface water pollution, and unsafe conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists.

An EIS is required by the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). It will help identify potential alternatives, determine how they might impact the project area and the people in it, and select alternatives that best achieve project goals. The process is focused on making project decision open and transparent, and ensuring that documents prepared as part of the EIS are clear and understandable to members of the public and stakeholders who want to review and comment on project planning and design.

In 2021, Council voted to fund an EIS that would consider alternative routes that would reduce the level of impacts of truck traffic in Allentown.

### **DISCUSSION**

The first step of the EIS process is to gather feedback from residents, businesses, and the greater community to learn about their needs, desires, and concerns, and places and things in the project area that they value and want to protect.

A Determination of Scoping Notice begins a 30-day public comment period during which residents, stakeholders, and agencies comment on potential truck reroute alternatives and what they believe the EIS should be analyzing. The 30-day comment period for the scoping notice and determination of significance began on February 14, 2023 and an open house was held on February 28, 2023, at 5:30 pm, at the Tukwila Community Center to provide residents and other stakeholders an opportunity to provide public comment in-person.

Public comment can still be provided by email at [AllentownTruckReRoute@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:AllentownTruckReRoute@TukwilaWA.gov) or via a survey that can be mailed to the City. The survey can be found on the project website at [www.TukwilaWA.gov/Allentown](http://www.TukwilaWA.gov/Allentown). Public and stakeholder comments are due by 5:00 p.m., March 15, 2023.

At the end of the scoping period, our consultant team at HDR will take the community feedback they've gotten and use it to help narrow down the alternatives to be further studied. Throughout the EIS process, City staff and HDR will continue to have forums for community input as initial draft alternatives are being considered, including a second open house where the community will have a chance to look at and comment on the project engineers' initial draft for truck reroute alternatives.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

|                  | <b><u>Cost Estimate</u></b> | <b><u>Consultant Budget</u></b> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| HDR Contract     | \$ 796,274.00               | \$1,000,000.00                  |
| Expended to date | <u>10,595.06</u>            |                                 |
| <b>Remaining</b> | <b>\$ 785,678.94</b>        |                                 |

**RECOMMENDATION**

Discussion only.

**ATTACHMENT:** 2023 CIP, Page11  
Project Schedule  
Environmental Review Process Handout

# CITY OF TUKWILA CAPITAL PROJECT SUMMARY

2023 to 2028

**PROJECT:** Allentown Truck Reroute

Project No. 92110405

**DESCRIPTION:** Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will consider rerouting the freight truck traffic that currently uses surface streets in Tukwila’s Allentown neighborhood to access BNSF Railway Company’s South Seattle Intermodal Facility.

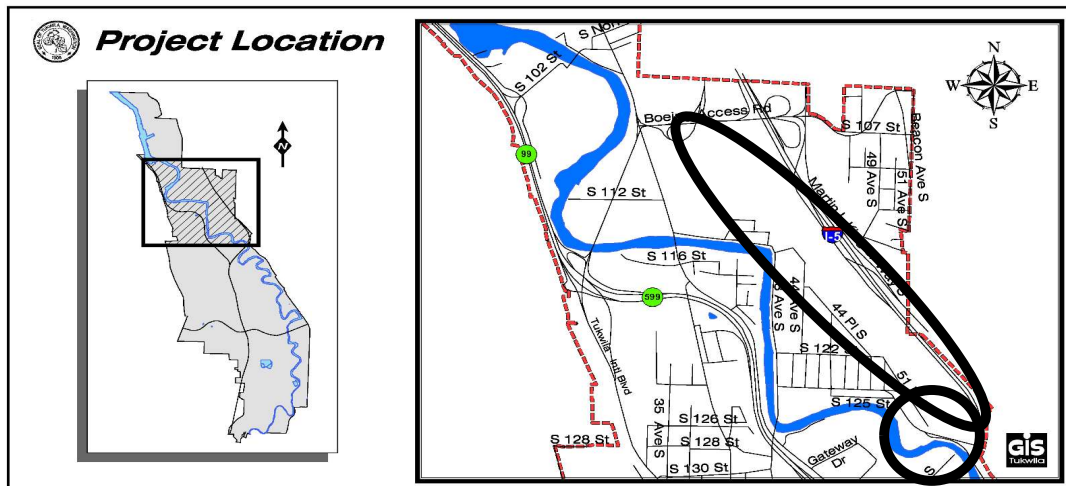
**JUSTIFICATION:** The City has committed to addressing the Allentown community’s ongoing concerns about the adverse effects of truck traffic from BNSF’s intermodal facility on the Allentown neighborhood – e.g. noise, vibration, truck emissions, and the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.

**STATUS:** In 2021, City Council allocated \$1.2 Million for the EIS. Using that budget, the City hired a project manager, who has reviewed documentation from the City’s past truck reroute efforts for Allentown, established a working relationship with the Allentown community, and coordinated the hiring of a consultant team. Consultant work on the project is expected to begin in October of 2022, and will take approximately 18 to 24 months to complete.

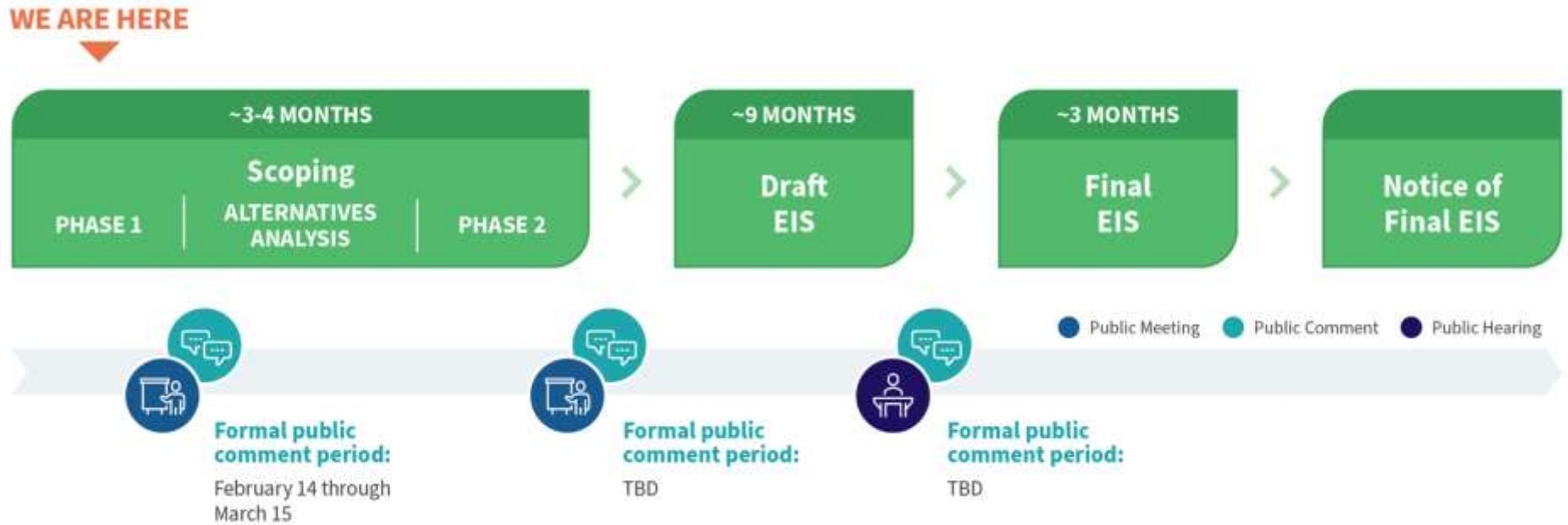
**MAINT. IMPACT:** Because the project is an environmental study, no maintenance impacts are expected.

**COMMENT:** The project has been coordinated with other City efforts in Allentown, including the 42nd Ave. S Bridge replacement, the Allentown traffic calming project, and overlay work. Discussion of these efforts has been included in regular community engagement meetings at the TCC to ensure a regular flow of information to Allentown residents and businesses, and to encourage public buy-in of City projects.

| FINANCIAL<br>(in \$000's) | Through  |            | Estimated  |          |          |          |          |          |          |              | TOTAL |
|---------------------------|----------|------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|-------|
|                           | 2021     | 2022       | 2023       | 2024     | 2025     | 2026     | 2027     | 2028     | BEYOND   |              |       |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>           |          |            |            |          |          |          |          |          |          |              |       |
| Design                    | -        | 300        | 900        |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1,200        |       |
| Land (R/W)                |          |            |            |          |          |          |          |          |          | 0            |       |
| Const. Mgmt.              |          |            |            |          |          |          |          |          |          | 0            |       |
| Construction              |          |            |            |          |          |          |          |          |          | 0            |       |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>     | <b>0</b> | <b>300</b> | <b>900</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1,200</b> |       |
| <b>FUND SOURCES</b>       |          |            |            |          |          |          |          |          |          |              |       |
| Awarded Grant             |          |            |            |          |          |          |          |          |          | 0            |       |
| Proposed Grant            |          |            |            |          |          |          |          |          |          | 0            |       |
| Mitigation Actual BNSF    |          |            |            |          |          |          |          |          |          | 0            |       |
| Mitigation Expected       |          |            |            |          |          |          |          |          |          | 0            |       |
| Council Allocation        | 0        | 300        | 900        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1,200        |       |
| <b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>      | <b>0</b> | <b>300</b> | <b>900</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1,200</b> |       |



# Project Schedule- Allentown EIS





# ALLENTOWN TRUCK REROUTE PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### How can community members be involved in this process?

Leave a scoping comment! The formal EIS scoping comment period is **February 14, 2023 to March 15, 2023**.

During this time, we invite you to share your input on what issues and alternatives we should analyze in the EIS. There are multiple ways to provide a comment:

**In-person** – Submit your comment in-person during today’s community meeting.

**Submit** an online comment form on our project website.

**Email** your comment to [AllentownTruckReRoute@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:AllentownTruckReRoute@TukwilaWA.gov).

**Mail** your comment to Mark Hafs  
6300 Southcenter Blvd. Suite 200  
Tukwila, WA 98188

*Mailed comments must be postmarked by March 15, 2023*

### Can I submit more than one scoping comment?

Yes, submit your scoping comments between February 14, 2023 and March 15, 2023.

### Does the City of Tukwila have a preferred alternative to reroute traffic?

The City has no preferred option for alternative access to BNSF’s facility.

### Will we hear updates while the Draft EIS is being produced?

Yes, periodic updates will be issued via the project update email. You can join the project email list on our website. Scan the QR code on the front cover.

### Does the EIS only analyze current alternatives, or will new alternatives be considered?

Previously considered alternatives as well as new alternatives are up for consideration in the Draft EIS. Alternatives will be determined through a two-step scoping process. During the first scoping period, which will occur from February 14, 2023 to March 15, 2023, we are asking for input on ideas for alternatives to be considered in the EIS. A second scoping period, which is expected around May 2023, will request input on the proposed set of alternatives. Following the second scoping period, the final set of alternatives will be developed for inclusion in the Draft EIS.

### Are other agencies, like King County, Sound Transit, etc., notified about the scoping process?

The scoping notice has been advertised in the Seattle Times and published in the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Register. It has also been distributed to select agencies who might have an interest in the project.

### How is the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being funded?

City funds will cover the cost of the EIS.

## OVERVIEW

The City of Tukwila is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate alternatives to reroute existing BNSF truck traffic in Allentown

An EIS is a process to evaluate potential effects that a proposal may have on the built and natural environment. The first step in the EIS is called scoping. Scoping is where we ask you to share your input on what issues and alternatives should be analyzed in the EIS. Per State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) guidelines, all formal comments must be **written and submitted within the formal scoping comment period**.



**The formal EIS scoping comment period is February 14th through March 15th. Here are ways you can provide input:**

## COMMENT OPTIONS



**In-person** – Submit your comment in-person during today’s community meeting.



**Submit** an online comment form on our project website.



**Email** your comment to [AllentownTruckReRoute@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:AllentownTruckReRoute@TukwilaWA.gov).



**Mail** your comment to Mark Hafs  
6300 Southcenter Blvd. Suite 200,  
Tukwila, WA 98188

*Mailer comments must be postmarked by March 15, 2023*

**Scan QR code to learn more and leave a comment!**





## PURPOSE AND NEED

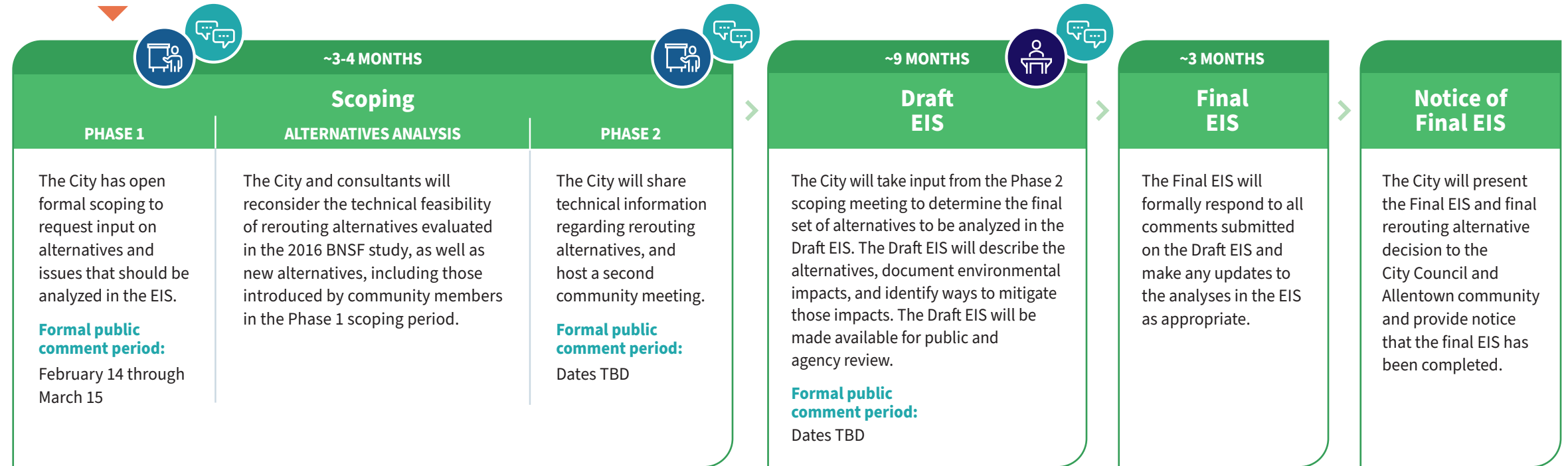
The purpose and need for this project is to develop an alternative route to the BNSF Intermodal Facility in Allentown to improve livability and safety in Allentown, without compromising the operations of the intermodal facility.

## PROJECT HISTORY

- BNSF's South Seattle Intermodal Facility is located on the east side of the Allentown neighborhood. For many years, trucks traveling to and from the BNSF facility have accessed it mainly via a route that uses 42nd Ave. S (over the 42nd Ave. S Bridge) and S 124th Street.
- In 2015, the City undertook a study to find a new truck route that would reduce the impacts of trucks in Allentown. The *BNSF Railway Intermodal Facility Access Study* was completed in late 2016.
- The study proposed four alternative truck routes that would not travel through Allentown, and one alternative that considered the impacts of leaving the current truck route in place.
- As part of the study, the City held open houses where the public gave input about the needs of the Allentown community and commented on the proposed truck route alternatives.
- Using the 2016 study as a starting point, the City will now prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) which will take a more in-depth look at the truck route options identified in the 2016 study, and update the study's findings to include today's conditions, improved project understanding, and additional community input.
- Moving forward with work on the EIS, the City is committed to clear and open communication with the public – of its findings, its intentions, and its actions.

## EIS PROCESS

WE ARE HERE



## STUDY AREA



## TOPICS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED

- ✓ **PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**  
*Climate, geology, soil type and distribution, groundwater characteristics, air quality, and noise levels*
- ✓ **BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT**  
*Location and distribution of flora and fauna, wildlife characteristics*
- ✓ **SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND HEALTH CONDITIONS**  
*Demography, culture, heritage sites, social and health status of the people and their environment*

## WHAT MAKES A GOOD EIS COMMENT?

- Tell us about resources you'd like to protect and valuable sites in your community
- Be specific about issues and locations
- Write legibly
- All EIS comments must be written

All formal comments received during the formal comment period will be documented. The formal EIS scoping comment period is February 14, 2023 to March 15, 2023.

Share your input on what issues and alternatives should be analyzed in the EIS by March 15th.

