



**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor Winstead and City Councilmembers

FROM: Jessica Simulcik Smith, City Clerk

DATE: January 13, 2015

RE: Documents received at 1/12/15 Council Meeting

CC: Debbie Tarry, City Manager  
John Norris, Assistant City Manager

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Attached hereto are documents received from the public at your January 12, 2015 City Council Business Meeting.

- 1) Written comments regarding tolling submitted by Jerry Patterson, on behalf of Richmond Beach Advocates.

## RICHMOND BEACH ADVOCATES

P.O. Box 60186

Richmond Beach, WA 98160

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My name is Jerry Patterson. I'm a resident of Shoreline, and Board Member of the community organization named Richmond Beach Advocates, on whose behalf I am speaking tonight.

RBA supports the use of tolling on Richmond Beach Drive at the County line. With tolling at that location, the trucks and other vehicles that currently go to and from Point Wells via the City's roads will no longer be able to avoid paying their fair share for using and causing wear and tear to our roads. And if the property gets developed as planned, future Point Wells residents and businesses will be required to pay a toll, thereby providing the City with a revenue source to pay for the road maintenance and perhaps some road improvements.

We believe your decision on how to deal with the impacts of the urban center development at Point Wells is the most important decision facing any City Council in the history of the City. It's the most important decision because it has the potential to create very bad road congestion in Shoreline, and severely degrade the livability of several of the City's neighborhoods.

For the last 4 years the City has been in negotiations with the Point Wells developer about the mitigation the developer will provide as a result of increased traffic from the development. The City has consistently stated they have no leverage with the developer and have no choice but to agree to allow more than 11,000 additional vehicle trips a day through the Richmond Beach Road corridor.

That's why we are greatly encouraged you are taking the time tonight to begin looking at tolling as an option for raising revenue to pay for the on-going maintenance resulting from the increased traffic from Point Wells, and to pay for City recommended up-front mitigations that go beyond what Snohomish County will require as part of the SEPA process. We believe tolling has the potential for allowing the City to negotiate with the developer to achieve a more reasonably sized development without fear of losing the revenue needed to maintain and improve the City's road system.

We are not asking you to agree tonight to approve a tolling measure for the ballot - it's a few months too early for that. (May 8, 2015, is the deadline for submitting to King County Elections a resolution from the City's Transportation Benefit District to include tolling on the ballot for the August 4, 2015 Primary Election.) We *are* asking you to do what you should see as due diligence: fully examining all options for dealing with the impacts of the development at Point Wells.

The staff report correctly pointed out that there are a number of unanswered questions about tolling and we agree with the report's conclusion on page 26:

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“Though the TBD has a legal, presumably defensible path to implementing tolls, further analysis is needed to discern possible toll rates, general public acceptance, system requirements and full financial impacts including revenue generation capabilities, election costs, capital and on-going/maintenance costs.”

This further analysis needs to be done on an expedited basis to enable the May 8 filing deadline to be met.

We suggest one way for the City to move forward with examining the tolling option is to sponsor a public workshop session on tolling to gather community input, just as you did for the Transportation Corridor Study. The workshop would help answer many of the questions raised by staff and help you see whether the public felt tolling was a reasonable option.

The staff report recommends Council determine if there is additional information needed before any policy recommendations are presented to the Council. It seems obvious to us that additional information is certainly needed before any recommendations can be made. You shouldn't dismiss tolling as a potential policy option until the City has done the work necessary to put a proposal together with suggested answers to the questions raised in the report; at that point the Council will have something concrete to consider. Dismissing the tolling option before more of the questions are answered would be acting before you have enough information to make a fully informed decision.

We ask that you direct staff to continue the work needed to present a tolling proposal to the City's Transportation Benefit District, on an expedited basis, with a view toward having the Transportation Benefit District vote by the end of April in favor of a resolution to put tolling on the ballot for the August 4, 2015 Primary Election. Let the voters decide.

Thank you,

Jerry Patterson

On behalf of Richmond Beach Advocates