

From: [Kidd, Brennan](#)
To: [Young, Betty \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Larson, Chris](#); [D'Andrea, Mark](#); [Mathison, Toney](#)
Subject: TR-171000 - UTC grant funds for McCarver Street crossing enhancements
Date: Friday, March 2, 2018 9:29:29 AM

Dear Betty,

I am writing to provide you and the UTC an update on the progress of the City's and BNSF's project to enhance the control elements at the McCarver Street railroad crossing in Tacoma. Since the UTC's approval date in October 2017, the City's fencing contractor has been successful in coordinating with BNSF to implement most of the intended fencing for pedestrian guidance and control. The remaining sections of fencing will be installed in the future in coordination with the specific design/placement of the pedestrian signals and associated gate arms to be installed by BNSF. Through a City contract, sidewalk removal and reconstruction in the area of the crossing began in December 2017, but has not been completed due to coordination/availability issues with BNSF flagging services and scheduling issues with our contractor who has subsequently gone out of business. The City is actively looking for another means for completing the sidewalk-related work in preparation for the BNSF-related signal/gate control components of the project.

The finalization of the Grade Crossing Construction Agreement (GCCA) with BNSF has been a protracted process involving legal reviews on both sides and delays in receipt of information from BNSF to append to the agreement. After many months of specific coordination (and about a year after first starting a dialogue with BNSF), we are just now in the process of executing the agreement, which will be finalized by BNSF next week. My understanding from talking to Steven Semenick at BNSF is that once the GCCA is executed, it then serves as BNSF's notice to proceed with design finalization, procurement, and eventually installation. Steve conveyed to me last Friday by phone that the expected completion of the design work and construction is based on a 6-month timeline initiated with the notice to proceed, but he also told me that the construction would be completed "definitely before the end of the year."

With the setbacks related to BNSF coordination and construction progress, the City of Tacoma is requesting an extension of the project's reimbursement period end date of April 2, 2018 until December 31, 2018. The new requested end date is based on the work (predominantly BNSF-related) still to be completed, the rate of progress experienced to date, and the remarks noted above from Steven Semenick at BNSF. Please advise whether the requested December 31, 2018 date is permissible, with Commission approval, given the possible UTC/State fiscal calendar constraints.

Sincerely,

Brennan Kidd

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