



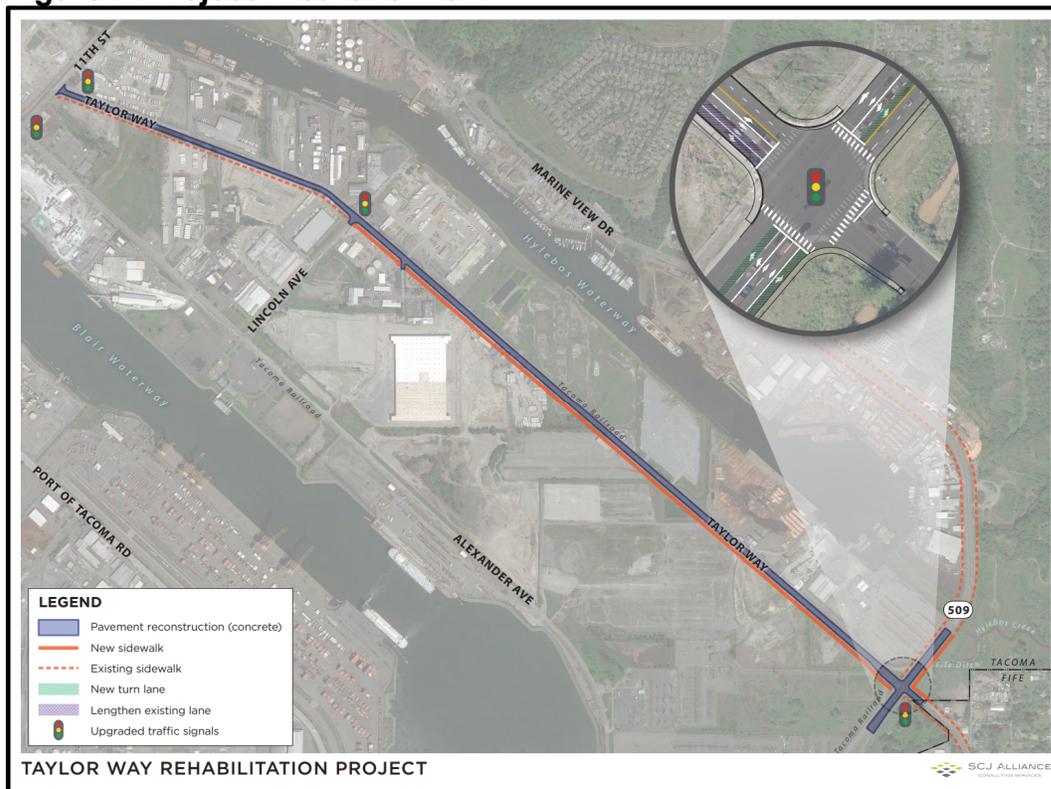
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Subject: Air Quality Conformity Status
Project: Taylor Way Rehabilitation Project

Introduction

Taylor Way is a heavily traveled shipping corridor with high volumes of heavy vehicle traffic and serves as a connection for commuters and truck traffic to State Route 509. The pavement along Taylor Way was not designed to carry the level of heavy truck loads currently experienced, and the roadway has degraded and is in need of repaving. Truck and rail conflicts are also common along the route due to multiple at-grade rail crossings between SR 509 and East 12th Street. To remedy some of the transportation issues along this corridor, there are several improvements planned, including a new concrete roadway surface, new and lengthen turn lanes, sidewalks, new lighting and other general improvements. Figure 1 is an aerial picture with the current design as provided by the City of Tacoma project site at:

<http://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=110510>

Figure 1. Project Area Overview





Analysis Requirements

Major transportation projects are required to review the potential for air impacts using information from the U.S. Department of Environmental Quality and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). This memorandum provides the results of that review.

Pollutants

The primary pollutants emitted by motor vehicles are carbon monoxide, particulate matter (PM) and ozone, which are subject to regional, state and federal controls. This project is located in the Central Puget Sound area which is no longer a carbon monoxide or ozone maintenance area and thus analysis of these two pollutants is no longer required. Therefore the main pollutant of concern is particulate matter.

The project area is within the Tacoma Fine Particulate Maintenance area; where projects defined as “*Projects of Air Quality Concern (POAQC)*” are required to model the level of particulate matter to determine if the project may delay timely attainment with the PM standards. WSDOT determines if a project is a POAQC using the Average Annual Daily Traffic volumes (AADT) and the AADT heavy truck volumes.

Projects of Air Quality Concern Definition: “*Add capacity or re-align roads with more than 125,000 AADT and 8 percent trucks, more than 10,000 truck AADT (8 percent of 125,000), or that contribute to substantial increases or concentrations of diesel exhaust emissions (such as bus terminals and transfer points, designated truck routes, and freight intermodal terminals).*”

The complete WSDOT criteria can be found at:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/publications/manuals/fulltext/M31-11/425.pdf>

Taylor Way Traffic Volumes

Although Taylor Way is a busy arterial, the total volumes are notable lower than requirements for modeling of 125,000 AADT and 8 percent trucks, or more than 10,000 truck AADT. The most recent published data for the Taylor Way intersection with SR509 (year 2017) show the AADT volume of 33,000 vehicles of which 13.4% were trucks (AADT trucks of 4,422). These levels are well below the 125,000 AADT with 8% truck and the 10,000 AADT truck.

Results

The traffic volumes for this corridor are far less than what is required to define as project as POQAC. Thus, the Taylor Way Rehabilitation project is not expected to cause any new or worsen any existing air quality impacts and does not require quantitative analysis of fine particulate levels.