

RESOLUTION NO. 156-19

A RESOLUTION of the City of Richland adopting priority transportation facility improvements for improving north-south travel through Richland.

WHEREAS, northbound and southbound travel through Richland between the Yakima River and the north City limits are the highest volume travel patterns in the Tri-Cities region; and

WHEREAS, the northbound and southbound travel through Richland supports economic activity vital to the Tri-Cities region; and

WHEREAS, the high volume of vehicle traffic creates significant congestion on SR-240, George Washington Way, and on city streets approaching SR-240; and

WHEREAS, long range regional transportation planning, conducted by the Benton-Franklin Council of Governments (BFCG), predicts that this travel pattern will increase in the future due to predicted land use patterns for residential, commercial and industrial uses; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has noted, through its Corridor Sketch process, the congestion on SR-240 as an issue of regional concern; and

WHEREAS, earlier in 2019, WSDOT completed an inclusive planning study evaluating conditions on SR-240 and identifying an array of solutions; and

WHEREAS, WSDOT's identified solutions included optimization of existing facility performance, travel demand management, improvements to active transportation facilities, and facility improvements for vehicle mobility and safety; and

WHEREAS, WSDOT, BFCG, and Ben Franklin Transit have assumed primary responsibility for the existing facility optimization and travel demand management solutions identified by the WSDOT study; and

WHEREAS, following completion of the WSDOT study, the cities of Richland and West Richland, Benton County and WSDOT partnered in the North-South Travel Capacity Study led by the City of Richland (the "Study"); and

WHEREAS, the Study compared long range facility improvements to achieve improved vehicle capacity and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Study combined rigorous technical evaluation of six facility improvement alternatives with a robust public engagement process; and

WHEREAS, the Study rated grade-separated interchanges on SR-240 and improvements to the south end of George Washington Way as the highest rated alternatives to improve northbound and southbound travel efficiency and safety; and

WHEREAS, among the four SR-240 intersections proposed for interchange improvements, the SR-240/Aaron Drive intersection was identified as the highest priority; and

WHEREAS, the other alternatives evaluated by the study were either less effective at improving travel efficiency and safety, or were more challenging to implement than the highest rated alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the Study consultant advises that completing improvements to both SR-240 and George Washington Way are desirable to mitigate current congestion and prepare for the planned community and economic growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Richland that the alternatives ratings included in the North-South Travel Capacity Study represent sound planning based on technically sound analysis and robust public engagement, and that the priority facility improvements are grade-separated interchanges on SR-240 at Aaron Drive, Duportail Street, Van Giesen Street and Jadwin Avenue, and intersection improvements at the intersection of George Washington Way and Aaron Drive.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will develop plans and strategies to achieve these improvements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Richland, Washington, at a regular meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2019.

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ROBERT J. THOMPSON  
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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TONI FULTON, Acting Deputy City Clerk

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HEATHER KINTZLEY, City Attorney